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District : Western Highlands

Station : Wabag

Volume : 5

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[1955 - 1956]

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Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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WESTERN DISTRICT PATROL REPORTS 1953 - 56

WABAG

LAIAGAM

KOMPILAM

WAPENAMANDA

<u>Patrol No.</u>	<u>Officer Conducting Patrol.</u>	<u>Area Patrolled.</u>
Wabag 1-55/56	F.R. Robb	Sau Valley and part of the Yust between Rarua and Torua Rivers
Laiagam 3-54/55 ✓	F.P. Robb K. Graham	Muriraga, Tumundan, Tibinin & Porgera areas of LAGAIP Valley
1-55/56	W.M.J. Hunter	Parts Kundip and Yumbis areas
2-55/56	W.M.J. Hunter	Kundip, Wage, Yumbis, and Muriraga areas.
3-55/56 ✓	K. Graham	Porgera Valley
Kompilam 1-54/55	G.W. Whiteoak	Sau Valley
1-55/56	G.W. Whiteoak	Lower Sau Valley
Wapenamanda 1-53/54	I.W. Thistlethwaite	Middle/Lai Census Division
2-53/54	I.W. Thistlethwaite	Lower Lai Census Division

WABAG P/Ed of 55/56



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of Western Highlands - Wabag Report No. Wabag No: 1 of 1955-56.

Patrol Conducted by Mr. F.P. Robb, A.A.D.O. - Mr. R.A. Wright, C.P.O.
The San Valley and that part of the Yuat
Area Patrolled between the Rarus and Tarua Rivers.

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans Nil.

Natives 73

Duration—From 22 / 7 / 1955 to 5 / 8 / 1955.

Number of Days 15

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? No.

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services Date Unknown - Yuat.
1 / 2 / 1955 - Sam.
Nil - Yuat.
Medical Unknown / - / 1955.

Map Reference Army Strat Series; 4m. to 1in. ; Sheets Wabag, Rann, Bogia
and Ambunti.

Objects of Patrol (1.) Contact population on Yuat slopes. (2.) Consolidation
work in San Valley. (3.) Survey road route from Kompian to Yuat River.

DIRECTOR OF DISTRICT SERVICES
AND NATIVE AFFAIRS,
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

27/2/1956

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 £

.....
.....
.....

KL HA.30-17-11

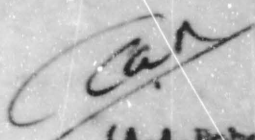
4th July, 1956

The District Commissioner,
Western Highlands District,
MOUNT HAGEN.

Patrol Report - Mabag No. 1-1955/56.

My memorandum HA.30-17-11 of 20th March, 1956,
refers.

With reference to the question of the payment
of compensation, I wish to advise you that I could not
contemplate recommending any payment on the limited
information now available. If a future patrol learns
more detail the matter can be re-opened, but this does
not mean that claims are to be encouraged or invited.


(A.A. Roberts)
Director.

P/A Ben
9/7

II MA. 30-17-31

20th. March, 1956

The District Commissioner,
Mount Hagen.

PATROL REPORT - WABAG No. 1. 1955/56.

Receipt is acknowledged of your 30/1-1021 of 29th. February, 1956, together with Mr. Robb's report. These papers are being held for the Director's personal comments and decision, as is the payment of compensations.

In the meantime I am having four copies of the map printed for you.

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

5 Copies of
map accepted
26/3/56
D.M. 20/3

29
26/4/56 ✓
B/F
B/F

2/6

Director
Regret the omission but it is
accepted that the map was taken for a
and entered in the B/F Register as B/F 20/3/56

See P. 11

Director For your personal and personal committee
Please, especially as regards payments of compensation
My own opinion is that it should not
be paid - but in any case a final decision
will probably not be possible until further
investigation is completed. The whole story is
copies of the report have been forwarded to
Washington and the D.C. that the report has
been submitted until you return

WELL 19/3

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

2/17/56

RIS:EH

File No. 30/1 - 1021.

District Office,
MOUNT HAGEN.
Western Highlands.

29th February, 1956.

Director,
Department of Native Affairs,
PORT MORESEY.



PATROL REPORT - WABAG No. 1/1955-56.

Mr. F.P. Robb, A.D.O. - SABU VALLEY & RARUA AND TARUA RIVERS - YUAT WATER SYSTEM.

The above patrol report, submitted herewith, has been somewhat delayed but Mr. Robb, with most of his staff engaged in preparations for the recent local examinations, has been forced to delay its submission to District Headquarters.

2. DIARY: Gives a running account of the terrain covered and people encountered.
3. SUMMARY: The objects of the patrol were fulfilled although further surveys will be necessary before it could be said definitely that a vehicular road to the river-head for vessels of useful size could be constructed but this patrol does indicate that a route may be found between Kompian Patrol Post and the Yuat and lower Sabu which would be useful for administration purposes.

As with many other areas requiring more intensive administration in this District, there can be no question of opening a patrol post in the Sabu Valley until adequate field staff becomes available.

4. ROADS & BRIDGES:

The Wabag-Kompian road should be open to light four wheeled drive vehicles in the near future.

5. VILLAGE OFFICIALS AND CENSUS:

The appointment of officials and the recording of vital statistics would be premature at this stage although the next patrol into the area should attempt to conduct a head-count for administrative and planning purposes.

6. MISSIONS:

One becomes rather weary of the frequent infringements of the law perpetrated by Missionaries under the excuse of "ignorance". These occur with monotonous regularity. I propose to take action should there be any further infringements of the Restricted Areas Ordinance, regardless of the affiliations of the offender.

7. AIRFIELDS:

The potential aerodrome site located would appear to be near TABOIMBE (camp 7). This will be noted for future investigation. Although only nine or ten miles from Kompian Patrol Post, the nature of the terrain may justify its development.

8. NATIVE AFFAIRS: "The evil men do - ". Naturally, the murders committed by the late Ludwig Schmidt are laid at the feet of Europeans as a whole. Mr. Robb does not say whether he attempted to explain the Schmidt had been punished for his crimes and perhaps this may not be advisable at this stage although later these people will understand. There is a fair chance that some of these people took part in killing Highland carriers and women sent back by Schmidt when he reached the main Sepik water system but it requires much closer contact before this is determined. As I remember hearing years ago some four or five of approximately 70 people survived the return journey. The Keogh - Vial patrol, investigating Schmidt's activities probably came somewhere near the confluence of the Sabun and the Yuat. The advisability of paying compensation for these killings is doubtful although not out of character - compensation was recently paid within two miles of Hagen station for a man killed prior to 1932. Your comment would be appreciated, please.

Could not find any further information on limited information now available. If future patrol details matter can be re-visited but this date not sure that claims are being investigated

Attempts to prevent tribal fighting at this state would not meet with much success and would only delay consolidation by weakening our control if orders given be disobeyed and not enforced or the disobedience punished.

9. MAP:

The patrol map is particularly well prepared. Could four prints be made and forwarded to this District, please.

10. GENERAL:

With six of the seven patrol officers then in the District spending most of their time preparing for local examinations for months before the examinations administration as a whole suffered very considerably. This will receive comment elsewhere. Suffice it is to say here that the time granted for study differed greatly from District to District thus affecting the relative opportunities of candidates and in this District the amount of time spent to normal duties appears to have been inordinate.

As this was a penetrative patrol of a minor nature two copies of the report are submitted.

Mr. Robb appears to have conducted the patrol in a capable manner and has recorded his observations in detail. His comments on Mr. Wright's performance of his duties are pleasing.

R.I. Skinner
(R. I. SKINNER)
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER.

Attachment.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

File : 30/1 - 59.

Sub-District Office,
Western Highlands District,
WABAG.

9th. August, 1955.

Memorandum to -

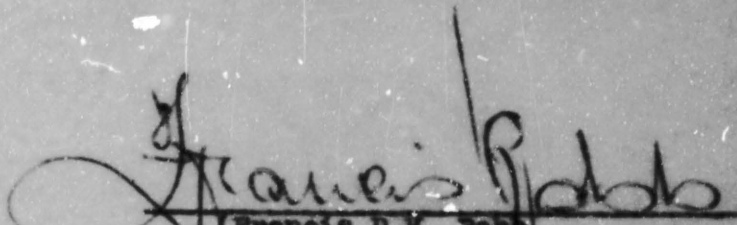
The District Commissioner,
Western Highlands District,
MT. HAGEN.

Subject: Patrol Report - WABAG No: 1 of 1955/56.

Area: SAU Valley and the YUAT Slopes.

1. Herewith enclosed please find four copies of the above-mentioned Patrol Report, together with two Patrol Maps; it is respectfully requested that Headquarters be asked for copies of the patrol map.
2. This patrol was shortened by approximately a week, due to the writers' knees not having fully recovered from the effects of the recent FORGIERA patrol, however the main purposes of the patrol were achieved, that is, firstly, the contacting of two pockets of population on the southern YUAT slopes, these having been seen from the air during the 1953 D.C.A. aerial survey and, secondly, to ascertain the feasibility, or otherwise, of the prolongation of the WABAG/KOMPJAM road across the SAU/YUAT divide and so down the YUAT.
3. As regards the population on the southern YUAT slopes: Two groups were encountered, that to the east living on the upper reaches of RARUA creek and, a larger group, to the west, on the upper reaches of SABON creek; the latter people, although comprising various clans, are known overall as the WARP people. The only official contact with these two areas known was possibly made by Mr. Macilwain, at present A.D.O., MINJ, although the patrol only touched the head of the WARP valley and did not make any appreciable contact; Other official contact may have been made although the natives deny this. It is known that the Schmidt party penetrated the RARUA area, although not, supposedly, the WARP area, and it is said that many natives were killed in the course of the visit. As a result of these killings the natives of the area do not appear particularly comfortable in the presence of Europeans and it is possible that, were a party weak enough, some retaliation might be attempted; it was therefore most disturbing to find that the RARUA area had been visited, some year ago, by two missionaries, said to be the Rev. Kronert, of the Baptist Mission, Baiyer River, and the Rev. Craig, of the Baptist Mission, KOMPJAM. It was further disturbing to find that the WARP area had also been visited, supposedly by miners, although their identity is not at present known. Enquiries are being made as to whether the Revs. Kronert and Craig did in fact visit the area, and it will again be brought to the notice of all residents of the Sub-district as regards the penalties of encroaching, without a permit, in the the Restricted Areas.

4. Particular attention was paid to the terrain with the view to constructing a road from KOMPIAM across the SAU/YUAT divide, and so along the lower reaches of the YUAT, up and to a suitable steamer anchorage thereon; this as an alternative to a road from BAIYER RIVER to the GAI/YUAT junction, and thence down the YUAT bank. It would appear feasible to build such a road, the route following the SAU for a short distance below KOMPIAM, thence crossing the divide by way of the TIMIN and KFE valley (this being the one valley), and reaching the YUAT via the western slope of the WARP valley. Such a route would be mountainous and hard to build however it would have the advantage over the BAIYER/TIMIN route of passing through a populated area and of missing the ravines studding the YUAT slopes; it would require a period of preparation, both in the adequate surveying of the route and in the building of a post in the WARP valley, in order to prepare these peoples and bring them to the stage wherein they would volunteer for road building. The WARP would have an estimated population of some 1,000 to 1,500 people and would appear the only possible route for a road; the only really large section of bush which would require penetration here would be that on the actual crown of the SAU/YUAT divide. To have made a really thorough survey of this road route would have taken a matter of weeks, and was therefore not possible on the present patrol, it is hoped however that use can be made of the D.C.A. Cesena on its forthcoming visit to WABAG to fly over the area traversed, and so glean additional information, in the light of that ascertained on the ground patrol. It is quite apparent that the present Army Strat map of the area is inaccurate.
5. Food was sold to the patrol, although often not in the amounts required. The people were friendly and had no hesitation in visiting the camp, both men, women and children. They asked for, and received, medical attention, in the main for tropical ulcers. The language spoken was ENGA. No difficulty was met in finding guides and it would appear that, with a couple of exceptions, the correct roads were shown us; the patrol was generally accompanied by about twenty or more of the local natives and the guides were given substantial presents.
6. Mr. R.A. Wright, C.P.O. accompanied this patrol and his conduct and ability, as with all his work, was excellent.


(Francis P.V. Robb
actg. Asst. District Officer.)

Territory of Papua and New Guinea.

D I A R Y .

Friday -
July 22nd:

Carriers and gear away yesterday. Mr. Wright and self left Wabag by Landrover at 0827 hours and arrived at the Wabag/Kompian road-head at 0948 hours. Began walking and arrived in 21 minutes at Sirunki, that is at 1055 hours. Continued on to Samanda, arriving at 1210 hours, and spelled. Away at 1230 hours and arrived at Kebakanda at 1410 hours. Spelled and away at 1428 hours, arriving at Arupari creek at 1630 hours. Swam here for 30 minutes and ascended to Kompian Station at 1712 hours. Camped.

Total walking time 6 hours 57 minutes.

Saturday -
July 23rd:

At Kompian preparing carrier loads and making enquiries from local natives regarding routes and other matters.

Sunday -
July 24th:

Away at 0630 hours, taking with us a Kompian Constable in order that he learn the route. Travelled down the Sun and on the southern bank. Crossed Oran Creek at 0700 hours and Lip Creek at 0710 hours, passing through the grounds of the Wagenagen group. Spelled at 0742 and away at 0755 hours. Crossed the Yenge, Iogop and Kungen creeks, this land being that of the Foriarin Group. Spelled on a ridge as from 0856 to 0912 hours. Crossed Ninja creek and topped the ridge at 1040 hours; descended the ridge-top slightly and came at 1052 hours to Iaramanda. Camped here. This the Ceremonial Ground of the Managagin Group. Food bought.

Total walking time 3 hours 53 minutes.

Monday -
July 25th:

Away at 0611 hours. Two roads lead from here to Taboigunik, the westermost being taken on this occasion. Descended steeply to the Sun and crossed at 0742 hours, spelling on the northern bank. Some sago palms along the swampy southern bank here, these being planted by the natives. Away at 0818 and followed down and along the Sun bank, this track being quite good. Turned up a ridge and spelled at 0905 hours, the track here being steep. Away at 0925 and shortly after met Headman Rage of the Sergon group and some other men. At 1005 hours came to the junction of the eastern road, before-mentioned, and at 1018 hours arrived at the Sergon Ceremonial Ground, Taboigunik. Camped. Food brought in.

A good attendance by members of the Sergon and Kabandan groups, the Sergons living in the vicinity of Taboigunik and the Kabandans to the east. Kabiri is the Kabandan Headman. Talked to the people and gave medical treatment to them.

Tuesday -
July 26th:

Joined by Headman Rage and Naipe - the latter of the Teinin Group at the Koo mouth - as guides. Away at 0804 hours and travelled north along the

ridge-top for some 14 minutes, crossing a ditch and the intersection of a track from the west. Turned off this large and well formed track for an overgrown track to the east - although the natives denied it, it would seem that the track left might well lead over the divide onto the Yuat side. We were informed that a road led from the Kwe to the Yuat, where the main group is said to be named the 'WARP.' Spelled from 0704 to 0722 hours and then descended to Givi creek. Spelled here from 0757 to 0814 hours, meanwhile trying a dish but without result. Just before reaching the Givi we passed a track to the south, which track parallels our course. The road today leads through some minor patches of kumai, although it is mainly bush, with quite a number of large and splendid pine trees, many of which the natives have cut down, often seemingly for no valid reason. Bird life here is plentiful, some half dozen Birds of Paradise being seen in the one tree.

Ascended steeply and passed gardens at 0842. Passed a mass of spider-web some 20 yards long, the whole being inhabited by a colony of thousands of spiders. Passed a couple of roads coming in from the south. Spelled on the ridge from 0900 to 0920 hours and then again ascended steeply. Reached the top of the ridge and the Magali ceremonial ground at 0947 hours. This is the ground of the Iabirekin Group, whose Headman is Wagup. Camped and bought food; this being bought in good quantity.

A large gathering here and a present given to an old lady, who had hobbled in to see us. Mr. Wright went on and down to a large creek, the Koo, and tried a dish but without result. Several bad tropical ulcers treated here.

Total walking time : 2 hours 48 minutes.

Wednesday -
July 27th:

Iarananda headmen returned to their home, taking with them a carrier, who had cut his foot, and presents for their help to the patrol. Patrol away at 0604 hours, the general direction being north west. Proceeded up and along the ridge and reached the top of the divide at approximately 0650 hours. Descended slightly and spelled at 0705 hours. Waited here for some Magali men to join us. Away at 0809 hours and along a well defined and undulating track, passing at 0835 a track from the west, which track was said to lead to Seron. Spelled from 0904 to 0920 hours. The track leading down and across a gently sloping ridge. Crossed Rembinai creek at 0927 and spelled at Paia creek at 1012 hours. Shortly before reaching Paia creek passed some bread-fruit trees, these having been planted by the natives.

According to the natives this track, which is within the Restricted area, was travelled some 12 months previously by two missionaries, said to be Messrs. Kronert and Craig of the Baptist Mission, Baiyer River and the Sam, respectively.

The track here leading through pleasant, semi-open, primary growth. Away at 1035 hours. Crossed Tauda creek at 1044 and Gura creek at 1110 hours, the track

now ascended quite steeply to the ridge-top, which was reached at 1128 hours. Descended slightly and spelled at 1132 hours, the site being an old garden. Looked out over a basin shaped valley, the course of the main stream lying somewhat north of north east and both the Yuat itself and the next valley to the west being cut from view by a divide following the north western bank of this main stream. Immediately in front of us were two rather large Muna patches, the nearer with a gentle slope down the ridge, which place might well have possibilities as an airstrip site.

1150

Away at 1235 hours and descended to a creek, unnamed, which we crossed and came to the first Muna patch. Crossed this patch and crossed Kpel creek at 1212 hours, thereafter crossing Top creek at 1231 hours. Came to the second Muna patch and camped at its head at 1242 hours, this ground being covered with bread-fruit trees and known as Tabolmba.

The group here is known as Lagani, of whom the headman is Karira. Karira showed little pleasure in our arrival and endeavoured to talk us into giving up our plan of visiting the Wap people. The people here appear to have suffered loss of life during the visit many years ago of the Schmidt party, and the memory is still vivid although most of the present men would be only boys at the time of the occurrence. The name of the first Muna patch crossed is Piarulama and that of the second Korbupe.

Karira stated that there are two men in the vicinity with bullet wounds in the chest, mementoes of the Schmidt visit. He also stated that he had turned the Baptist missionaries at this place, as their further progress would have been dangerous for themselves. It was reported that our visit had surprised these people, otherwise they would have rallied against us and offered armed opposition - as a result of this talk a double guard was mounted.

Total walking time today : 4 hours 37 minutes.

Thursday -
July 28th:

A road from Tabolmba leads directly to Sergo. Away at 0610 hours. Crossed Kabiama creek at 0620 and ascended steeply, the road leading generally south west and around the upper wall of the valley. Spelled at 0706 hours. The natives tried to persuade us to follow the present track, which would bring us in a little over two days to the Eve but they were told that we were going on. Away at 0723 and at 0735 hours turned off the track onto a smaller and less well defined one, leading to the south west. Descended over some roughish ground, the patrol being accompanied by some 20 to 30 local people who wished to assist in the carrying; this was refused, as a possible attempt to infiltrate the patrol. Spelled at 0805 and away at 0826. Topped a ridge at 0845 and followed on down it, coming to some houses at 0915. Spelled. The name of this place is Kamuari and a portion of the Lagani group

live here. Away at 0955 and descended to the base of the ridge, passing through bread-fruit trees and sago palms. Crossed the junction of two streams, the Iem and the Mundi and camped beside them at 1020 hours.

About 30 men, women and children brought food and sat about the camp all day. Headman Karira again asked us not to proceed further and, when we refused, went back to Taboimbe in a huff.

Total walking time today : 2 hours 48 minutes.

Friday -
July 29th:

Away at 0608 hours. Up and across a ridge, passing a track to the south. Direction generally north west. Crossed Sianda creek and passed a track to the north. Came to a large creek, the Rarua, this creek said to be the main one in the valley. Spelled here from 0702 to 0727. Tried a dish, with no result. The country from here on fairly glistens with mica. Crossed the Rarua and, shortly thereafter, the Abusa. Again crossed the Rarua, at 0732. Ascended and descended and again crossed the Rarua, spelling here from 0812 to 0830 hours. Recrossed the Rarua and followed along it a short distance upstream, passing a patch of bread-fruit and sago. Again crossed the Rarua and ascended. Spelled from 0927 to 0947 hours. Continued along the ridge and at 1030 hours arrived at the ground, Kapumanda, which ground belongs to the Iuwai group. Camped. Walking time today : 3 hours 19 minutes.

The headman here is named Tarus. There is, supposedly, no road here to the lower Rarua, where two groups, the Sue and the Mondapun, are said to live. The Iuwai and the Lagani are said to be enemies, although the Lagani showed no hesitation in accompanying us to Kapumanda. Some 60 men, women and children were waiting for us and helped us to make camp. Not a great deal of food was brought in, due, it was said, to the dispersal of the group in the recent fighting with the Lagani. Medical treatment given the locals, including penicillin injections to a boy with yassa - this lad followed us to our next camp and received further injections. As usual, guard mounted.

Saturday -
July 30th:

Away at 0608 hours. Climbed up and around the ridge and spelled at 0658 hours beside a Karoka palm. This palm was said to have been introduced from the Sau side, these people not growing them. Away at 0718 hours, today's walk being mainly North West. At 0727 came onto a large and well used path, which track also leads to Kapumanda. At 0750 passed a track to the south east and at 0803 a road to the north east. Came to gardens of the Wanjipain group and spelled here at 0809 hours. Away at 0829 and at 0842 hours passed a road to the north. At 0843 hours arrived at the grounds of the Punipan group. Camped.

Sunday -
July 31st:

Day spent in camp. Food brought on both days, the main supplier being a man named Narupin. This man given presents for his help. Many people to see us, including many women and children. It is said

that Schmidt did not come to this valley and that we are the first Europeans so to do. It was learned however that a patrol some years ago came to the head of the valley, and then made for the Turua. The present camp on a ridge which runs out into the valley from the eastern wall - in the valley to the east is Bogerena creek and, to the west is the main creek, the Sabun. The valley to the east is the Turua and a road - to the north of that later taken by the patrol - leads across the Turua and so to the Marimani, the native walking time being some 7 days. A day's walk from the camp along this road is said to lead to a group known as the Yarip, who have trading relations with the Marimani natives - their grounds are on a creek, the Ewe, which joins the Turua, which then flows into the Turua.

The western wall of the Sabun valley is fairly corrugated and is probably the natural route for any road leading from the Sam to the Yuat; there are many people living on this wall although they gradually thin out towards the Yuat end. Large groups in this valley were named as the Kurai and the Wairu, with the smaller groups the Pungarain and the Wiema, Kumor and Wan'or. No claim is made as to the accuracy of this naming.

Some cases which may have been goitre were seen here, together with the odd yew and tropical ulcers; several natives were given treatment. The people were quite friendly and not very shy.

Monday -
August 1st:

Desired to proceed down the valley and examine the mouth - the people not keen and said that only pig tracks exist. Aways at 0602 and proceeded on down the ridge between the Bogerena and the Sabun. The road over-grown, due to the Punipans having fought with their neighbours and having retreated up the valley a pace. The name of the place where we have camped for the last couple of days is Indinaga. Travelled firstly north and west of north. Spelled at 0714 hours. What would appear to be a mango tree here although, if so, a mystery as to how it would reach this spot. Aways at 0734 and descended sharply, tending towards the west; the track being poor indeed. At 0830 to the Sabun and spelled here until 0855. Tried this stream for gold, as we did the next stream, the Kurain, with no success. To the Kurain at 0905. This stream is the main valley stream but is said to be called the Sabun below its junction with the Sabun - there would appear some doubt as to the names of these streams at this point.

Stopped here and argued with the guides, who are obviously trying to 'pull' us away from the valley mouth, however they swear that the only passable road leads along the west wall of the valley and, as my knee is starting to feel the strain, think it wise to not risk the extra two to three days walk, especially as it would appear likely that only pig and/or hunting tracks would in fact lead to the Yuat mouth.

Away at 0955 hours. Crossed and re-crossed the Barain three times, following on up its course. Spelled at 1050 and away at 1107 hours. Climbed up the west wall of the valley, following the track leading over into the Tarna - to the Jatip people. Camped some 100 yards to the south of this track at 1144 hours, on the grounds of the Barai group, this place being known as Mangilare. Food brought in in sufficient quantities and about 100 men, women and children visited the camp, all being quite friendly.

Total walking time today : 3 hours 52 minutes.

Tuesday -
August 2nd:

Departed at 0602 hours, travelling generally west of south. Some of the locals along as guides. Descended steeply and crossed the small streams Inyen and Barain at 0627 and 0635 respectively. Ascended ridge at head of the valley on which lies the San track. Spelled from 0709 to 0739. Up and to houses of the Kamigin group, the place known as Mondoli. Descended steeply to a small stream, headwaters of the Barain. Downstream a few yards and then ascended steeply to further houses of the Kamigin group, the ground known as Sabi. Spelled here from 0816 to 0836 hours - talking to the people

Away and entered the bush, climbing steeply. Told by the Interpreter, Iaka, that he had accompanied an Administration patrol some years previously, which patrol had entered the Sabun Valley at this point but had gone no further, merely skirting the valley head and thence to the Tarna. Spelled in the bush from 0918 to 0935. Followed up and around the head of the Sabun Valley, the route hereafter leading through bush. Spelled from 1026 to 1040; thereafter reaching some 6,800' at 1115 hours, the highest point of the day's walk. Spelled from 1140 to 1150; from 1250 to 1303 and from 1400 to 1414 hours. Met here by Headman Tagari of the Engoma group. Descended and at 1517 hours came to a fair sized stream, the Ramandi, at its junction with a smaller stream, the Iango. Camped.

The locals helpful and a small amount of food brought in. Rice issued. The name of this place Iangosari.

Total Walking Time : 7 hours 17 minutes.

Wednesday -
August 3rd:

Day spent in camp. Village pig straying in the bush mistaken for wild pig and shot. Liberal pay given and everyone happy. Food brought in from some distance away. The Ramandi is joined lower down by the Waria, which then flows into the Tarna.

Thursday -
August 4th:

Away at 0604 hours, travelling east of south, generally. Ascended the ridge and spelled at some houses of the Engoma group at 0656. Away at 0714 and followed up and along the ridge. To the west could see the road from the San to the Samberigi. Passed a road coming in from the west, it being two days from along this road to Waperin in the upper San. Spelled from 0815 to 0835 and from 0943 to 1013 hours, all the time ascending. At 1025 hours came onto old gardens and a track to the

west, this leading to the Takie group on Iango creek. At 1052 a track to the east, leading to the Aiyer group on the headwaters of the Iango - this being the stream beside which we camped, the Iango mentioned above being a separate stream. Spelled from 1102 to 1120 hours.

At 1222 hours to the top of the San/Tarna divide at about 7,800 feet and spelled. A road to the east from here, this leading to the Tibigin group on the lower Ewe. Away at 1244 and began a descent into the San valley. At 1325 and 1335 passed two tracks to the east and spelled at 1340. Korpian Government Station just out of sight but roughly on a bearing of 140°. Away at 1347. Passed through gardens and crossed the Ewe creek at 1452, coming to the mining claim of Mr. Max Wilson at 1500 hours. Camped here. Issued rice. Dined with Mr. Wilson. The upper portion of the Ewe is known also as the Timan.

Friday -
August 5th.:

Away at 0547 hours. Passed Mr. Lyn Wilson's claim and spelled at 0623. Away at 0703. Direction generally south west. Spelled from 0757 to 0810 hours. Began to descend to the San River. Spelled from 0910 to 0920 hours. To the San River at 0955 and ascended to the Wabag/Korpian roadhead at 1022. Spelled here until 1040, talking to the roadmakers. Along the road and cooked rice for the carriers from 1155 to 1250 hours. Continued on spelled from 1420 to 1435 and from 1543 to 1607 hours. Met Mr. Thistlethwaite in the Landrover just above the Pa Catholic Mission Station and arrived back at Wabag at 1645 hours. Patrol concluded.

Total Walking Time: 7 hours 57 minutes.

S U M M A R Y .

Introduction: The main reasons for the patrol were, firstly, to contact a body of people, previously seen during an aerial survey, easily accessible from the Kumpian Government Station, secondly, to confirm the possibility of a road route through Kumpian to the Fuat and, thirdly, to 'show the flag' in the Sam Valley, the pre-occupation of the officers of this Sub-District with their examinations not allowing of very much in the way of patrolling.

The patrol was free of incident and well received, except in the area around Tuboisbe (Lagani Group), where the slaughter of some of the inhabitants by the Schmidt party many years ago is still remembered and resented - these people might well attempt reprisals should favourable conditions arise.

The possibility of a road from Kumpian, up the Kwe Valley, down the Sabun Valley and thence to the Fuat seems quite good, although this would require a detailed survey, together with the establishment of a Patrol Post in the Sabun in the first instance.

The people of the Sam Valley will require much patrolling and contact. It is considered that the area to the north of the Sam should be restricted and recommendations to this effect have already been submitted. The Kumpian Station could well do with two Patrol Officers, one of whom could be later stationed in the Sabun.

Census: No census was carried out on this patrol. The people reported to live at the mouth of the Barua were not visited but, from the aerial survey, it is apparent that their numbers would be small; it would be surprising if the population of the Barua would exceed some 300 to 400 persons all told. As before-mentioned, the population of the Sabun would total perhaps some 1,000 to 1,500 persons. The census figures of the upper Sam give a population of 5,137, with no estimate given of the lower Sam - the present patrol of the lower Sam was not comprehensive enough to give an estimate.

Roads and Bridges: **Wabag/Kumpian Road:** This is a vehicular road, at present under construction. It is being worked from both ends and should be completed early in the new year. Work waxes and slackens with the presence and absence of the Patrol Officer at Kumpian, however a very good job is being done on the road which, given a year or two in which to settle down, should prove of the same standard as that of the existing Sub-district roads. At the present time Landrovers can traverse some 23 miles of the road from Wabag.

The remainder of the roads in the area travelled are merely tracks, all of them in mountainous and bush covered country and varying in condition from fair to very poor. The presence of a Patrol Officer will be required in this area before much can be done in the way of improving these tracks.

Bridges: The only bridge seen was a small, unsubstantial affair over the upper Sam, which bridge would quite possibly disappear during the 'wet' season. Whilst the Sam was the major stream encountered, the Barua and the Sabun are quite substantial, whilst many of the minor streams would also present difficulty in crossing when in spate. There is a bridge across the lower

Sau which the patrol did not see as it was said to be broken.

The lack of bridges, taken together with the steep and, in wet weather, muddy nature of the tracks, would make patrolling most difficult during the "wet" season.

Agriculture: The Wabag system of cultivation, in which the topsoil is heaped in mounds and the centre thereof filled with dead kumai, extends roughly to Saunada in the upper Sau; thereafter the ground is simply cleared and the slips planted.

In the Sau valley main foods are kau-kau, Taro, sugar-cane and bananas, generally in that order, whilst in the Yuat they are bananas, sugar-cane, kau-kau, bread-fruit and taro, also in that order.

At the time of the patrol there was a definite food shortage in the Sau - as was the case in the Lai and Jagaig areas of the sub-district - however there was no shortage in the Yuat area.

Forestry: In the Sau there is an area of kumai grass in the valley bottom, with the timber-line at varying levels, but coming closer to the water-line in the lower Sau. The same thing is happening here as in most places, that is that the timber-line is steadily being eaten back in the process of gardening.

The Yuat slopes, in that area visited, were fairly heavily timbered, although the Sabun Valley had a quantity of grassland, interspersed with timbered areas. There are, in the Barua Valley two kumai patches, previously mentioned in the diary, however these are of no considerable extent, in relation to the whole area that is. It would appear that the rate of destruction of the forestland will be, to a large degree, in proportion to the population density. There are few Casuarina trees in the Yuat area and these could well be introduced by future patrols. Very nice pine trees were seen on the lower, northern Sau slopes, many of which had been cut down, for no apparent purpose in some cases. These pines are scattered about on the ridges and in no instance form a 'stand.' Few were seen on the Yuat side.

Talks were given on the patrol regarding timber conservation but such talks no doubt had little, or any, effect. These natives live from day to day and have little thought, or care, for that likely to affect later generations. Such propaganda will need to be persistent and prolonged in order to have any effect.

Carriers: Carriers from the vicinity of Wabag were used and did a good job. It was not thought desirable, on such a patrol, to depend upon local carriers, both from the point of view of population sparsity and because of their lack of knowledge of the Government. This view was borne out by events and patrols for some time will do well to take their carriers through, at least from the Sau.

At some points the locals were eager to carry, especially so at Taboimbe, where a considerable number volunteered. Carrying in this area is not easy, due to the hilly nature of the country and the poor condition of much of the tracks.

Village Officials: The only officials met with were so called "Bosbois" and these were only in the Sau; in the Yuat there are, at present, only the usual "important" men

of the various groups and it is considered that, at this stage, no recommendations should be made for the appointment of officials. Those headmen helpful to the patrol were commended and given presents, this to induce greater efforts in assisting the next patrol and in inciting others to follow such a lucrative example. With the exception of the headman, Karira, of Taboimbe, the various headmen were helpful to the patrol.

Missions: In the San Valley there are no missions apart from the European staffed, Baptist Mission at Yugarita, which station is close to the Kumpian Government Station. This mission has been in existence for some three years and is at present staffed by the Rev. Charles Craig and his wife. During this patrol it was learned that the Rev. Craig, together with the Rev. Kronert, from the Baiyer River Baptist Mission had, about a year since, penetrated into the Barua Valley, as far as Taboimbe, which area is in the restricted zone. Mr. Kronert was contacted regarding this matter and stated that it was done unwittingly and that such a breach would not re-occur.

Airfields: The only airstrip at present existing is that at Kumpian. This strip has only recently opened. It runs N.E. to S.W. and is at an altitude of 4,600 feet; it has a length of 2,400 feet and has a one way approach from the N.E.; it is open to aircraft up to Horseman size. The country traversed does not, with one possible exception, permit of airstrip sites. The exception mentioned is a lunai patch in the Barua Valley, known as Piarulama; this comprises a low ridge lying NNE./SSW. and having its approach from the NNE. The slope is upwards from the NNE. and would assist in both landing and take-off; the site was not measured but it should prove ample for aircraft up to Horseman standard.

If and when a patrol post is erected in the Sabun Valley, this site may prove of use in the supplying of same. The altitude here is approximately 3,500'.

Alienation of Land: This question, apart from the possible application in the future for mission sites, is not likely to arise for a considerable time, if at all; especially having regard to the mountainous nature of the ground and the lack of access.

Terrain and Geological Data: In the San there are considerable outcroppings - often in the form of steep bluffs - of volcanic rock. The soil is much the same as is elsewhere in the district, comprising a yellow clay, surmounted by a thin topsoil, composed mainly of humus.

In the Yuat area the soil follows a similar pattern, although there are not the same amount of rock outcroppings as in the San. Rock seen in the streams was of a fair degree of hardness; no limestone was seen. Mr. Best, Geologist, is being contacted for information on the San, especially the area on the Ene whereon are located the mining claims.

Rest Houses and Base Camps: There is a rest house of sorts at Sirunki, in the upper San; apart from this there is nothing in the way of either rest houses or base camps. At this stage, when patrols are bound to be infrequent, due to staff shortage, it was not considered worthwhile to induce the building of such, it being considered that rest houses, unused, or used but infrequently, not only fall quickly into disrepair but act as a constant reminder to the natives of the infrequency of governmental visits.

Courts: A few cases were brought forward for hearing and these were determined; however no attempt was made to solicit cases. The cases heard pertained to property ownership and in no case involved penal sanctions. There would seem little doubt that, as with the other peoples of the area, there will be no difficulty in having courts brought up for hearing, in fact the main difficulty is in screening the purely frivolous claims, and in inducing the tribal authorities to hear these courts which may well be settled within the group itself.

Native Affairs: The peoples of the San Valley are, as yet, not reconciled, to wholly, to the presence and authority of the Administration, this being more so on the northern slope of the valley and towards its lower end. Much patrolling and consolidation will be required in order to school these people; especially so as they would appear to be a rather difficult type to deal with in any circumstance - of course it must be borne in mind that the area is a comparatively new one, that only one patrol officer is available to set up the Kompian station and build the airstrip, and that the officer concerned, that is Mr. Whiteoak, has for the past year been studying for his examination - taking the foregoing facts into account, it is apparent that Mr. Whiteoak has done a really fine job of work, especially so as he has had to map and supervise the construction of the Wabag/Kompian road, which road is now nearing completion.

The peoples of the Rarua and Sabun have been, to date, uncontacted and their potential is yet to be evaluated. The Rarua people have not forgotten the loss of their relatives, killed by the Schmidt party and care will need to be exercised with these people. It would perhaps be possible to give some 'pay' for the killings, although it is doubtful as to what the reaction would be in such an event; would the natives then identify the Administration as one with the people who did the killings?

In the Yuat area the people are engaged in intermittent inter-group fighting, for example the Lagani are at present engaging the Iuwai and are at enmity also with the Kbandan group, in the San Valley. In the Sabun there is also desultory fighting. Apart from pointing out the bad effects arising from such needless fighting, no attempt was made to ban it - such must await the imposition of effective control over the area.

Apart from inter-group feuding and the upsetting of the normal rhythm of living thereby, these people would appear to have little to upset the even tenor of their ways.

Anthropology: No information was obtained on this subject, it being considered that any undue curiosity displayed at this stage would produce little in the way of reliable information and might well make the people suspicious of our motives. In dress and habits these people would seem to approximate to the peoples of the San Valley, with whom they would appear to maintain a steady intercourse. They have steel knives and axes, obtained by the trading of pigs with the San people. They live in the same fashion as do the highland people, that is in more or less isolated farmhouses, which houses are constructed of kunai roofs and post and bark walls; unlike the Wabag area however, no attempt is apparently made to cover the floor of the house with any form of covering, such as the skin or leaves of the sugar-cane.

Proposed KOMPIAM/YUAT Road:

This road was first discussed by Mr. A. Roberts, the Director, during the Schrader and Wabaga aerial survey, conducted by the Department of Civil Aviation in 1953. At that time two routes were considered, the first following down from Baiyer River, on the eastern bank of the Gai River and thence crossing the Gai and following down the Yuat; the alternative route to cross the Sau/Yuat divide at some point, to be determined. This matter was again discussed, this time with the Acting Director, Mr. McCarthy, during his visit to Wabaga in the present year, when the writer mentioned that he would be visiting the Sau/Yuat area on a forthcoming patrol, that is the present patrol. Should the question of a road down the Yuat have been abandoned in the intervening period, then the question of a road from Kompian, to the lower Sau, and thence over the divide into the Sabun Valley, would still be of interest, that is as regards the opening up of the area from the Sub-district point of view; it being evident that the building and maintenance of roads into restricted areas is one of the major factors whereby control and consolidation of such areas may be extended, and that at comparatively little cost in both personnel and materials.

As before-mentioned, there was not time on the present patrol to make a detailed survey of a road route from Kompian into the Yuat - such will needs be carried out from Kompian itself and, having regard to the nature of the country, will probably take some weeks to complete. What the patrol did in fact ascertain was that a feasible route does in fact exist, and that, at least as far as the Sabun/Yuat junction, there exists a population seemingly large enough to construct this road. The only part of the route which is both difficult of construction and which contains little, if any, population is the head of the Sau/Yuat divide, which area comprises virgin bush. The side of the Sabun valley wherein the road would be routed has many small ravines and this section would not be particularly easy to construct, nor, for that matter, would any section of the route, however the main thing is that it could be done. The route proposed leads down the Sau from Kompian and thence up the Kwe valley, a tributary of the Sau, whence it would top the Sau/Yuat divide and follow on down the western side of the Sabun valley to the Yuat, at which point the Yuat flattens out somewhat. This route would avoid the large ravines, made by the streams entering the Yuat between the Gai and the Sabun - it would also avoid the unpopulated areas about the Yuat/Gai junction and below that, up and to the Sabun junction.

Such a road as the one proposed would take a considerable time to construct, that is using the local labour, a limiting factor being of course that the natives of the lower Sau are not as settled as they might be whilst those of the Yuat slopes are not under control in any sense. Some preparation would doubtless be required, such as a patrol post set up in the Sabun, together with some extensive patrolling in the lower Sau.

It is considered that, of the two alternate routes, the Wabaga/Kompian/ Yuat route would prove the more feasible, it being shorter, although perhaps rougher, than the Baiyer River/Gai/ Yuat route.

H E A L T H .

The health of both the Sam and the Yast peoples, of those seen, was good. There would appear to be quite a few tropical ulcers and numbers of these were treated during the patrol. It was obvious that few of the ulcers treated would respond to the one or two treatments possible however the people asked for treatment and such was not refused them.


Two or three cases of yaws were seen and one case, wherein penicillin injections over the course of three days was possible, was treated. In the Sahun Valley two or three people had gross swellings on their neck, which swellings had the appearance of goitre. At Tachisbe it was stated that many people had died, over a period of time, by what may well have been malaria - it was noted too that there were more mosquitoes here than were encountered elsewhere.

A few cases of scabies were observed but little else in the way of skin disease. No grills was seen. In general, these people would appear to be well fed, with a diet adequate in all except, probably, animal protein, the main source of this coming from their domestic pigs, which pigs are used during feast times and not as a steady diet. Some additional protein would be obtained from wild pigs and cassowaries, but this source would be sporadic and of little quantity.

REPORT ON NATIVE CONSTABULARY.

- No: 3268, Cpl. BEROM: A fair, but not an outstanding corporal. Conducted himself well on this patrol.
- No: 2140, I/Cpl. NAKULI: A well conducted man but with not a great deal of drive. Behaviour good.
- 3628, Constable YARIMHETI: Quiet and well behaved but not a forceful character. Behaved well.
- No: 7288, Const. FOYANI-IND: Has the ability to do a good job but requires supervision to give of his best.
- No: 8254, Const. DAIFU: Worked very well. A good man.
- No: 8279, Const. INAFU: A quiet and well behaved constable. Did a good job of work.
- No: 7641, Const. KURRAMU: Good comments made by the writer previously regarding this man were too precipitate apparently, as he is not living up to early expectations.
- No: 7639, Const. NISURU: A good, solid worker with a fair degree of common sense. A reliable policeman.
- No: 7663, Const. SI'E: Average ability. Tries.
- No: 7710, Const. TUVERO-AIGA: Performed well. Should develop into a good policeman with experience.
- No: 8991, Const. TAYA: His first patrol. Behaved well but needs further experience.
- No: 7776, Const. ANAU-MOHUEL: This constable was to accompany the patrol part-way, but was taken right through, in order that a Korpian policeman should know the area. His work was satisfactory.

Entries corresponding to the above have been made in the Records of Service of the members concerned.


(Francis P.V. Robb,
a/Assistant District Officer.

STORES TAKEN ON PATROL

ITEM	Amount Taken on Patrol	HOW ISSUED				Purchase of Food	Hire of Canoes	Gifts for Guides, etc.	Amount Returned to Store
		Issues to Police	Issues to Carriers	Payment of Carriers					
Rice, lbs.	1,008	52	284					672	
Meat, lbs.	612	78	498					36	
Sugar, lbs.	70	26	44					-	
Tea, lbs.	20	1	2					17	
Matches, box	288	25	169				93	-	
Soap, lbs.	24	2	14				4	4	
Salt, lbs.	224	10	15		193		6	-	
Whetstone, lbs.	309	65	235					-	
Tobacco, sticks	300	65	200				35	-	
Tomahawks, ea.	8				3		5	-	
Kayaks, gls.	6						2	4	
Shell, Tashu, lbs.	32				3		1	28	
Cartridges, 12ggs.	25						25	-	
Knives, 12", ea.	12	12			2		10	-	
" , 4", ea.	12						2	10	
Paint, Face, lbs.	4				3			-	
Mirrors, 3"x2", ea.	3						3	-	
" , 8"x6", ea.	6				2		4	-	
Batteries, Torch, ea.	26	20					6	-	

PATROL REPORT - WAABAG No. 1:1955-6.

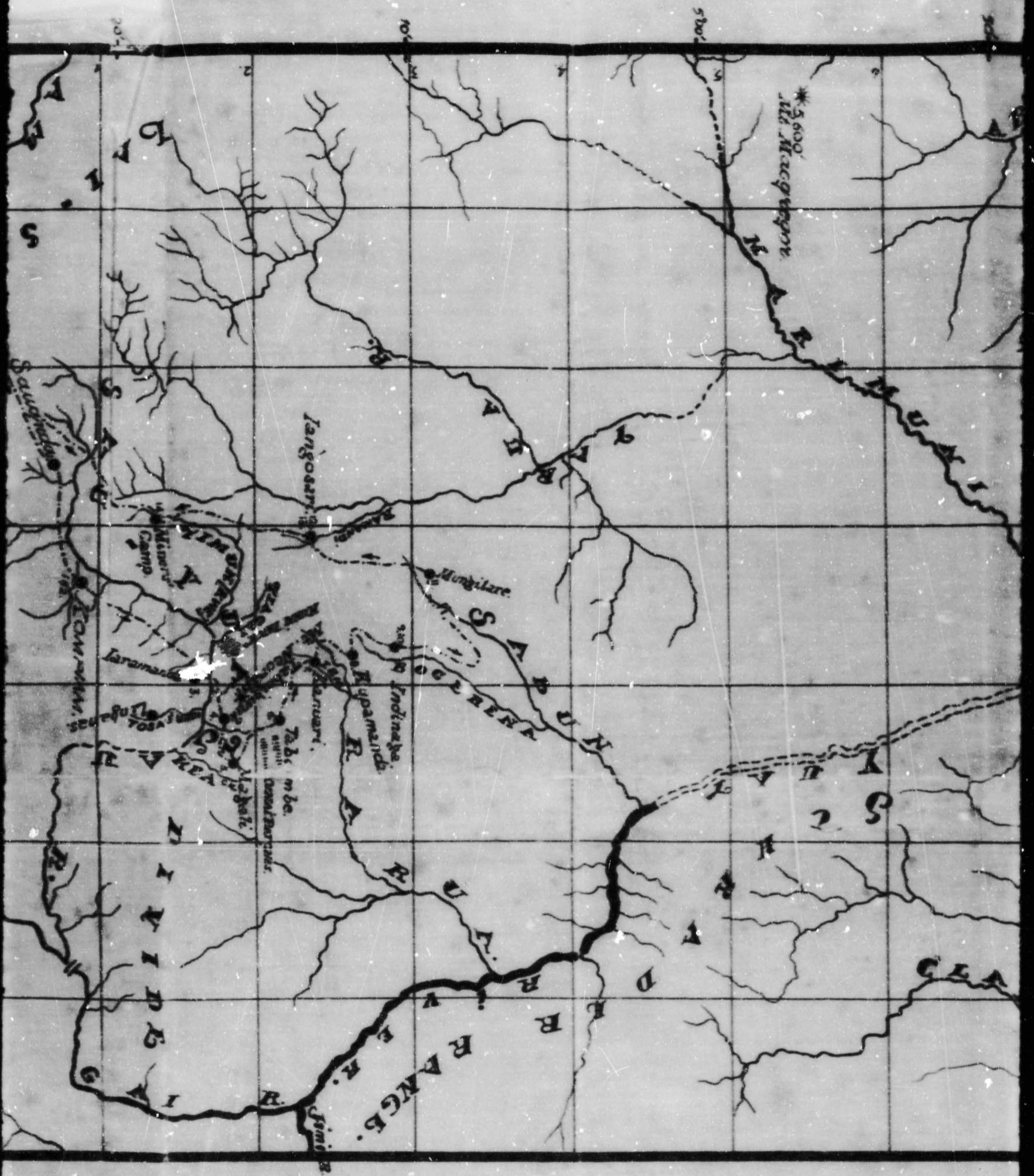
SAN JOYUVA VALLEYS.

Scale: 4mks. to 1 inch.

Sheets: Amburki, Boyia, Webeq, Romu.

F. G. Jobb, and D. J. R. Wright, C. P. O.





*5600
Mt. Macquigon

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Mungilare

Ripamandi
Indinaga

Tabo m be
Dawat Baruar

HARRIS RIVER

SABUN

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NABAG. 1 of 55/56

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

PATROL REPORT.

District Of: Western Highlands, Sabag Sub-district.

Report No: Sabag No: 1 of 1955/56.

Patrol Conducted By: Mr. F.F. Robb, a/A.S.O. accompanied by,
Mr. R.A. Wright, C.P.O.

Area Patrolled: The Lower SAU Valley and that area of the
southern THAT slopes lying between
the GAI and TAWA Rivers.

Patrol Accompanied By: Europeans: Nil.
 Natives: 11 R.P. & N.S.C.
73 Carriers.

Duration: 15 days. (22nd. July - 5th. August, 1955.)

Did Medical Assistant
Accompany: No.

Last Patrol to the
Area By: D.S.A.: Lower SAU - February, 1955.
THAT Slopes - A patrol which touched
the upper WAMP Valley only; Patrol
date unknown. Supposedly no patrol to
the SAWA Valley.

Medical: Unknown - probably nil.

Map References: Army Staff Series - 4 miles to inch.
Sheets WABAB, RANU, AMBONTI and BOKLA.

Objects of Patrol: 1. Contact pockets of population seen
on the southern THAT slopes during
1953 D.S.A. Aerial Survey.
2. Ascertain possibility of road
route, through AMBONTI to the
lower THAT.

Territory of Papua and New Guinea.

D I A R Y .

Friday -
July 22nd:

Carriers and gear away yesterday. Mr. Wright and self left Wabag by Landrover at 0627 hours and arrived at the Wabag/Kompian road-head at 0948 hours. Began walking and arrived in 21 minutes at Sirunki, that is at 1055 hours. Continued on to Souanda, arriving at 1210 hours, and spelled. Away at 1230 hours and arrived at Kebokania at 1410 hours. Spelled and away at 1428 hours, arriving at Arupari creek at 1630 hours. Swam here for 30 minutes and ascended to Kompian Station at 1712 hours. Camped.

Total walking time 6 hours 57 minutes.

Saturday -
July 23rd:

At Kompian preparing carrier loads and making enquiries from local natives regarding routes and other matters.

Sunday -
July 24th:

Away at 0630 hours, taking with us a Kompian Constable in order that he learn the route. Travelled down the Sun and on the southern bank. Crossed Ora Creek at 0700 hours and Lip Creek at 0710 hours, passing through the grounds of the Waganagan group. Spelled at 0742 and away at 0755 hours. Crossed the Tongga, Loggy and Kungen creeks, this land being that of the Periarin Group. Spelled on a ridge as from 0856 to 0912 hours. Crossed Ninjon creek and topped the ridge at 1040 hours; descended the ridge-top slightly and came at 1052 hours to Iaramania. Camped here. This the Ceremonial Ground of the Waganagan Group. Food bought.

Total walking time 3 hours 53 minutes.

Monday -
July 25th:

Away at 0611 hours. Two roads lead from here to Tabeigunik, the westernmost being taken on this occasion. Descended steeply to the Sun and crossed at 0742 hours, spelling on the northern bank. Some sago palms along the swampy southern bank here, these being planted by the natives. Away at 0818 and followed down and along the Sun bank, this track being quite good. Turned up a ridge and spelled at 0905 hours, the track here being steep. Away at 0925 and shortly after met Headman Raga of the Sargon group and some other men. At 1005 hours came to the junction of the eastern road, before-mentioned, and at 1018 hours arrived at the Sargon Ceremonial Ground, Tabeigunik. Camped. Food brought in.

A good attendance by members of the Sargon and Kabanian groups, the Sargons living in the vicinity of Tabeigunik and the Kabanians to the east. Kabiri is the Kabanian Headman. Talked to the people and gave medical treatment to them.

Tuesday -
July 26th:

Joined by Headman Raga and Er'pe - the latter of the Tainis Group at the Eve mouth - as guides. Away at 0704 hours and travelled north along the

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

RIS:EH

File No. 30/1 - 1021.

District Office,
MOUNT HAGEN.
Western Highlands.

29th February, 1956.

Director,
Department of Native Affairs,
PORT MORESBY.

PATROL REPORT - WABAG No.1/1955-56.

Mr. F.P. Robb, A.D.O. - SAU VALLEY & RARUA AND TARUA
RIVERS - YUAT WATER SYSTEM.

The above patrol report, submitted herewith, has been somewhat delayed but Mr. Robb, with most of his staff engaged in preparations for the recent local examinations, has been forced to delay its submission to District Headquarters.

2. DIARY: Gives a running account of the terrain covered and people encountered.
3. SUMMARY: The objects of the patrol were fulfilled although further surveys will be necessary before it could be said definitely that a vehicular road to the river-head for vessels of useful size could be constructed but this patrol does indicate that a route may be found between Kompiam Patrol Post and the Yuat and lower Sau which would be useful for administration purposes.

As with many other areas requiring more intensive administration in this District, there can be no question of opening a patrol post in the Saban Valley until adequate field staff becomes available.

4. ROADS & BRIDGES:

The Wabag-Kompiam road should be open to light four wheeled drive vehicles in the near future.

5. VILLAGE OFFICIALS AND CENSUS:

The appointment of officials and the recording of vital statistics would be premature at this stage although the next patrol into the area should attempt to conduct a head-count for administrative and planning purposes.

6. MISSIONS:

One becomes rather weary of the frequent infringements of the law perpetrated by Missionaries under the excuse of "ignorance". These occur with monotonous regularity. I propose to take action should there be any further infringements of the Restricted Areas Ordinance, regardless of the affiliations of the offender.

7. AIRFIELDS:

The potential aerodrome site located would appear to be near TABOIMBE (camp 7). This will be noted for future investigation. Although only nine or ten miles from Kompiam Patrol Post, the nature of the terrain may justify its development.

8. NATIVE AFFAIRS: "The evil men do - ". Naturally, the murders committed by the late Ludwig Schmidt are laid at the feet of Europeans as a whole. Mr. Robb does not say whether he attempted to explain the Schmidt had been punished for his crimes and perhaps this may not be advisable at this stage although later these people will understand. There is a fair chance that some of these people took part in killing Highland carriers and women sent back by Schmidt when he reached the main Sepik water system but it requires much closer contact before this is determined. As I remember hearing years ago some four or five of approximately 70 people survived the return journey. The Keogh - Vial patrol, investigating Schmidt's activities probably came somewhere near the confluence of the Sabun and the Yuat. The advisability of paying compensation for these killings is doubtful although not out of character - compensation was recently paid within two miles of Hagen station for a man killed prior to 1932. Your comment would be appreciated, please.

Attempts to prevent tribal fighting at this state would not meet with much success and would only delay consolidation by weakening our control if orders given be disobeyed and not enforced or the disobedience punished.

9. MAP:

The patrol map is particularly well prepared. Could four prints be made and forwarded to this District, please.

10. GENERAL:

With six of the seven patrol officers then in the District spending most of their time preparing for local examinations for months before the examinations administration as a whole suffered very considerably. This will receive comment elsewhere. Suffice it is to say here that the time granted for study differed greatly from District to District thus affecting the relative opportunities of candidates and in this District the amount of time spent to normal duties appears to have been inordinate.

As this was a penetrative patrol of a minor nature two copies of the report are submitted.

Mr. Robb appears to have conducted the patrol in a capable manner and has recorded his observations in detail. His comments on Mr. Wright's performance of his duties are pleasing.

Attachment.


(R. I. SKINNER)
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

File : 30/1 - 22.

Sub-District Office,
Western Highlands District,
WABAG.

9th. August, 1955.

Memorandum to -


The District Commissioner,
Western Highlands District,
MT. HAGEN.

Subject: Patrol Report - WABAG No: 1 of 1955/56.

Area: SAN Valley and the YUAT Slopes.

1. Herewith enclosed please find four copies of the above-mentioned Patrol Report, together with two Patrol Maps; it is respectfully requested that Headquarters be asked for copies of the patrol map.
2. This patrol was shortened by approximately a week, due to the writers' knees not having fully recovered from the effects of the recent PORGERA patrol, however the main purposes of the patrol were achieved, that is, firstly, the contacting of two pockets of population on the southern YUAT slopes, these having been seen from the air during the 1953 D.G.A. aerial survey and, secondly, to ascertain the feasibility, or otherwise, of the prolongation of the WABAG/KOMPIAN road across the SAN/YUAT divide and so down the YUAT.
3. As regards the population on the southern YUAT slopes: Two groups were encountered, that to the east living on the upper reaches of BANUA creek and, a larger group, to the west, on the upper reaches of SABOCH creek; the latter people, although comprising various clans, are known overall as the WAMP people. The only official contact with these two areas known was possibly made by Mr. MacIlwain, at present A.D.O., MINJ, although the patrol only touched the head of the WAMP valley and did not make any appreciable contact; other official contact may have been made although the natives deny this. It is known that the Schmidt party penetrated the BANUA area, although not, supposedly, the WAMP area, and it is said that many natives were killed in the course of the visit. As a result of these killings the natives of the area do not appear particularly comfortable in the presence of Europeans and it is possible that, were a party weak enough, some retaliation might be attempted; it was therefore most disturbing to find that the BANUA area had been visited, some year ago, by two missionaries, said to be the Rev. Kronert, of the Baptist Mission, Baiyer River, and the Rev. Craig, of the Baptist Mission, Kompian. It was further disturbing to find that the WAMP area had also been visited, supposedly by miners, although their identity is not at present known. Enquiries are being made as to whether the Revs. Kronert and Craig did in fact visit the area, and it will again be brought to the notice of all residents of the Sub-district as regards the penalties of encroaching, without a permit, in the the Restricted Areas.

4. Particular attention was paid to the terrain with the view to constructing a road from KUMPIAM across the SAN/YUAT divide, and so along the lower reaches of the YUAT, up and to a suitable steamer anchorage thereon; this as an alternative to a road from BAIYER RIVER to the GAI/YUAT junction, and thence down the YUAT bank. It would appear feasible to build such a road, the route following the SAN for a short distance below KUMPIAM, thence crossing the divide by way of the TIMIN and KHE valley (this being the one valley), and reaching the YUAT via the western slope of the SAMP valley. Such a route would be mountainous and hard to build however it would have the advantage over the BAIYER/JENNI route of passing through a populated area and of missing the ravines studding the YUAT slopes. It would require a period of preparation, both in the adequate surveying of the route and in the building of a post in the SAMP valley, in order to prepare these peoples and bring them to the stage wherein they would volunteer for road building. The SAMP would have an estimated population of some 1,000 to 1,500 people and would appear the only possible route for a road; the only really large section of bush which would require penetration here would be that on the actual crown of the SAN/YUAT divide. To have made a really thorough survey of this road route could have taken a matter of weeks, and was therefore not possible on the present patrol, it is hoped however that use can be made of the D.C.A. Cassin on its forthcoming visit to SAMP to fly over the area traversed, and so glean additional information, in the light of that ascertained on the ground patrol. It is quite apparent that the present Army Strat map of the area is inaccurate.
5. Food was sold to the patrol, although often not in the amounts required. The people were friendly and had no hesitation in visiting the camp, both men, women and children. They asked for, and received, medical attention, in the main for tropical ulcers. The language spoken was HMA. No difficulty was met in finding guides and it would appear that, with a couple of exceptions, the correct roads were shown us; the patrol was generally accompanied by about twenty or more of the local natives and the guides were given substantial presents.
6. Mr. R.A. Wright, C.P.O. accompanied this patrol and his conduct and ability, as with all his work, was excellent.



(Francis P.V. Robb
Actg. Asst. District Officer.)

ridge-top for some 14 minutes, crossing a ditch and the intersection of a track from the west. Turned off this large and well formed track for an overgrown track to the east - although the natives denied it, it would seem that the track left might well lead over the divide onto the East side. We were informed that a road led from the Ene to the Tui, where the main group is said to be named the 'WAMP.' Spelled from 0704 to 0722 hours and then descended to Givi creek. Spelled here from 0757 to 0814 hours, meanwhile trying a fish but without result. Just before reaching the Givi we passed a track to the south, which track parallels our course. The road today leads through some minor patches of forest, although it is mainly bush, with quite a number of large and cylindrical pine trees, many of which the natives have cut down, often seemingly for no valid reason. Bird life here is plentiful, some half dozen Birds of Paradise being seen in the one tree.

Ascended steeply and passed gardens at 0842. Passed a mass of spider-web some 20 yards long, the whole being inhabited by a colony of thousands of spiders. Passed a couple of roads coming in from the south. Spelled on the ridge from 0900 to 0920 hours and then again ascended steeply. Reached the top of the ridge and the Hagali ceremonial ground at 0947 hours. This is the ground of the Iahirelin Group, whose Headman is Wagy. Camped and bought food; this being bought in good quantity.

A large gathering here and a present given to an old lady, who had hobbled in to see us. Mr. Wright went on and down to a large creek, the Ene, and tried a fish but without result. Several had tropical ulcers treated here.

Total walking time : 2 hours 46 minutes.

Wednesday -
July 27th:

Iarumari headmen returned to their home, taking with them a carrier, who had cut his foot, and presents for their help to the patrol. Patrol away at 0604 hours, the general direction being north west. Proceeded up and along the ridge and reached the top of the divide at approximately 0650 hours. Descended slightly and spelled at 0705 hours. Waited here for some Hagali man to join us. Away at 0809 hours and along a well defined and undulating track, passing at 0835 a track from the west, which track was said to lead to Sengen. Spelled from 0904 to 0920 hours. The track leading down and across a gently sloping ridge. Crossed Rabinini creek at 0927 and spelled at Paia creek at 1012 hours. Shortly before reaching Paia creek passed some bread-fruit trees, these having been planted by the natives

According to the natives this track, which is within the restricted area, was travelled some 12 months previously by two missionaries, said to be Messrs. Kronert and Craig of the Baptist Mission, Baiyer River and the San, respectively.

The track here leading through pleasant, semi-open, primary growth. Away at 1035 hours. Crossed Tanda creek at 1044 and Gum creek at 1113 hours, the track

now ascended quite steeply to the ridge-top, which was reached at 1128 hours. Descended slightly and spelled at 1132 hours, the site being an old garden. Looked out over a basin shaped valley, the course of the main stream lying somewhat north of north east and both the tract itself and the next valley to the west being out from view by a divide following the north westernbank of this main stream. Immediately in front of us were two rather large humai patches, the nearer with a gentle slope down the ridge, which place might well have possibilities as an airstrip site.

1150

Away at 1155 hours and descended to a creek, unnamed, which we crossed and came to the first humai patch. Crossed this patch and crossed Kpel creek at 1212 hours, thereafter crossing Iop creek at 1231 hours. Came to the second humai patch and camped at its head at 1242 hours, this ground being covered with bread-fruit trees and known as Tabembe

The group here is known as Lagani, of whom the headman is Havira. Havira showed little pleasure in our arrival and endeavored to talk us into giving up our plan of visiting the Wap people. The people here appear to have suffered loss of life during the visit many years ago of the Schmidt party, and the memory is still vivid although most of the present men would be only boys at the time of the occurrence. The name of the first humai patch crossed is Niarulama and that of the second Korbups.

Havira stated that there are two men in the vicinity with bullet wounds in the chest, mementoes of the Schmidt visit. He also stated that he had turned the Baptist missionaries at this place, as their further progress would have been dangerous for themselves. It was reported that our visit had surprised these people, otherwise they would have rallied against us and offered armed opposition - as a result of this talk a double guard was mounted.

Total walking time today : 4 hours 37 minutes.

Thursday -
July 28th:

A road from Tabembe leads directly to Sorgan. Away at 0610 hours. Crossed Kabiska creek at 0620 and ascended steeply, the road leading generally south west and around the upper wall of the valley. Spelled at 0706 hours. The natives tried to persuade us to follow the present track, which would bring us in a little over two days to the Eve but they were told that we were going on. Away at 0723 and at 0735 hours turned off the track onto a smaller and less well defined one, leading to the south west. Descended over some roughish ground, the patrol being accompanied by some 20 to 30 locals who wished to assist in the carrying; this was refused, as a possible attempt to infiltrate the patrol. Spelled at 0805 and away at 0820. Topped a ridge at 0845 and followed on down it, coming to some houses at 0915. Spelled. The name of this place is Kamari and a portion of the Lagani group

live here. Away at 0955 and descended to the base of the ridge, passing through bread-fruit trees and sago palms. Crossed the junction of two streams, the Ica and the Mudi and camped beside them at 1020 hours.

About 30 men, women and children brought food and sat about the camp all day. Headman Ezira again asked us not to proceed further and, when we refused, went back to Taboibe in a huff.

Total walking time today : 2 hours 48 minutes.

Friday -
July 29th:

Away at 0608 hours. Up and across a ridge, passing a track to the south. Direction generally north west. Crossed Sinda creek and passed a track to the north. Came to a large creek, the Barua, this creek said to be the main one in the valley. Spelled here from 0702 to 0727. Tried a fish, with no result. The country from here on fairly glisten - s with mica. Crossed the Barua and, shortly thereafter, the Abusa. Again crossed the Barua, at 0732. Ascended and descended and again crossed the Barua, spelling here from 0812 to 0830 hours. Recrossed the Barua and followed along it a short distance upstream, passing a patch of bread-fruit and sago. Again crossed the Barua and ascended. Spelled from 0927 to 0947 hours. Continued along the ridge and at 1030 hours arrived at the ground, Kpumannda, which ground belongs to the Inwai group. Camped. Walking time today : 3 hours 19 minutes.

The headman here is named Jarus. There is, supposedly, no road here to the lower Barua, where two groups, the Sna and the Naniapan, are said to live. The Inwai and the Lagani are said to be enemies, although the Lagani showed no hesitation in accompanying us to Kpumannda. Some 60 men, women and children were waiting for us and helped us to make camp. Not a great deal of food was brought in, but, it was said, to the dispersal of the group in the recent fighting with the Lagani. Medical treatment given the locals, including penicillin injections to a boy with yaws - this lad followed us to our next camp and received further injections. As usual, gauri mounted.

Saturday -
July 30th:

Away at 0608 hours. Climbed up and around the ridge and spelled at 0658 hours beside a Karoka palm. This palm was said to have been introduced from the Sna side, those people not growing them. Away at 0718 hours, today's walk being mainly North West. At 0727 came onto a large and well used path, which track also leads to Kpumannda. At 0750 passed a track to the south east and at 0803 a road to the north east. Came to gardens of the Naniapan group and spelled here at 0809 hours. Away at 0829 and at 0842 hours passed a road to the north. At 0843 hours arrived at the grounds of the Panipan group. Camped.

Sunday -
July 31st:

Day spent in camp. Food brought on both days, the main supplier being a man named Narupin. This man gave presents for his help. Many people to see us, including many women and children. It is said

that Schmidt did not come to this valley and that we are the first Europeans so to do; it was learned however that a patrol some years ago came to the head of the valley, and then made for the Tarua. The present camp on a ridge which runs out into the valley from the eastern wall - in the valley to the east is Negorona creek and, to the west the main creek, the Sabun. The valley to the west is the Tarua and a road - to the north of that later taken by the patrol - leads across the Tarua and so to the Marimani, the native walking time being some 7 days. A day's walk from the camp along this road is said to lead to a group known as the Yari, who have trading relations with the Marimani natives - their grounds are on a creek, the Nwe, which joins the Marim, which then flows into the Tarua.

The western wall of the Sabun valley is fairly corrugated and is probably the natural route for any road leading from the Sun to the Yuat; there are many people living on this wall although they gradually thin out towards the Yuat end. Large groups in this valley were named as the Marai and the Waira, with the smaller groups the Pungaraian and the Viana, Hueri and Wan'er. No claim is made as to the accuracy of this naming.

Some cases which may have been gaitre were seen here, together with the odd yew and tropical ulcers; several natives were given treatment. The people were quite friendly and not very shy.

Monday -
August 1st:

Desired to proceed down the valley and examine the mouth - the people not keen and said that only pig tracks exist. A way at 0602 and proceeded on down the ridge between the Negorona and the Sabun. The road over-grown, due to the Pungaraian having fought with their neighbours and having retreated up the valley a pace. The name of the place where we have camped for the last couple of days is Intinaga. Travelled firstly north and west of north. Spelled at 0714 hours. What would appear to be a mango tree here although, if so, a mystery as to how it would reach this spot. A way at 0734 and descended sharply, tending towards the west; the track being poor indeed. At 0830 to the Sabun and spelled here until 0855. Tried this stream for gold, as we did the next stream, the Hrain, with no success. To the Hrain at 0905. This stream is the main valley stream but is said to be called the Sabun below its junction with the Sabun - there would appear some doubt as to the names of these streams at this point.

Stopped here and argued with the guides, who are obviously trying to 'pull' us away from the valley mouth, however they swear that the only passable road leads along the west wall of the valley and, as my knee is starting to feel the strain, think it wise to not risk the extra two to three days walk, especially as it would appear likely that only pig and/or hunting tracks would in fact lead to the Yuat mouth.

Away at 0955 hours. Crossed and re-crossed the Eruin three times, following on up its course. Spelled at 1050 and away at 1107 hours. Climbed up the west wall of the valley, following the track leading over into the Tarua - to the Iarip people. Camped some 100 yards to the south of this track at 1144 hours, on the grounds of the Eruai group, this place being known as Mungilere. Food brought in in sufficient quantities and about 100 men, women and children visited the camp, all being quite friendly.

Total walking time today : 3 hours 50 minutes.

Tuesday -
August 2nd:

Departed at 0602 hours, travelling generally west of south. Some of the locals along as guides. Descended steeply and crossed the small stream Inyen and Eruin at 0627 and 0635 respectively. Ascended ridge at head of the valley on which lies the Sun track. Spelled from 0709 to 0739. Up and to houses of the Eruigai group, the place known as Mondoli. Descended steeply to a small stream, headwaters of the Eruin. Downstream a few yards and then ascended steeply to further houses of the Eruigai group, the ground known as Sabi. Spelled here from 0816 to 0836 hours - talking to the people

Away and entered the bush, climbing steeply. Told by the interpreter, Iaka, that he had accompanied an Administration patrol some years previously, which patrol had entered the Sabun Valley at this point but had gone no further, merely skirting the valley head and thence to the Tarua. Spelled in the bush from 0918 to 0935. Followed up and around the head of the Sabun Valley, the route hereafter leading through bush. Spelled from 1026 to 1040; thereafter reaching some 6,000' at 1115 hours, the highest point of the day's walk. Spelled from 1140 to 1150; from 1250 to 1303 and from 1400 to 1414 hours. Met here by Eruigai Tagari of the Eruigai group. Descended and at 1517 hours came to a fair sized stream, the Ruanai; at its junction with a smaller stream, the Inge. Camped.

The locals helpful and a small amount of food brought in. Rice issued. The name of this place Iangocari.

Total Walking Time : 7 hours 17 minutes.

Wednesday -
August 3rd:

Day spent in camp. Village pig straying in the bush mistaken for wild pig and shot. Liberal pay given and everyone happy. Food brought in from some distance away. The Ruanai is joined lower down by the Waria, which then flows into the Tarua.

Thursday -
August 4th:

Away at 0604 hours, travelling east of south, generally. Ascended the ridge and spelled at some houses of the Eruigai group at 0656. Away at 0714 and followed up and along the ridge. To the west could see the road from the Sun to the Samberegi. Passed a road coming in from the west, it being two days from along this road to Uperin in the upper Sun. Spelled from 0815 to 0835 and from 0943 to 1013 hours, all the time ascending. At 1025 hours came onto old gardens and a track to the

west, this leading to the Takie group on Inge creek. At 1052 a track to the east, leading to the Aiyer group on the headwaters of the Inge - this being the stream beside which we camped, the Inge mentioned above being a separate stream. Spelled from 1102 to 1120 hours.

At 1222 hours to the top of the San/Tarna divide at about 7,800 feet and spelled. A road to the east from here, this leading to the Gibigin group on the lower Eze. Away at 1244 and began a descent into the San valley. At 1325 and 1335 passed two tracks to the east and spelled at 1340. Russian Government Station just out of sight but roughly on a bearing of 140°. Away at 1347. Passed through gardens and crossed the Eze creek at 1453, coming to the mining claim of Mr. Max Wilson at 1500 hours. Camped here. Issued rice. Dined with Mr. Wilson. The upper portion of the Eze is known also as the Tash.

Friday -
August 5th.

Away at 0547 hours. Passed Mr. Lyn Wilson's claim and spelled at 0653. Away at 0703. Direction generally south west. Spelled from 0737 to 0810 hours. Began to descend to the San River. Spelled from 0910 to 0920 hours. To the San River at 0955 and ascended to the Vabag/Russian roadhead at 1022. Spelled here until 1040, talking to the roadmakers. Along the road and cooked rice for the carriers from 1155 to 1250 hours. Continued on spelled from 1420 to 1435 and from 1543 to 1607 hours. Met Mr. Tsielthwaite in the Landrover just above the La Catholic Mission Station and arrived back at Vabag at 1645 hours. Patrol concluded.

Total Walking Time: 7 hours 37 minutes.

S U M M A R Y .

Introduction: The main reasons for the patrol were, firstly, to contact a body of people, previously seen during an aerial survey, easily accessible from the Koupian Government Station, secondly, to confirm the possibility of a road route through Koupian to the East end, thirdly, to 'show the flag' in the San Valley, the pre-occupation of the officers of this Sub-District with their examinations not allowing of very much in the way of patrolling.

The patrol was free of incident and well received, except in the area around Tabainbe (Lagani Group), where the slaughter of some of the inhabitants by the Schmidt party many years ago is still remembered and resented - these people might well attempt reprisals should favourable conditions arise.

The possibility of a road from Koupian, up the Ene Valley, down the Sabun Valley and thence to the East seems quite good, although this would require a detailed survey, together with the establishment of a Patrol Post in the Sabun in the first instance.

The people of the San Valley will require much patrolling and contact. It is considered that the area to the north of the San should be restricted and recommendations to this effect have already been submitted. The Koupian Station could well do with two Patrol Officers, one of whom could be later stationed in the Sabun.

Census: No census was carried out on this patrol. The people reported to live at the mouth of the Barua were not visited but, from the aerial survey, it is apparent that their numbers would be small; it would be surprising if the population of the Barua would exceed some 300 to 400 persons all told. As before-mentioned, the population of the Sabun would total perhaps some 1,000 to 1,500 persons. The census figures of the upper San give a population of 5,137, with no estimate given of the lower San - the present patrol of the lower San was not comprehensive enough to give an estimate.

Roads and Bridges: Wabag/Koupian Road: This is a vehicular road, at present under construction. It is being worked from both ends and should be completed early in the new year. Work was and slackens with the presence and absence of the Patrol Officer at Koupian, however a very good job is being done on the road which, given a year or two in which to settle down, should prove of the same standard as that of the existing Sub-district roads. At the present time Landrovers can traverse some 23 miles of the road from Wabag.

The remainder of the roads in the area travelled are merely tracks, all of them in mountainous and bush covered country and varying in condition from fair to very poor. The presence of a Patrol Officer will be required in this area before much can be done in the way of improving these tracks.

Bridges: The only bridge seen was a small, unsubstantial affair over the upper San, which bridge would quite possibly disappear during the "wet" season. Whilst the San was the major stream encountered, the Barua and the Sabun are quite substantial, whilst many of the minor streams would also present difficulty in crossing when in spate. There is a bridge across the lower

Sam which the patrol did not see as it was said to be broken.

The lack of bridges, taken together with the steep and, in wet weather, muddy nature of the tracks, would make patrolling most difficult during the "wet" season.

Agriculture: The Ubag system of cultivation, in which the topsoil is heaped in mounds and the centre thereof filled with dead kuni, extends roughly to Samanda in the upper Sam; thereafter the ground is simply cleared and the slips planted.

In the Sam valley main foods are kuni-kuni, Taro, sugar-cane and bananas, generally in that order, whilst in the Yuat they are bananas, sugar-cane, kuni-kuni, bread-fruit and taro, also in that order.

At the time of the patrol there was a definite food shortage in the Sam - as was the case in the Lai and Lagnip areas of the sub-district - however there was no shortage in the Yuat area.

Forestry: In the Sam there is an area of kuni grass in the valley bottom, with the timber-line at varying levels, but coming closer to the water-line in the lower Sam. The same thing is happening here as in most places, that is that the timber-line is steadily being eaten back in the process of gardening.

The Yuat slopes, in that area visited, were fairly heavily timbered, although the Sabun Valley had a quantity of grassland, interspersed with timbered areas. There are, in the Kama Valley two kuni patches, previously mentioned in the diary, however these are of no considerable extent, in relation to the whole area that is. It would appear that the rate of destruction of the forestland will be, to a large degree, in proportion to the population density. There are few Casuarina trees in the Yuat area and these could well be introduced by future patrols. Very nice pine trees were seen on the lower, northern Sam slopes, many of which had been cut down, for no apparent purpose in some cases. These pines are scattered about on the ridges and in no instance form a 'stand.' Few were seen on the Yuat side.

Talks were given on the patrol regarding timber conservation but such talks no doubt had little, or any, effect. These natives live from day to day and have little thought, or care, for that likely to affect later generations. Such propaganda will need to be persistent and prolonged in order to have any effect.

Carriers: Carriers from the vicinity of Ubag were used and did a good job. It was not thought desirable, on such a patrol, to depend upon local carriers, both from the point of view of population sparsity and because of their lack of knowledge of the Government. This view was borne out by events and patrols for some time will do well to take their carriers through, at least from the Sam.

At some points the locals were eager to carry, especially so at Taboimbe, where a considerable number volunteered. Carrying in this area is not easy, due to the hilly nature of the country and the poor condition of much of the tracks.

Village Officials: The only officials met with were so called "Bosobois" and these were only in the Sam; in the Yuat there are, at present, only the usual "important" men

of the various groups and it is considered that, at this stage, no recommendations should be made for the appointment of officials. These headmen helpful to the patrol were commended and given presents, this to induce greater efforts in assisting the next patrol and in inciting others to follow such a lucrative example. With the exception of the headman, Karira, of Tabeimbe, the various headmen were helpful to the patrol.

Missions: In the San Valley there are no missions apart from the European staffed, Baptist Mission at Yugarita, which station is close to the Hopian Government Station. This mission has been in existence for some three years and is at present staffed by the Rev. Charles Craig and his wife. During this patrol it was learned that the Rev. Craig, together with the Rev. Kronert, from the Baiyer River Baptist Mission had, about a year since, penetrated into the Sarua Valley, as far as Tabeimbe, which area is in the restricted zone. Mr. Kronert was contacted regarding this matter and stated that it was done unwittingly and that such a breach would not re-occur.

Airfields: The only airstrip at present existing is that at Hopian. This strip has only recently opened. It runs N.E. to S.W. and is at an altitude of 4,600 feet; it has a length of 2,400 feet and has a one way approach from the N.E.; it is open to aircraft up to Hercules size. The country traversed does not, with one possible exception, permit of airstrip sites. The exception mentioned is a small patch in the Sarua Valley, known as Piarulama; this comprises a low ridge lying N.E./S.W. and having its approach from the N.E. The slope is upwards from the N.E. and would assist in both landing and take-off; the site was not measured but it should prove ample for aircraft up to Hercules standard.

If and when a patrol post is erected in the Sabun Valley, this site may prove of use in the supplying of same. The altitude here is approximately 3,500'.

Alienation of Land: This question, apart from the possible application in the future for mission sites, is not likely to arise for a considerable time, if at all; especially having regard to the mountainous nature of the ground and the lack of access.

Terrain and Geological Data: In the San there are considerable outcroppings - often in the form of steep bluffs - of volcanic rock. The soil is much the same as is elsewhere in the district, comprising a yellow clay, surmounted by a thin topsoil, composed mainly of humus.

In the Tuar area the soil follows a similar pattern, although there are not the same amount of rock outcroppings as in the San. Rock seen in the streams was of a fair degree of hardness; no limestone was seen. Mr. Best, Geologist, is being contacted for information on the San, especially the area on the Ene where are located the mining claims.

Rest Houses and Base Camps: There is a rest house of sorts at Siranki, in the upper San; apart from this there is nothing in the way of either rest houses or base camps. At this stage, when patrols are bound to be infrequent, due to staff shortage, it was not considered worthwhile to induce the building of such, it being considered that rest houses, unused, or used but infrequently, not only fall quickly into disrepair but act as a constant reminder to the natives of the infrequency of governmental visits.

Courts: A few cases were brought forward for hearing and these were determined; however no attempt was made to solicit cases. The cases heard pertained to property ownership and in no case involved penal sanctions. There would seem little doubt that, as with the other peoples of the area, there will be no difficulty in having courts brought up for hearing, in fact the main difficulty is in screening the purely frivolous claims, and in inducing the tribal authorities to hear these courts which may well be settled within the group itself.

Native Affairs: The peoples of the San Valley are, as yet, not reconciled, to wholly, to the presence and authority of the Administration, this being more so on the northern slope of the valley and towards its lower end. Much patrolling and consolidation will be required in order to school these people; especially so as they would appear to be a rather difficult type to deal with in any circumstance - of course it must be borne in mind that the area is a comparatively new one, that only one patrol officer was available to set up the Kompian station and build the airstrip, and that the officer concerned, that is Mr. Whiteoak, has for the past year been studying for his examination - taking the foregoing facts into account, it is apparent that Mr. Whiteoak has done a really fine job of work, especially so as he has had to map and supervise the construction of the Wabag/Kompian road, which road is now nearing completion.

The peoples of the Barua and Sabun have been, to date, uncontacted and their potential is yet to be evaluated. The Barua people have not forgotten the loss of their relatives, killed by the Schmidt party and care will need to be exercised with these people. It would perhaps be possible to give some 'pay' for the killings, although it is doubtful as to what the reaction would be in such an event; would the natives then identify the Administration as one with the people who did the killings?

In the Yuat area the people are engaged in intermittent inter-group fighting, for example the Legani are at present engaging the Iusai and are at enmity also with the Kabandan group, in the San Valley. In the Sabun there is also desultory fighting. Apart from pointing out the bad effects arising from such needless fighting, no attempt was made to ban it - such must await the imposition of effective control over the area.

Apart from inter-group feuding and the upsetting of the normal rhythm of living thereby, these people would appear to have little to upset the even tenor of their ways.

Anthropology: No information was obtained on this subject, it being considered that any undue curiosity displayed at this stage would produce little in the way of reliable information and might well make the people suspicious of our motives. In dress and habits these people would seem to approximate to the peoples of the San Valley, with whom they would appear to maintain a steady intercourse. They have steel knives and axes, obtained by the trading of pigs with the San people. They live in the same fashion as do the highland people, that is in more or less isolated farmhouses, which houses are constructed of human roofs and post and bark walls; unlike the Kabag area however, no attempt is apparently made to cover the floor of the house with any form of covering, such as the skin or leaves of the sugar-cane.

Proposed KOMPAN/YUAT Road:

This road was first discussed by Mr. A. Roberts, the Director, during the Schrader and Wabaga aerial survey, conducted by the Department of Civil Aviation in 1953. At that time two routes were considered, the first following down from Baiyer River, on the eastern bank of the Gai River and thence crossing the Gai and following down the Yuat; the alternative route to cross the Sam/Yuat divide at some point, to be determined. This matter was again discussed, this time with the Acting Director, Mr. McCarthy, during his visit to Wabaga in the present year, when the writer mentioned that he would be visiting the Sam/Yuat area on a forthcoming patrol, that is the present patrol. Should the question of a road down the Yuat have been abandoned in the intervening period, then the question of a road from Kumpian, to the lower Sam, and thence over the divide into the Sabun Valley, would still be of interest, that is as regards the opening up of the area from the Sub-district point of view; it being evident that the building and maintenance of roads into restricted areas is one of the major factors whereby control and consolidation of such areas may be extended, and that at comparatively little cost in both personnel and materials.

As before-mentioned, there was not time on the present patrol to make a detailed survey of a road route from Kumpian into the Yuat - such will needs be carried out from Kumpian itself and, having regard to the nature of the country, will probably take some weeks to complete. What the patrol did in fact ascertain was that a feasible route does in fact exist, and that, at least as far as the Sabun/Yuat junction, there exists a population seemingly large enough to construct this road. The only part of the route which is both difficult of construction and which contains little, if any, population is the head of the Sam/Yuat divide, which area comprises virgin bush. The side of the Sabun valley wherein the road would be routed has many small ravines and this section would not be particularly easy to construct, nor, for that matter, would any section of the route, however the main thing is that it could be done. The route proposed leads down the Sam from Kumpian and thence up the Kye valley, a tributary of the Sam, whence it would top the Sam/Yuat divide and follow on down the western side of the Sabun valley to the Yuat, at which point the Yuat flattens out somewhat. This route would avoid the large ravines, made by the streams entering the Yuat between the Gai and the Sabun - it would also avoid the unpopulated areas about the Yuat/Gai junction and below that, up and to the Sabun junction.

Such a road as the one proposed would take a considerable time to construct, that is using the local labour, a limiting factor being of course that the natives of the lower Sam are not as settled as they might be whilst those of the Yuat slopes are not under control in any sense. Some preparation would doubtless be required, such as a patrol post set up in the Sabun, together with some extensive patrolling in the lower Sam.

It is considered that, of the two alternate routes, the Wabaga/Kumpian/Yuat route would prove the more feasible, it being shorter, although perhaps rougher, than the Baiyer River/Gai/Yuat route.

RESULTS.

The health of both the men and the West people, of these
cases, was good. There would appear to be quite a few
tropical ulcers and numbers of these were treated during the
period. It was obvious that few of the ulcers treated would
respond to the one or two treatments possible however the
people asked for treatment and such was not refused them.

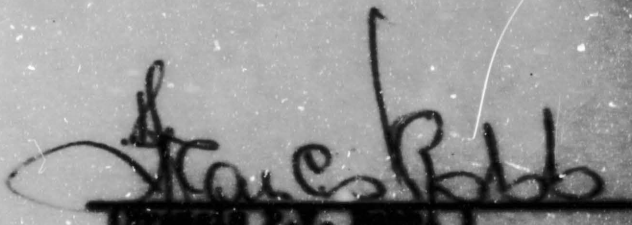
One or three cases of yaws were seen and one case, several
penicillin injections over the course of three days was
possible, was treated. In the Sabon Valley two or three
people had gross swellings on their feet, which swellings
had the appearance of gaiters. It therefore is not stated that
any people had died, over a period of time, by what may well
have been malaria - it was noted too that there were many
mosquitoes here that were abundant elsewhere.

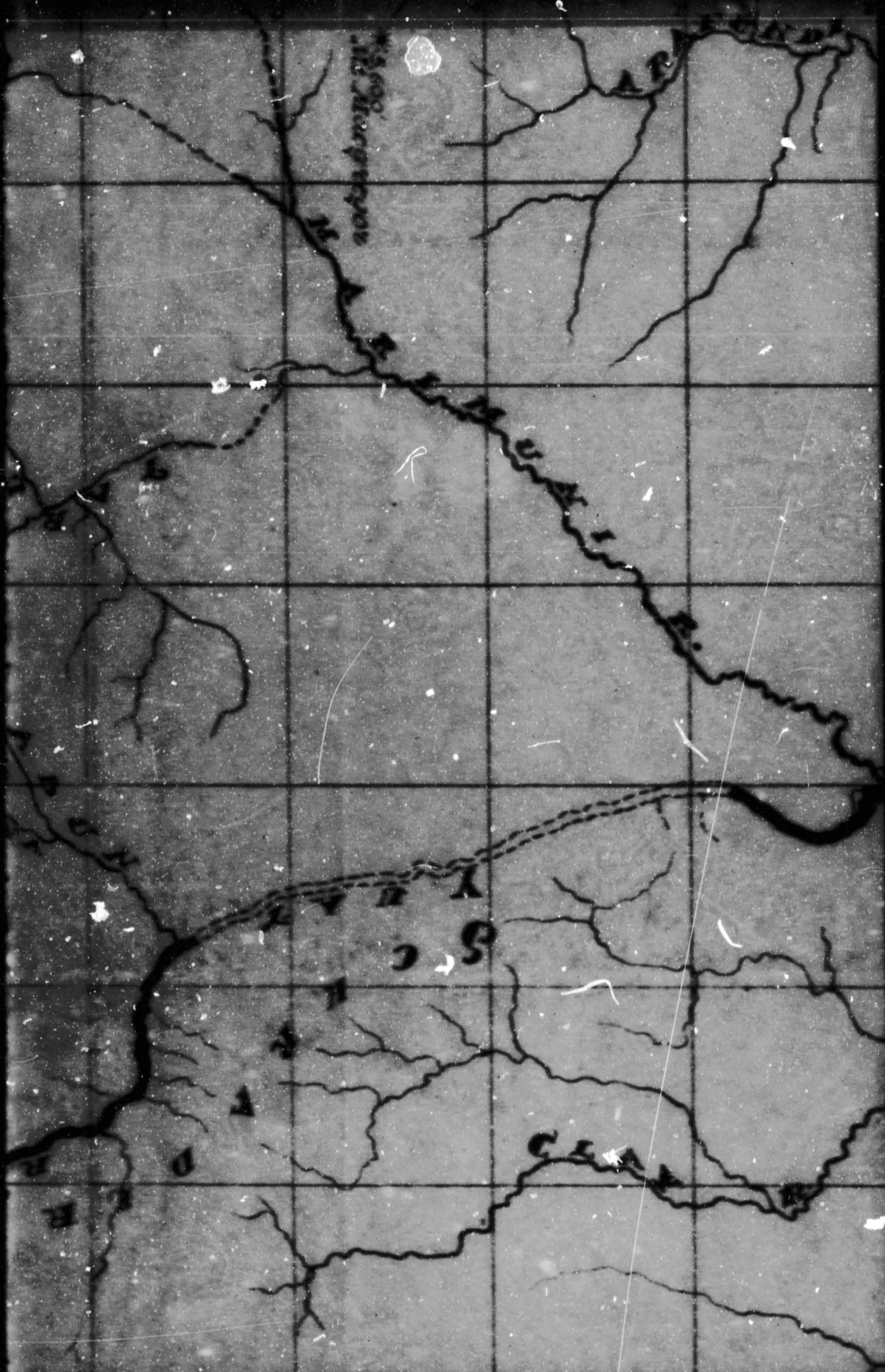
A few cases of scabies were observed but little else in the
way of skin disease - no gonorrhoea was seen. In general, these
people would appear to be well fed, with a diet adequate in
all except, probably, animal protein, the main source of this
coming from their domestic pigs, which pigs are used during
feast times and not as a steady diet. Some additional protein
could be obtained from wild pigs and cassowaries, but this
source would be sporadic and of little quantity.

REPORT ON NATIVE CONSTABULARY.

- No. 1222, Const. HANU: A fair, but not an outstanding constable. Conducted himself well on this patrol.
- No. 5142, L/Const. HANU: A well conducted man but with not a great deal of drive. Behaviour good.
- No. Constable YANUHAN: Quiet and well behaved but not a successful character. Behaviour well.
- No. 722, Const. HANU-222: Has the ability to do a good job but requires supervision to give of his best.
- No. 522, Const. HANU: Worked very well. A good man.
- No. 522, Const. HANU: A quiet and well behaved constable. Did a good job of work.
- No. 741, Const. HANU: Good constable note by the writer previously regarding this man was too pessimistic especially, as he is not living up to early expectations.
- No. 722, Const. HANU: A good, solid worker with a fair degree of common sense. A reliable policeman.
- No. 741, Const. HANU: At least ability. Fair.
- No. 722, Const. HANU-222: Fairly good well. Should develop into a good policeman with experience.
- No. 522, Const. HANU: His first patrol. Behaviour well but needs further experience.
- No. 775, Const. HANU-222: This constable was to accompany the patrol part-way, but was taken right through, in order that a British policeman should have some work. His work was satisfactory.

Entries corresponding to the above have been made in the Records of Service of the members concerned.


 (James P. B. 1940)
 Assistant District Officer.



ΠΑΤΡΟΛ ΡΕΠΟΡΤ - WABAG No. 1955-6.
SHILOH VALLEY.
 Scale: 1 inch = 1 mile. Sheet: 1. *Shiloh Valley, Wabag No. 1955-6.*
 238 Shiloh Valley of R. Wright

