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Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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No 3



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of WESTERN Report No. WEAM No 1 63/64

Patrol Conducted by S.H. Cooper Patrol Officer

Area Patrolled FENSEBACH Census Division

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans Nil

Natives 3 R.P. & N. G.

Duration—From 16/4/1963 to 20/4/1963 + 27/63 to 4/7/63

Number of Days 16

Did Medical Assistant Accompany No

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services 1/8/1962

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

Map Reference Refer 4 mile one inch Army Strat Series

Objects of Patrol Routine Administration
Compilation of Common Roll

Director of Native Affairs,

PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

16/7/1963

District Commissioner 60

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

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

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

.....

.....

.....

Duplicate at Archives

67-3-4.

July 29th, 1963.

The District Officer,
Western District,
DABH

PATROL REPORT No. 163/64 - WEN

Receipt of the above-mentioned patrol report is acknowledged with thanks.

2. I am gratified to note that Mr. Cooper has earned the respect of the people. I hope that the Departments of Health and Agriculture are giving full co-operation to him in his task. The opening of the dispensary should assist the officer in his endeavours to keep the people interested in development.

3. The assimilation of the people into villages appears at the present moment to be running smoothly and it is hoped that this state of affairs continues. However, I have some reservations when the problem over land ownership emerges. Try and get some clear cut arrangements worked out now.

4. Try and get another H.M.O. at Mengate. The pit sawing venture should be fostered and timber purchased. If funds are a problem, let us know.

5. I am most gratified to note matters are well in hand and should remain so.

6. A most informative report by Mr. Cooper.


(J. K. McCarthy)
DIRECTOR

lat

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

67. 3. 1



File 67-4-1

District Office,
DARU,
Western District.

16th July, 1963.

→ Director of Native Affairs,
KONEDOBU.

PATROL WEAM NO. 1/63-64;

BENSBACH CENSUS DIVISION.

Attached is a report of the above 16 day patrol by Mr. S.H. COOPER, P.O. 64. 1. Also memo 67-4-1 of 16th July from A.D.O., DARU, who has covered all relevant aspects.

2. West Irian refugee matters are covered by my Patrol Report NOKSHAD 5/62-63 and attachments.

3. Mr. COOPER proudly admits deep attachment to the Oxford English Dictionary; I am now used to it! However, there is no doubt that he has got to know these people personally and deeply and has earned their respect. They showed their regard in reconstructing WEAM airstrip -- a good job, and to Mr. COOPER belongs credit for making the first holes in their permanent apathy.

I.A. Holmes
(I.A. HOLMES)
District Officer.

c.c. A.D.O., DARU.
c.c. O.I.C., WEAM.

67-4-1
(P/R WEAM No. 1
1963/64)

Sub-District Office,
Western District,
DARYL.

16th July, 1963.

District Officer,
Western District,
DARYL.

WEAM NO. 1. PATROL 1963/64.

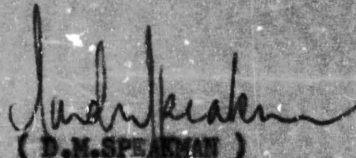
Attached for your information are copies of the above report.

1. The Common Roll sheets have been checked and found correct. This completes the Roll from Weam Base Camp.

2. Most of the other matters in the report have been dealt with in separate correspondence by yourself and the O.S.O. There are no comments I wish to make regarding migrations over the border.

3. As you know both Agriculture and Health patrols are at present in the area and full reports from the departments should be forthcoming.

Mr. Cooper's grandiloquent style of reporting tends to weary the reader after a while, however, the report and observations indicated that the objects of the patrol were carried out satisfactorily.



(D.M. SPEAKMAN)
Assistant District Officer.

PATROL DIARY

16th April 1963

0800 Departed WEAM for MENCETE arriving 1245. Road sodden for most part.

17th April 1963

0800 departed MENCETE for KOROMBO, arriving 1200. Remained overnight.

18th April 1963

0730 proceeded on to VAMBA. 0730-0915 to canoe place. 0930-1130 at MATHA per
0800. Heavy falls of rain during latter part of trip.

19th April 1963

0800 Census Revision and Medical Check all inhabitants. 1000 moved on to BAMBABER
where remained overnight.

20th April 1963

At BAMBABER. Census of BULA population.

21st April 1963

Returned WAMBO. Sunday observed.

22nd April 1963

Returned KOROMBO where slept.

23rd April 1963

0745 Departed KOROMBO for MENEVARE? ARRIVING arriving 1215. Census and Medical
Inspection. Slept.

24th April 1963

0800 moved on to IOKWA. Track well maintained. Census and Medical. Discussions.
Remained overnight.

25th April 1963

0800 Departed for HOUKU arriving 1000. ANZAC Day.

26th April 1963

Census and Medical in morning. Visited MORNEHEAD Patrol Post in afternoon.

Continued:

27th April 1963

0800 departed for HOKWA arriving 1230. Remained overnight.

28th April 1963

0730 continuation to INBORODORO. Sunday observed upon arrival.

29th April 1963

Census and Medical check all inhabitants. Departed mid-day for WAM arriving 1630.

2nd July 1963

Ex WAM to KANDAPISEA. Census and Medical. Visited INBORODORO thence returned WAM.

3rd July 1963

Proceeded to WEREAVE. Census and Medical.

4th July 1963

Census WAM.

END OF DIARY

INTRODUCTION

The area patrolled was the BENSBACK Census Division. Objects were general routine administration and compilation of the Common Roll. Both were effected accordingly.

Comprising a total area of eighteen hundred square miles, and having a population density of less than two per square mile, absence of human beings becomes one of the more obvious characteristics.

All villages are situated either on or between the BENSBACK/MOREHEAD R^r- drainage system. Water supplies pose a problem for those which are astride the tract of land between these two rivers. Wet months (May to March) present no difficulties: each and every creek, rivulet, etc, is in full spate. However dry months are a different proposition: metamorphism stage by stage reduces the entire divide into muddy dribbles, thence moistureless furrows and pans cracked by the searing heat.

Game is prolific. Deer and wallaby abound throughout the entire Division. Set Shotguns are few and the traditional, highly effective, bow and arrow and intrepid packs of emaciated baying dogs are utilized.

NATIVE AFFAIRS

Initially commenced in January, WEAM's presence is salutary. A 1640 x 150 feet airstrip is now open to aircraft. The initial landing and concurrent D.C.A. inspection took place on June the 30th. It's rapid construction may be attributed to able and zealous assistance by the local indigenous population.

Previously saturated in apathetic limbs, attitudes and mien of these people have taken a turn towards something more positive. Prior to WEAM'S establishment everyone existed as an introverted misanthrope stirred ever so slightly by a once yearly patrol.

A few disputes were brought forward; peccadilloes for the main and all were sorted out of court.

Migrations into the area from West TAIAN have occurred within the past few weeks. To date there are some three hundred persons being assimilated into BENSBAUGH Division villages. The matter has been, and is being dealt with under separate covers of correspondence. Currently a combined Agricultural/Health, Native Affairs led patrol is operating in the area.

A census of the mongrel population was made, as was a survey dilating MALAY and MOTUAN speakers. Details are to be found in Appendixes A and B of this report.

/-----

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Standards of living are not high, being barely above a subsistence level. Members of IOKWA and WEMENEVRE villages have combined together in a pit sawing enterprise. It is quite successful and timber has been sold at MOREHEAD Patrol Post.

Nature has endowed the area with a penurious environment which offers little or no potential for economic development. The sale of crocodile skins and fresh foods present and are the best sources of income.

Gardens are well maintained. Many were inspected. Yam is the staple diet. As one moves progressively westwards from the MOREHEAD River dual reliance on sago and yam becomes more prominent. Sweet potato and standard fruits (banana, paw paw, etc.) form supplementaries.

GENSUS AND STATISTICS

Inter-village movement is fairly quiescent; twenty five migrations in as against sixteen migrations out. A slight population increase has been recorded, but it is not enough and negligible to a degree where static level is the keyword.

HEALTH

There are two Aid Posts in the Division; at WANDU and MENGETE villages. WANDU now operates alone, the N.M.O. at MENGETE having recently departed for leave DARU. He does not look like returning.

Plans are being adumbrated for the provision of an Aid Post at WEAM.

Generally speaking health is good. There was a noticeable absence of yaws in this an area where the affliction once had a notorious hold.

Grille, as is usual, continues to thrive.

EDUCATION AND MISSIONS

An L.M.S. school supervised by a Moresby Pastor functions, maintaining an elementary standard. As depicted by the Census figures attendance at MOREHEAD Primary School is quite good.

VILLAGES AND HOUSING

Quite a high standard has been attained. Some instructions were issued.

CONCLUSION

Affairs to the West (West IRIAN section East
MERABU) appear to be most unsettled. Good enough
indication of this is the presence of three hundred
West IRIANESSE refugees. Paradoxically perhaps, Australian
indigenes, with an odd exception or two, seem to be
taking matters in their stride calmly and without
confusion. Their sympathies lie with the present
immigrants.

Matters are well in hand and should remain so.
Justification in WEAN lies in it's intergral role
and overall accessibility.

APPENDIX A

DOG CENSUS:

MENGETE	45
BULA	50
BANDABER	47
WANDU	70
KOROMBO	36
WEMANEVRE	40
TOKWA	40
ROUKU	37
TOKWA	17
ENDORODORO	51
KANDARI SIA	39
WEREAVE	21
WAKI	22
GRAND TOTAL	507

APPENDIX B
LINGUISTIC SURVEY

	MALAY		MOTUAN	
	M	F	M	F
MENCETE	NIL		9	-
KOLOMB	"		8	6
WANDO	4		19	7
BULA	NIL		10	3
BANDABER	"		9	2
WENIVALE	"		8	3
IOKWA	"		21	5
POUKU	"		19	6
TOKWA	"		6	1
INDOROGRO	3		7	2
KANDA USTA	1		6	5
WEREAVE	4	1	8	2
WEM	NIL		10	2
TOTALS	12	1	140	43

The above excludes schoolchildren attending MOREHEAD PRIMARY T. School.

THUS:	140	43
	21	17
GRAND TOTALS	<u>167</u>	<u>50</u>

One will please note the paucity of MALAY speakers



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of **WESTERN** Report No. **WEAM No. 2 63/64**

Patrol Conducted by **P.W.J. MCKENZIE (C.P.O.)**

Area Patrolled **BENSBACH CENSUS DIVISION**

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans **AGRICULTURAL OFFICER**

MEDICAL ASSISTANT

4 R.P. & N.G.C.

1 N.M.O.

Natives **2 AGRICULTURAL TRAINEES**

1 D.N.A. INTERPRETER

Duration—From **4/7/1963** to **22/7/1963**

Number of Days **19**

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? **YES**

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services **3/1963**

Medical **11/1962**

Map Reference **Per Map Attached**

Objects of Patrol **CONSOLIDATION OF DISTRICT OFFICER'S PATROL CONCERNING THE ASSIMILATION OF IRIAN REFUGEES INTO AUSTRALIAN TERRITORY & GENERAL ADMINISTRATION**

Director of Native Affairs,
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

19/8/1963

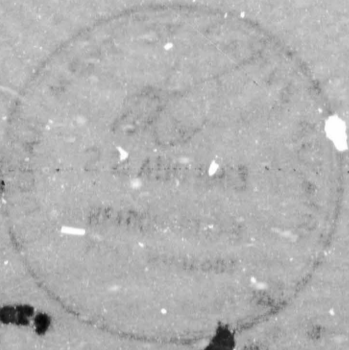
District Commissioner

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

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

Amount paid from P.E.D.P. Trust Fund

Bula
MIGRATION
In
F



67-3-2

29th August, 1963.

The District Officer,
Western District,
Daru.

PATROL REPORT NO. 2 - 1963/64 - W.D.

Receipt of the abovementioned Patrol Report is acknowledged with thanks.

It is heartening to know that the people from West Irian are settling in satisfactorily. I agree that they should become self-supporting as early as practicable and am gratified to note that generally, they are working well. Monthly visits should continue.


Encourage coconut plantings in conjunction with D.A.P.F. The West Irians should not be given the opportunity to become dependent on fish netted by the fisheries assistant but should be encouraged to make their own nets or fish with lines and traps.

I am unhappy about the West Irians not sharing some small part of their rations with local people who have been giving them garden food to supplement their rations. You should ensure that the encouragement to share mentioned by Mr McKenzie is fostered as it will result in improved relationships.

You should give continued attention to the refugees at Woun and ensure they also do a fair share of the work involved in their resettlement. I agree that care must be taken to ensure that the Wauke people are not dominated by their more sophisticated guests.

The BULA people require some assistance to assist West Irians living with them.

An informative patrol recording good work by all in the resettlement of the West Irian refugees.


(J. M. McCarthy)
Director.



67. 3. 2

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA



In Reply
Please Quote

No. 67-8-1
WEAM.2/63-64.

District Office,
Western District,
DARU.

19th. August, 1963.

The Director,
Department of Native Affairs,
KONEDOBU.

PATROL REPORT - WEAM 2/63-64.

HEMSEACH CENSUS DIVISION.

Attached is a report of the above 19 days patrol by
Mr.P.W.J. MCKENZIE, C.P.O., together with covering comments by
Assistant District Officer, DARU.

2. There is little I can usefully add to the latter,
Mr.Cooper's patrol instructions or the report itself.
3. I support Mr.Carey's commendations of the report.
- Mr.McKenzie's first solo one. From personal experience I am
much impressed with this young officer's promise.

.....
(I.A.HOLMES)
District Officer.

P.R. 2/63-4

Sub District Office,
D A R U.
Western District.
29th July, 1963

The District Officer,
Western District,
D A R U.

PATROL REPORT No.2/63-4 - BENSBACK CENSUS DIVISION

Forwarded herewith please find a report submitted by Mr P. McKennie, C.P.O. of a patrol to the Bensback sector, with particular emphasis on the problem of assimilation of W.N.G. refugees in the area.

The report makes it clear that the situation to date is stable, but that the patrol was timely in its reminder to our recent arrivals that they are here under our terms, and that they must pull their weight in settling into the community. We must, and will ensure, that the Iranians do not expect and await "favoured nation" treatment.

Mr McKennie's notation at Paras 8-9, Page 2 are well taken and his solution adequate.

Food resources, except in protein, are reported to be in danger of being strained, and, as you are aware, assistance is being given at all assimilation centres in the matter of rice supplies at 40% basic issue for new arrivals. Foodstocks held at WANDU and WEAM are adequate for the immediate future, and requests for additional supplies to 30 September have been submitted.

Patrols from WEAM, with specific aims of ensuring that gardens are made by the newcomers, and that stocks of seed materials are not exhausted, will be instigated on a regular basis - monthly.

Economically the area might be in a position to sustain a minor copra industry if suitable communications can be established. The overland link between Morehead and Weam could assist greatly when suitable transport is available.

The report of the Agricultural Officer who accompanied the patrol is not yet to hand. It is possible that the Iranian arrivals could trigger some increased demand for economic pursuits in the near future, and the Agriculture report should be of interest in this respect. The reported continuous planting of coconuts, albeit for home consumption, is a good sign.

The clearing of tracks through the area will greatly facilitate movement through the utilisation of cycles. Though restricted to the 'dry', such use should stimulate maintenance. Four cycles purchased on funds made available by Police, will be despatched to Weam on receipt for use in the sector.

In general the area and people appear stable, and the flexibility of village life appears to have weathered the shock of a doubled population in those villages where Iranians have been settled. Assistance with basic subsistence (rice) should be continued at minimal levels pending the production of newly developing garden areas. This is in hand.

On this, his first solo patrol, Mr McKennie has done a first class job. His report is well presented and he has reported on and assessed the facts he has noted.

Page. 2

The report, together with Mr McKenzie's claim for camping allowance is submitted for your information, advice, and further action please.

Could one copy of the report, with your comments, be passed to WEAH for their records please.

Arthur T Carey
Ass't District Officer.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

67-4-1

WEAM,
Western District,
1st July 1963

Mr Cadet Patrol Officer, MCKENZIE,
Patrol Post,
WEAM

WEAM Patrol No 2 63/64 :
BENSBACH Census Division

Please be prepared to proceed on patrol to the abovementioned area on Thursday, 4th July. The following police have been allocated:-

Constable 1st Class SENGLIO
Constable 5th Year POJARI
Constable 4th Year PLAKA
Constable 2nd Year SETA

Additional: D.N.A. Interpreter, DEREVI.

Messrs J. Owen-Turner, Agricultural Officer, and M. O'Callahan, Medical Assistant, will be accompanying you. Please provide whatever assistance they may require.


The principle objective is general consolidation and extension of the patrol made by the District Officer, DARU, and myself during the latter part of June. Ensure that the West New Guinean refugees domiciled at WANDO and BULA villages have commenced housing construction and the cultivation of gardens. Ample land, adequate for their needs, has been provided by the local indigenes. It is of utmost importance the above be implemented efficiently and without delay, particularly in the case of those residing at WANDO: they are current recipients of administration rations. Impress upon all same is but a temporary arrangement, the onus being upon them. Ensure there are no erroneous views to the contrary, and elucidate that they must comply with rules and regulations laid down by the Australian Administration. In other words a slovenly approach will not be tolerated.

Ascertain thoroughly how long it will be before the refugees are a self sufficient unit. Consultation with Messrs O'Callahan and Owen-Turner will be your guide.

A vessel is proceeding WANDO with rations and fuel. Calculate and lay aside a months supply as from the 13th July. Same will be left at WANDO and the remainder to come forward WEAM, as are supplies of fuel.

You will take a supply of Australian flags for issue KOROMBO, WANDO, MENGETE and BULA villages. You have been provided with an A510 transceiver which will facilitate communication with here and if need be, DARU. Other aspects of your patrol will be routine Administration. Check that all instructions previously issued have been completed and issue any where deemed necessary.

I wish you a pleasant and successful patrol.


S.H. Cooper
POIC

PATROL DIARY

Thursday
4th July 1963. 0900 Departed WEAM for KANDARISA arriving 1130 .
1330 Departed for MENGETE arriving 1530 . Inspection
of gardens & village . Medical inspection . Slept .

Friday
5th July 0800 Dep MENGETE for KOROMBO arriving 1200 .
Inspection of gardens & village . Medical inspection.
Slept .

Saturday
6th July 0800 Departed KOROMBO for WANDO arriving 1130 .
Review of all Irian Refugees . Slept Wando.

Sunday
7th July Observed at WANDO .

Monday
8th July Inspection of gardens & village . Medical inspection
of both, refugees and WANDO people . Supervision of
housing construction by refugees . Slept WANDO .

Tuesday
9th July Smallpox vaccination of all refugees at WANDO .
Await arrival of M.V. Elavala . Slept .

Wednesday
10th July Elavala arrived 0800. Unload rations, & other supplies
for WEAM. 1100 Departed WANDO for BULA per M.V.
Elavala . Slept at mouth of Bensbach River.

Thursday
11th July Continue to BULA . Held up due running aground.
Anchored at mouth of Moorehead River. Slept .

Friday
12th July 0800 Arrived BULA . Inspected gardens & village.
Slept the night .

Saturday
13th July Inspection of both , refugees & BULA people .
Smallpox vaccination of all refugees . Slept .

Sunday
14th July Observed at BULA .

Monday
15th July 0800 Departed BULA for BANDABER arriving 1500 .
Slept at BANDABER .

Tuesday
16th July Inspection of village & gardens . Medical inspection .
1100 Departed for WANDO arriving 1300 . Issue of
rations ex-Elavala . Preparation of double canoe
to transport supplies to WEAM . Slept WANDO .

Wednesday
17th July Loaded canoe for WEAM . 1030 Departed WANDO on
foot for KOROMBO arriving 1400 . 1430 Departed
KOROMBO for MENGETE arriving 1700 . Slept .

Thursday
18th July 0730 Departed MENGETE for WEMENEVRE arriving 1230.
Inspection of gardens & village . Medical inspection.
Slept .

Friday
19th July 0800 Departed WEMENEVRE for IOKWA arriving 1130 .
Inspection of gardens , pit saw , and village .
1400 Departed IOKWA for TOKWA arriving 1700 . Slept .

Saturday
20th July 0800 Departed TOKWA for INDORODORO arriving 1130 .
Inspection of village & gardens . Medical inspection.
1400 To KANDARISA arriving 1600 . Slept .

Sunday
21st July ~~XXXXXXXX~~
Observed at KANDARISA .

Monday
22nd July 0700 Departed KANDARISA FOR WEAM+, arriving 0830.

END OF DIARY

INTRODUCTION

2. The area patrolled lies to the south and east of WEAM PATROL POST, between the Moorehead and Bensbach rivers. At the time of the patrol the majority of the area was reasonably firm although still damp in places. Walking between KORCHBO and WANDU approx one hour swamp was encountered and approx three hours between WANDU and BULA.

During the period one week before returning over the WANDU - BULA road, it was found that the area had dried out considerably. Within three weeks it could be possible to cover all of this area on the motorbike, with the exception of the WANDU - BULA road.

Weather was fine during the patrol but somewhat cool at night, making blankets a necessary item at this time of the year.

As stated in the instructions the principle objective of the patrol was to consolidate the patrol made by the District Officer, DARU, and S.H. Cooper, O.I.C. WEAM, which dealt primarily with the assimilation of West Irianese refugees into villages within Australian Territory.

WEST IRIAN REFUGEES

3. At the time of commencement of the patrol, the only centres of accumulation of refugees, other than WEAM PATROL POST, were at WANDU village, on the east bank of the Bensbach, and at BULA village, at the mouth of the Moorehead on the west bank.

On arrival at WANDU, there were 84 refugees (from BUTI, NASEM, & SEPARDUM) living in the houses of the local people. Little effort appeared to have been made on housing or gardens. In fact they had taken two weeks to put in the stumps of three houses. No work had at this stage been started on gardens. Even allowing for the time lost carrying rations from WEAM, it appeared that the newcomers were not pulling their weight. The R.P.N.G.C. policeman, stationed at WANDU, reported that the refugees had done little more than eat and sleep since they had been here. Some had been fishing.

All refugees were addressed concerning their attitude towards working in their own interests, emphasis being laid on the fact that rations would be a temporary measure only. I am pleased to report, that on returning to WANDU one week later a much better picture was presented.

One point of interest, and importance, was that although the refugees appear to be mixing quite well with the locals, they are not sharing ration issues with them. It was felt that this could have led to a certain amount of ill feeling among the local people. A discussion was held with councillors of both parties and it was decided, that since they were now united as one village, such things would be shared.

In my opinion the refugees appear to be more sophisticated than the WANDU people, and care should be taken to ensure that no domination occurs.

Half rations, of all items except meat, for eight weeks from the thirteenth of July 1963 have been issued at WANDU. Lack of ration meat is compensated by the fact that there is an abundance of game not too distant from the village. Fish appear to be plentiful; catfish, swamp barramundi, & herring being consistently caught on lines.

Cont.

There appears to be a more industrious group of people at BULA. In all 68 of them. (Ex BUTI & NASEM). On arrival their housing programme was underway, and a community garden area had been cleared.

The local people here previously claimed that they could support the newcomers to their village, consequently no rations were provided. However a request has now been made for aid in this regard, and in my opinion, quite rightly so, as the population of BULA has almost trebled itself overnight.

Two weeks rations were later sent from WANDO (scale no meat) for the period 13.7.63 - 27.7.63. More will be required by the end of the month, and if none other are available more shall to be drawn from WANDO stocks.

As with WANDO game is abundant, so the diet here should not be lacking in protein. Fish are not so much in evidence, but crabs are readily obtainable amongst the mangroves.

FOOD RESOURCES

Garden areas of both WANDO and BULA were inspected by myself and agricultural officer, Mr J. Owen-Turner. In both cases the gardens (basically yam, with some manioc, taro, and bananas) were in excellent order and produce was of a good quality.

However it must be realized that these gardens were planted with a view to feeding only the local population. At present there will be more than twice the population depending on them until the new gardens begin to bear. With this strain on resources, there is a danger, that sufficient of the present crop will not be put aside for seed for the next planting. This point should be watched carefully.

At present the agricultural department are procuring supplies of seed plants outside the district. These may be planted as soon as they are received.

There are sufficient mature coconuts in the area to boost the food supply considerably.

With regard to the meat situation, as stated previously wild game is plentiful. (Deer, pig, wallaby, & wildfowl.)

Fishing lines and hooks have been issued, and ample quantities of fish are available to the line fisherman. At the present time there is a fisheries assistant working in the area with a mesh net. Test hauls at WEAM proved barramundi to be plentiful, as at WANDO. The net has not been used at BULA yet, and the strong current could be a problem there.

It is my opinion that the net be used with discretion, otherwise the people could tend to become too dependant on it. On the other hand it is a great asset to the area for this initial period, and will be invaluable in the case of an acute food shortage.

On present food resources these people would not starve, but until the present garden production is increased considerably they will need assistance to maintain a reasonable existence.

It will be at least three months before any production could be expected from new gardens.

*Dr. Napier
accused
will instigate
his men to
use the net
out purposefully*

4.

HEALTH

All refugees were given a medical inspection by E.M.A., M.O'Callagan and the accompanying N.M.O. Several cases of infantile scabies were reported, as were several tropical ulcers. Sipona was quite prevalent, for which several tins of whitfields ointment were issued.

With the exception of several small children all had previously received smallpox vaccinations, however all were done again by the patrol.

The majority of refugees are in good health, and appear to have that "well fed" look. Several tins of powdered skin milk was made available for babies needing extra nutrition.

STOCK

All stock was ~~XXXXXX~~ inspected by the agricultural officer and with the exception of several dogs all were in a good state of health. No disease was reported. Stock brought in by the refugees comprised, pigs, dogs, and 4 horses. No other stock was in evidence.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATIONNATIVE AFFAIRS

The people in this area appear to lead a reasonably peaceful existence, settling most troubles themselves.

Only one complaint was referred to the patrol. This concerned a quarrel which had occurred just prior to our arrival at BANDABER. The men involved were apparently intoxicated at the time, the quarrel having arisen over the ownership of tuba during a current drinking bout. Had the patrol not arrived at the time it would be unlikely that mention would have been made of the incident.

These people are fully aware of the current law concerning the making of tuba, and unfortunately are using it to the fullest advantage. It is most discouraging to see as the coconut trees are definitely suffering from the constant sapping.

The village councillors at BANDABER and TOKWA both appeared to be intoxicated on the arrival of the patrol at their respective villages. It was most discouraging to see, as at least one week's notice had been given of the pending patrol. This is not the type of person to be a village leader, but unfortunately there are few to choose from.

Village people were addressed, discouraging tuba drinking, emphasis being laid on the damage being inflicted on the trees, themselves, and their children's welfare.

Trade in tobacco procured sufficient fresh food for patrol personnel and carriers in all villages.

All previous instructions had been carried out to ~~XXXXXXXX~~ satisfaction. The village constable at BANDABER has a Special Arms Permit four months over-due. Village Constables throughout were most helpful and cooperative.

The Bensback people are a relatively happy group, and several pleasant evenings were had listening to the village people singing the local songs. Much to their pleasure recordings of the singing were then replayed. This put the patrol on reasonably good terms with the people, and cooperation in all ~~MF~~ aspects could not have been better.

Australian flags were issued at principle border villages and it was pleasing to note the enthusiasm with which flagpoles etc were erected in the centre of the villages. Village Constables were given instructions on the usage of the flag, and they appear to have taken great pride in their new acquirement.

*Talk
recorder*

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Although no figures are available at the time of writing quite a number of coconut trees have been planted during the last year, and the number of seed nuts in evidence promise for continued increasing of the number of trees. With the availability of transport facilities a small scale copra industry could be developed here. I believe moves are being made to procure a tractor to work from Moorehead in this capacity.

A pit saw is in operation at TOKWA and reasonably good timber is being produced by the operators. At present timber is being sold at Moorehead for use in the building of a welfare centre.

Other sources of income include, selling crocodile skins at the Moorehead Buyers Society, selling fresh food, carrying. During the last six months a considerable number of men have been employed in the construction of the WEA Patrol Post and airstrip.

The people in this area have considerable interest in the Moorehead Buyers Society and are using it to advantage.

AGRICULTURE

Coconut plantations are growing well in most villages, with new trees being continually ~~being~~ planted.

From reports by the agricultural officer accompanying the patrol, the gardens in this area are "a pleasure to look at". They have been well kept, and crops (mainly yams) are of a good quality.

It was advised that abandoned garden areas are being lost to future utilization owing to the absence of suitable cover crops. The agricultural department will be sending out field workers to this area to plant, and instruct in the use and benefit of cover crops.

Some of the rain forest areas here were reported to be potential rubber growing areas, and test plots are to be contemplated by the department of agriculture.

FISHERIES

Fisheries department are at present carrying out tests in the Bensbach river. To date reasonable success has been attained in the netting of barramundi. The immediate commercial potential is not great, but the supply is there if the transport and marketing facilities could be obtained.

HEALTH

All village peoples were inspected by the accompanying E.M.A. and where treatment was needed, this was given by the N.M.O. who also accompanied the patrol. The general health in the area is quite sound. Diet throughout the area is well balanced, ample meat being available to supplement the staple diet of yam, taro, sago, etc.

Sipoma is prevalent throughout the area. The state of personal cleanliness does not enhance the situation. Supplies of Whitfield's ointment were left at key centres, and instructions on cleanliness and the use of the ointment were given.

Several cases of tropical ulcers were treated.

The two aid posts in the area, WANDO and MENGETE, were unstaffed at the time of the patrol, both orderleys being on holidays. Neither of the aid posts appeared to be well equipped.

Village hygiene ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ is of good standard throughout the area. Pit latrines are in operation at all villages except BULA, where a tidal latrine is used. Water supplies are generally drawn from creeks, or swamps. The water generally is discoloured, but otherwise alright.

VILLAGE HOUSING

Houses are mainly bark structures with the majority tending towards kunai reeves. The average house in the area is of quite a strong nature, being reasonably well built.

Village layout is quite reasonable and in some cases quite pleasant. At WANDO houses appear a little too cramped, but this has been pointed out previously.

Repairs were necessary in some villages, but over all the standard would be slightly above average.

With exception of the rest houses at BANDABER and TOKWA, all rest houses and police barracks were in good condition.

ROADS AND BRIDGES

At this time of the year almost allroads are hard and dry. The only exception being the roads connecting KOROMEO - WANDO - BANDABER - BULA. With the exception of these all can now be traversed by motorbike.

Bridges have now all been rebuilt since the wet season and are of a strong construction. The ROKU - WEAM road is now in good order and a vehicle or tractor would have little trouble traversing most of it. The majority of tracks in the area have been cleared to a width of approximately eight feet. ~~XXXX~~ The country being basically flat affords natural roads once the initial clearing has been executed.

CONCLUSION

The general impression conveyed by this area is that of a reasonably happy and well off area . There is little lacking in the way of food supply at present , apart from the extra drain imposed on actual quantities on hand .

With the sudden increase in population from an outside source, a lot of new ideas will be born into the area . Naturally problems will arise . Differences of opinion must be expected . Conflicts between new and old will have to be handled carefully and tactfully .

Constant patrolling during the initial stages of ~~HEHE~~ assimilation will be necessary to ensure that harmony is maintained between the peoples from the very beginning.

With efficient administration of the area during the important initial stage , I can see no reason why the area will not benefit from the sudden increase in population.

P.W.J. McKENZIE
.....
(P.W.J. McKENZIE C.P.O.)

WEAM

Kereau

Kondarisa

Indarodoro

Mengete

Konambe

Takwa

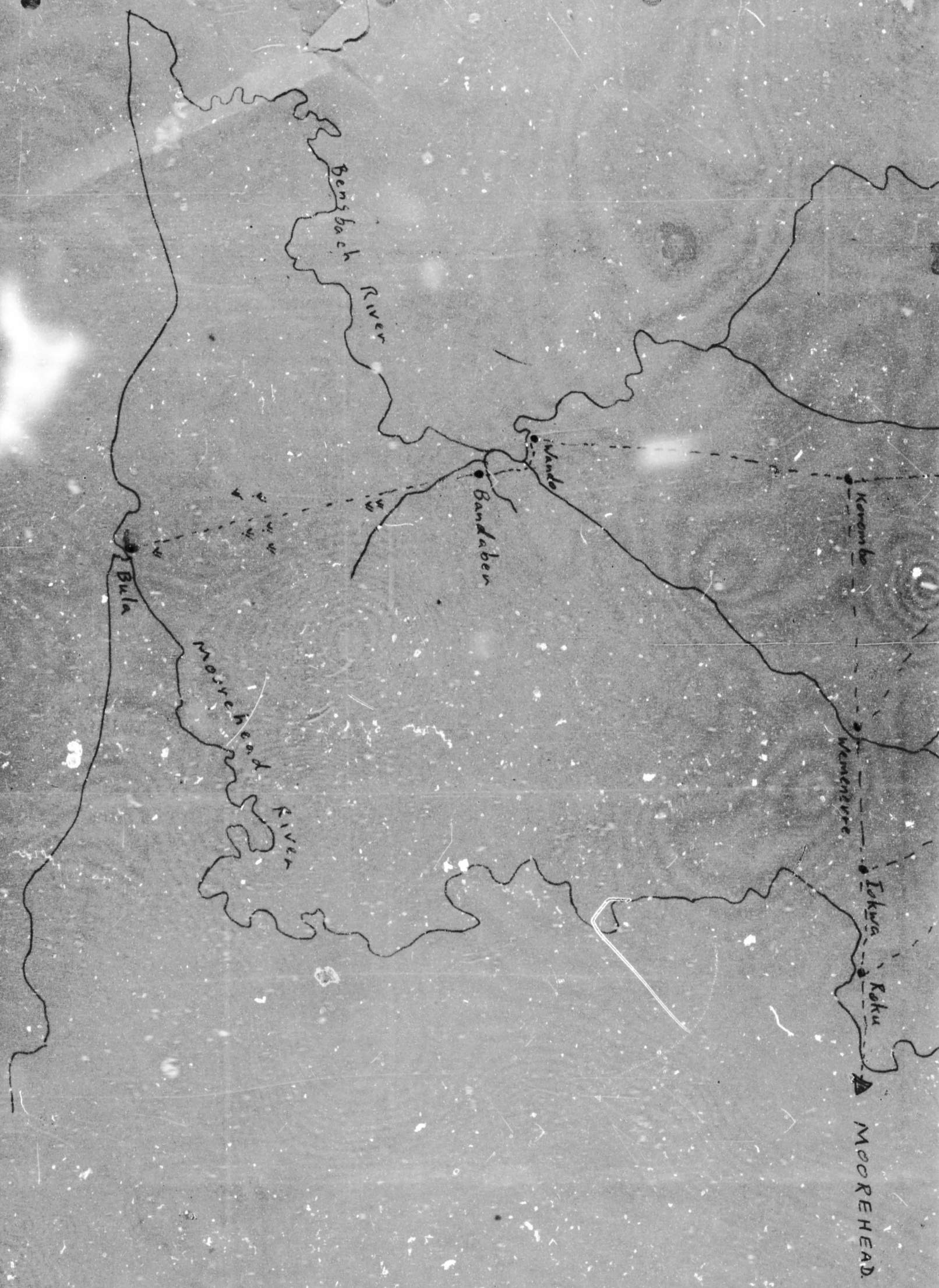
Wemense

Iokwa

Raku

MOOREHEAD





67-3-11

7th April, 1964.

District Officer,
Western District,
PAHU.

PATROL REPORT NO. 3-1963/64 - WEAK

Receipt of the above-mentioned patrol report is acknowledged with thanks.

2. The report reveals a well organised and successful operation.
3. It is gratifying to note that the people from West New Guinea have been readily accepted and are self-reliant and have their own gardens. I think they should be asked to contribute to road maintenance and assist in Administration requirements generally.
4. What are the pigs fed on during the flood season?
5. Mr. Douglas has organised his work well and I agree with him that the experience gained by the people this time should stand them in good stead during future elections.

*Duplicate Report
at Archives*


(J.K. McCarthy)
DIRECTOR.

IAH'CR.

67. 3. 11
(B)

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

File: 67-8-1



District Office,
Western District,
DARU.

17th March, 1964.

→ The Director,
Department of Native Affairs,
KONEDOBU.

PATROL WEA 3/63-64 - BENSBACH CENSUS DIVISION

Report of the above by Mr. I.M. DOUGLAS,
Patrol Officer, with covering memo by Assistant District
Officer, DARU Sub-District, is attached.

2. Whilst the two Sundays poll had not been
approved, the people in question are pagans and the
officer was undoubtedly endeavouring to keep up to schedule.
His election comments are relevant and will be included in
my overall report as Returning Officer.

3. Remarks on the assimilation of the West New
Guineans influx of June, 1963, are gratifying. Previous
reports were not as satisfactory.

4. The question of boar is being taken up in
separate correspondence.

No copies

I. A. Holmes
(I. A. Holmes)
DISTRICT OFFICER

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Ref: 67-8-1

Daru Sub-District Office,
DARU, Western District.

March 12th, 1964.

The District Officer,
Western District,
DARU.

WEAM PATROL REPORT No. 3/63-64 - BENSBACH AREA

... A brief report of the election patrol in BENSBACH submitted by Mr. DOUGLAS, is forwarded.

2. The elections proceeded smoothly and the majority of people elected to exercise their voting rights. Mr. DOUGLAS' comments in his ultimate paragraph are pertinent; candidates must be unknown quantities without any either electioneering or pictorial presentation.

3. Mr. DOUGLAS conducted the polls on Sunday 16th February, and March 1st. Both were necessary because of the need (as the only officer present) to discuss with the Army personnel, matters for which they had specifically flown to WEAM, and in order to meet the District Commissioner and District Inspector (Education) on Wednesday the 3rd of March.

4. Camping Allowance claims are forwarded for your approval.


(A. T. Carey)
Assistant District Officer.

TERRITORY OF KAJUA AND NEW GUINEA

(5)
19

Wear Patrol Post,
Via Duna,
Western District,
Banda

3rd. March, 1964

File: 67-4-4

The Assistant Resident Officer,
Fly River Open District,
District Office,
Banda

Wear Patrol Report No. 3-63/64 - Banda

Officer conducting patrol - I. H. Douglas, P.O.


Area patrolled - Banda Census Division

Object of patrol - Conduct polling for Banda Mobile

Duration of patrol - 15/2/64 to 3/3/64, 14/18 days.

Personnel accompanying patrol - Europeans... Nil

Natives..... SAIRA-AYAI, A.P.O.
BAND-JARAI, Interpreter
Const. Apori
Const. Hilday
Const. Piana
PIPA-JANUA, domestic


(I. H. Douglas)
Resident Officer
District Office

DIARY

Saturday 15th. February, 1964

Poll opened and voting commenced. Station people and some of West village completed by mid-day. Adjourned for lunch. Resumed in pm. 2.00pm Ceas in with Army Intelligence Officers on local survey; departed 6.00pm hence voting adjourned for the day.

Sunday 16th.

Poll opened and voting for West and Kandarisa village completed.

Monday 17th.

Patrol departed station walking to Kandarisa village in 2.15 hours. Rested thence onto Mengete in 1.45 hours. Poll opened for Mengete people. Slept Mengete.

Tuesday 18th.

Departed Mengete walking to Korombo in 2.45 hours. Poll opened for Korombo people. Slept Korombo.

Wednesday 19th.

Departed Korombo walking to Wando in 4.45 hours - last 3 hours road under water. Met at Wando by Returning Officer Fly River who arrived by helicopter. Poll opened for Wando people. Slept Wando.

Thursday 20th.

Departed Wando for Bandaber - 20 minutes walking and 2.25 hours by canoe due to flooded roads. Poll opened for Bandaber people. Slept Bandaber.

Friday 21st.

Departed Bandaber walking to Bula in 5.50 hours - approximately 25% of the road under water. Slept Bula.

Saturday 22nd.

Poll opened for Bula people. Some heavy rain during the day. Slept Bula.

Sunday 23rd.

Rested at Bula.

Monday 24th.

Returned to Bandaber, again in 5.50 hours - however 75% of the road under water today; rested thence onto Wando in 2.25 hours, mostly by canoe. Slept Wando.

Tuesday 25th.

Poll opened for various people who had missed voting before. Some general administrative matters attended to. Rested in pm. Slept Wando.

Wednesday 26th.

Departed Wando walking to Wenenevre in 7.10 hours. Poll opened for Wenenevre people. Slept Wenenevre.

Thursday 27th.

Departed Wenenevre walking to Tokwa in 3.45 hours. Heavy rain in pm. Slept Tokwa.

Friday 28th.

Still raining steadily, not easing until pm. when people departed for their gardens. Slept Tokwa.

Saturday 29th.

Poll opened for Tama people. When voting finished proceeded to Indoreore in 3.50 hours. Road almost entirely under water. Slept Indoreore.

Sunday 1st. March.

Poll opened for Indoreore people. Slept Indoreore.

Monday 2nd.

Proceeded to Wam via Kanderisa in 4.00 hours.

Tuesday 3rd.

Proceeded to Woreave per "H.V. ALDEA" - poll opened for Woreave people thence returned Wam.

All voting in Bamsbok Mobile thus completed. Patrol ends.

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NARRATIVE

NATIVE AFFAIRS.

The Bensbach census division, which this patrol covered, is perhaps unique in as much as it is also the only division for which the Patrol Post of Weam is directly responsible. Again there must be few other census divisions which have a total population of only some 680 - however it must be remembered that these 680 people occupy an area of some 1,700 square miles, that a patrol covering the area walks some 175 miles and that the division includes 50 miles of International border. On top of this for five months of the year 50% of the area is under water.

This combination of vast area, small population and water presents a problem virtually insurmountable when considering possible avenues of future development. This odd environment however does not worry the local population. Excellent walking tracks require virtually no maintenance; an abundance of building material is available in the form of T-tree bark, which provides walls and roof. The best village sites have long ago been chosen, as is illustrated by many stands of coconut trees which must be all of fifty years old. Food supplies are adequate to present needs. There is an abundance of game in all seasons, including deer, wallabies, geese etc. Traditional root crops and sago are supplemented by pawpaws, pineapples, custard apples, oranges and lemons and even some tamarces. The Dula people can collect a meal of sand crabs in ten minutes two hundred yards from the village. Not surprisingly health is good.

Attitude towards the Administration is good, and if the Village Constable at Dula is sometimes a bit slow reporting matters of importance to Weam, this is understandable when it is remembered he has a distance of 116 miles to cover for the round trip. For the same reason few people from these outlying villages help with station projects, but those villages on the river are currently collecting and preparing building materials, while those inland provide labour on the station.

Recent arrivals of refugees from West New Guinea have increased the population by some 40% in the last twelve months. These people have been readily accepted by the local population and have settled in well. They all now have their own gardens and are self sufficient, though in all cases the standard of the houses they have built is poor. Though more sophisticated than the Bensbach people they do not appear to be dominating the local scene. In fact they seem to consider themselves as little communities of aliens and appear to keep pretty much to themselves. The time must be near when they should be expected to contribute towards Administration sponsored work such as road and bridge construction, the supply of building materials etc. Those at Wando cunningly managed to absent themselves when carriers were needed. Future patrols should use them as carriers, thus taking some of the burden from the Bensbach men - at present villages have to provide carriers for four or five days to enable even a small patrol to move about.

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

Little need be added to what has been said above. The only cash crop produced is copra at Dula. A smoke house dries copra from trees in and around the village, but the people seem disinterested and the trees are few. Annual income from this source would only be a few pounds. Some experimental coffee plots have been planted out this year at some villages. How they will fare during the wet season is hard to say. Only other source of income is from occasional crocodiles shot. The Bensbach people are keen raisers of pigs. All villages have tiny pig pens scattered about the village, and the pigs are hand fed. Some really large animals were seen, their skin often having in rolls of fat. The placing of a good bear at Weam for breeding purposes may be one way in which the Administration could help in the area.

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EDUCATION

The Administration runs a school at Morehead and some children from the Bensbach area attend this. The L.M.S. at Wando also runs a school of sorts. Plans are currently in hand to open a school at Weam, which would be open to both children of refugees and Bensbach people. To this end a double class room has recently been completed at Weam, and a dormitory is now under construction.

ROADS AND BRIDGES

Condition of these depends on the season of the year. In the dry it would be possible to be able to visit every village in the division by Land Rover from Weam or Morehead. In the wet it is not possible to visit any of them. Recognized vehicular roads at present are Weam to Bula via Kandarisa, Monget, Korombo, Wando and Sandabor. Weam to Morehead via Kandarisa, Indorodoro, Tokwa and Rouku. Weam to Woreave. With a little work the remaining villages of Iekwa and Womenevra could be linked up also. The people are quite capable of building simple bridges under supervision; due to flooding in the wet these nearly all have to be removed each June/July. Bad patches where the road is wet even in the dry have been built up a few feet and cross-laid with sticks. This is quite a satisfactory procedure for a few hundred feet and involves little work. The Bensbach people are quite keen on road work, as they realize that as a result of their efforts their villages can be, and are, frequently visited by Land Rover.

Mission

Only one Mission operates in the area - the L.M.S. who have a school and Church under a Papuan Pastor at Wando. This Pastor seems a good type and the local people give a reasonable amount of support to his efforts. The West New Guinea Refugees are staunch Roman Catholics, but neither group appears to be attempting to convert the other, which is as it should be.

Conclusion

The main aim of this patrol was the taking of votes for the House of Assembly Elections. Despite some difficulties due to weather, the easy schedule set the patrol allowed it to complete the task on time. Considering the relative isolation of the area, the people had quite a fair idea of what was going on, but unfortunately they had little idea of the candidates. No candidate campaigns in the area, and no photos of candidates were available. This made it difficult for the people to choose intelligently, but the experience gained this time should stand them in good stead next time.


(I. H. Douglas)
Patrol Officer.