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DISTRICT: Northern

STATION: Kokoda

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1964 - 1965

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# Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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NORTHERN DISTRICT PATROL REPORTS

1964/1965

KOKODA, TUFU

Report No.

Officer Conducting  
Patrol

Area Patrolled

KOKODA

Area Study  
1964/1965

J. F. Tierney

Wawonga Census Div.

TUFU

1 - 1964/1965

J.G. Benson

Lower Musa Census Div.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Telegrams DISADM

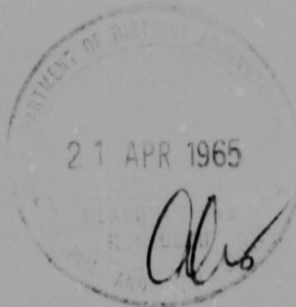
Telephone 40.1.4

Our Reference.....

If calling ask for

Mr.....

V67.5.913  
Department of District Administration,  
POPONDETTA. Northern District.  
12th April, 1965.

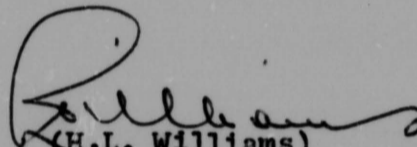


The Director,  
Department of District Administration,  
KONEDOBU.

AREA STUDY WAWONGA CENSUS DIVISION  
KOKODA SUB-DISTRICT.

My 67.1.1 of 22nd March, 1965 refers.

Please find attached a second copy of the Area Study for the Wawonga Census Division which was not attached when the Patrol Report, Kokoda 3/64/65 was forwarded on the 22nd March, 1965.

  
(H.L. Williams)  
District Commissioner.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

File. 40-1-1.

Sub-district Office,  
KOKODA, Northern District.

10th March, 1965.

The District Commissioner,  
Northern District,  
POPONDETTA.

AREA STUDY WAWONGA CENSUS DIVISION  
KOKODA SUB-DISTRICT

With the exception of two small census divisions, the KOKODA Sub-district is covered by the ILIMO Local Government Council. These two areas are the CHIRIMA and WAWONGA Census Divisions. This survey has been carried out with a view to the inclusion of the latter in the Council. A similar study of the CHIRIMA was carried out late last year.

(A) INTRODUCTION

(a) The WAWONGA Census Division is made up of the villages of NAMAIAIA, MANAGUEE, EMO, EJARO, UJILO, AWOMA, TETEBI and KOVIO, all of which are situated in the upper KUMUSI River valley between 1000' a.s.l. and 3000' a.s.l. on the western slopes. The area is in general mountainous - the valley slopes rising steeply from the narrow strip of river flat.

The climate is pleasant with hot days and cool nights. No temperature or rainfall statistics are available, but figures would approximate - Max. Temp. 85 degrees, Min. Temp. 60 degrees and Rainfall 150 inches annually.

The area is covered predominantly by heavy forest: rain forest along rivers merging into moss forest on the upper slopes.

(b) Access to the area is poor. The nearest road head is at ASISI, 10 hours steady walking from the nearest furthest village, KOVIO. Tracks within the area are poor - the route following above the left bank of the KUMUSI river over steep ridges. KOVIO is 30 miles in a direct line from KOKODA and over existing tracks approximately 65 miles. Distances to District Headquarters at POPONDETTA are approximately the same. The nearest commercial aerodromes are at KOKODA and POPONDETTA. There is a small private strip within the area at EMO, but this could not be used for or brought up to standards for commercial operations as longitudinal clearances are very poor.

The nearest shipping point is at KILLERTON, 15 miles from POPONDETTA.

(c) Administration contact with the WAWONGA people was first established about 1900 from IOMA. The amount of contact since that date has not been great due to the inaccessibility and small population of the area. The people appear to respect the Administration and its aims but to date have shown no progressiveness towards the fulfillment of these aims. This of course is due mainly to the limited contact which the people have had with the Administration and to poor communications. With improvement in communications I am sure that the people would show more enthusiasm towards self betterment.

There have been no outbreaks of 'cargo cult' or similar movements within the area.

(B) POPULATION DISTRIBUTION AND TRENDS

- (a) 1965 census figures attached
- (b) None of the WAWONGA villages are linked by vehicular roads. Existing tracks are shown on the map attached hereto.
- (c) Labour trends are normal

(C) SOCIAL GROUPINGS

- (a) There are two distinct social groups within the area under survey, the people of NAMANAIA and MANAGUBE forming one and the EMO, EJARO, UJILO, AWOMA, TETEBI and KOVIO people forming the other.. Members of the former group are related to the MANAGLASE people and of the latter to the KOIARI speaking people of the BIAGE area near KOKODA and other groups south of the Owen Stanley Range towards SOGERI.
- (b) The functional working group unit within the former group is the simple family but within the latter each village community works as a group with the finished product belonging to the individual. In house construction and garden work ( other than tending to crops) the community works in rotation from one job to the next until all the work is completed.
- (c) There are two distinct languages spoken within the area. The upper-valley people speak a dialect of the KOIARI language whilst the NAMANAIA and MANAGUBE people speak a MANAGLASE dialect known as 'JUWAJA'. Members of the latter group are able to converse with the people of EMO from the former, but only since Administration influence has been established and the cessation of hostilities .

Approximately 25% of the adult males are able to converse in Police Motu. The number of women able to do so

is negligible.

(d) There is very little intermingling between the people of the two groups above-mentioned. Prior to the advent of Administration contact the two groups were traditional enemies and warfare took place between them. Now with law and order established the upper valley people move freely through the lower valley en route KOKODA or POPONDETTA. The people of NAMAIAIA and MANAGUBE have little cause to move through the upper valley. The main point of contact between the two groups is at EMO Mission Station.

(e) The MANAGUBE and NAMAIAIA people are affiliated with MANAGLASE groups and in the past used to fight with them against the upper WAWONGA people and the OROKAIVAS. Relationship between the people living in the area under survey and people of adjacent groups is at present good.

(D) LEADERSHIP

(a) Garden leaders and the senior lineage leader-member are the only people within the area who have any standing as traditional leaders. Their sphere of influence is restricted to their own lineage and to garden practice.

The only person who has any standing within the area generally is GEVERI PANOVI of EMO village, a Mission Teacher at EMO who has acquired status through the position which he is at present holding down.

(b) GEVERI, age 22, has been educated to standard 8 by the Anglican Mission and had not been employed elsewhere prior to joining the Mission as a teacher. His influence is due entirely to his position with the Mission and the sphere of his influence is restricted mainly to the younger people within the area and to the religious field.

(c) The traditional pattern of leadership does not appear to have been changed to any marked degree. Community affairs, other than those outside of the traditional scope, are still controlled by the lineage and garden leaders. In matters foreign to the traditional pattern of life, such as Christianity, the opinions of those who have had education or dealings in these fields are sought. But the traditional pattern has not changed to any marked degree, except in religion for the younger people, and the effect on traditional leadership is not great.

(E) LAND TENURE AND USE

(a) Land is clan owned with individuals having usufructory rights. These rights are passed to the sons who share equally, the eldest son making distribution if the father



has not already done so before death. In the event of a man dying without sons to inherit, rights are passed to the closest male relative. Females can only inherit rights to land in the absence of a male heir and this is an unusual occurrence.

(b) No one within the area holds lease to Administration land. Land tenure conversion was discussed with the people, but no interest in it was shown. Understanding of conversion was not good and in all probability the people have not as yet had to contend with any of the problems associated with economic agriculture and traditional land ownership. Once cash cropping increases and the people are confronted with such problems they will be better able to understand the usefulness of tenure conversion.

(c) Small quantities of coffee have already been planted out. Initial plantings were made as a communal effort, but the coffee has been planted out on individually owned land with the gardens belonging to individuals and not to the community. Original communal effort was only to facilitate establishment.

(F) LITERACY

(a) There are 2 schools operating in the area; one run by the Anglican Mission at EMO and the other by the Seventh Day Adventist Mission at AWOMA. English is taught in the former school where one of the three teachers is qualified. The one teacher at AWOMA and the two unqualified teachers at EMO teach partly in English but the majority of lessons are given in the local dialect and Police Motu. The S.D.A. teacher was absent from the area during the patrol's visit and I was unable to obtain any attendance figures for his school. From enquiries it was estimated that approximately 30 children attended the school in Prep. and Standard 1 during 1964. A breakup of students attending the EMO school in 1964 is underlisted.

<u>Standard</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Prep.	19	12	31
1	14	11	25
2	11	3	14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>70</b>

Students who attended schools outside the immediate area in 1964 are listed hereunder.

<u>School</u>	<u>S3</u>	<u>S4</u>	<u>S5</u>	<u>S6</u>	<u>S8</u>
SASEMBATA Ang.Miss.POP.sd			3m 1f		
AGENEHAMBO " " "	4m	2m	3m 1f	1f	2m
KOKODA P.T.S.		1m	1m	2m	
S.D.A. RIGO Central D.		1m	3m	1m	

(Cont.)	S3	S4	S5	S6	S8
TOTAL	4m	4m	10m 2f	3m 1f	2m

As this survey was carried out during the period before the commencement of the current school year, all figures abovelisted are for attendance during 1964.

(b) There are 19 adults within the area who are semi-literate in basic English and Police Motu. One of these is employed by the Administration as an Aid Post Orderly at EMO.

(c) There is no one in the area who has received education higher than Standard 8.

(d) There are no students from the area at present receiving education higher than Standard 8.

(e) There are no radios in the area and newspapers are not available to the people.

(g) STANDARD OF LIVING

(a) The standard of housing within the area varies a good deal. A lot of the houses are exceptionally well designed and constructed while a few are nothing but unsanitary shanties. However, in general, the housing standard is quite good. Houses are reasonably spacious by Territory standards and are built off the ground of split timber or black palm for flooring and walls with pandanus or grass thatch roofing.

Sanitation is catered for with pit latrines and rubbish pits which are only used because of pressure brought to bear by the Administration. European type clothing is used, but generally not for everyday wear when the traditional tapa cloth and pandanus skirts are worn.

European artefacts, knives, axes, saucepans, plates, cups etc have almost entirely replaced the few traditional implements used in everyday life. Digging sticks are the only traditional implement still extensively used.

(b) In the lower valley sweet potatoes and yams form the staple diet while in the upper valley taro and yams are priority foods. This staple is supplemented with taro and sweet potatoe, as applicable, bananas, sugar, leaf vegetables, fruit etc. Pumpkin is the only introduced crop which is extensively used to form part of the peoples' diet. Tomatoes, cabbage, potatoes and beans are also used, but these crops have only recently been established and useage is restricted by supply.

Canned foodstuffs, biscuits and flour are occasionally purchased but do not form a part of the diet.

(c) There are no Community Centres in the area; nor are there any organisations operating. Organised sport is not played although occasional football matches are held at the EMO Mission Station.

**(H) MISSIONS**

(a) There are two Missions operating in the area; the Anglican Mission at EMO and the Seventh Day Adventist Mission at AWOMA. Both are staffed by indigenous teachers who are visited at intervals by European Missionaries. The Anglican Mission has the largest following and the villages of NAMANAIA, MANAGUBE, EMO, BJARO, KOVIO and part UJILO profess to identify themselves with it. AWOMA, TETEBI and the remainder of UJILO identify themselves with the S.D.A. Mission. Both Missions have only recently been established and the conflict which did exist at first now appears to have settled down. Conflict took place earlier mainly over recruitment of followers but boundaries now seem to be firmly established. This will undoubtedly change as groups transfer from one religion to the other to see which they will derive the most benefit (financial) from, but the present situation is calm with little apparent tension.

(b) Both Missions have schools at the abovementioned Stations. The Anglican Mission school operates to Standard 2 with 3 teachers and the S.D.A. school to Standard 1 with 1 teacher. No other services are provided by the Missions.

(c) The general attitude of the people towards the Missions is one of acceptance for the services received. There does not appear to be any real interest in Christianity at this stage, but with the limited contact the Missions have had with the people to date this could hardly be expected.

**(I) NON-INDIGENOUS**

(a) There are no non-indigenous commercial establishments in the area.

(b) Nil.

(c) Not Applicable.

**(J) COMMUNICATIONS**

(a) Roads:- There are no vehicular roads within the area under survey and the nearest road head is at ASISI, approximately 20 miles from the nearest WAWONGA village, NAMANAIA. Roads and walking tracks are indicated on the attached map. Tracks are poorly sited for gradient and cross a series of

ridges running down towards the KUMUSI river. There would be no possibility of converting existing tracks into a vehicular road due to these steep grades.

There is need for a road into the WAWONGA area as this is the only possible means of establishing good communications for the transportation of produce from the area. Coffee has been planted, some of which has started bearing, and agricultural activity in the economic field can be expected to increase. Due to the rugged terrain, construction of a road would be a difficult undertaking. However, I consider that the people concerned should be capable of constructing a satisfactory road if an initial survey to site the road is carried out to ensure good positioning and gradients.

(b) Sea:- Not Applicable.

(c) Air:- There is one small privately owned airstrip at EMO which can take category 'D' aircraft. Approaches are extremely poor and the strip could not be opened to commercial operations. There is no possibility of constructing an aerodrome within the area which would be capable of taking large aircraft.

(K) TECHNICAL AND CLERICAL SKILLS

The only people within the area who could be classed as having technical or clerical skills are one Aid Post Orderly and one qualified teacher employed by the Mission.

(L) THE STAGE OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT

The area under survey has not reached the stage where much, if any, thought is given to development along political lines. The traditional political set-up is restricted to village communities and has already been discussed in section (G). Inter-community politics are practically non-existent, manifestations of same occurring only at such times as inter-marriage or festivities take place.

The people are vaguely aware that the Administration is endeavouring to establish political stability in the country, but have very little comprehension of the mechanics of government. Knowledge of the latter is restricted to the functions of the Administration within the immediate area, a limited understanding of local government which they have been told about on occasions by Administration officials but have had no dealings with in operation and to what they have been told about Central Government during the 1964 pre-election period.

No one from the area has attended any political meeting or conference, nor has anyone ever been placed in the position of a political observer.

As mentioned earlier, activity by Missions within the area has only recently commenced and this activity has to date made no visible impression in the limited political field.

The people are generally co-operative towards the Administration and their present uneducated and under-developed state is not due to any unco-operativeness on their part, but to poor communications. It would also appear that the area has been 'overlooked' to a certain extent in the past because of this problem of communications and the small population.

(M) THE ECONOMY OF THE AREA

(a) Coffee is the only economic tree crop planted in the WAWONGA. Plantings as at the beginning of 1964 are underlisted.

<u>Village</u>	<u>Immature</u>	<u>Producing</u>	<u>Full Production</u>	<u>Total</u>
UJILO	320	61	111	492
EJARO	124	325	-	449
MANAGUBE	-	442	-	442
KOVIO	307	142	-	449
NAMANAIA	1306	253	-	1559
EMO	1752	105	-	1857
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3809</b>	<b>1328</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>5248</b>

Further plantings have since taken place, but D.A.S. & F. could provide no figures. It is estimated that approximately 1000 seedlings have been planted out during 1964.

(b) To date 590 lbs. of coffee have been sold for a return of £44.5.0. The majority of this was shipped out of the area by Anglican Mission aircraft from EMO airstrip late in 1964 and all has been purchased by D.A.S. & F. Average price paid by the Dept. in the KOKODA area is 1/6d per lb.

(c) Assuming that the 1328 trees listed above in para. (M) (a) are now in full production, total annual production for 1429 trees should approximate 2000 lbs - cash equivalent £150.

(d) Potatoes are being grown in the area, but this enterprise has not yet reached the stage where a significant

cash return is being obtained. A few pounds of potatoes have been sold, but most of the crops reaped to date have been kept for seed and replanted. The potato produced is of good quality. Potatoes produced elsewhere in the KOKODA area are being purchased at 6d per lb. delivered at KOKODA.

Oranges also grow well in the area. A small number of trees have been planted in the EMO - AWOMA area and the fruit produced is of good quality. The tough skin surrounding each segment of the oranges grown in coastal regions is absent and they contain a high percentage of juice. Occasionally individuals carry small quantities of this fruit into KOKODA for sale, but the quantity produced is not sufficient to bring a significant return.

It is estimated that one of these two crops would not at present bring in an annual return greater than £10. Both could be expanded considerably to supplement the economy if communications can be improved.

(e) Total annual wage earnings for the area calculated on the current number of workers amounts to £4130. Earnings from other sources are estimated at around £300 annually. This is derived from casual employment of individuals by the Missions and sale of fresh foodstuffs to the Missions plus allowance for short time casual employment of individuals outside the immediate area.

(f) There are no Co-operatives operating in the area, nor are there any societies functioning.

(g) There are no entrepreneurs operating in the area.

(h) It is estimated that £250 is held in Bank Savings Accounts. 461 Savings Bank Passbooks were viewed and these contained £160. The balance was estimated after enquiry re accounts held by absentees. 450 of the accounts sighted were issued by the Anglican Mission which holds the Bank of New South Wales agency. A great percentage of these are held by children and have been recently opened with one or two shillings.

(j) Average per capita income calculated from total earnings listed paras (b), (d), (e) and (h) above and total population of 1052 approximates £4.10.0. This income is spread fairly evenly over the division.

(i) Prior to 1964 the tax rate for the area was 10/- and no difficulty in meeting this obligation was experienced. The rate was increased to £2 in 1964 and some difficulty in collecting was encountered. This I feel was due more to reluctance to pay rather than a shortage of funds.

(k) A problem of marketing produce does exist because of poor communications. Facilities are available, through the Dept. Agriculture at present and will be available shortly through the KOKODA Cocoa Growers Society recently established, at ILIMO and other points on the KOKODA-POPONDETTA trunk road, but to reach these points portage over a good distance is required. As mentioned in para (M) (b) some produce has been shipped from the area by Anglican Mission aircraft, but this, a Cessna, could not possibly cope with the expected increase in production, even if such transport would be cheap enough to make it feasible.

The only satisfactory method to overcome the marketing problem is to construct a road through the area to link with the KOKODA - POPONDETTA trunk road.

(N) POSSIBILITIES OF EXPANDING THE ECONOMY

(a) There is adequate arable land in the WAWONGA area to cater for the present and future needs of the population. It is estimated that the people own approximately 120 square miles of land of which at least 30 square miles within the valley would be suitable to cash cropping given road access.

(b) Market gardening could be increased but there is not much point in endeavouring to increase production until communications and access to markets are improved. The small quantities of oranges and potatoes which are at present being produced can be carried out to market, but it would not be possible for the people to portage all that they could produce if increase in production was encouraged.

(c) There are at present 92 men absent in employment of a total of 267 male adults of working age. This represents a little over one third of the total and I consider that an increase in the number of absentees would leave an inadequate labour force to cope with an increase in economic agricultural production and also have a detrimental effect on family life.

(d) The WAWONGA valley through which the KUMUSI river flows is heavily timbered and it is thought that this timber could provide an economic outlet for the people. Logs could be cut in lengths ready for milling and then floated down the KUMUSI to a point near the KOKODA-POPONDETTA trunk road. Such an enterprise would not be feasible in the upper reaches of the valley where the river is too shallow and rock impregnated to float logs downstream without constant handling, but the NAMANAIA, MANAGUEE and EMO people have land bordering the river where it is of sufficient volume. A camp would have to be set up outside the WAWONGA area, around AJEKA, to collect the logs from the river and store them while awaiting shipment by road to the POPONDETTA sawmills..

There is also a possibility that gold may exist in the area and, if so, this could be exploited as a means of improving the economy. Gold does exist in the JHIRIMA area and has been found in EIWO creek in the past. It has already been suggested in a similar study carried out for the JHIRIMA Census Division that a Mines Dept. Field Officer be made available to survey the potential of that area and educate the indigenous population in gold winning techniques. If such a survey does eventuate the WAWONGA AREA could also be included and potential accessed.

(e) The WAWONGA people seem keen to improve their economic position but at the moment are not doing a great deal to achieve this end. The main drawback is poor communications with relation to agricultural production as the people are not prepared to carry produce to market. If the area was linked by road to the existing road network in the KOKODA area I am sure that they would show more enthusiasm.

(O) ATTITUDE TOWARDS LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The WAWONGA people have in the past opposed any representation made to them concerning their inclusion in the ILIMO Local Government Council. This opposition, as far as I can determine, has been based on their unwillingness to part with their hard earned cash to the Council in taxation. Addresses were delivered in all villages on the role of Local Government Councils and it was also pointed out that the people were required to pay tax in the form of Administration Head Tax if they did not pay Council tax. This point was not lost on them as the Head Tax rate was increased to £2 in 1964. Careful explanation on the use to which Council Tax was put was also given.

In all villages after addressing the people they were asked for their views on Local Government, and in the main, the reaction was negative.. In all cases, however, they did express a desire to join the ILIMO Council. Education in local government affairs has been rather limited in the past and a reaction other than that obtained could not be expected. Intensive education in local government is required before the people will be able to formulate their ideas on it and to achieve this state I consider participation to be the only effective means.

(P) RECOMMENDATIONS

Economic:- The economy of the area must be improved and to do this good communications must be established. To effect this I suggest that the second D.D.A. currently at



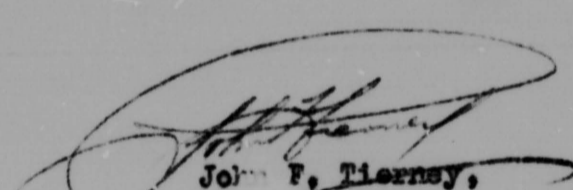
KOKODA be made available to conduct a road survey from ASISI through the WAWONGA valley and that the people concerned be encouraged to construct the road. Tools will have to be supplied by the Administration to enable construction work to be carried out and some supervision will be required. If construction was to be commenced from the ASISI end, officers could check on progress from ILIMO when visiting there on Council supervisory duties.

It is recommended that the possibilities of gold and timber production as discussed above be investigated as economic outlets.

Political:- I recommend that immediate steps be taken for the inclusion of the WAWONGA Census Division in the ILIMO Local Government Council. The next Council Elections are to be held in August 1965 and there is no reason why the area could not be included in these.

It is suggested that 2 Electorates be formed. One to take in the villages of NAMANALA, MANAGUBE, EMO and EJARO and the villages of UJILO, AWOMA, TETEBI and KOVIO to constitute the other. This would give the Electorates a population of 521 and 531 respectively. The former suggested electorate encompasses members of two separate social groups but it is considered that the amalgamation of these two groups will not present any difficulties but lead to better understanding and co-operation between them.

For your information and consideration please.

  
John F. Tiernsy,  
Assistant District Officer.