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PATROL REPORTS

DISTRICT: CHIMBU

STATION: Kundiawa

VOLUME No: 6

ACCESSION No: 496.

1961 - 1962

Filmed by/for the National Archives of Papua New Guinea,
PORT MORESBY - 1989.

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Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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CHIMBU PROVINCE

KUNSIANA

1961 - 62

14

1961 / 62

P. EMERY

UPPER CHIMBU



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

*Place in upper
Chimbu
District Report 1/62*

PATROL REPORT

District of EASTERN HIGHLANDS Report No. CHIMBU N° 14 6/62

Patrol Conducted by P. EMERY & L.W. DRASG

Area Patrolled UPPER CHIMBU

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans PEMERY

Natives 3

Duration—From 14/5/1962 to 24/5/1962

Number of Days 10

Did Medical Assistant Accompany —

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services 5/1962

Medical — / 19—

Map Reference CHIMBU SUB DISTRICT 1" to 2 miles

Objects of Patrol to mark the boundary of the upper Chimbu
onto an aerial photograph of the area.

Director of Native Affairs,
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

1 / 19—

.....
District Commissioner

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

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

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

.....

.....

.....

JWK/lmm.

67-2-2

Sub-District Headquarters, (38)
Chimbu Sub-District,
KUNDIAGA.

26th July, 1962.

The District Officer,
Eastern Highlands District,
GOROKA.

Subject: Chimbu Patrol 14-61/62.

Attached hereto please find following documents relating to the above patrol conducted by Mr. L. BRAGG, C.P.O.

- (i) Memorandum of Patrol;
- (ii) Diary in Duplicate;
- (iii) Report in Duplicate;
- (iv) Camping Allowance Claim
- (v) Osmins memo 67-1-1 of 2/7/62.

2. The patrol was of a special nature. The patrolling officer accompanying Mr. P. Emery, Agricultural Officer, who is undertaking the boundary survey, of the Population/Land Pressure Survey.

3. Some comments follow: Bracketed numbers refer to paragraphs of the reports:-

- (4) This is the only incident yet reported arising out of a misunderstanding of the patrol's purposes. It is remarkable in that firstly, it is the only such incident and secondly that the people readily accepted the compromise of marking both boundaries on the aerial photograph. The people have yet to visit this office to report the dispute and lodge their respective claims.
- (12-18) This information is also given in previous Reports and commented upon. Please refer Chimbu Report 13-61/62; Gembogl memo 51-1-3(15) of 25th June, 1962 and Kundiana memoranda 63-3-2(4) of 9th July, 1962 and 67-2-2(30) of 9th July, 1962.
- (20) Please refer to my comments in para 2. Sub-para 16, of my 67-2-2(30) of 9th July, 1962 in relation to possible cattle raising on alpine grasslands, Upper Chimbu Administrative Area.
- (23-28) The possibility of introducing trout to the mountain streams has been raised before. Please refer para 2, sub-para 16 of my 67-2-2(30) of 9th July, 1962.

4. This section of the Population/Land Pressure survey was undertaken prior to receipt of D.N.A. confidential memo 51-1-1 of 1st June, 1962. Mr. Bragge had been given verbal instructions which closely anticipated a number of points outlined in the Director's memo.

5. As stated in his memo 67-1-1 of 2/7/62 Mr. Bragge did not follow my instructions relating the method in which a Special Report should be submitted. I intend to show him the correct procedure when I visit Guinea within the next week.

6. Submitted for your information, please.

(James W. Kent.)
Assistant District Officer.

MEMORANDUM OF PATROL

Patrol No. Subdistrict CHIMBU District EASTERN HIGHLANDS
Officer Conducting Patrol P. Emery (Agric) L. Bragge (DIA)
Census Division Patrolled Upper Chimbu
Objects of Patrol To walk along the Census Division boundary of the
Upper Chimbu and to mark that boundary on an aerial
photograph
Date Patrol Commenced 14-5-62 Date Completed 25th May
Duration—days 11 days

SUMMARY OF CORRESPONDENCE ARISING FROM PATROL

Attached report

L. Bragge
Patrolling Officer's Signature.

I certify that all necessary local administrative action has been or is being taken on matters arising out of this patrol and that the correspondence above indicated by a "tick" has been forwarded to the Headquarters, Department of Native Affairs, Port Moresby.

.....
District Officer.

GUMLINE Patrol Post
CHIMBU Sub District
EASTERN HIGHLANDS DISTRICT

1st July 1962

Assistant District Officer
KUNDIAWA

PATROL REPORT CHIMBU No 1961-62

DIARY

- 14th May Departed Kundiawa with Mr Emery landrover for Kou rest house, arriving at 5PM. Slept Kou.
- 15th May Followed the Upper Chimbu, Waiye boundary line up from the Chimbu river to the top of the range which forms the western boundary of the Upper Chimbu Census Division. At the top of the range, the Southern part of the East Koronigl area replaced the Waiye Council area on the western side of the range. At 5PM descended the east side of the range to Yombai rest house. Slept Yombai.
- 16th May Ascended the range, then followed the East Koronigl Upper Chimbu boundary northwards. At about 4PM, arrived at a place above the Kangiri rest house where some Gena people have migrated into the Upper Chimbu (see later). Slept Kangiri.
- 17th May Followed the Kerowagi walking track from Kangiri to the top of the range, then followed the boundary of the Upper Chimbu and East Koronigl areas in an arc through rugged moss forest country, at one stage reaching an altitude estimated at 12,000 feet, where the forest gave away to grass and small trees. From this point, the boundary was visible as far as a stone crag, which is visible from Mt Wilhelm. Slept Kangiri.
- 18th May Walked from Kangiri to Gembogl Patrol Post. Slept Gembogl.
- 19th May Walked from Gembogl to the Mission station at Toramambano. Slept Toramambano.
- 20th May Walked from Toramambano via Keglaugl airstrip to the lakes at the foot of Mt Wilhelm (Walked through grass lands mentioned later). Slept at the lakes.
- 21st May Left the lakes at 6-30 am, reached the summit of Mt Wilhelm at 9-30 am. Marked the boundary on the aerial photograph as far as the track to Bundi, then descended via the lakes to Toramambano. Slept Toramambano.
- 22nd May Walked from Toramambano via Gembogl to Pomponeri rest house. Slept Pomponeri.

23rd May Walked from Pompomeri to the top of a branch of the main range, then down across a natural clearing (see later) then up to the top of the main range between the Upper Chimbu and the Upper Asaro. Marked the boundary as far as Mt Kerigomna. Slept Pompomeri.

24th May Walked to Gembogl. Slept Gembogl

25th May Returned to Kundiawa by Landrover.

END OF DIARY.

INTRODUCTION.

1. The purpose of the patrol was to mark the boundary of the Upper Chimbu onto an aerial photograph of the area. The actual area patrolled was the boundary of the Upper Chimbu, from Kou rest house to the top of the range between the Upper Asaro and the Upper Chimbu, above Pompomeri rest house. Several weeks previous to this patrol, Mr Emery and myself had followed the Yonggamugl, Waiye boundary up from the suspension bridge below the airstrip at Kundiawa to Pari.

GENERAL ATTITUDE OF THE PEOPLE TO THE PATROL.

2. As land ownership can be such a touchy problem, the marking of a land boundary on an aerial photograph, (which entails walking around a good portion of the boundary with the land owners from both sides of the boundary) is a job in which a good deal of care must be taken to explain the reason for the interest in the boundary.

3. For this reason we left no marks on any part of the boundary, and explained to the land owners involved, the general reason for the patrol and that if there were any disputes over ownership of land, that we would mark both disputed boundaries on the photograph, and that the patrol had nothing to do with settling land disputes.

4. After this was clearly understood by the people, the job proceeded smoothly, except for a small incident on the first day when we were marking the Komanegu (Waiye) and Kewandegu (Upper Chimbu) boundary. There was a dispute involving a small area of land, because we asked one side where they thought the boundary went, the other side did not think they were going to get a hearing. Tempers became frayed, but the situation soon settled itself when we marked both boundaries onto the photograph.

5. A probable reason why we struck no trouble after the first day was that the boundary followed the top of range for the rest of the time, so there was no gardening land involved. The ownership of pandanus palms could have caused a dispute, but there was no dispute.

6. The closer we came to the Mt Wilhelm area, the less interest the people seemed to show in their land. At these high altitudes there is nothing to interest the people in the land. It is too cold to grow gardens and pandanus palms. It too cold for wild life. The area is too distant to worry about getting timber from (this refers to the area where the forest starts to peter out into grassland). This area starts about five hours walk roughly north of Kangiri rest house and extends over the summit of Mt Wilhelm, and down the other side to the timber line.

7. A general fear of this region is held by the Upper Chimbu people. Sometime in the past some Native people perished from the cold, and as the area is practically useless, it is considered to be a "place no good".

THE BOUNDARY

8. After the first day the boundary follows generally along the top of the range, now and then dropping a little to one side or the other.

9. Towards the end of the second day we came on a Group of Gena people (originally from the Kerowagi area) who at some time in the past had migrated into the Upper Chimbu. These people who are about 150 in number now have land ownership rights in the Upper Chimbu only (they have lost their Koronigi land ownership rights). These people caused the patrol no extra work as they now line for census in the Upper Chimbu, so as far as the patrol was concerned, they are Upper Chimbos. (For usefactory land rights see later)

OWNERSHIP RIGHTS IN OTHER AREAS.

10. On the fourth day, after following the Kerowagi walking track from Kangiri to the top of the range, we found that the boundary dropped down the Kerowagi side of the range for a couple of hundred yards, then followed ~~the~~ a gully back to the crest of the range. This boundary was a clear cut boundary as far as land ownership went, but the Upper Chimbu people have the rights to the pandanus palms on the Kerowagi side of the boundary.

11. The people themselves do not seem to know just why this is so. Possibly there was a dispute over ownership of the land in the past, and the Upper Chimbu people had to give the land to the Kerowagi people, but some how retained the ownership rights to the pandanus they had planted.

USEFACTORY LAND RIGHTS

12. After passing through the Wilhelm area we learned of the usefactory land rights held between the Upper Chimbu and Bundi and the Upper Asaro and Upper Chimbu peoples.

13. Instances of Upper Chimbos gardening outside seem more common than Upper Asaro or Bundi people gardening in the Upper Chimbu.

14. It is not unusual for an Upper Chimbu group to have gardens in the Upper Chimbu and Upper Asaro or Bundi areas at the one time.

15. I think it is true to say that in most cases that when people take up these rights in other areas, they go and garden on a relative's land.

16. This is also true of the Gena people mentioned earlier, although they hold no ownership rights, they exercise usufructory rights, *in the Koronige*

17. In most cases these usufructory rights last only one season, usually a man does not have the right to a garden for years on end, in the one area.

18. A possible reason for the close relationship of the Bundi people with the Upper Chimbu people is that there used to be a well established trade system between the two groups

POSSIBLE PROJECTS IN NOW USELESS AREAS

(A) 19. Although this has little or nothing to do with the land pressure survey, I think it is worth a mention.

20. As we walked through the high altitude grasslands just below the lakes at the foot of Mt Wilhelm and later as we walked from Pompomeri to the Upper Asaro boundary, Mr Emery remarked on the possibilities the areas have for cattle. I noticed a distinct likeness between this country and the cattle country on the Victorian highplains

21. Both the Pompomeri area and the lakes area are heavily grassed and well watered, and relatively flat. Neither area is of any use as a garden area because of the altitude.

22. The actual area near the lakes is difficult to judge, but the natural clearing above Pompomeri would be about three miles across, and probably the same in width.

(B) 23. Being a keen trout fisherman, the first glimpse of the lakes took my breath away. The lakes are deep and cold, and to me represent the perfect place to introduce trout.

24. Feeding might be a problem but the creek flowing into the lakes may provide sufficient food, and there may be a good deal of natural food in the lakes

25. The creek that flows through the clear area above POMPOMERI could be another worthwhile place to introduce trout. This creek has its headwaters in small creeks in the mountains, these creeks would probably make excellent breeding grounds. What makes me suggest this creek as well as the lakes is that it reminds me of the headwaters of the Kiewa river, one of the best trout streams in Victoria.

Register 5.

26. There may be eels in this creek, but even if there is I think the trout would have a good chance of survival. I think Rainbow trout would be the best suited to these waters.

27. I think introducing trout to these two waters would be a relatively inexpensive, and worth while project. Neither place is very difficult to get at, and another source of food may be given to the local people.

28 Neither of the above ideas may be original, but I feel that they are worth some consideration.

L. W. Bragge

L.W. Bragge
(Cadet Patrol Officer)