

National Archives & Public Records Services
of Papua New Guinea

PATROL REPORTS

DISTRICT : WESTERN HIGHLANDS PROVINCE

STATION : Laiagam

VOLUME : 1

ISBN NO :

ACCESSION NO : 496

PERIOD : 1953 -1954

Filmed by/for the National Archives of Papua New Guinea
Port Moresby 1996

Sole Custodian: National Archives of Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

Digitized version made available by



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

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

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

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

WESTERN HIGHLANDS
WABAGA SUBDISTRICT

LAIAGAM PATROL POST

P/R 1 of 53/54

D.E. FAITHFUL

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

PATROL REPORT LAIAGAM No I of 53/54.

REPORT OF PATROL TO : The UPPER LAI, SIRUKI, and YUGONDA areas.

OFFICER CONDUCTING PATROL: Denys E. Faithful, Cadet Patrol Officer.

OBJECTS OF PATROL : Annual Census, and General Inspection.

DURATION OF PATROL: 11/10/53 to 30/10/53. (20 days.)

PERSONNEL ACCOMPANYING: Reg. No. 4153 Const IRANMI.
Reg. No. 8277 Const TILJUG.

INTRODUCTION.

- (i) The Initial Census of the UPPER LAI Census Sub Division was completed in November 1952. It was carried out by Patrol Officer L. Thistlethwaite and Cadet Patrol Officer G. H. Whitecock. (See Patrol Report, WABP No. 4 of 1952/53.)
- (ii) The Initial Census was commenced and terminated at SABAU Sub District Office. The 1953 Census Patrol of the area was commenced from and terminated at LAIAGAM Patrol Post. The route of the 1953 Patrol does not, therefore, exactly follow that of the Initial Census Patrol of 1952.

DIARY.

Sunday 11th October, 1953.

Departed LAIAGAM Patrol Post at 0930 hrs. Proceeded to KESILAM, near headwaters of the LAIAGIP River. Arrived KESILAM 1515 hrs. Made camp in the local Rest House. Inspected recently completed Medical Aid Post.

Monday 12th October, 1953.

Departed KESILAM at 0730 hrs for YUGONDA. Arrived YUGONDA at 1130 hrs. Made camp in the local Rest House. In the afternoon Census completed on the KUMOI group. Runners sent out to three other census groups of the area.

Tuesday 13th October, 1953.

Census of LAIBIAN, KILU, and TAKANGALI groups completed. Talks with local head-men.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

PATROL REPORT LAIAGAN No. 1 of 5/54.

Page

DIARY. (Contd.)

Wednesday 14th October, 1953.

Departed YUGURDA at 0800 for KUBALIS. Arrived KUBALIS at 1200 hrs. Inspection of roadwork in the area during the afternoon. Messengers sent out to groups required for Census. Made camp in local Rest House.

Thursday 15th October, 1953.

Census of KURIMBU, and KANOWEA groups completed. Talks with local head-men.

Friday 16th October, 1953.

Census of TIM, and MASUAI groups completed. Broke camp and departed KUBALIS for SORIS at 1505 hrs. Arrived SORIS at 1630 hrs. Made camp. Messengers sent out to local groups required for Census.

Saturday 17th October, 1953.

Census completed on HALIPINI, MURAIN, TUDANAWAY and LABUAP groups. Broke camp at 1515 hrs and proceeded to WABAG. Reported to Assistant District Officer.

Sunday 18th October, 1953.

Observed. At WABAG.

Monday 19th October, 1953.

Self confined to bed due illness.

TUESDAY 20th October, 1953.

At WABAG. Ill.

Wednesday 21st October, 1953.

At Wabag. Stores arranged for transportation to LAIAGAN.

Thursday 22nd October, 1953.

Departed WABAG at 0930 hrs by Landrover for KUBALIS. Proceeded over newly completed motor road. Arrived KUBALIS 1030 hrs. Departed KUBALIS at 1100 hrs for SIRUKI. Made inspection of complete new motor road linking KUBALIS and SIRUKI which is nearing completion. Arrived SIRUKI in pouring rain at 1600. Made camp in new Rest House.

Friday 23rd October, 1953.

Heavy rain throughout the day. Unable to proceed with Census.

Saturday 24th October, 1953.

Census of YURU, WOLIN, MURAPIN groups completed.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

PATROL REPORT LAIAGAM No. I of 53/54.

P. 2.

DIARY. (Cont.)

Sunday 25th October, 1953.

Census of **MONI, AIYAGAN, LYBIN, and KUNALIN** groups.

Monday 26th October, 1953.

Census of **IRALE, KOROWEA, LAGNE, and LYBIN** groups.

Tuesday 27th October, 1953.

Heavy rain throughout day. Unable to proceed with Census. Work on brining Cens us paper work up to date.

Wednesday 28th October, 1953.

Departed **SIRUNKI** at 0630 hrs for **KIAS**. Census completed on **KIJUNTA, KOROWEA, IRALE, and TCHAGALIN** groups. Returned to **SIRUNKI** at 1900.

Thursday 29th October, 1953.

Supervision of roadwork from **SIRUNKI** to the **RAMA** River. Met the District Commissioner, Mr **R.E. Cole**, and the Assistant District Officer, **Wabag**, Mr. **J.R. White**, en-route to **LAIAGAM** Patrol Post on road and general inspection of new Patrol Post and Area. Returned with them to **SIRUNKI**.

Friday 30th October, 1953.

Departed **SIRUNKI** 0745 hours for **LAIAGAM** Patrol Post with District Commissioner and Assistant District Officer, **WABAG**. Arrived **LAIAGAM** Patrol Post at 1100 hrs.

End of Patrol Diary.

NATIVE AFFAIRS.

The Native Situation was normal. Although the average native of the area patrolled is of a normally happy disposition he can be at times of an embarrassing independence.

After waiting for some hours for one particular group in the **YUGONDA** area to present themselves for census it was found necessary to recruit the aid of local head-men and the two Constables to go to the houses and gardens of the group to get the people to assemble.

Although a runner had been sent to the area in question the day before asking the group to present themselves for Census on the following day none of them had bothered to make an attempt

Native Affairs. (Cont.)

to assemble but had gone out to their gardens as usual. In many cases the Constables reported that the men were still in or near their houses doing nothing. Later, when questioned as to why this occurred a spokesman said that they had been told that they were required the next day for Census but thought that it was rather silly than all having to line up again as they had had their names recorded once already - so they just did not bother to assemble. Fortunately this was an isolated case.

During the past year there has been a greater consolidation of administration in the area patrolled than ever before. With many of the groups engaged in the completion of a motor road from MALAMBA to the newly established Patrol Post at MALAMBA, organised community gardening efforts, the regular movement of Administration Personnel through the area and the use of a landrover and bicycles on the completed portions of the roads there has been a marked drop in the periodic disputes of the area. This need not mean that the Natives have "seen the light" and become converts overnight. Far from it. But it would appear that the total change in the administrative set up in the area is at last beginning to have a restraining influence on the former rather rude code of ethics which had them living in a constant state of fear and deceit. The roadwork brought together many groups which prior to last year would have nothing to do with each other. As an instance of this the writer was recently following a vague "track" thru dense bush near KIBALIA, accompanied by two of the local head-men. At one point there was a particularly serious conversation between the two, with much gesticulating and laughter. It transpired that for many years until just a few months ago the two head-men groups had been sworn enemies due to some long standing dispute. There had been many fights between the two groups, that was assuming the two head-men through was the fact that they found it rather hard to believe that less than a year ago one of them had just "killed" the other, through this particular bush with the intention of - as it was translated for us - "killing him all some pig" had he caught up with him. There are also many instances of the fact that the Natives of the area are losing their former fear of the Government as an uncompromising martinet, and are now taking a more realistic view of the subject. One in particular which comes to mind occurred a few months ago when the writer was re-routing part of the KIBALIA - ILLUMBA road. At about 1400 hrs in the afternoon we were breaking bush when the usual undergrowth and downpour came on. The local headman who was with us said there were some old houses quite close. We had just climbed down a steep cliff and were walking thru dense bush on swampy ground. The headman led us on to a house which was so well hidden in the bush as to be almost unrecognisable until one was right on it. While we sat waiting for the rain to pass the head-man on questioning said that the house was his. He stated that before the white-man came he and his line built their houses in clear places. When the Government came to MALAMBA all sorts of stories reached the people of his group. They all moved off and built their houses deep in the bush where they could not be seen. He had built the one we were sitting in. Later, some road thru the bush near it, I was shown several others of other members of his group, all now deserted. The only road in to them had been down the cliff. Later when they realised that the Government meant them no harm and Police had been sent out to cut the old road to ILLUMBA they had left those houses and built others near the road. Now that the new jeep road is nearing completion it is interesting to note the number of new houses that are being constructed near it and also round the Government station area at SIRIMBAI.

So it would appear that the natives of the area are at last moving into a transitional stage, from some an attitude of distrust to one of co-operation. Many matters which before would have been settled by the swing of an axe or the drawing of a bow are now brought voluntarily to Government Officers for decision and this

REPORT OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

TRAIL REPORT LAIYUAN No 1 of 23/54.

P.5a

Native Affairs. (Cont.)

decision when given is generally accepted, by both sides, without question.

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

The first trip by landrover from WABUJ Sub District H.Q. to the new LAIYUAN Patrol Post should be completed within a fortnight from the time of writing. (9th November 1953.) The major work has been completed and it now remains for a few minor "topping up" operations (maintenance to some sections which were completed some time ago, the completion of four bridges which are at present under construction and the re-grading of a few short steep hill sections.) Before the road is fit for use by motor vehicles, however the WABUJ - KIBALIS section of this road has been completed for some weeks now and is in regular use.

The road distance between WABUJ and LAIYUAN Patrol Post is estimated as being between 36 and 40 miles.

The WABUJ - VARIMAKUA Patrol Post Light Motor Trail is now recently completed. It is 36 miles long and is in regular use by the single Administration landrover and bicycle traffic. With the completion of the WABUJ - LAIYUAN Patrol Post L.H.F. road we will have 60 miles of continuous motor road strategically placed through the centre of the long pocket of population where Administration has been most consolidated to date. It brings LAIYUAN Patrol Post, which is still in the Restricted Area, within a few hours drive from WABUJ - formerly two to three days march away and even now 8 hours continuous march over the new road. A small section of this road had been completed before but the main work was started in January this year.

The road is a credit to the Natives who voluntarily contributed labour for its construction on the simple terms that the Administration supply them with the right tools for the job and mark out the route to be followed. The construction work developed into a competition as to which group completed the section of the road first and which group made the best job of it. Apparently prestige was gained by all those groups who had the road passing through their ground and in some cases many of the Natives have had and are moving their houses from old sites to others near the "N.F. Road."

To an outsider the importance of the completion of a road such as this would perhaps start and finish on the point of the closer relations which it offers to Administration and Mission personnel in the area. But there is another purely Native side to it too, among other things the realisation that the road provides the Administration with a means of swift retaliation over a wide area, should any outbreaks of violence occur, is having a definite retarding effect on the inherent quick temper of the local people.

Due to the difficult nature of the ground the section of the new road from KIBALIS to SIWUKI was not without difficulties in construction. The ground is of an unusual type. From the WABA River to SIWUKI base Camp it consists of great open rolling knee hills. The whole area is very swampy and pitted with great fault lines rather like those caused by earth quakes, where the ground in one area has simply slid down anything from 5 to 10 feet lower than the adjoining area. The soil is of a particularly loose type of fine earthy shingle through which there is a continuous seepage of moisture and with the high rainfall of the area and consequent almost continuous saturation of this very porous soil landslides and slipping occur with embarrassing frequency. To some extent this has been overcome

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

PATROL REPORT LAIAGAN No 1 of 53/54.

Page

Roads and Bridges. (Cont.)

by building the road as high up on the Kuni slopes as possible to get on top of the catchment area but faulting still occurs. It would appear that continuous maintenance will be required on this stretch.

From SIRINKI to LAIAGAN Patrol Post, the last stage of the road, there were no real difficulties. Where the road stretches for about a mile over the gigantic SIRINKI swamp deep drains, a surfacing of red clay and in one short length a corduroy work of small logs covered with red clay made a reasonably firm single lane jeep track. From there on such is the wide, open, flat nature of the country that the rest of the road is plain sailing, all the way to the LAIAGAN Patrol Post. There is one steepish portion where the road drops for a thousand feet or so from the SIRINKI plateau down into the broad deep and fertile valley of the LAIAGAN but most of this stretch is firm ground and well gravelled and should be jeepable in all weathers. There are alternative routes for this section but under the circumstances prevailing at the time of its construction this route was the most economical. Should it require re-routing at a later date explosives would considerably reduce the time and labour which would be involved.

No difficulty was experienced in the construction of the bridges - thanks to the incredible ingenuity of the local Natives - who trimmed, felled, skinned, pulled, shoved and coaxed the most enormous logs out of the bush and over amazing widths of river and creek. Some places, the bridging of the Lai River at KUBALIS, the difficult TOK Creek, the KANA River and the HUGI HUGI Creek, appeared to the humble layman to be almost insuperable without at least a mechanical crane. But the men, women and children for miles around made a singling of each bridge. Feasts were prepared, men loosed and talked and roped and pulled and women and children cheered them on and after a while all one had to worry about was the decking of the bridges.

AGRICULTURE and LIVESTOCK.

At about this time every year there is a general food shortage throughout the area patrolled. Why it is that every year the local Native fails to learn a lesson from the previous year's food shortage is hard to appreciate. Starting from KUBALIS and including all areas to the West there is only one main Kau Kau crop harvested from each plant. All the other areas, including MASAG, TAPERANANDA, Mt. HAGEN etc., have the type of Kau Kau which provide a first and secondary crop - the first crop being supplied by the plant proper and the other or secondary crop being provided later by shoots or feelers which grow off from the main plant and establish themselves some distance away. However such is not the case West of KUBALIS. The Kau Kau in this area provides them from the main plant only and any feelers from it do not establish themselves and thus provide a secondary crop. Combined with this there is an extremely cold climate in the area which with periodic frosts or near frosts greatly reduces the annual food harvest. Added to that again is the fact that the primitive digging stick does not make for either speed in breaking in ground or an over-keenness amongst the men to use it. The net total of this then is that towards the end of each year there is a general food shortage. There are other things also which would tend to point to an amazing lack of agricultural senses on the part of the local Natives. For instance the general habit of leaving garden land to stand

Agriculture and Livestock. (Cont.)

KUKUA follow for five or six years as practiced in the MAWA, WAVERUWAHA, and other areas is not followed here. One garden may be kept in use for as many as 8 or 9 years should it continue to provide food. There is no organized rotation of garden areas. The ground is used until useless and then they move off into another area, the bush is felled and burnt, the ground broken up, kaia kaia planted and harvested until that area too gives out. Near KUYIAI and YIBOWA are two vast areas of rolling hilly country many thousands of acres in area. According to the local natives these two areas were once all entirely bush covered. Down the years the rolling slopes were gradually cleared of bush, planted out as garden, orchard and then left. There is now not a house, tree, or garden to be seen on them. They are gradually destroying the hills from the slopes which surround the two areas, making their gardens on the steepening slopes and in some cases a few months later, after heavy rain, washing the result of their toil now off down the hill as a spectacular landslide. And why they persist with this system the majority surely explain that it was the way their fathers taught them and their fathers before them. Some explain too that the reason for always gardening on a slope when possible is due to the fact that during the big "Loog" a frost which caused the death of many people throughout the area about 30 years ago, it was found that fairly steeply sloping areas of garden survived the frost while gardens which lay flat had their entire food crops destroyed. So that even today crops which have long survived areas of flat ground will still not use it. They prefer to clear off bush slopes and put their gardens there where they "know" should another frost ever occur - that their labours will not be wasted.

Even although this system has managed to support countless generations it is a wasteful and thankless method of agriculture, which they have come to accept as the one of the inevitable things of life.

There are many things, even the most elementary principles of horticulture - terminology, the or mind use of compost or manure, soil rotation etc., - which should be shown to these people now, for their own benefit, and before the area is dotted with schools, or companies and trade stores. It is not before some one attempt has been made in the area to organize commonly gardening efforts, with tools supplied by the Administration and large areas of ground being turned over but that is not enough.

European vegetables of many kinds have been distributed throughout the area and potatoes, cabbages, silver beet, white turnip, chilies, carrots and cucumber, and peas and French beans, are to be seen growing in great profusion in many native gardens. In fact the humble spud is growing quite an important place in the diet of many SIROKI natives. It bears so near other planting than does their kaia kaia, requires less attention and does not seem to be as subject to the cold ailments to the same extent as the kaia kaia. They say that they can plant it in areas where the kaia kaia has ceased to grow and get quite good yields from it.

During the last year or so there has been a certain sickness affecting a high percentage of the pigs in the area. It appears to be of two kinds - one where the neck of the pig becomes swollen and the other where the pig becomes listless and breathes in short, quick pants. There is naturally much talk going on in the area. The natives state that before the white man has come, used to kill their pigs as they were required. Now that the white man has come, they say, their pigs are always becoming sick and dying and having to be eaten when there is no occasion for eating pig - I.e., organized pig killing etc. - something should be done in this respect. In many ways the pig is the axis round which the entire social life of the last years of this area revolves. This attitude of the natives that the white man is gradually killing off his pigs could, if allowed to continue unchecked, play a major part in our losing the goodwill of the local people.

REPORT OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

PATROL REPORT LAJUAN NO 1 OF 53/54.

P.8.

MEDICAL AND HEALTH.

A few isolated cases of Hansen's Disease were noted and the sufferers were advised that it would be to their own good to report to the hospital at WABAU for examination. There were many people who had at some time suffered injuries, such as broken legs or arms, which had not been re-set but which had later healed unaided. In many cases giving a grizzly distorted appearance to the limb. One old woman who had fallen and broken the lower part of her leg when a girl jumped up with one of her feet pointing backwards and upside down. She had caught the leg in something and twisted it in falling. The leg had been broken either at or just above the ankle and bent completely back. It had been allowed to remain like this and later set that way. Another man their incredible case was seen in that side of a man who had been shot behind the knee with an arrow. Evidently the arrow had become poisoned and finally the whole lower limb simply fell off. He now walks on two sticks - each with three offshooting branches at the joints which have been trimmed like the "toes" on a birds foot - and the stump of his leg has healed so well, just below the knee that thereafter thought that the man had received medical attention for it in WABAU. However he stated quite definitely that he had not left his house during the time his leg became poisoned, fell off and later healed itself. He is now perfectly fit and leads a normal life.

At SHIMKI there were four middle aged men who appeared to be suffering from something like Arthritis or some rheumatism in the joints - especially of the legs. They stated that they could not move around very well and that only with the aid of sticks. As the altitude of SHIMKI is 8,600 feet above sea level and the temperature very cold and damp at night it is quite possible that the men were suffering from either of these two diseases.

There were many cases of death from dysentery throughout the area. There is no outbreak of the disease in any particular area, most of the deaths were children. At YUBUBUA three young sisters died of the disease in one week. The importance of taking themselves or their children to the nearest Aid Post for treatment at the first sign of this disease was, and always has been, stressed on the natives of this area. However they still prefer to wait and kill pigs in an effort to make peace with the evil spirits causing the illness. In most cases brought in to local Aid Posts the disease has become too far advanced for treatment. Then there are the natives with a reverse attitude to the powers of medicine. At the first sign of illness they will bring their children to the Aid Post. If the first or second dose of medicine fails to work a miracle they take the patient back to their place and kill pigs then.

Two sets of recently born twins were seen. They were, in both cases, very puny and the parents were advised to take them to the Hospital at WABAU where they would receive sufficient food and correct treatment to build them up. In both cases the parents stated that they would prefer to wait and see how things went. First. There are however quite a number of twins, from the ages of one year up to the late teens or early twenties. They appear to be fit and well nourished.

After the Initial Census last year there were several deaths of young children. In some cases they were sick at the time of Census. In others they became sick later. According to my Interpreters there was a confusion of wild stories associated with these deaths - all linking the visit of the "Klapp" to their ears, the taking of measles and the death of the children. Unfortunately a small child of one of the SHIMKI groups died a half hour or so after I had called its name. It had been sick for a day or so but, as is their custom, the local people had it all worked out as being something to do with the "Klapp" evil spirits. Superstitions, though given in such cases, are accepted with much ease nodding and smiling smiles and later, when they talk things over amongst themselves, rejected as just so much balley-bye.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

PATROL REPORT LAIAGAN No I of 53/54.

P.9.

Medical and Health. (Cont.)

There are Medical Aid Posts at KUBALIS, SIRUNKI, LAIAGAN, and KEFILAM. This latter one has been in operation for less than a month. Each of the Native Medical Assistants in Charge is doing a good job and all stations were clean and well kept. Owing to the rugged nature of the country included in this area and the way that population is spread in scattered pockets there is ample scope for work for several more N.M.A.'s in the area and the establishment of new Aid Posts.

REST HOUSES and BARRACKS.

There are good Rest Houses and Barracks for Police and Carriers at KUBALIS, SIRUNKI, and YUGONDA. A Rest House and substantial Barracks is in the course of construction at KEFILAM. This latter place is not included in the Upper Lai Genua Sub Division but the Patrol passed through there on the way to YUGONDA to begin the Census.

VILLAGE OFFICIALS.

There have been no Village Officials appointed in the area west of KUBALIS. Those A Luluais with whom the Patrol came in contact in the HOPES area were extremely co-operative as far as the Patrol was concerned and appeared to have the respect and co-operation of their groups.

As far as the YUGONDA, KIAS, and SIRUNKI areas are concerned the Administration has, as stated before, been in the closest regular contact with all the groups in this area than ever before, during this year. Considerable time has been taken in ascertaining which of the so called "Boss Bois" of local groups head-men would be suitable for appointment as officials. Some have already been recommended and it is hoped to have the official appointments made at Christmas. All appointments will of course be acting or temporary appointments only.

It is rather interesting the attitude the local Natives have as to what qualities constitute a leader. The question, put casually to single members of a group, as to whom they think would be best suited in their group to be appointed as Luluai or Tul wal, is invariably answered as follows. "I think that so-and-so should be appointed." "Why?" "Because before the white-man came he killed 10 men (not always as many as that.) in battle. He was respected by men of many groups as a great fighter." Sometimes the suggestion that might not so-and-so be a good candidate will bring the reply, "Yes he is a good thinker and has often given us good speeches but he was no fighter." In many cases too the man who had a reputation as a fighter had a

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT LAJAGAN No. of 27/54.

Notes

Village Officials. (Cont.)

more live-wire personality than the other type. If he has an opinion he will express it and back it up - whether it be to a fellow clansman or to the visiting Government Officer. Another type would appear to be prepared to sit back and say nothing to a European but later, when the latter has departed, stand up and "let the boys have it."

FOREST.

Although there are many thousand of acres of bush in the area patrolled which is still untouched by the natives they are with their present system of agriculture steadily, though slowly, encroaching on it. When the present encroachment areas of unbroken bush are pointed out to one and explained as once being dense stands of virgin timber the need for educating them in forest conservation becomes apparent. The habit of continual bush cutting will have to be checked with the organized replanting of young trees.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

PATROL REPORT LALEGAH No. 1 of 53/54.

REPORT ON MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL PAPUAN AND NEW GUINEA CONSTABULARY.

Reg. No. 3153

Const. IRAMBE.

Conduct excellent. A practical and helpful Constable of some 10 years experience. Ideal N.G.O. material.

Reg. No. 8277

Const. TIJOU.

A young, efficient Constable. Shows initiative and is a willing worker. Conduct excellent.


Denny S. Faithful,
Q.C. LALEGAH, N.G.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

File No. 30/1...757
District Office,
Western Highlands,
Mount Hagen.

26th November, 1953.



Memorandum for -

The Director,
Department of District Services
and Native Affairs,
Port Moresby.

LAIAGAM P/R. I-53-54.

Hagen memo 30/1-744 of 24/11/53 refers and the census figures submitted with the report.

2/ It is now noted that Mr Faithful did not include "absentees" in the "Grand Total" figures of his village Population Register. Would you please alter the total of the Grand Total column to read 9,157.

3/ I apologise for the oversight.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert R. Cole".

(Robt. R. Cole.)
District Commissioner.

Noted 8/12/53

WESTERN HIGH LANDS
NABAGA SUBDISTRICT
LAHAGAMA PATROL POST

P/R 1 of 53/54

D.E. FAITHFUL

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

PATROL REPORT LAIAGAM No I of 53/54.

REPORT OF PATROL TO : The UPPER LAI, SIRUNKI, and YUGONDA areas.

OFFICER CONDUCTING PATROL: Denys E. Faithful, Cadet Patrol Officer.

OBJECTS OF PATROL : Annual Census, and General Inspection.

DURATION OF PATROL: 11/10/53 to 30/10/53. (20 days.)

PERSONNEL ACCOMPANYING:
Reg. No. 2153 Const IRAMBI.
Reg. No. 8271 Const TIJOJO.

INTRODUCTION.

- (i) The Initial Census of the UPPER LAI Census Sub Division was completed in November 1952. It was carried out by Patrol Officer I.E. Thistlethwaite and Cadet Patrol Officer G.W. Whiteoak. (See Patrol Report, WABAG No.4 of 1952/53.)
- (ii) The Initial Census was commenced and terminated at WABAG Sub District Office. The 1953 Census Patrol of the area was commenced from and terminated at LAIAGAM Patrol Post. The route of the 1953 Patrol does not, therefore, exactly follow that of the Initial Census Patrol of 1952.

DIARY.

Sunday 11th October, 1953.

Departed LAIAGAM Patrol Post at 0930 hrs. Proceeded to KEPILAM, near headwaters of the LAGAIP River. Arrived KEPILAM 1315 hrs. Made camp in the local Rest House. Inspected recently completed Medical Aid Post.

Monday 12th October, 1953.

Departed KEPILAM at 0730 hrs for YUGONDA. Arrived YUGONDA at 1130 hrs. Made camp in the local Rest House. In the afternoon Census completed on the KONOI group. Runners sent out to three other census groups of the area.

Tuesday 13th October, 1953.

Census of LAIBIAN, KILO, and TAMANGALY groups completed. Talks with local head-men.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

PATROL REPORT LAIAGAM No. I of 53/54.

P.2.

DIARY. (Contd.)

Wednesday 14th October, 1953.

Departed YUGONDA at 0800 for KUBALIS. Arrived KUBALIS at 1200 hrs. Inspection of roadwork in the area during the afternoon. Runners sent out to groups required for Census. Made camp in local Rest House.

Thursday 15th October, 1953.

Census of KUMBERU, and KAROBWEA groups completed. Talks with local head-men.

Friday 16th October, 1953.

Census of TIDI, and WAMBILI groups completed. Broke camp and departed KUBALIS for SOPES at 1505 hrs. Arrived SOPES at 1630 hrs. Made camp. Runners sent out to local groups required for Census.

Saturday 17th October, 1953.

Census completed on MALIPINI, MERAIN, TSAGARAWAN? and LANGAP groups. Broke camp at 1515 hrs and proceeded to WABAG. Reported to Assistant District Officer.

Sunday 18th October, 1953.

Observed. At WABAG.

Monday 19th October, 1953.

Self confined to bed due illness.

TUESDAY 20th October, 1953.

At WABAG. Ill.

Wednesday 21st October, 1953.

At Wabag. Stores arranged for transportation to LAIAGAM.

Thursday 22nd October, 1953.

Departed WABAG at 0930 hrs by Landrover for KUBALIS. Proceeded over newly completed motor road. Arrived KUBALIS 1030 hrs. Departed KUBALIS at 1100 hrs for SIRUNKI. Made inspection of complete new motor road linking KUBALIS and SIRUNKI which is nearing completion. Arrived SIRUNKI in pouring rain at 1600. Made camp in new Rest House.

Friday 23rd October, 1953.

Heavy rain throughout the day. Unable to proceed with Census.

Saturday 24th October, 1953.

Census of YURU, WOLIN, MURAPIN groups completed.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

PATROL REPORT LALAGAN No. 1 of 53/54.

P. B.

DIARY. (Cont.)

Sunday 25th October, 1953.

Census of MONE, AIYAGAN, LYEIN, and KURALIH groups.

Monday 26th October, 1953.

Census of TRALE, KOROBWEA, LACWE, and LYEIN groups.

Tuesday 27th October, 1953.

Heavy rain throughout day. Unable to proceed with Census. Work on bringing Cens us paper work up to date.

Wednesday 28th October, 1953.

Departed SIRUNAI at 0630 hrs for RIAS. Census completed on RIJUNIA, KAROBWEA, IRALU, and TCHAGALIN groups. Returned to SIRUNAI at 1900.

Thursday 29th October, 1953.

Supervision of roadwork from SIRUNAI to the RAMA River. Met the District Commissioner, Mr R.A. Cole, and the Assistant District Officer, Wabag, Mr. J.R. White, en-route to LALAGAN Patrol Post on road and general inspection of new Patrol Post and Area. Returned with them to SIRUNAI.

Friday 30th October, 1953.

Departed SIRUNAI 0745 hours for LALAGAN Patrol Post with District Commissioner and Assistant District Officer, WABAG. Arrived LALAGAN Patrol Post at 1100 hrs.

End of Patrol Diary.

NATIVE AFFAIRS.

The Native Situation was normal. Although the average native of the area patrolled is of a normally happy disposition he can be at times of an embarrassing independence.

After waiting for some hours for one particular group in the YUGONDA area to present themselves for census it was found necessary to recruit the aid of local head-men and the two Constables to go to the houses and gardens of the group to get the people to assemble.

Although a runner had been sent to the area in question the day before asking the group to present themselves for Census on the following day none of them had bothered to make an attempt

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

PATROL REPORT LAIAGAM No I. of 53/54.

P.4.

Native Affairs. (Cont.)

to assemble but had gone out to their gardens as usual. In many cases the Constables reported that the men were still in or near their houses doing nothing. Later, when questioned as to why this occurred a spokesman said that they had been told that they were required the next day for Census but thought that it was rather silly them all having to line up again as they had had their names recorded once already - so they just did not bother to assemble. Fortunately this was an isolated case.

During the past year there has been a greater consolidation of administration in the area patrolled than ever before. With many of the groups engaged in the completion of a motor road from WABAG to the newly established Patrol Post at LAIAGAM, organised community gardening efforts, the regular movement of Administration Personnel through the area and the use of a Landrover and bicycles on the completed portions of the roads there has been a marked drop in the periodic disputes of the area. This need not mean that the Natives have "seen the light" and become converts overnight. Far from it. But it would appear that the total change in the administrative set up in the area is at last beginning to have a restraining influence on the former rather rude code of ethics which had them living in a constant state of fear and deceit. The roadwork brought together many groups which prior to last year would have nothing to do with each other. As an instance of this the writer was recently following a vague "track" thru dense bush near KUBALIS, accompanied by two of the local head-men. At one point there was a particularly animated conversation between the two, with much gesticulating and laughter. It transpired that for many years, until just a few months ago the two head-men's groups had been sworn enemies due to some long standing dispute. There had been many fights between the two groups. What was amusing the two head-men though was the fact that they found it rather hard to believe that less than a year ago one of them had spent a night chasing the other through this particular bush with the intention of - as it was translated for me - "killing him all same pig" had he caught up with him. There are also many instances of the fact that the Natives of the area are losing their former fear of the Government as an uncompromising martinet, and are now taking a more realistic view of the subject. One in particular which comes to mind occurred a few months ago when the writer was re-routing part of the KUBALIS - SIRUNKI road. At about 1400 hrs in the afternoon we were breaking bush when the usual thunderstorm and downpour came on. The local headman who was with us said there were some old houses quite close. We had just climbed down a steep cliff and were walking thru dense bush on swampy ground. The headman lead us on to a house which was so well hidden in the bush as to be almost unrecognisable until one was right on it. While we sat waiting for the rain to pass the head-man on questioning said that the house was his. He stated that before the whitemen came he and his line built their houses in clear places. When the Government came to WABAG all sorts of stories reached the people of his group. They all moved off and built their houses deep in the bush where they could not be seen. He had built the one we were sitting in. Later, scattered thru the bush near it, I was shown several others of other members of his group, all now deserted. The only road in to them had been down the cliff. Later when they realised that the Government meant them no harm and Police had been sent out to cut the old road to SIRUNKI they had left these houses and built others near the road. Now that the new jeep road is nearing completion it is interesting to note the number of new houses that are being constructed near it and also round the Government station area at SIRUNKI.

So it would appear that the natives of the area are at last moving into a transitional stage, from ~~an~~ an attitude of distrust to one of co-operation. Many matters which before would have been settled by the swing of an axe or the drawing of a bow are now brought voluntarily to Government Officers for decision and this

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

PATROL REPORT LAIAGAM No I of 53/54.

P. 2.

Native Affairs. (Cont.)

decision when given is generally accepted, by both sides, without question.

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

The first trip by Landrover from WABAG Sub District H.Q. to the new LAIAGAM Patrol Post should be completed within a fortnight from the time of writing. (4th November 1953.) The major work has been completed and it now remains for a few miles "mopping up" operations (maintenance to some sections which were completed some time ago, the completion of four bridges which are at present under construction and the re-grading of a few short steep hill sections.) before the road is fit for use by motor vehicles. However the WABAG - KUBALIS section of this road has been completed for some weeks now and is in regular use.

The road distance between WABAG and LAIAGAM Patrol Post is estimated as being between 36 and 40 miles.

The WABAG - WAPENAMANDA Patrol Post Light Motor Traffic Road was recently completed. It is 26 miles long and is in regular use by the Single Administration Landrover and bicycle traffic. With the completion of the WABAG - LAIAGAM Patrol Post L.M.T. road we will have 60 miles of continuous motor road strategically placed through the centre of the long pocket of population where Administration has been most consolidated to date. It brings LAIAGAM Patrol Post, which is still in the Restricted Area, within a few hours drive from WABAG - formerly two to three days march away and even now 8 hours continuous march over the new road. A small section of this road had been completed before but the main work was started in January this year.

The road is a credit ~~to~~ to the Natives who voluntarily contributed labour for its construction on the simple terms that the Administration supply them with the right tools for the job and mark out the route to be followed. The construction work developed into a competition as to which group completed ~~the~~ ^{its} section of the road first and which group made the best job of it. Apparently prestige was gained by all those groups who had the road passing through their ground and in some cases many of the Natives have and are moving their houses from old sites to others near the "Big Road."

To an outsider the importance of the completion of a road such as this would perhaps start and finish on the point of the closer liaisons which it offers to Administration and Mission personnel in the area. But there is another purely Native side to it too. Among other things the realisation that the road provides the Administration with a means of swift retribution over a wide area, should any outbreaks of violence occur, is having a definite retarding effect on the inherent quick temper of the local people.

Due to the difficult nature of the ground the section of the new road from KUBALIS to SIRUNKI was not without difficulties in construction. The ground is of an unusual type. From the RAMA River to SIRUNKI Base Camp it consists of great open rolling Kunai hills. The whole area is very swampy and pitted with great fault lines rather like those caused by earth quakes, where the ground in one area has simply skidded down anything from 5 to 10 feet lower than the adjoining area. The soil is of a particularly loose type of fine earthy shingle through which there is a continuous seepage of moisture and with the high rainfall of the area and consequent almost continuous saturation of this very porous soil landslides and slipping occur with embarrassing frequency. To some extent this has been overcome

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

PATROL REPORT LAIAGAM No 1 of 53/54.

P.6.

Roads and Bridges. (Cont.)

by building the road as high up on the Kunai slopes as possible to get on top of the catchment area but faulting still occurs. It would appear that continuous maintenance will be required on this stretch.

From SIRUNKI to LAIAGAM Patrol Post, the last stage of the road, there were no real difficulties. where the road stretches for about a mile over the gigantic SIRUNKI swamp deep drains, a surfacing of red clay and in one short length a corduroy work of small logs covered with red clay made a reasonably firm single lane jeep track. From there on such is the wide, open, flat nature of the country that the rest of the road is plain sailing, all the way to the LAIAGAM Patrol Post. There is one steepish portion where the road drops for a thousand feet or so from the SIRUNKI plateau down into the broad deep and fertile valley of the LAIAGIP but most of this stretch is firm ground and well gravelled and should be jeepable in all weathers. There are alternative routes for this section but under the circumstances prevailing at the time of its construction this route was the most economical. Should it require re-routing at a later date explosives would considerably reduce the time and labour which would be involved.

No difficulty was experienced in the construction of the bridges - thanks to the incredible ingenuity of the local Natives - who trimmed, felled, soaked, pulled, shoved and coaxed the most enormous logs out of the bush and over amazing widths of river and creek. Some places, the bridging of the LAI River at KUBALIS, the difficult IOK Creek, the RAMA River and the IUGI IUGI Creek, appeared to the humble layman to be almost insuperable without at least a mechanical crane. But the men, women and children for miles around made a Sing Sing of each bridge. Feasts were prepared, men looked and talked and pushed and pulled and women and children cheered them on and after a while all one had to worry about was the decking of the bridges.

AGRICULTURE and LIVESTOCK.

At about this time every year there is a general food shortage throughout the area patrolled. Why it is that every year the local Native fails to learn a lesson from the previous years food shortage is hard to appreciate. Starting from KUBALIS and including all areas to the West there is only one main Kau Kau crop harvested from each plant. All the other areas, including WABAG, WAPENAMANDA, Mt. HAGEN etc., have the type of Kau Kau which provide a first and secondary crop - the first crop being supplied by the plant proper and the other or secondary crop being provided later by shoots or feelers which grow off from the main plant and establish themselves some distance away. However such is not the case West of KUBALIS. The Kau Kau in this area provides tubers from the main plant only and any feelers from it do not establish themselves and thus provide a secondary crop. Combined with this there is an extremely cold climate in the area which with periodic frosts or near frosts greatly reduces the annual food harvest. Added to that again is the fact that the primitive digging stick does not make for either speed in breaking in ground or an over-keenness amongst the men to use it. The sum total of this then is that towards the end of each year there is a general food shortage. There are other things also which would tend to point to an amazing lack of agricultural senses on the part of the local Natives. For instance the general habit of leaving garden land to stand

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

PATROL REPORT LAIAGAM No I. 53/54.

P.7.

Agriculture and Livestock. (Cont.)

~~XXXXXX~~ fallow for five or six years as practised in the WABAG, WAPENAMANDA, and other areas is not followed here. One garden may be kept in use for as many as 8 or 9 years should it continue to provide food. There is no organised rotation of garden areas. The ground is used until useless and then they move off into another area, the bush is felled and burnt, the ground broken in, kau kau planted and harvested until that area too gives out. Near KEPILAN and YUGONDA are two vast areas of rolling kunai country many thousands of acres in area. According to the local Natives these two areas were once all entirely bush covered. Down the years the rolling slopes were gradually cleared of bush, planted out as garden, exhausted and then left. There is now not a house tree, or garden to be seen on them. They are gradually destroying the bush from the slopes which surround the two areas, making their gardens on the steepening slopes and in some cases a few months later, after heavy rain, watching the result of their toil move off down the hill as a spectacular landslide. Asked why they persist with this system the majority merely explain that it was the way their fathers taught them and their fathers before them. Some explain too that the reason for always gardening on a slope when possible is due to the fact that during the big "ice," a frost which caused the death of many people throughout the area about 30 years ago, it was found that fairly steeply sloping areas of garden survived the frost while gardens which lay flat had their entire food crops destroyed. So that even today groups which have large unused areas of flat ground will still not use it. They prefer to clear off bush slopes and put their gardens there where they 'know' - should another frost ever occur - that their labours will not be wasted.

Even although this system has managed to support countless generations it is a wasteful and thankless method of agriculture, which they have come to accept as ~~the~~ one of the inevitable things of life.

There are so many things, even the most elementary principals of horticulture - terracing, the organised use of compost or humus, soil rotation etc., - which should be shown to these people now, for their own benefit, and before the area is dotted with schools, or companies and trade stores. As stated before ~~man~~ some attempt has been made in the area to organise community gardening efforts, with tools supplied by the Administration and large areas of ground being turned over but that is not enough.

European vegetables of many kinds have been distributed throughout the area and potatoes, cabbage, silver beet, white turnip, shallots, marrow and cucumber, and peas and french beans, are to be seen growing in great profusion in many native gardens. In fact the humble spud is assuming quite an important place in the diet of many STRUNKI natives. It bears sooner after planting than does their Kau Kau, requires less attention and does not seem to be affected by the cold climate to the same extent as the Kau Kau. They say that they can plant it in areas where the Kau Kau has ceased to grow and get quite good yields from it.

During the last year or so there has been a certain sickness affecting a high percentage of the pigs in the area. It appears to be of two kinds - one where the neck of the pig becomes swollen and the other where the pig becomes listless and breathes in short, quick pants. There is naturally much talk going on in the area. The Natives state that before the white man came they used to kill their pigs as they were required. Now that the white man has come, they say, their pigs are always becoming sick and dying and having to be eaten when there is no occasion for eating pig - I.E. organised Sing King etc.. Something should be done in this respect. In many ways the pig is the axis round which the entire social life of the Natives of this area revolve. This attitude of the Natives that the white man is gradually killing off his pigs could, if allowed to continue unchecked, play a major part in our losing the goodwill of the local people.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

PATROL REPORT LAIAGAM No I of 53/54.

P.8.

MEDICAL AND HEALTH.

A few isolated cases of Hansen's Disease were noted and the sufferers were advised that it would be to their own good to report to the Hospital at WABAG for examination. There were many people who had at some time suffered injuries, such as broken legs or arms, which had not been re-set but which had later healed unaided, in many cases giving a grimly distorted appearance to the limb. One old woman who had fallen and broken the lower part of her leg when a girl limped up with one of her feet pointing backwards and upside down. She had caught the leg in something and twisted it in falling. The leg had been broken either at or just above the ankle and bent completely back. It had been allowed to remain like this and later set that way. Another rather incredible case was seen in that of a man who had been shot behind the knee with an arrow. Evidently the area had become poisoned and finally the whole lower limb simply fell off. He now walks on two sticks - each with three off-shooting branches at the bottom which have been trimmed like the "toes" on a bird's foot - and the stump of his leg has healed so well, just below the knee, that the writer thought that the man had received medical attention for it in WABAG. However he stated quite definitely that he had not left his house during the time his leg became poisoned, fell off and later healed itself. He is now perfectly fit and leads a normal life.

At SIRUNKI there were four middle aged men who appeared to be suffering from something like Arthritis or ~~the~~ rheumatism in the joints - especially of the legs. They stated that they could not move around very much and then only with the aid of sticks. As the altitude of SIRUNKI is 8,600 feet above sea level and the temperature very cold and damp at night it is quite possible that the men were suffering from either of these two diseases.

There were many cases of death from dysentery throughout the area. There is no outbreak of the disease in any particular area. Most of the deaths were children. At YUCONDA three young sisters died of the disease in one week. The importance of taking themselves or their children to the nearest Aid Post for treatment at the first sign of this sickness was, and always has been, stressed on the Natives of this area. However they still prefer to wait and kill pigs in an effort to make peace with the evil spirits causing the illness. In most cases brought in to local Aid Posts the disease has become too far advanced for treatment. Then there are the Natives with a reverse attitude to the powers of medicine. At the first sign of illness they will bring their children to the Aid Post. If the first or second dose of medicine fails to work a miracle they take the patient back to their place and kill pigs then.

Two sets of recently born twins were seen. They were, in both cases, very puny and the parents were advised to take them to the Hospital at WABAG where they would receive sufficient food and correct treatment to build them up. In both cases the parents stated that they would prefer to wait and see how things went first. There are however quite a number of twins, from the ages of one year up to the late teens or early twenties. They appear to be fit and well nourished.

After the Initial Census last year there were several deaths of young children. In some cases they were sick at the time of Census. In others they became sick later. According to my Interpreters there was a confusion of wild stories associated with these deaths - all linking the visit of the "Kiap" to their area, the taking of names and the death of the children. Unfortunately a small child of one of the SIRUNKI groups died a half hour or so after I had called its name. It had been sick for a day or so but, as is their custom, the local people had it all worked out as being something to do with the "Kiaps" evil spirits. Explanations, though given in such cases, are accepted with much sage nodding and knowing smiles and later, when they talk things over amongst themselves, rejected as just so bally-noo.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

PATROL REPORT LAIAGAM No 1 of 53/54.

P.9.

Medical and Health. (Cont.)

There are Medical Aid Posts at KUBALIS, SIRUNKI, LAIAGAM, and KEPILAM. This latter one has been in operation for less than a month. Each of the Native Medical Assistants in Charge is doing a good job and all stations were clean and well kept. Owing to the rugged nature of the country included in this area and the way that population is spread in scattered pockets there is ample scope for work for several more N.M.A.'s in the area and the establishment of new Aid Posts.

REST HOUSES and BARRACKS.

There are good Rest Houses and Barracks for Police and Carriers at KUBALIS, SIRUNKI, and YUGONDA. A Rest House and substantial Barracks is in the course of construction at KEPILAM. This latter place is not included in the Upper LAI Cesus Sub Division but the Patrol passed through there on the way to YUGONDA to begin the Census.

VILLAGE OFFICIALS.

There have been no Village Officials appointed in the area west of KUBALIS. Those Luluais with whom the Patrol came in contact in the SOPES area were extremely co-operative as far as the Patrol was concerned and appeared to have the respect and co-operation of their groups.

As far as the YUGONDA, KIAS, and SIRUNKI areas are concerned the Administration has, as stated before, been in the closest regular contact with all the groups in this area than ever before, during this year. Considerable time has been taken in ascertaining which of the so called "Boss Bois" or local group head-men would be suitable for appointment as officials. Some have already been recommended and it is hoped to have the official appointments made at Christmas. All appointments will of course be acting or temporary appointments only.

It is rather interesting the attitude the local Natives have as to what qualities constitute a leader. The question, put casually to single members of a group, as to whom they think would be best suited in their group to be appointed as Lulual or Tul tul, is invariably answered as follows. "I think that So-and-so should be appointed." "Why?" "Because before the white-man came he killed 10 men (not always as many as that.) in battle. He was respected by men of many groups as a great fighter." Sometimes the suggestion that might not so-and-so be a good candidate will bring the reply, "Yes he is a good thinker and has often given us good speeches but he was no fighter." In many cases too the man who had a reputation as a fighter has a

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

PATROL REPORT LALAGAM NOI of 53/54.

P. 11.

Village Officials. (Cont.)

more live-wire personality than the other type. If he has an opinion he will express it and back it up - whether it be to a fellow clansman or to the visiting Government Officer. The other type would appear to be prepared to sit back and say nothing to a European but later, when the latter has departed, stand up and "let the boys have it."

FORESTRY.

Although there are many thousand of acres of bush in the area Patrolled which ~~is~~^{are} still untouched by the Natives they are with their present system of agriculture steadily, though slowly, encroaching on it. When the present extensive bald areas of useless Kunai are pointed out to one and explained as once being dense stands of virgin timber the need for educating them in Forest Conservation becomes apparent. The habit of continual bush cutting will have to be matched with the organized replanting of young trees.

CENSUS.

The Census for 1953 shows an increase of 777 (including men, women and children.) over the 1952 figures. The 1952 total (men, women and children.) was 8,305. This year's total is 9,082. This large increase in the total is due to the number of New Names - those family groups which failed to appear and have their names recorded at the time of the Initial Census. Most of these people were visiting in the LAGAIP River area where pig killing ceremonies were in progress. Other family groups, especially from near SIRUMKI and KUBADIS own ground in the AMBOK River Valley and at the time of the Initial Census had gone there to tend their gardens. No mention was made of this to the Officer compiling the Census. The names of these groups have not therefore been recorded under Migrations. It was intended to show them on the Population Registers as 'New Names' but due to the lack of space this proved impracticable.

To a certain extent the accuracy of a Census depends on the co-operation of the people themselves. The Natives of this area are still at the stage where such things as Census is regarded as a bit of a joke. There were dozens of cases people from another area altogether had lined up with certain family groups with whom they happened to be staying and stating that they were children of the number 1 or 2 wife and that their names had not been recorded before. It was in most cases only the intervention of the head-men which exposed the deceit and prevented an incorrect entry in the Census book. In some cases whole families from another Census Sub Division or an area which has not yet been censused lined up with groups which were being censused stating that they had been away at the time of the

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

PATROL REPORT LAIAGAM No 1 of 53/54.

P.II.

Census. (Cont.)

Initial Census and could they have their names entered now? Fortunately most of these imposters were weeded out but the cases in question show the very casual attitude which the local Natives have to census work.

There were a total of 337 birth (male and female) during the period between Census. Of these 40 died during their first year. There was only one reported case of a child being stillborn and none of women dying at childbirth although one contracted some sort of illness and died a month or so later. In this case one of the husbands sisters was looking after the child.

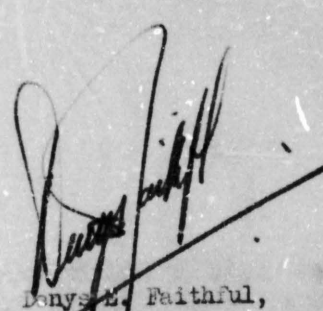
There were a reported 51 deaths in the age group of from one year upwards.

There was an inward migration of 106 men, women and children and an outward movement of 232 (men, women and children.) Most of this is accounted for by the fact that some of the groups own ground in two areas -- living for a few years in one place and then moving over to the other. It depends usually on where the most food is available.

It is interesting to note that the total number of persons from this area who are now at work ~~within the district~~ is 58, as against 10 at the time of Census last year. All of these 58 are men. There are also 11 of these working Outside the District - at TARI in the Southern Highlands District, Papua. TAKI is some 6/7 days walk from the area Patrolled.

Of the 17 students recorded in the area all are at Mission Schools, and the most of the 17 attending the Lutheran Mission School at SIRUNKI.

Figures show a Labour Potential of 1,405 males and 1,229 females between the ages of 10 and 45 years, making a total of 2,634 in all.


Denys H. Faithful, C.P.O.
C.I.C. LAIAGAM PATROL POST W.H.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

PATROL REPORT LAIAGAM No 1 of 53/54.

REPORT ON MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL PAPUAN AND NEW GUINEA CONSTABULARY.

Reg. No. ZI53 Const. IRAMBE. Conduct excellent. A practical and helpful Constable of some 10 years experience. Ideal N.C.O. material.

Reg. No. 8277 Const. TIJOJO. A young, efficient Constable. Shows initiative and is a willing worker. Conduct excellent.


Always Faithful,
O. I. LAIAGAM, W.H.

30/11/53



File No..30/1...744
District Office,
Western Highlands,
Mount Hagen.

24th November, 1953.

Memorandum for -

The Director,
Department of District Services
and Native Affairs,
Port Moresby.

PATROL REPORT LAIAGAM NO. 1/52-54.

Forwarded herewith is the Patrol Report in triplicate with accompanying census figures. The patrol covered the same area as Wabag patrol No.4/52-53 and there are no additions to the map then submitted.

CENSUS.

The increase in names recorded is explained by Mr Faithful and it was anticipated that the recheck would reveal these additions.

These people need to be handled very patiently for several years before they will realise our requirements for census recording and it is not intended to take action against delinquents at present.

NATIVE SITUATION.

It is very pleasing to record the change in the native situation of this area over the last few years and no small praise is due to Mr Faithful and his predecessor Mr Dwyer for their interest and patience.

ROADS.

The road between Wabag and Laiagam is now open to vehicle traffic and this alone should do much to consolidate influence in the area. Having recently walked over the route myself I can vouch for the difficulties met in bridging and bench-cutting. It is incredible that it was completed in 10 months.

To point out the cooperation gained by the Assistant District Officer and his staff I wish to bring to your notice an incident not mentioned in the report but noted during my inspection of the road. The proposed road, following the Upper Lai Valley, passed through an area which is sparsely populated and presented a task far beyond the resources of the local people. Without prompting, several hundred natives from the neighbouring AMBUN Valley offered their services and undertook to build a long section in order to have the road completed within the scheduled time. Such a gesture reflects highly on the influence our officers have amongst these people and the spirit of cooperation which is being instilled into them.

AGRICULTURE.

The area patrolled is at altitudes from 6,500 ft to 8,500 ft so the problems of Agriculture and Livestock breeding can be appreciated. However the area peoples a population of almost 10,000 and it is incumbent on us to assist them in this field as much as possible.

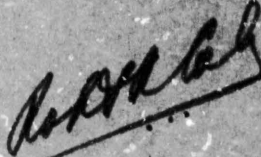
I strongly recommend that an officer of the Department of agriculture be seconded for several months to make a survey of the area and submit recommendations for future development. Mr R.K. McLaren senior stock inspector viewed the area last March and he considered it suitable for cattle and possibly sheep and suggested experiments in such crops as Oats, wheat and Eye and Oats have been found growing at Sirunki.

It is also suggested that the Lake be stocked with Chinese carp.

Large areas are available for alienation and the present motor road should overcome the transport problem to a large extent.

GENERAL.

This is Mr Faithful's first solo patrol, although he has been in the area, on his own, for some time. He is doing valuable work and is to be complimented on his efforts.



(Robt. R. Cole.)
District Commissioner.

36/17/53 ✓



File No..30/1...757
District Office,
Western Highlands,
Mount Hagen.

26th November, 1953.

Memorandum for -


The Director,
Department of District Services
and Native Affairs,
Port Moresby.

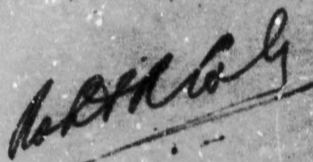
LAIAGAM P/R. I-53-54.

Hagen memo 30/1-744 of 24/11/53 refers and the census figures submitted with the report.

2/ It is now noted that Mr Faithful did not include "absentees" in the "Grand Total" figures of his village Population Register. Would you please alter the total of the Grand Total column to read 9,157.

3/ I apologise for the oversight.

Done 
PA


(Robt. R. Cole.)
District Commissioner.

DS30-17-43

30th Nov, 1963

The District Commissioner,
MT. HAGEN.

Patrol Report LAIAGAL, No. I/63-54.

The Report of Mr. Patrol Officer D.E. Faithful's
Patrol of the upper Lae census Sub-division is acknowledged, with thanks.

It is evident that the present promising native
situation is due in no small measure to painstaking and effective field
work by Mr. Faithful and those others of our Field Staff who have patrolled
this area.

I agree with your remarks regarding the census taking.
The securing of the full co-operation of the people in this matter can
be attained gradually without drastic measures at this early stage.

Your remarks on 'Agriculture' will be sent with the
paragraph in the Report to the Director of Agriculture, Stock & Fisheries.

Mr. Faithful's paragraph on Forestry is sound common
sense. However, these willing people cannot be expected to undertake too much
at once. When the roadwork and any other more pressing tasks are completed
it should be practicable to interest the people in this form of self-help,
reafforestation, and organise the planting of tree seedlings in large
numbers at suitable parts of the country side.

A.A. Roberts
(A.A. Roberts),
Director, DDC/DA.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

30/17/43 ✓



File : 30-1-12.

Department of Agriculture,
Stock and Fisheries,
PORT MORESBY.

MEMORANDUM for

7th December, 1953.

The Director,
Department of District Services
and Native Affairs,
PORT MORESBY.

Subject : Patrol Report - Laigam
No.1/53-54 - Western Highlands
District.

Receipt is acknowledged of Agricultural and
Livestock extract from the above report.

* It is noted that there is a high incidence of
sickness affecting pigs in the area, and from the general
description given, it would appear that the pigs are
affected by the disease "Anthrax", which is not uncommon
in the Highlands. The disease can be treated with the
use of McGarvie Smith Anthrax vaccine by inoculation,
and if the Patrol Officer is prepared to give the
inoculations, vaccine and the necessary equipment will
be made available on request to this office.

The inoculation of stock against Anthrax is very
simple, and could be carried out by the Patrol Officer,
and if he is prepared to do this, we will forward him
full instructions when forwarding the vaccine and other
equipment.*

Your advice in due course will be appreciated.

F. C. Henderson
(F. C. Henderson)
Acting Director.

DS 30-17-43

9th Dec, 1953.

The District Commissioner,
MT. HAGEN.

Patrol Report - LAIAGAN, No. 1/53-54.

Reference the paragraph "Agriculture and Livestock" in Mr. Faithful's recent Report, the acting Director of Agriculture, Stock and Fisheries, replied as follows:-

" It is noted that there is a high incidence of sickness affecting pigs in the area, and from the general description given, it would appear that the pigs are affected by the disease "Anthrax", which is not uncommon in the Highlands. The disease can be treated with the use of McGarvie Smith Anthrax vaccine by inoculation, and if the Patrol Officer is prepared to give the inoculations, vaccine and the necessary equipment will be made available on request to this office.

The inoculation of stock against Anthrax is very simple, and could be carried out by the Patrol Officer, and if he is prepared to do this, we will forward him full instructions when forwarding the vaccine and other equipment".

If this can be done, request the acting Director to supply and send copy of your memorandum to this office, please.

(210)

A.A. Roberts
(A.A. Roberts)
Director.DDSANA.