

NATIONAL ARCHIVES & PUBLIC RECORDS SERVICES
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PATROL REPORTS

DISTRICT: S/HIGHLANDS

STATION: IALIBU

VOLUME No: 3

ACCESSION No: 496.

1956 - 1957

ISBN: 9980 - 910 - 66 - 6

Filed by/for the National Archives of Papua New Guinea,
PORT MORESBY - 1985

Sole Custodian: National Archives of Papua New Guinea.

Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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ACC. NO: 496

1956 - 1957

NUMBERS OF REPORTS: 1

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TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of Southern Highlands Report No. IALIBU No. 1 of 1956/57.

Patrol Conducted by G. R. KEENAN Patrol Officer.

Area Patrolled MONDANDA and YOGERE in the KEWA Division; KAIWO, MELE, TAGURU and POROGO areas of the WIRU Division.

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans Nil

	R. P. & N. G. C.	-	10
Natives	P. H. D.	-	1
	D. N. A.	-	36

Duration—From 1./4./1957 to 18/4/1957

Number of Days EIGHTEEN

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? No.

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services December/1955.

Medical .../.../19...

Map Reference Southern Highlands District Map

Objects of Patrol Consolidation and extension of Administration contact and influence ; Examination of reported Airstrip sites; Arrest of persons involved in tribal fighting in POROGO area.

DIRECTOR OF DISTRICT SERVICES
AND NATIVE AFFAIRS,
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

8/6/1957

[Signature]
District Commissioner

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

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

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

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MIG
In
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NA.30-18-58

25th June, 1957.

The District Officer,
MURUDI

Patrol Report No. 1. 1956/57. IALIBU.

Mr. Keenan in acting as arbitrator, has displayed a wise approach in settling disputes; arbitration has been found to be a much more satisfactory means of settling disputes rather than court orders.

The effect of the police manned road camps appears to have had satisfactory results. It appears to me that camps manned by police who have some specific task are of much greater influence than those which are maintained for the preservation of law and order only.

The reason for the break away in the FOROGO group should be pursued. Such fragmentary groups can create endless trouble in consolidation of an area. Are you sure "sorcery" is the underlying reason?

What reason had the KARANE people to name the men of the KOIAPU group as the instigators of the sorcery? It appears to me that the KARANE people are those who require interrogating further.

I concur in your remarks on the necessity of consolidation patrols.

The attitude towards the Administration of the people appears to be extraordinarily good.

Have remarks concerning other Departments been brought to the notice of the officers concerned on District level please?

8/10 25/6
A.A.R
(A.A. Roberts)
Director

BRC:VHG.



30/1 - 1190.

District Office,
Southern Highlands District,
MENDI.

8th June, 1957.

Assistant District Officer,
MENDI.

P/R. Ialibu 1/56-57 - Mr. G.R. Keenan.

The abovementioned report is acknowledged and Mr. Keenan is complimented on a well written account of his patrol.

2. The fighting between the two groups of POROJO and KDIAPU followed a familiar Southern Highland pattern and could have developed into a serious and devastating period of unrest for both parties if Mr. Keenan had not moved in quickly and checked it before it got out of hand.

It is very obvious that this whole area needs much more patrolling attention and you should see that regular visits are made to prevent impressions "that the Administration had forgotten about them".

Ialibu administrative area has not been patrolled sufficiently.

3. Roads and Bridges.

It is unfortunate that police supervision had to be withdrawn but shortage of members and the need for them on patrols made it necessary.

4. Airstrip Site.

The site investigated appears to have possibilities for an airstrip but I question the need for a station so close to Ialibu. The Diary indicates it to be only about 8 miles from Ialibu and I consider more attention should be given to possible sites further to the South and in the vicinity of the middle of lower Poru.

5. Village Officials.

Regular patrolling is necessary if we are to expect officials to have any but a "hazy idea of their duties and

2.


obligations". One can badly blame officials for abusing their positions if they are not constantly supervised and trained for this work and I suggest that we as the Administration have fallen down in our obligations to these people in this area.

I wish to see more patrolling in the area before I will support any recommendations or replacements.

6. If the Lalibu Aneroid Barometer is unserviceable please have it withdrawn and forwarded for repair.

7. Diary. Friday 5th April.

Please let me have more details of this incident and advice as to what action is being taken regarding the alleged murder.


(Robt. R. Cole)
District Commissioner.

Minute to -

The Director,
Department of Native Affairs,
PORT MORESBY.

Report in duplicate herewith together with :-

Patrol Map.
Camping allowance claim.


(Robt. R. Cole)
District Commissioner.

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I wish to see more patrolling in the area before I will support any recommendations or replacements.

6. If the Ialibu Aneroid Barometer is unserviceable please have it withdrawn and forwarded for repair.

7. Diary. Friday 5th April.

Please let me have more details of this incident and advice as to what action is being taken regarding the alleged murder.

The above mentioned report is acknowledged and Mr. Keenan is complimented on a well written account of the patrol.

The fighting between the two groups of 1000 and 2000 followed a smaller southern Highland pattern and would have developed into a serious one had not the intervention of both parties if Mr. Keenan had not arrived and advised it before it got out of hand.

It is very obvious that the more patrolling attention and the more the local population is present, the more the local population is present.

(Robt.R. Cole)
District Commissioner.

Minute to -

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Department of Native Affairs,
PORT MORESBY.

Report in duplicate herewith together with :-

Patrol Map.
Camping allowance claim.



(Robt.R. Cole)
District Commissioner.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

RRC:vHG.

*In Reply
Please Quote*

No. 30/1 - 1190.

District Office,
Southern Highlands District,
MENDI.

8th June, 1957.

Assistant District Officer,
MENDI.

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It is very obvious that this whole area needs much more patrolling attention and you should see that regular visits are made to prevent impressions "that the Administration had forgotten about them".

Ialibu administrative area has not been patrolled sufficiently.

3. Roads and Bridges.

It is unfortunate that police supervision had to be withdrawn but shortage of members and the need for them on patrols made it necessary.

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The site investigated appears to have possibilities for an airstrip but I question the need for a station so close to Ialibu. The Diary indicates it to be only about 8 miles from Ialibu and I consider more attention should be given to possible sites further to the South and in the vicinity of the middle of Lower Poru.

5. Village Officials.

Regular patrolling is necessary if we are to expect officials to have any but a "hazy idea of their duties and

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Please let me have more details of this incident and advice as to what action is being taken regarding the alleged murder.

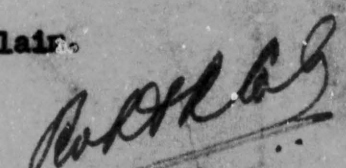

(Robt.R. Cole)
District Commissioner.

Minute to -

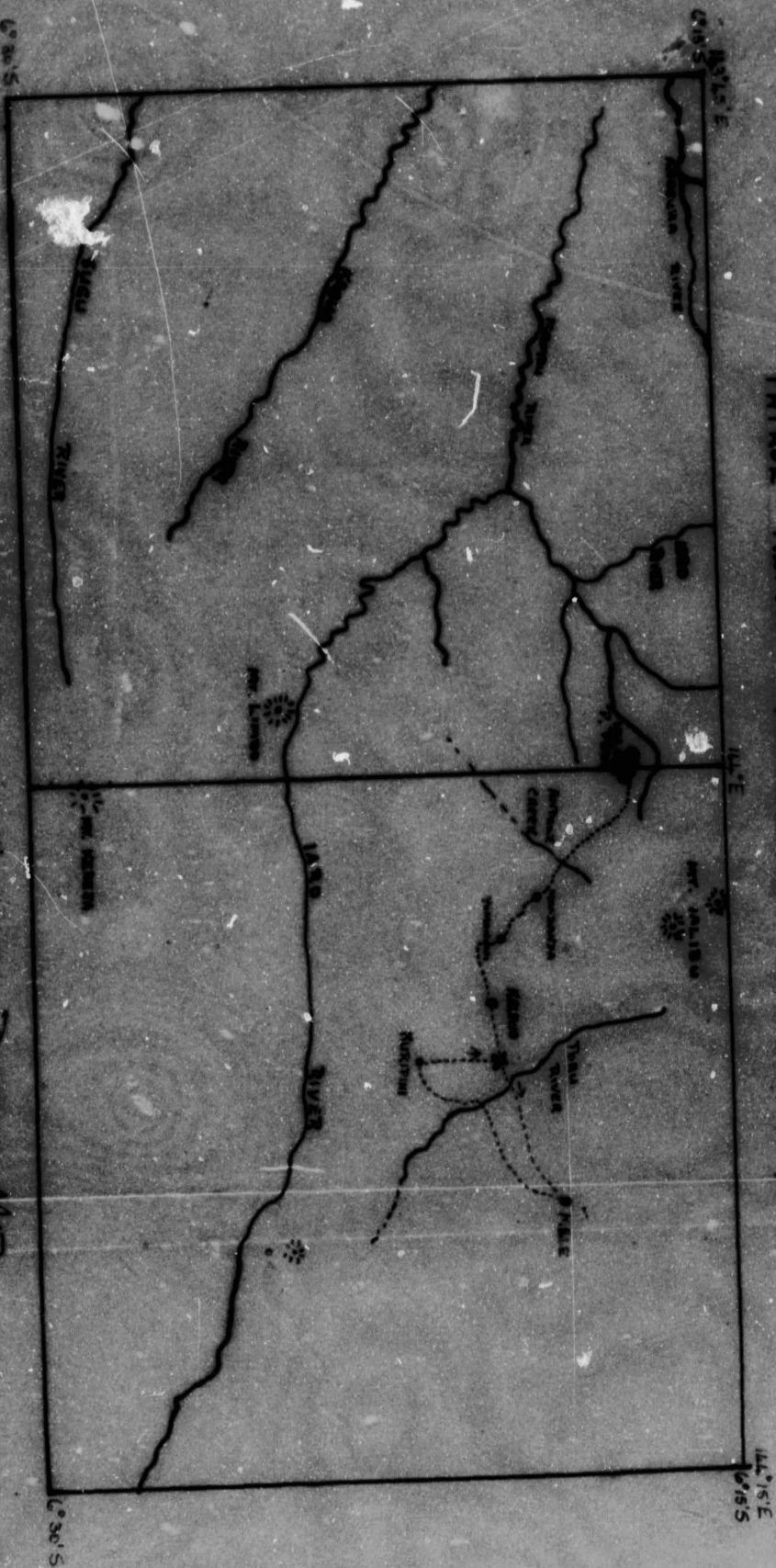
The Director,
Department of Native Affairs,
PORT MORESBY.

Report in duplicate herewith together with :-

Patrol Map.
Camping allowance claim.


(Robt.R. Cole)
District Commissioner.

PATROL REPORT MAP IALIBU No. 1 of 1954/57.



Tracing From Southern Highlands District Map

Scale : 4 Miles To 1 Inch

Patrol Route : - - - - -

Camps And Rest Houses :

Proposed Airstrip Site : - - - X - - -

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Patrol Post,
IALIBU,
Southern Highlands.

15th. May, 1957.

The Assistant District Officer,
Sub-district Office,
MENDI, S.H.D..

IALIBU PATROL REPORT No.1 of 1956/57

Report of a patrol to the WIRU division.

OFFICER CONDUCTING THE PATROL: G.R.Keenan, Patrol Officer.

AREA PATROLLED: Mondanda and Yogere in the KEWA Division; Kauwo, Mele, Taguru and Porogo areas of the WIRU Division.

OBJECTS OF THE PATROL: Consolidation and extension of Administrative contact and influence; Examination of reported airstrip sites; Arrest of persons involved in tribal fighting in the Porogo area.

DURATION: 18 Days - 1st. April, 1957 to 18th. April, 1957.

PERSONNEL ACCOMPANYING: Europeans - Nil.

Natives - No.6617 L/Cpl.PITA
No.7580 Const.HENGITA
No.8221 Const.IAHU (IAMA)
No.9959 Const.ORAT
No.9240 Const.TQPO
No.9251 Const.LEVOS
No.9437 Const.OGUMUGAI
No.9541 Const.AWIN
No.9634 Const.LEFY
No.9715 Const.NIMBONGI

Interpreter TIRI-KOROMPA

Aid Post Orderly PARIGA

35 Carriers.

INTRODUCTION: MONDANDA and YOGERE in the KEWA Division have been well contacted in the past and the natives of those areas are fairly settled. This patrol spent little time in this area and merely passed-through on the way to and from the WIRU Division.

KAUWO and MELE in the WIRU Division had been visited several times by previous patrols and the natives of these groups have accepted the fact of Administration control most equably. The TAGURU and POROGO groups have had only one previous visit and to date have been rather reluctant to admit the right of the Administration to prohibit those features of their way of life which are unacceptable and disapproved by the forces of law and order.

Reports had been received at Ialibu regarding fighting among members of the POROGO group and, as it was obvious, that this fighting was causing a certain amount of unrest among other groups of the WIRU division and neighbouring areas, it was decided that a patrol would have to proceed to the area to demonstrate that the Administration could not allow such illegality to flourish unchecked.

It was also desired to examine sites which had been reported as being suitable for the construction of an airstrip.

DIARY:

Monday,
1st. April

The patrol departed from IALIBU Patrol Post at 0855 hrs.. The track led through extremely swampy timbered country until the patrol arrived at ANDAWE Creek at 1120 hrs.. Rested here until 1150 hrs. when the patrol continued on over a made road passing through POGA Ceremonial Ground at 1200 hrs. and arriving at MONDANDA Rest House at 1220 hrs.. The made road continued on for a short distance past the Rest House only then a native track descended to ONBERI Creek. The patrol crossed this creek at 1230 hrs. and then crossed YOROSINE Creek a short distance on. The track then led through swampy grass country and then up onto timbered hills. The patrol arrived at YOMONOWI Rest House and Aid Post at 1310 hrs.

Tuesday,
2nd. April

The patrol departed from YOMONOWI Rest House at 0720 hrs. and travelled along a made road almost as far as the YOGERE Rest House then turned off to the East and proceeded along a native track which led through timbered country. The patrol crossed RAMEUE and YUNGGIRI Creeks and then entered swampy grass country. Following native tracks the patrol reached, and crossed, WINI creek and then made a steep climb up to a section of made road which led as far as KAUWO Rest House. The patrol arrived at the Rest House at 1005 hrs.. Self, four Constables, several carriers and many local natives proceeded to the reported airstrip sites for a preliminary examination. Returned to the Rest House at 1600 hrs..

Wednesday,
3rd. April

Patrol remained at KAUWO Rest House. Self, police, carriers and local natives to airstrip sites. Set carriers and local natives to clearing of site which seemed most promising. Examined another possible site closer to PORU River. Heavy rain in early afternoon put a stop to all work for the day and members of the patrol returned to the Rest House at 1400 hrs..

Thursday,
4th. April

Patrol remained at KAUWO Rest House. Carriers and local natives continued with clearing of ~~airstrip~~ airstrip site. Self and two police examining other possible sites. During the day representatives of the POROGO group came to the patrol at the airstrip site and an effort was made to encourage them to bring others of their group to assist in the work of clearing. Patrol also visited by members of the KOIAPU group.

Friday,
5th. April

Patrol remained at KAUWO Rest House. Carriers and local natives continued with clearing airstrip site. Self, three police, interpreter and several Village Officials made a trip of one hour to the North of KAUWO Rest House and effected the arrest of a man alleged to have murdered his wife. Returned to the Rest House at 1000 hrs... At 1030 hrs. set out for the place where the woman's body was alleged to be hidden. A trip of one hour to the S.S.E. of KAUWO Rest House brought us to a stand of timber in which there was a deep natural hole in the ground. This hole had been covered over with logs. When opened it was found that there was a body in the hole about ten feet down. The body was partly decomposed. The arrested man identified the body as being that of his wife. The hole was re-covered and the party returned to the Rest House arriving at 1300 hrs. At 1400 hrs. proceeded to the airstrip site and set clearing tasks for the various groups working there.

Saturday,
6th. April

Sunday,
7th. April

The patrol remained at KAUWO Rest House. Work on the clearing of the selected airstrip site continued each day. Quite a number of men from the POROGO group reported for work during these two days. On each day conversations were held with representatives of the POROGO group and they were told that the only quarrel we had ~~was~~ with those men concerned in the various killings which had taken place and that a lot of time and trouble to all concerned would be saved if they were willing to surrender themselves. While it was not expected that this approach would meet with success it was felt that it should be tried before an all-out attempt at effecting arrests was made.

Monday,
8th. April

The patrol departed from KAUWO Rest House at 0700 hrs.. The track led us past the airstrip site and down to the PORU River which was crossed at 0730 hrs. A short, steep ascent brought the patrol to PONDIA Ceremonial Ground at 0738 hrs.. From here the patrol continued on to cross RUNA Creek at 0800 hrs.. Another climb brought the patrol to KUMIENE Ceremonial Ground where a short halt was called at 0840 hrs.. The patrol continued on to cross NAMA creek at 0840 hrs. and the patrol arrived at MELE Rest House at 0905 hrs.. Large numbers of men, women and children were tidying-up the grounds and making hurried repairs to buildings which had been allowed to get into a state of disrepair since the police were withdrawn from this road camp. The patrol was greeted by various Village Officials. During the day talks were held with the Village Officials and several matters were brought to the attention of the patrol for settlement out of court.

Tuesday,
9th. April

Patrol remained at MELE Rest House. Conversations held with leaders of many groups in the area... Runners from PARIPI (Kagua Valley) arrived at 1400 hrs.. Report also received of killings involving UNDEIAPU and SEMPEKIN natives.

Wednesday,
~~9th.~~ April
10th.

Patrol departed from MELE Rest House at 0625 hrs.. The track led through populated area and then ~~descended~~ descended to NAMA River which was reached at 0730 hrs.. The patrol followed this creek for a short way to its junction with the PORU River. The patrol followed along the Southern bank of this river for a short distance and then made a steep climb up to PONDIPINI Village. Unfortunately a look-out on the track gave warning of the patrol's approach and there was plenty of audible evidence of the hurried abandonment of houses along the track as we approached. The patrol was lucky to have got so far without being detected earlier but this success was due to the fact that there was a very heavy mist which did not disperse until approximately 0900 hrs. From PONDIPINI the patrol followed a track which led along a hill-top, through ROMOI Village to KURIPINI Village where it was decided to set-up camp and commence the search for the wanted men. The patrol split into two groups. One group remained at KURIPINI to see to the setting-up of the camp and the other under my supervision set out to apprehend any persons connected with the recent fighting and murders. This latter party returned to the camp site at 1415 hrs. with a total of 13 arrested men.

Thursday,
11th. April

The patrol remained based at KURIPINI. Self, six police and eighteen carriers departed from the camp site at 0700 hrs. to continue the search for wanted persons. The area to the N.E. of the camp was searched. 6 men were apprehended. Contact was made with a Village Councillor and other leaders of

the TAGURU group. The search party returned to the camp at 1300 hrs.. During the afternoon men of the TAGURU group brought food to the camp for sale. A talk was given to the leaders of this group.

Friday,
12th. April

The patrol remained based at KURIPINI. At 0635 hrs. self, police and some carriers departed in search of more wanted persons. During the morning the search-party made contact with men of the YARIRIPA group and a talk was given to them. The party also met a group of TAGURU men, women and children on their way to the camp site with food. The party returned to the camp at 1115 hrs.. The food brought in was purchased and talks were given to both the TAGURU and YARIRIPA visitors. A fire-arm demonstration was also given. During the afternoon a representative of the PEGAI group arrived at the camp and wished to know the patrol's wishes with regard to his group. Representative told that I wished his group leaders and other men to visit the patrol.

Saturday,
13th. April

The patrol remained based at KURIPINI. Self, police and some carriers departed from the camp at 0800 hrs. The party passed through a couple of deserted POROGO hamlets and then climbed up to a high ridge in YARIRIPA territory. Here the party was met by the man YAPER who is the leader of this group. The party followed the ridge Eastwards to ABONDA Ceremonial Ground. Passing through ABONDA the patrol met groups of men from KAIMARI (WAIRIGO Ceremonial Ground) and KAMBIRI (NIRIPU Ceremonial Ground) who were on their way to the camp with food. The party returned to the camp at 1130 hrs.. Here found the leader from PERI (KEREBARI C.G.) and some of his men waiting at the camp. Large crowds of men, women and children from TAGURU and YARIRIPA also visited the camp during the day bearing food for purchase by the patrol. Talks were given to all leaders and natives and fire-arm demonstration was also given.

Sunday,
14th. April

The patrol remained at KURIPINI. During the day the patrol was visited by the leader of the PEGAI (TUNDA C.G.) group and some of his men. Visits were also paid by YARIRIPA leaders and natives. During the day talks were given to all of these natives.

Monday,
15th. April

Courts for Native Matters held after a complaint had been made by a woman. The patrol departed from KURIPINI at 1045 hrs.. The track followed hill-tops and led through grass country for most of the way. Passing through one timbered tract the patrol passed by Lake YARABARON (one of three lakes in that particular area) at 1140 hrs. and reached the airstrip site where groups of men were clearing pit-pit and kunai at 1155 hrs. A cursory examination of the work done during the past week was made. The patrol moved on and reached KAUWO Rest House at 1240 hrs.. Food was purchased during the afternoon and further talks were held with local Officials and head-men. A visit was paid to the patrol by several KOIAPU natives.

Tuesday,
16th. April

The patrol remained at KAUWO Rest House. A further inspection of the airstrip site was made and data regarding length, surface etc. compiled. The leaders of the various groups concerned were congratulated on the work done and other necessary clearing work was allocated.

Wednesday,
17th. April

The patrol departed from KAUWO Rest House at 0645 hrs. and followed the made road to the road-head near WIWI Creek. The patrol then descended to and crossed WIWI Creek and then climbed up into swampy grasslands. Crossed YUNGIRI Creek at 0810 hrs. and crossed RAMBUE Creek a little further along. From here the patrol followed a different track to the one followed on 1st. April. The track now followed by the patrol led through gardens and then timbered country until the patrol reached the made road near YOMONOWI Rest House at 0900 hrs.. A walk of ten minutes along this road brought the patrol to YOMONOWI Rest House and Aid Post. The patrol rested here and then continued on at 0930 hrs. The track led through timbered country interspersed with gardens and at 1000 hrs. the patrol crossed YOROBINE creek. OMBERI creek was crossed at 1005 hrs. and the patrol then climbed up to the made road and arrived at MONDANDA Rest House at 1020 hrs.. During the day food was brought in for purchase and talks were held with Village Officials and natives.

Thursday,
18th. April

The patrol departed from MONDANDA Rest House at 0630 hrs. and followed the made road as far as ANDAWE Creek which was crossed at 0700 hrs.. From here the patrol followed a native track through swampy timbered country and arrived at IALIBU Patrol Post at 0945 hrs..

NATIVE AFFAIRS:

The last patrol to the areas visited by this patrol was made in December, 1955. The areas in which Road Camps were established and staffed by members of the R.P. & N.G.C. appear to have settled down very well and, for the most part, have abandoned their traditional violent means of settling differences. The groups to the South of the Road Camps have had very little - and in some cases, no - contact with the Administration. Consequently, they have still to be fully convinced of the advantages of abandoning their age-old methods of settling disputes with other groups and some have still to be convinced also of the Administration's right to interfere with such methods and to prohibit recourse to them. Few, if any of these groups, are completely ignorant of the Administration's prohibition of settling arguments by warring for a number of the groups have had contact with a patrol which went through the area in December, 1955. However, they have tended to regard the Administration as a force which they may have to reckon with but which, for the most part, is something situated far away from them and with little concern with them and with their actions.

The natives of the POROGO group had been contacted by a patrol from Ialibu which visited the area in December, 1955, and had seen a man from an allied group arrested by that patrol. To date, however, the sum total of contact has been slight. It is hoped, then, that the return of the men at present serving gaol sentences will serve to extend the Administration's contact with this group.

The POROGO group appears to be quite large and, my enquiries show, was composed of eight sub-clans. Some time ago - just how long ago, I was unable to elicit - two of these sub-clans decided to move away from the other sub-clans and set up what was, in effect, a break-away group. I have not as yet discovered the reason for these two sub-clans breaking away from the large clan group. A site was selected some distance to the South of the settlements of the other sub-clans and a Ceremonial Ground known as KOIAPU was made. The break-away

group has since become known as the KOIAPU group.

The cause of the fighting which took place between the POROGO and KOIAPU groups can be traced to the well-nigh inevitable 'sorcery'. It would seem that most, if not all, fighting in these areas can be traced to that one cause.

Approximately January of this year a man named WAMO-KOME of the AIANIA Sub-clan of the POROGO Group died. WAMO was a "big" man not only in his Sub-clan but in the Clan also. He had been marked for possible appointment as a Village Official by Mr. J. Harris, P.O.. It appears that WAMO's death could not be accounted for as having been caused by any natural means. His father and various other relatives, both blood- and clan-, came to what they could only regard as being the natural and/or sensible conclusion. This was that the death could only have been caused by someone directing some extremely malignant form of sorcery towards the deceased. If this was so, and they were convinced that it was, it then became their "duty" to see that WAMO's death was avenged. However, it first became ~~necessary~~ necessary to determine upon whom the death might be avenged; that is, they had to find out who was responsible for the practising of the sorcery which caused WAMO's death.

For some time enquiries, and possibly other secret means of determining such matters, failed to reveal who was responsible for WAMO's death. That was until some men from the neighbouring KARANE group told the POROGO's that they were convinced that men of the KOIAPU group had practised the sorcery which had caused WAMO to die. The revelation of such valuable information could not go unrewarded and so, to show their gratitude, relatives of the deceased gave one Mother of Pearl shell to the KARANE men.

Armed with such knowledge WAMO's relatives openly accused the KOIAPU group of the commission of the dastardly crime. As was only natural, and to be expected, the KOIAPU's denied having performed any sorcery and most emphatically denied being in any way responsible for WAMO's death. Such denials, of course, went for naught because the relatives of the deceased were convinced of the guilt of the KOIAPU's and demanded satisfaction. In many cases payment by the accused group of valuables such as Pigs and Mother of Pearl Shell will usually provide relatives of the deceased with proper satisfaction. In this case, however, and it appears that WAMO's father, KOME, was insistent that the only satisfaction that the group could properly demand was the "pay-back" i.e. a death for a death. It seems that he was responsible for the formation of a war-party the members of which were adjured by him to satisfy the honour of the group by revenging WAMO's death.

The war-party came across the man DOMARI of KURARI Hamlet in his garden and he was killed by PENDA-PURIRI of IAN AIANIA Sub-clan. This killing was followed by a skirmish between the war-party and men of the KOIAPU group. During this skirmish one of the war-party - WABE-ABUGA of WAMBUGAWI Hamlet, POROGO - was killed and another - the above-mentioned PENDA - was wounded. Thus, the POROGO's found, when they called off the fight, that instead of equalising matters they had another death to avenge. According to their reckoning, the killing of DOMARI paid for WAMO's death but WABE's death in the fight now had to be avenged.

After this attack by the POROGO war-party the KOIAPU natives scattered from their houses and sought refuge in the bush and with friends in other groups. A KOIAPU man named KEBA and his son TONGGEI sought refuge with clansmen at KAUAPINI Hamlet. In early April, however, they were attacked by several POROGO natives who wished to even the score. It is alleged that KEBA was killed by ONGGORO-OREIAMA of WAMBUGAWI Hamlet, POROGO, but I have not yet been able to determine who killed the small boy TONGGEI.

This was the position when the patrol arrived in the area and effected arrests among members of the POROGO group. Contact with representatives of the group had been made ~~before~~ the patrol actually arrived in the POROGO area and, as is mentioned in the Diary, an attempt was made to convince the wanted men to give themselves up. It was not expected that such an appeal would meet with any success - as, indeed, it failed to do - nevertheless, it was felt that the attempt was warranted and it was worthwhile trying. A total of 23 men were arrested by the patrol and they were subsequently sentenced to terms of Three Months imprisonment with Hard Labour for Riotous Behaviour. While it is not expected that each and every one involved in these affairs can be arrested the arrest of such a number from this group will, I feel sure, serve to give pause to their fellow clansmen should someone else try to instigate any further such ~~similar~~ methods of settling disputes. The arrests will also serve to restrain other groups in the area who, it has been reported, were making preparations of their own to engage in inter-group fighting.

The fact that the WIRU area had been without a patrol for 15 months had served, I think, to give the various groups the impression that while the Administration may have been interested in the area at one time such interest had waned and that the Administration had forgotten about them. Thus, they felt that they could again take up their traditional practices with little fear of any retribution. This patrol has served to disabuse not only the POROGO's but many other groups as well of any such ideas. However, it is imperative that now contact has been resumed ~~in~~ it must be maintained with a fair degree of regularity. If not, we can only expect further retrogression.

I believe that it is intended to establish a new Patrol Post in the WIRU area within the next two years. The airstrip site examined by this patrol will, in all probability, be the most suitable site for the building of the proposed Patrol Post and from it most of the groups in the WIRU area are easily accessible. In fact, few of the groups would be more than one day's walk from the site examined. Patrolling from Ialibu pending the establishment of the new Post will serve to bring the area under Administration influence but with the new Post in the area I expect that the WIRU would be very quickly brought under control. Most of the natives met during the course of this patrol appeared to be quite keen on the prospect of having a station "of their own" and I feel sure would give enthusiastic support to a programme of Station, road and airstrip construction.

The natives in the general area to the East, South-East, and South of the areas visited by this patrol are in need of patrolling and it is intended that the next patrol to the WIRU division shall visit those areas. Little or no contact has been made with the majority of natives in those areas and they still regard inter-group warfare as natural and proper.

During the patrol good contact was made with headmen from many of the WIRU groups and notation has been made for the appointment of various of these headmen as Village Constables and Councillors when the next patrol proceeds to the area. The appointment of such men helps to bring these people under Administration influence more quickly for they are visible reminders to all of the Administration's interest and authority.

With the exception of the POROGO natives - and such exception is most understandable - all natives of the various groups contacted during the course of this patrol were very friendly and appeared to welcome the patrol's visit.

NATIVE AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK: The climate in the WIRU area is very good and as a result native agriculture does very well. Crops appear to be bigger and better than those of the Ialibu area but the climate and altitude difference would account for that.

Sweet Potato is the staple food of the area and appears to grow very well judging by the samples which were purchased by the patrol. In addition Taro and Cassava (Tapioco) grow well and are grown by the natives as supplements to their Sweet Potato. Edible Pit-pit, cooking Bananas, Sugar Cane and edible Greens are also grown in quantity. The natives of the area also eat quite a lot of Marita which grows well there.

European vegetable seeds have been introduced to the area and most groups seem to grow small quantities of these vegetables. Corn is quite popular with all natives. In addition to Corn, Cabbages, Tomatoes, Beans and Eating Bananas were seen by the patrol. The climate appears to be most suitable for European vegetables and it is intended to distribute new and more varied vegetable seeds when the next patrol visits the area. Peanuts grow well in this area.

Pigs are husbanded by the natives but they are not over-numerous. Those seen were of the usual native strain and that is the best that can be said for them. Some but not many, dogs were seen; they are used for hunting purposes. Fowls are not owned by the natives.

Cassowaries, Opossum and Birds of various kinds provide game for hunters and help to provide a little more protein in the diet of those lucky enough to be successful in hunting them.

ROADS AND BRIDGES: In 1955 a road-building programme was commenced in the MONDANDA-YOGERE area of the KEWA division and in the vicinity of KAUWO and MELE in the WIRU division. Road camps were established and staffed with members of the R.P. & N.G.C. at MONDANDA, YOGERE, KAUWO and MELE and road-building did commence at each of these camps with the exception of MELE. Early in 1956 force of circumstances dictated the withdrawal of the police stationed at these camps and since that time all road-work in the area ~~was suspended~~ has been suspended. As could only be expected, with nobody to supervise such work there has been no maintenance on the roads since the police were withdrawn. As a result sections of the roads which had already been built were overgrown and a certain amount of deterioration due to the lack of maintenance had occurred. Village Officials at MONDANDA, YOGERE and KAUWO have been instructed that maintenance work must be performed pending the posting of police to the area to supervise further road construction.

Approximately 2 miles of fairly good road have been built between MONDANDA and ANDAWE Creek and much the same length of road has been built between the YOGERE Rest House and the new Rest House and Aid Post at YOMONOWI. Approximately 1 mile of road has been built between KAUWO Rest House and WIWI Creek. Most of the sections of road already built are good and will be back in good condition when maintenance (which has already commenced) has been completed. It is felt that some minor re-location will help to improve the road.

Work on the Ialibu-Mondanda section of road has commenced at the Ialibu end and it is hoped that the section from Ialibu to ANDAWE Creek will be completed in the near future. The ANDAWE is a wide creek subject to bad floods and the construction of a bridge across it will present some difficulties but I do not foresee that they will be insurmountable.

For the most part the terrain of the Eastern KEWA and the WIRU divisions does not present too many difficulties in road-building. The majority of difficulties, I feel, will come in the bridging of the various creeks and rivers in the area. The bridging of the PORU River, for instance, will be a major work. A cane suspension bridge was built across this river by police stationed at KAUWO and MELE and is used by the natives when the river is in flood. The construction of a vehicle bridge will not be as easy. From KAUWO South-East to the POFOGO and TAGURU groups will not present many difficulties and I expect that a road between those groups and possibly further on to the South and South-East could be constructed fairly quickly.

At present it is intended to complete the Ialibu-Pabarabuk road and the S.H.D. section of the Ialibu-Tambul road before re-commencing any large-scale road-building works in the WIRU area. However, in the meantime, it will probably be possible to re-commence work in the area but on a small-scale only in the first instance. As more men and materials become available so our rate of road-building in the area will be increased.

VILLAGE: Village Officials. There have been several Village Constables and Village Councillors appointed throughout the area patrolled. At best, most of them have a very hazy idea of their duties and obligations. It is an unfortunate fact that oftentimes appointees exceed the bounds of their authority and use their appointment to impose upon other natives. At the moment there are several Village Constables and Councillors from the YOGERE area serving varying terms of imprisonment for mistreating other natives. Recommendations for the dismissal of these men will be submitted through the appropriate channels and new appointments will be recommended when the next patrol proceeds to the area. V.C. WAROUYA of MONDANDA appears to be carrying out his duties in a fairly capable manner. He is not a forceful character but he does, at least, appear to recognize his responsibilities.

There are as yet only two active Village Constables in the WIRU division; they are V.C. ANGGURA of KAUWO and V.C. MAMBU of PONDIA. They both * seem to be good men and both have maintained the prestige of the Administration among the members of their groups during the long period that they have been without a patrol.

During the course of this patrol information regarding possible appointees in other groups was obtained and it is intended that appointments be recommended by the next patrol to the area.

AIRSTRIp SITE: One of the objects of this patrol was to examine sites which had been reported as being suitable for the construction of an airstrip. The patrol remained based at KAUWO for a total of six days in order that these possible sites might be examined and the best selected and work started on the clearing of the selected site.

The site which offers the greatest possibilities is situated approximately 20 minutes walk to the East of KAUWO Rest House and about 10 minutes walk to the West of the PORU River. On a bearing of 156-336 degrees an airstrip approximately 1600 yards in length and 200 feet (at least) in width could be constructed.

At the South-Eastern end of the site the airstrip would run for approximately 250 yards through a what is now a timbered, swampy patch. I do not consider that the clearing and draining of this patch will present any difficulties and it could be brought up to standard without very much trouble.

The site for the next 1000 yards is extremely good and slopes upward at an angle of approx. 2 degrees. A minimum of work would be required to make this section serviceable.

The next section will require a certain amount of filling for about 150 yards on the Western side of the site. There is a swampy patch some 50 yards across in this section but this could be drained and the surface hardened quite easily.

The next section of 200-300 yards slopes upward rather more steeply than the rest of the airstrip site. I would estimate the angle at about 4 degrees but that, of course, is only an estimation. It certainly would not be any greater. This section is quite good and could quickly be made serviceable.

Unfortunately the patrol did not have an Aneroid Barometer with which the altitude of the site might be more accurately determined. Indeed, the only Aneroid Barometer at Ialibu station is broken and completely useless. I would estimate the height of the site as 5,500 feet above sea level.

Along its length the site is topped with black soil but there is hard red clay underneath. A layer of coarse gravel and stones assists in making the surface hard. I saw the surface of this site the day after a particularly heavy and prolonged rainfall and it was still quite hard and showing little evidence of the rain. The site has been used for gardening in the past but has not been so used for some years now. Present vegetation, except for the small stand of timber at the S.-E. end, is Pit-pit and Kunai grass. All of this would have been cleared off the site by now.

During the patrol's stay at KAUWO local natives commenced clearing this site of its vegetation in order that a good idea of length and surface could be obtained. In several places the surface is broken by drains which had been dug around the gardens which had been made on the site but the filling of these will present no trouble at all.

I consider the site to be very good for the construction of an airstrip and when completed would have no difficulty in taking Norseman aircraft and, in addition, Junkers aircraft.

The land on which the airstrip site is situated is known as PANGGIA and all rights are vested in the EBARI Clan (KAUWO Ceremonial Ground). Should this site be selected for the construction of a Patrol Post and airstrip I do not anticipate any difficulty in acquiring the necessary land. The only trouble may be that any such purchase will have to be kept to a minimum acreage as these people (not only the EBARI Clan but most of those in this area) do not appear to have a super-abundance of land.

GENERAL:

It will have been noted that throughout this report reference has always been made to the WIRU division, area or people and not the WIRITARU. From the information I gathered during this patrol I am convinced that the name WIRITARU as applied to the area patrolled and the people living therein is a definite misnomer. They regard themselves as being WIRU-speaking people and do not, themselves, recognize the

name WIRITARU as applying to them. WIRITARU is the name given to that general area and the natives living there by the natives of the IALIBU area (i.e. the IMBOIE-speaking natives). The TARU are alleged to be pygmy-type natives living to the East of the WIRU but no-one seems to know very much about them. Village Constable KARIA of PEGAI-AGUA Village near Ialibu Patrol Post alleges that he saw men of the TARU group many years ago when, as a small child, he was visiting in the WIRU area. An attempt will be made to find out more about these TARU people when the next patrol proceeds to the WIRU division and visits the easternmost parts of that area.

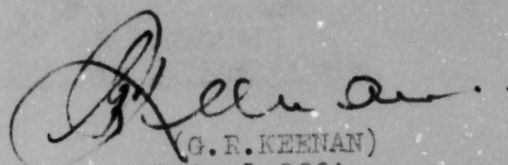
Such errors in names are bound to occur because of interpretation difficulties. There is in fact only one man available to us who can interpret direct from WIRU to Pidgin and he, although born in the WIRU, spent many years in the IALIBU area and has acquired IALIBU (or IMBOIE) pronunciations. For example, the Ceremonial Ground and Rest House at KAUWO, when given the IMBOIE pronunciation, becomes KAUGO or KA'UGWA.

I think that in future this division should be known as, and referred to, only as WIRU and the name WIRITARU should be abandoned.

CONCLUSION: All objects of the patrol were accomplished successfully. The arrest of the POROGO men will quieten-down the more boisterous groups of the area and will cause them to consider most carefully before they venture to flout the authority of the Administration by resorting to warfare in an attempt to right what they may consider to be wrongs.

The appointment of Village Constables and Councillors will be another means of extending Administration influence for they will be visible reminders to all of the Administration's concern with the general welfare and well-being of all groups.

The establishment of a Patrol Post in the area will be the means of bringing the area under full control but until such time work aimed at bringing the area under influence and partial control will continue. As in all other "new" areas the initial gains will be small but they will all add up, in time, to an area under complete control.


(G.R. KEENAN)
Patrol Officer

APPENDIX "A"

REPORT ON MEMBERS OF THE NATIVE CONSTABULARY ACCOMPANYING THE PATROL

No. 6617
L/Cpl. PITA

His first patrol since promotion to L/Cpl.. Capable and conscientious. Behaviour good. Discipline good.

No. 7500
Const. HENGITA

Duties performed satisfactorily. Behaviour fair. Discipline fair.

No. 8221
Const. IAHU (IAMA)

A good patrol Constable. Performed his duties satisfactorily. Behaviour fair. Discipline fair.

No. 9159
Const. ORAT

A young Constable. He is willing and tries hard. Behaviour good. Discipline good.

No. 9240
Const. TOPO

A disappointment. He is serving a gaol sentence for an offence involving a woman from the area in which the patrol made arrests.

No. 9251
Const. LEVOS

If his high opinion of himself was really warranted he would be an excellent Constable. In fact he is average only and inclined to be impetuous. Behaviour fair. Discipline fair.

No. 9437
Const. OGUMUGAI

His first patrol. Will need to improve. Behaviour fair. Discipline fair.

No. 9541
Const. AWIN


Has had previous service in Police Force. A man who needs watching. Behaviour fair. Discipline fair.

No. 9634
Const. LEFI

His first patrol. Performed his duties satisfactorily. Behaviour good. Discipline good.

No. 9715
Const. NIMBONGI

His first patrol. Will need to improve considerably. Young and foolish. Behaviour fair. Discipline fair.


(R. KEENAN)
Officer of the R.P.C.

APPENDIX "B"

MEDICAL AND HEALTH:

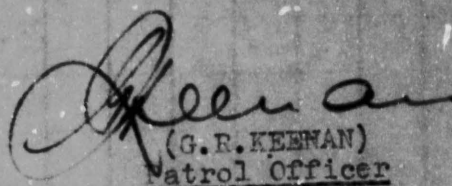
The general health of the people in the area patrolled appeared to be fairly good. Medical treatments are available to these people at the YOMONOWI (YOGERE) Aid Post. This Aid Post is some hours walk from the nearer WIRU Villages and it cannot be expected that they will voluntarily seek attention at that Post for some time yet.

Tropical Ulcers, Yaws and Scabies were seen in the area. The incredible number of flies which abound in this area would also serve to spread disease. As yet these people have not been introduced to the idea of the burial of deceased persons. The present method whereby the deceased is placed in a ~~raised~~ bark "coffin" which is placed on a raised platform close to hamlets could only serve to cause illness. Such a method of body "disposal" accounts in part for the large numbers of flies.

It was interesting to note that some of the natives have their own pit latrines. While the latrines as built by the natives are not entirely in accordance with what would be desired by us they are at least better than no latrines at all.

Mosquitoes were seen at MONDANDA, KAUWO and MELE. They appeared to be of the Culex variety.

Aid Post Orderly PARIGA of YOMONOWI (YOGERE) Aid Post accompanied the patrol and ministered medically to the patrol members requiring treatments. Treatments were also given to natives requesting them. PARIGA is a capable Orderly but is inclined to be rather slap-dash and lazy.


(G.R. KEENAN)
Patrol Officer