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PATROL REPORTS

District : Western
Station : Lake Murray
Volume : 7
ISBN NO : 9980-910-84-4
Accession NO : 496
Period : 1958-1959

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

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Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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A.D. Record Copy

30/4/63



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of MORABE Report No. Lake Murray Div. 20/59

Patrol Conducted by R.C. Brodie Patrol Officer

Area Patrolled Lake Murray Census Division

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans Nil

Natives 2 A.P. & P.G.C.
1 I.M.C.

Duration—From 22/4/59 to 30/4/59

Number of Days 9 days on patrol

Did Medical Assistant Accompany No.

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services 10/10/58

Medical 1/1/59

Map Reference Map ATTACHED

Objects of Patrol (1) Census Revision.

(2) Routine Administration.

DIRECTOR OF DISTRICT SERVICES
AND NATIVE AFFAIRS,
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

1 / 19

.....
District Commissioner

Amount Paid for War Damage Compensation £.....

Amount Paid from D.N.E. Trust Fund £.....

Amount Paid from P.E.D.P. Trust Fund £.....

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In
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30-4-63

Konedobu

21st October, 1959

District Officer,
Western District,
DANU

Lake Murray Patrol No. 2/59-60

It is noted that departmental matters have been handled at District level.

Eventual emancipation of the females should result in a more equitable distribution in the future.

The settlement of the dispute over the sago palms was no doubt greatly facilitated by the presence and advice of the Officer. This is the ideal method of handling such arguments.

Departmental policy in relation to village migration dictates that people may live where they like on their own land providing there is no infringement of the rights of other natives.

It is good to read that the Lake Murray men are energetic and keen enough to wish to make money even if they have so little potential. Many other people in wealthier environments show little interest in exploiting their resources.

It would certainly seem preferable to have expert advice on the siting of the BO30A Airstrip before further expenditure is incurred.

aa
(A.A. Roberts)
Director



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

30-4-63



In Reply
Please Quote

No. 30-6-5

District Office,
DARU,
WESTERN DISTRICT.

15th September, 1959.

The Director
Department of Native Affairs,
KONEDOBU.

LAKE MURRAY PATROL NO. 2-59/60
R. C. BROWNE, P.O.

Attached hereto is a copy of the above report together with claim for camping allowance, village population registers and map of the area patrolled.

1. The Assistant District Officer, Kiunga, has commented adequately on the matters arising out of the patrol and extracts relating to Health, Education and Agriculture have been passed to departmental representatives concerned.

2. It is hoped that the plans of the new mission body will come to fruition for they will undoubtedly give a much needed filip to Administration of the sub-district, particularly as regards improvement of communications and servicing of present and projected posts.

3. The vessel Mawa is at the disposal of the Assistant District Officer and I consider it for him to decide the best base for its operations and use it to the best advantage. The facts as outlined by him support its being based at Kiunga for the present. However this re-location should not be taken as an indication that there is a lessening need for water transport at Lake Murray and the recovery of the vessel Miwa at Kikori or a replacement for it will not be overlooked.

4. Under the heading "Economic Development and Agriculture", while some direction is necessary it is certain that "policing" of village plots will not encourage voluntary acceptance of new crops. Their advantage might be better demonstrated by establishing a station project with periodic field days for farmers to study cultivation methods and sample produce.

[Signature]
(K. R. Williamson)
District Officer,
WESTERN DISTRICT.

*Claim Committed
Alice King
Accepted
19/10*

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

Ref: 30/1.

Sub-District Office,
Kiunga Sub-District.

26th August, 1959.

The District Officer,
Western District,
DARU.

LAKE MURRAY PATROL No 2- 59/60.

1. Three copies of the above report together with Camping Allowance Claim and Village Population Registers are enclosed herewith please.
2. The Report was returned to Lake Murray for enclosure of map for the Directors' convenience hence the delay.
3. Patrol No 1 was conducted by myself from KIUNGA last October and covered the MIDDLE FLY and LAKE MURRAY DIVISIONS.
4. Mr. Browne will be advised that the term "PATROL No" and not "PATROL REPORT NO" now applies.
5. INTRODUCTION:

If the KIUNGA launch, M.V. MIWA, now at KIKORI does not arrive the M.V. MAWA would be required here to keep food up to workers on the DC3 airstrip site. From remarks passed by Messrs. FERNS and KING of the Department of Civil Aviation it would appear that Mr. GLENN, the Director of Public Works, is in favour of the main Sub-District airstrip being located at KIUNGA and that he hopes to allocate us £1,000 this year to complete clearing. A launch is an absolute necessity for this collection of food as there are few people within a days radius of KIUNGA itself.

The Catholic Montford Fathers inform me that they are expecting two additional Fathers and Sisters at KIUNGA next year and that KIUNGA is to be their main base. They are also getting a plane within a year or so. The Unevangelised Fields Mission already have a light aircraft strip at RUMGINAE North of KIUNGA and will ferry goods brought to KIUNGA by boat as soon as the KIUNGA strip is operating. Both of these Mission bodies intend opening up the more remote areas per medium of light aircraft as soon as stores can be flown out from here- the limit of river navigation.

Considering these facts and proposed Administration Patrol Posts in the Strickland and South of Telefomin (both of which Posts could be better serviced from here by light aircraft in view of mountain approaches from other adjacent Districts) I feel that the M.V. MAWA must be based here if no other launch is forthcoming. I.e., in other words, the M.V. MIWA is, at the moment, the focal point to extending into a population at least eight times that already serviced by the launch in LAKE MURRAY and the MIDDLE FLY.

6. NATIVE AFFAIRS:

The "rumours" concern Sodomy and Indecent Practices between males. The people themselves admit that their forefathers carried out these practices without shame. The education of girls (See EDUCATION) will undoubtedly break down present marriage customs and provide for a more equal distribution of women.

I gaoled two men for indecent assault (against males) during the course of my last Inspection of Lake Murray Post.

Mr. Browne will be requested to record the "Final Arrangements" concerning the Sago Palms if he has not already done so.

The main PARE group is located some two- three days North-East of LAKE MURRAY. There has been no mass migration but a migration of more enterprising individuals whom seek trade and are trying to get nearer the source of employment- such as it is. When the Unevangelised Fields Mission airstrip is completed at KUDA (PARE) within the next few months and the European Missionaries are established I anticipate that these people will return to their own lands.

7. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & AGRICULTURE:

The District Commissioner has already made arrangements with Mr. Browne concerning the establishment of two economic coffee plots near the Patrol Post. I cannot envisage extensive agricultural development as the area is mainly swamp.

These people are of course sago gatherers and hunters and as sago stands are often far from "villages" the people, of necessity, spend more time away from "villages" than in them. Gardens should of course be encouraged (if and where practicable) but certainly not "POLICED" and Mr BROWNE will be instructed accordingly. I would consider that the encouraging of re-planting sago stands which have been worked out close to "villages" would tend to stabilise the population more.

8. HEALTH:

The 1,245 people in the Division are serviced by two N.M.O'S at the Patrol Post and a European Trained Sister at PANGO A U.F.M. The Mission people contact the District Medical Officer daily and the Officer-in-Charge, LAKE MURRAY, contacts him thrice-weekly. I.e., the people have a relatively good medical service.

9. AIRSTRIP:

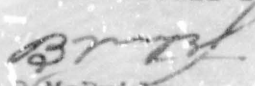
Mr. R. FERNS, Superintendent of Airports, and Mr. B. KING, Airport Engineer, have now visited the airstrip. A LAND OTTER STRIP should be sufficient for the needs of the area.

10. EDUCATION:

From the census figures it would appear that twice the present ^{number} of girls could attend schools and this will be encouraged.

11. VILLAGE POPULATION REGISTER:

Mr. Browne will be requested to enter totals for all columns in future.


P. McBride
Assistant District Officer

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

Lake Murray Patrol Post,
M.P.G. - M.D. District,
Western District.

24th June, 1959.

The District Commissioner,
Western District,
D.A.

LAKE MURRAY PATROL REPORT No. 2 - 1959.

Officer conducting patrol.

K.S. Brown, P.O.

Personnel accompanying patrol.

Nil.

Area patrolled.

Lake Murray census division.

Duration of patrol.

8/6/59 and 16/6/59 to
23/6/59. 9 days.

Native personnel accompanying.

No. 7365 L/Cpl. Argona.
No. 8230 Const. Portson.

Interpreter Paipia

M.A. Sable.

Object of patrol

(1) Tax census sheets
revision.
(2) Routine Administration.

Previous visits.

D.A. October, 1950.
P.O. January, 1959.

Map reference.

MAP ATTACHED
patrol report No. 1 - 1959.

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INTRODUCTION.

This short patrol of nine days only covers the ten villages in the Lake Murray census division. It was intended to extend the patrol to cover the Middle Fly area but circumstances did not permit this, however this area will be patrolled in the very near future. The patrol was interrupted for a week when it was known that the District Commissioner was paying Lake Murray a visit.

The objects of the patrol were to bring the tax-census sheets up to date and to undertake routine administration.

All travelling on this patrol was done on the M.V. Nawa except for a small section near Venavena village. This enabled the patrol to be carried out in a very short period. This work-boat is a major asset to a station such as Lake Murray and it is hoped that it will be permanently stationed at Lake Murray.

DIARY.

Monday, 5th June, 1950.

Patrol proceeded to Acwa per M.V. Nawa. Census revision and village inspection. Departed Acwa at 11.00 a.m. and arrived Boibollava village at 1.45 p.m. Census revision and village inspection. Returned Lake Murray station.

Tuesday, 9th June to Monday, 15th June.

Received word of District Commissioner proposed visit. Mr. J. J. Murphy, D.O., and Mr. B. Kidd arrived per Cessna amphibian aircraft. The aircraft proceeded Soboa airstrip where the Cessna overturned on landing. Nobody was hurt.

This accident further delayed the Patrol. The pilot of the Cessna left on the 13th per Mission Aviation Fellowship in order to get spare parts for his damaged plane.

Tuesday, 16th June.

Departed Lake Murray station 9.00 a.m. and arrived Usokof village at 11.30 a.m. Census revision and medical check. Slept.

Wednesday, 17th June.

Departed Usokof village at 8.00 a.m. and, on arrival, U.S.A. mission, Pangoa, heard that Mr. Kidd had returned to Soboa to effect repairs on his aircraft. Arrived Soboa airstrip at 11.30 a.m. Repairs were effected and Mr. Kidd made four attempts to get the aircraft off the ground without success. Mr. Kidd departed per chartered aircraft leaving his own aircraft at Soboa.

Patrol proceeded Dima village arriving there at 5.30 p.m.

Thursday, 18th June.

Census revision and medical check at Dima. V.C. Jobanapares suffering from suspected nodular leprosy (see HEALTHS) and he requested that he be relieved of Village Constable duties. Councillor/ero-Nivaba is now carrying out the duties of the Village Constable and will be recommended for that position shortly if satisfactory. Left Dima and arrived Kollavuan village early afternoon. Census and Medical check.

Complaint by Kollavuan people that the people from Asoatutuma were taking food from their (Kollavuan's) sago place. V.C. and interested parties joined patrol for journey to Asoatutuma village.

Slept.

Friday, 19th June.

Departed Kollavuan at 7.30 a.m. and arrived Niwa village at 8.30 a.m. Census revision and medical check. Thence to Asoatutuma arriving there in the early afternoon. Census and Medical check. Dispute over the possession of sago trees settled to the satisfaction of both villages (see NATIVE AFFAIRS). J.C.M.S.

DIARY (cont'd).

Friday, 19th June, 1959 (cont'd).

The Asotutuma people requested that permission to shift their village to the east side of the Lake because of the plague of mosquitoes which are blown across the Lake to the west side. After the patrol had spent a night at this village permission was readily granted.

Saturday, 20th June.

Departed Asotutuma at 7.15 a.m. and arrived Venavena at 11.30 a.m. Census revision and medical check. The V.C. reported that some Pare people had established a village on their land. This was tolerated by the Venavena until the Pare people started to use the Venavena sago stamps. This matter will be dealt with at a later date when all interested parties can be brought together for a discussion. It has also been reported that the Pare people have moved down into the Middle-Fly area and also north into the Kanga area.

Slept.

Sunday, 21st June.

Departed Venavena at 7.20 a.m. Lunch at Bangor Mission station and arrived Lake Murray station at 5.15 p.m. Slept.

Monday, 22nd June.

Departed Lake Murray station at 8.00 a.m. and arrived Nago at 11.45 a.m. Census revision and medical check. I.C.M. Slept.

Tuesday, 23rd June.

Departed Nago at 7.30 a.m. and arrived at Busaki at 11.45 a.m. Census revision and medical check. Village extra clean. Returned Lake Murray station.

End of Diary.

NATIVE AFFAIRS

On the whole the native affairs position appears to be satisfactory but there is one point which has been causing trouble for years and looks like causing trouble among the natives for some years to come. This trouble stems from the lack of **SINGLE** marriageable girls for the young men of the villages. Despite the fact that the population figures shows an overall majority of 63 in the female population, the fact that the older and more influential men in the villages marry three or four wives leaves very few to be distributed among the younger men. This leads to strife between the young men, adultery and now there are rumours that there is a crime far more serious being committed around the lake. The practice of marrying three or four wives has been discouraged over the years but has produced very little result.

The dispute over the sago palms was more or less settled by the claimants themselves after a long discussion. This officer only listened to the arguments on both sides and put in a few suggestions here and there. Both parties were quite happy with the final arrangement and no complaints have been received since that date.

The position with regard to the migration of the Pare people to other areas without permission is far from satisfactory and it appears at the present time that they will have to be asked to return to their own area but this will be

NATIVE AFFAIRS (cont).

dealt with when the full circumstances are known.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

There is no economic development in the lake area this year. In previous years crocodile skins were the main source of income and every other possibility was neglected. This year there has been no crocodile shooter into the lake and consequently no one to buy the skins, however it is thought that most of the crocodiles have been shot out at present and time will be needed for them to breed and multiply.

These people are not agriculturally minded, their staple diets, sago and bananas, grows with very little care and attention. However corn, peanut and bean seeds were issued in large quantities during the patrol and it is hoped to police these gardens with the help of the F.V. if possible. This policing will have to be intensified when and if the crocodile season comes into being again.

There is no doubt that these people are very anxious to make money as they seem to jump at any chance to make a penny. For example, two villages have requested and have been granted permission to commence piteau operations. Other villages have also asked permission to start piteaus but had to be refused because funds would not be available to purchase the timber. It appears that some industry in this line would suit the temperaments of the Lake Murray people.

AGRICULTURE.

As mentioned under ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, corn, peanut and bean seeds were issued in large quantities in each village. Reports on the progress from the various villages show very little effort on the part of the villagers. Some report that the plants are dying while others say that snakes are eating the seeds. It appears that the only solution is to have the construction of properly fenced gardens strictly supervised in each village.

A small copra industry may have a future in this area and the people were encouraged to plant coconuts. More seed coconuts are requested for issue to the native people.

HEALTH.

P.M.C. Sable accompanied the patrol and had very little work to do. Most of the people who need medical treatment go to Pangoa Mission station or Lake Murray station. At the time of the patrol there were 26 babies at Pangoa Mission hospital suffering from gastro-enteritis, this figure rose to 40 some days later but at time of writing the epidemic had passed. There were four deaths, one at Pangoa Mission and three at a village near the Government station.

At Dina village (refer Thursday, 18th) the ex-V.C. is suffering from suspected nodular leprosy. He resigned from the position of V.C. because he is now losing his voice and can only speak at odd times. He was treated at Daru some years ago for leprosy but it appears that he was not completely cured. It would be in the interests of the village people if he could be removed to a Mainside Colony as he is likely to infect other people especially his family.

AIRSTRIP CONSTRUCTION.

Construction is going ahead slowly on the Dicoa airstrip. At present light aircraft use part of the strip which is 1,300' x 100'. This area has now been lengthened to 2,100' x 150' but the extra space is not in use as yet. However it will be quite some time before anything heavier than a light aircraft will operate on the strip as the surface is too soft. This surface will either have to be rolled or excavated, the latter being the best plan as there is good red soil one to two feet below the present surface. It would be far better if a P.W.D. or D.C.A. official could visit the strip before any more work is put into it.

EDUCATION

It is estimated that between 80% and 90% of the eligible school-age children in the Lake Murray division are now attending school at the Pangoa Mission school and the Administration school at Lake Murray station. The total number attending school in the area is 168 (105m & 63f). 44 of these are attending the Lake Murray school and this figure will be increased at the beginning of the coming calendar year.

The local people bring in food for the children in sufficient quantities and there ~~has~~ has been no necessity to issue the children from the Government store.

CENSUS

The census figures show an overall increase of 46 over the 1956 figures. This figure is made up of 23 females and 23 males. The total for the Lake Murray Census Division is now 1245 (591m & 654f). The village population register accompanies this report.

All tax census sheets were revised and advice of the adjustments will be forwarded to the various offices when the Tax Adjustments ~~come~~ come to hand.

^ Tax exemptions were issued in each village to all males over eighteen, the reason being that very little income has come into the Lake Murray area this year.

CONCLUSION

Most of the villages are being kept in reasonable order and cleanliness. The best being Suseki village where it is a pleasure to walk in after being through some of the other villages in the lake. Two villages requested permission to shift the village to another location, permission was granted to both villages. Aava village because of the dirt of the present site and Ascababura village because of the amount of mosquitoes in the village.

One of the worst aspects of the division is the amount of dogs kept in each village. These dogs are kept in what appears to be a semi-starved state for hunting. A number of diseased dogs were shot during the course of the patrol.

It is intended to conduct another patrol into this area before the end of the year with special emphasis on the construction of properly fenced gardens in each village where possible.

R. C. Broome

R. C. Broome, P.C.

VILLAGE POPULATION REGISTER

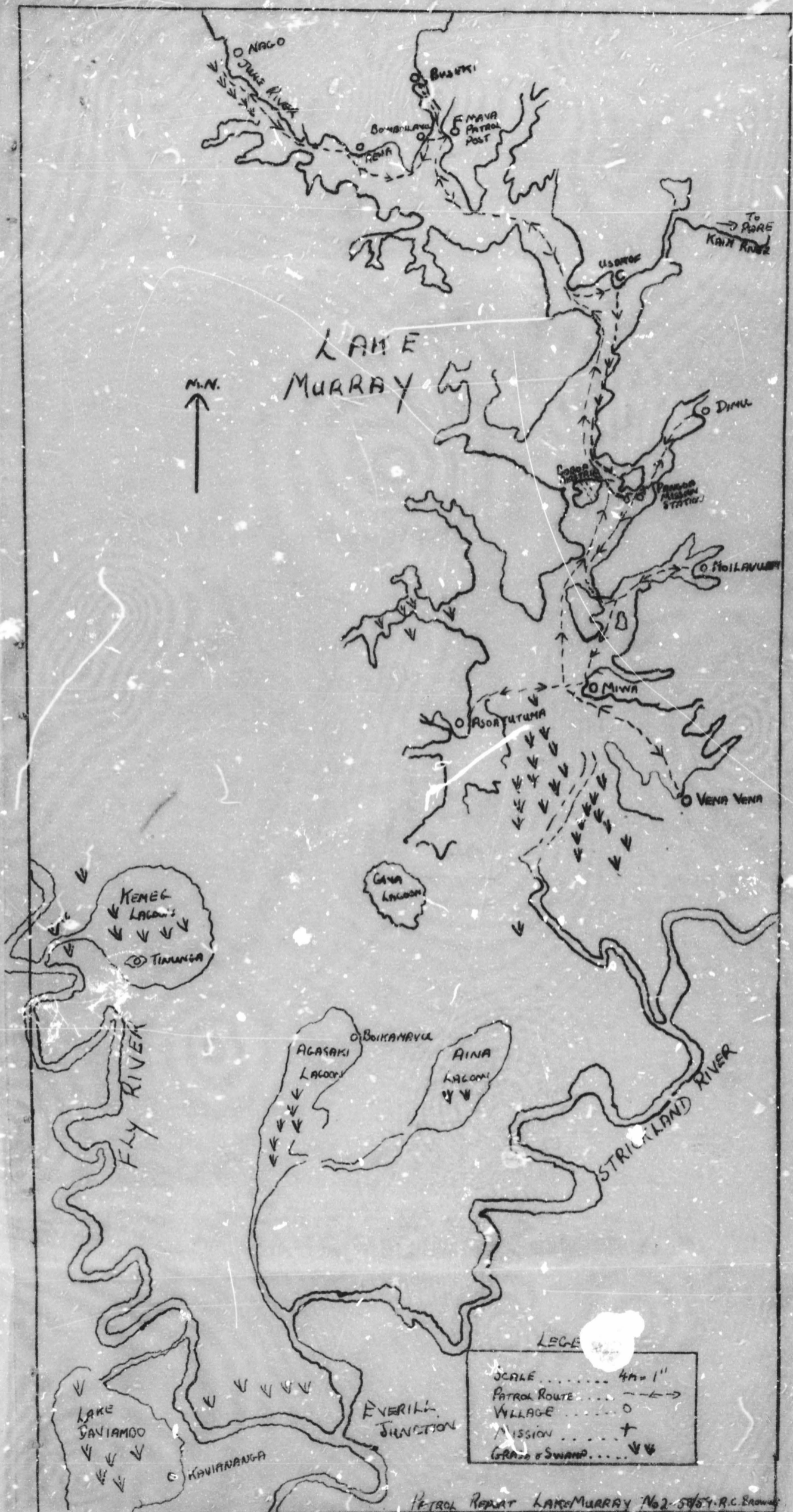
Year 1959

LAKE MCCRARY

Census Division

353/731

VILLAGE	DATE OF CENSUS	BIRTHS		DEATHS						Migrations In	Migrations Out	ABSENT FROM VILLAGES AT WORK		STUDENTS		LABOUR POTENTIAL		Females bearing children	Average Size of Family	POPULATION (Excluding Absentees)				GRAND TOTAL				
		M	F	0-4	5-8	9-13	Over 13	Female in Child Birth	In			Out	Inside District	Outside District	Govt.	Mission	Males			Females	M	F	M		F	M+F		
LAKE	02/6/59	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	14	4	9	25	2.0	13	11	24	34	82	
Boleholo	16/6/59	5	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	25	10	27	-	2.0	13	21	27	29	112	
Isokoo	16/6/59	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	2	-	5	-	8	1	22	36	10	12	2	2.2	27	25	58	191	
Dama	18/6/59	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	3	13	27	7	2.6	1.6	9	12	32	41	
Mollanana	18/6/59	1	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	7	6	1	-	-	-	22	17	34	6	53	3	2.1	1.0	32	40	67	
Mawa	19/6/59	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	19	12	28	11	3	2.0	1.7	9	4	13	14	
Agobholo	19/6/59	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	1	2	-	-	-	11	6	7	21	3	2.0	2.0	3	9	22	30	
Mamvona	20/6/59	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	-	1	-	-	-	17	6	21	9	32	1.4	1.4	16	29	36	110	
Tanga	22/6/59	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	5	3	20	7	21	1	2.2	2.0	15	10	25	66	
Isokoo	25/6/59	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	10	-	-	10	2	38	4	24	1	1.8	1.5	24	40	64	132	
TOTAL																												



N.N.
↑

LAKE MURRAY

LEGEND

SCALE	4 in = 1"
PATROL ROUTE	--->
VILLAGE	○
MISSION	+
GRASS & SWAMP	∨∨