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# PATROL REPORTS

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# Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

# PATROL REPORT

District of Western Report No. 1 - 64/65

Patrol Conducted by W. G. SPELDEWANDE Patrol Officer I

Area Patrolled Part Bensbach Census Division

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans NIL

Natives 1 SPANGO, 1 Interpreter, 1 Personal Servant

Duration—From 20/7/1964 to 22/7/1964

Number of Days 3 days

Did Medical Assistant Accompany No

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services March /1964

Medical ????????/19

Map Reference.....

Objects of Patrol Routine Administration, Forewarning local inhabitants of

Operation Sprinkler

Director of Native Affairs,

PORT MGRESBY.

Forwarded, please.

26/8/1964

W. G. Speldewande  
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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67-3-2

Department of Native Affairs,  
Konedobu, Papua.

9th September, 1964.

District Officer,  
Western District,  
D A R U.

PATROL REPORT NO. 1-64/65 - MCGREHEAD:


Receipt of the abovementioned Patrol Report is acknowledged with thanks.

The "sprinkley" operation will be followed shortly by further visits of which Mr. West, District Inspector will advise you.

The matter of deer meat is being taken up with the Department of Agriculture.

You should discuss with Missions the problem of young village children being held by the Pastors beyond an age when they will be too old to enter Government schools.

An informative report.

  
(J.E. McCarthy)  
DIRECTOR.



67. 3. 2 (9)

ATC'CR  
67-4-1



District Office,  
Western District,  
DARU.

August 10th, 1964.

The District Officer,  
Western District,  
DARU.

MOREHEAD PATROL No. 1 of 1964/65 - W.C. SPELDEWINDE

...

The attached Patrol Report refers.

2. The notation of the effect on IOKWA and WEMENEVRE of news of the operation is somewhat disturbing but undoubtedly tied in with an inherent fear of being caught between two fires. I would be interested to learn what reaction was actually shown when the patrol visited the village.

3. The patrol was necessarily rapid, being solely for the purpose of explaining Operation Sprinkler to the local people. As seen, it was a highly desirable function and proved successful.

✓

4. Camping Allowance in respect of the Patrol is attached for certification and payment.

Minute to:

The Director,  
Department of Native Affairs,  
KONEDC U.

Forwarded please. The presence of operation "Sprinkler" had very good effect in villages nearer MOREHEAD. It was well accepted near WEAM but ~~and it~~ have quite the same prestige owing to the soldiers being somewhat wetter and more tired.

*A. T. Carey*  
(A. T. Carey)

Assistant District Officer

*I. A. Holme*

(I. A. Holme)  
DISTRICT OFFICER

File 67-4-1  
August 26th, 1964.



⑥

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

67 - 1 - 2

Morehead Patrol Post,  
WESTERN DISTRICT.

6th August, 1964.

The Assistant District Officer,  
Daru Sub District,  
DARU.

MOREHEAD PATROL REPORT No 1-1964/65

Enclosed please find the abovementioned Morehead Patrol Report and claims for Camping Allowance.

Thankyou for your 67-4-1 dated July 31st, 1964. I intend replying to it fully in the very near future. In the meantime please find Camping Allowance and Census Figures that weren't included. Any inconvenience caused is regretted.

Reference the sale of deer meat etc. to the Torres Strait Islands - had read the circular but had forgotten about it until you brought it to mind. I will try to police it as much as possible but you will no doubt agree that it is fairly difficult to do so with a Police Detachment of 4 members. This trading has been going on for years and we will have to offer the coastal villages something in exchange. I will think about this and let you have my proposals in the near future.

*W. G. Speldewinde*

W. G. SPELDEWINDE  
Officer in Charge.







(u)

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL DIARY

20th July, 1964. Monday.

Sgt. MAGAIDIMU and Const. TOMATA departed Morehead 0930 for WEAM via the Morehead/Weam Road. 1100 RAAF Hercules landed with men of the 5th Pentropic Division, 'B' Company. Camped at old school site. Lunch with ~~me~~ OC, 20IC and Plateau Commanders discussing roads and routes to be taken. Departed Morehead 1415 accompanied by Constable 1/C ANDARIPA, Interpreter DERIVI and personal servant. Arrived IOKWA 1630. Discussions with Village folk etc.. Departed IOKWA 1735 and arrived swamp 1935. 20 minutes spent crossing swamp and finally arrived WEMENEVRE Village 2010. Slept.

21st July, 1964. Tuesday.

Discussions with WEMENEVRE folk. Departed 0750 and arrived KORUMBO 1150. Discussions with village folk etc.. Departed 1300 and arrived WANDO 1700. Discussions etc. Departed WANDO per M.V. 'AIDIA' 1900 for WEAM.

22nd July, 1964. Wednesday.

Arrived WEAM Patrol Post 0100. Discussions with OIC. Departed WEAM 0930 and arrived WEREAVE 1100. Accompanied by Mr. R. McLellan, OIC WEAM. Discussions and census at Wereave. Departed Wereave 1300 and arrived Weam 1410. Conversation with Morehead 1600. Patair Cessna in 1700. Self departed Weam 1730 and arrived MOREHEAD 1750.

END OF PATROL

Introduction.

The main purpose of this patrol was to travel along one of the routes to be used by the troops in Operation Sprinkler and forewarn the local inhabitants of their presence and objectives. The patrol was into the Bensbach Census Division that was completely foreign to me - however it gave me an idea of the type of country that lies between the Morehead and Bensbach Rivers.

Native Affairs.

The patrol was well received in all the villages. A few complaints were lodged with me on various ~~points~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~route~~. These were all referred to the OIC at Weam who ~~concerned~~ ~~the~~ ~~area~~.

At IOKWA and WEMENEVRE the local inhabitants when told of the impending patrol through their village got most agitated



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and wanted to kill their pigs and burn their gardens. I managed to pacify them all and explained that it was only a familiarisation patrol by forces that are their friends. In the remaining villages the news of the patrol was received with a great deal of pleasure and promises were made that plenty of food would be made available for the troops.

#### Topography.

The whole area was extremely flat and uninteresting. I found a little bit of interest because I was walking through it for the first time. There are no hills or ridges as such and swamps are the predominant feature of most of the area. Pockets of heavy forest were found but for the rest of the part it was lightly timbered country.

The two main rivers are the Bensbach and Morehead. Due to the lowlying country they do not drain the country too well. With the Wet Season only just terminating it is felt that the whole countryside should be dry in about six to eight weeks time.

#### Roads and Bridges.

It could be that I have been spoilt by the condition of the roads and bridges in the Upper Morehead and Trans Fly Census Divisions, but the roads and bridges that I used were in very a very bad state of disrepair. The excuse used was that they had been working on the main Morehead/Weam road. Most of the bridges only had one log across the stream and the remainder had nothing. The grass was waist high on the Wemenevre/Korombo section.

I feel that it would be practically impossible to put a vehicular track from Iokwa to Wemenevre because of the big swamp and river outside Wemenevre. The main road to Wando from Morehead would have to go through Kandarisa. The Korombo/Wando section was under water for a good part of the way. Once this section dries up the road to Wando should be excellent. Very little maintenance would be needed. All the bridges that were seen were good and strong.

#### Education.

There are ~~two~~<sup>four</sup> schools in the Bensbach Census Division. The Government School at ~~KAMEE~~ Weam run by an Auxiliary Division Teacher and the IMS School at Wando run by a Pastor from Port Moresby. Another IMS school at Iokwa is in the process of opening and a Cook Island Pastor runs the fourth school at Reuku. The standard attained and maintained at the IMS schools is not high. Unfortunately the Pastors insist on hanging on to the young village children till they are too old to enter the Government Schools. Very few of the parents wish their children to go to ~~sakani~~



(2)

school far away from their own villages. Let us face it, what Australian parent will send a 6 year old infant away to boarding school? However these folk live in an area where the population is such that a school in every village is impossible.

The school at WEAM has to feed all bar a dozen children who belong to the Station and Weam Village. I don't think it would be a bad idea to close down the school at Weam and send the children to Morehead. Until the beginning of 1964 the school at Morehead fed the children from the Bomsbach area and I don't think there will be much difficulty in reverting back to the old scheme. It would release another teacher for work elsewhere in the District.

Missions and Missionaries.

The only mission in the area is the London Missionary Society. They have a Cook Island Pastor stationed at Rouka and two Port Moresby men at Iokwa and Wande respectively.

The Montfort Catholic Mission at Kiunga has expressed a desire to move into the area to look after the refugees from West New Guinea. The Anglican Bishop of Carpentaria has also expressed his intentions of moving in to help the London Missionary Society.

Village Officials.

Very few Village Officials were seen because they were at Weam working on the station. The few Councillors I met were very helpful.

Agriculture.

Insufficient time was had in the villages to inspect gardens etc.. An Agricultural patrol through the area last year would give all the details required.

  
W. G. B. DEWINDE

Patrol Officer 1.



MEMBER OF THE RP&NC THAT ACCOMPANIED THE PATROL

Constable First Class ANDARIFA. Steady and good worker. An asset to any patrol.

*W. G. Speldewinde*  
W. G. SPELDEWINDE  
Officer in Charge





TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

# PATROL REPORT

District of WESTERN Report No. <sup>A</sup> 1 - 64/65

Patrol Conducted by P. J. PARNWELL CADET PATROL OFFICER

Area Patrolled UPPER MOREHEAD CENSUS DIVISION

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans W. SPELDEWINDE (Part only)

Natives 1 R.P. & N.G.C. 1 INTERPRETER, 1 N.M.O. & 1 PER. SERVANT.

Duration—From 22./8./1964 to 12./9./1964

Number of Days 22

Did Medical Assistant Accompany No

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services 3/1964

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

Map Reference TRANS-FLY FOURMIL

Objects of Patrol CENSUS AND ROUTINE ADMINISTRATION

Director of Native Affairs,  
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

17/12/1964

[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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67-3-21

19th February, 1965.

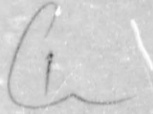
The District Commissioner,  
Western District,  
D. A. R. U.

PATROL REPORT NO. 1 - 1964/65 - MORIHAD

Receipt of the above mentioned report  
together with your covering memorandum is acknowledged  
with thanks.

Has production from the saw mill at Uparua  
ceased whilst the owner is absent?. If so, it is  
a pity that arrangements were not made to keep it  
operating in his absence.

A good patrol well reported.

  
(J.K. McCarthy)  
DIRECTOR

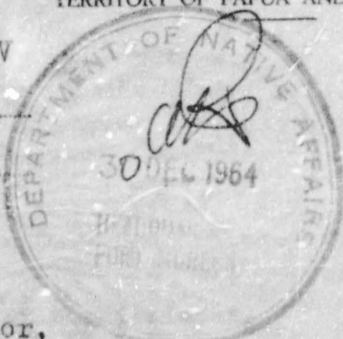




67.3.21 (12)

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Telegrams DISADM ATC:ROV  
Telephone 67-4-1  
Our Reference.....  
If calling ask for  
Mr.....



Department of District Administration,  
Western District,  
DARU.

17th December, 1964.

The Director,  
Department of District Administration,  
KONEDOBU.

PATROL REPORT - MOREHEAD No 1/64-65.

1. The attached patrol report from Morehead, refers.
2. The report is a good comprehensive effort for an initial patrol and will have proved an invaluable experience for Mr. Parnwell.
3. The comments of Mr. A.D.O. Douglas adequately cover the report and the general situation prevailing. The major problem which faces the Morehead people is far too extensive within this District - inadequate communications and expensive carriage over long distances.
4. The Department of Trade and Industry have been requested to assist in investigation of the shipping cooperative between the three (3) Societies at Morehead, Lake Murray and Kiunga. It is possible that this avenue could assist to a slight degree in produce movements, but in many instances the distances even to shipping points will preclude all but the more exotic crops.
5. The importance of protecting the dwindling crocodile industry cannot be too greatly stressed. I have your most recent submission on the matter and realize the problem - but can we afford to wait the results of the survey by the Director of Fisheries? I fear by then there will be too few left to gain.

I am contacting Lake Murray re Kawatanga's projected return so that I may be kept informed of any problems that may arise.

Extracts of the report have been passed to interested departments, locally.

*F.A. Binsted*  
(F.A. BINSTED.)  
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER.



(11)

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Morehead Patrol Post,  
Via Daru,  
Western District,  
Papua.



4th. December, 1964

File: 67-4-1

The Assistant District Commissioner,  
Daru Sub-District,  
District Office,  
Western District.

Morehead Patrol Report No. 1 of 1964-65

Upper Morehead Census Division - P. Parnwell, C.P.C.

Attached please find two copies of the above-mentioned report, as well as claim for camping allowance. It is realized that there has been a time lapse of almost three months in the submittal of this report. Two weeks after Mr. Parnwell returned from patrol, the Officer-in-Charge, Mr. Speldewinde departed on leave, handing over the station to Mr. Parnwell. Further, there was a three weeks army exercise in the area, a visit by the Administrator, and also by a District Inspector. Hence it was only after the handing over of the station to myself on 16th. November that Mr. Parnwell has had any time to devote to the report.

This was Mr. Parnwell's first solo patrol, and it is obvious from the report that some thought has gone into the problems facing the area. All round it is a good effort, and with a little more experience behind him it is obvious that Mr. Parnwell's work should develop to a high standard.

This is the third patrol this year to the Upper Morehead Census Division. Unfortunately patrol instructions were not issued.

KAWATANGWA (diary 28-8-64) is a village which has moved down from the north and settled in the Upper Morehead since the compilation of the current village directory. It has been explained to Mr. Parnwell that village names should correspond exactly to those in the village directory, if necessary an Appendix being added to the report listing recommended changes for future directories.

Any attempt to move the people of KWARI by force or threat must not be contemplated. However, if the people can be convinced by verbal explanation that it is in their own interests to move to GWAKU this should be done. It is quite ridiculous having a population of eight out on a thirty mile limb, within a stone's throw of the West Irian border. There appears to be no question of the GWAKU people not wanting the KWARI's in their village, in fact the KWARI's own land in the vicinity of GWAKU. Excursions across the border by these eight people cannot be controlled from Morehead. This means that the eight concerned run the risk of upsetting the local Indonesian authorities, and also that the chances of spreading diseases are increased. If the Kwari's do move, however, thirty miles of No-Mans-Land should prove an effective buffer to the introduction of such diseases. Should the people, however, wish to remain at Kwari, a rest house and barracks must be constructed between Kwari and Gwaku. It is pointless carrying canvas for the full duration of a patrol, just for one night's use.

Presumably there can be no objection to the TERARDMA people returning to Lake Murray, so long as they own land there. However, such population movements as these effectively squash any attempt at economic development, and should be minimized as far as possible.



A 5% annual increase in the population is indeed high. If this rate continues the population will double in approximately eighteen years. As there is little food surplus now, in the wet season, it is obvious that the Department of Agriculture must soon pay attention to this matter. The staple diet in the Bensbach during the wet season wallaby and coconuts. With the increase in the number of shot guns the availability of wallabies may well decrease, and with the increase in tuba drinking the number of matured coconuts suitable for consumption does decrease. Hence if the people are faced with a population explosion, they are also going to be faced with a pressing food problem. Admittedly gardens in the Upper Morehead produce a little more than gardens in the Bensbach during the wet, due to a few more feet of elevation, but a potential problem may be around the corner nevertheless.

Most of the Upper Morehead was visited by an Agricultural Patrol in September this year, but so far the results of this are not to hand.


When Mr. Parnwell says in paragraph 21 that there is an "excellent potential for cash cropping" he means that should markets be available, and the people sufficiently interested, the ground is capable of producing cash crops in some parts. Unfortunately, markets are not available. Should people around SUKI wish to send vegetables to Daru I can envisage no difficulty in selling them. However, the people are unlikely to know when boats are going to Kiunga and Lake Murray, even less likely to know when they are returning, and vegetables cannot be stored for long periods. Should these problems be able to be overcome, the distances involved would restrict the feasibility of the scheme to those villages near the river. No native is going to grow vegetables, carry forty or fifty pounds of them on his back to the Fly River twenty miles away, wait for a boat, get possibly 10/- for his trouble, then walk home again; and who can blame him?

I agree that a restriction should be placed on the size of crocodile skins saleable within the Territory. The restriction should not be less than 12" and should be considered seriously in the very near future. Two years, or even twelve months hence may well be too late. The size of skins being bought into the Morehead Buyer's Society is decreasing noticeably. Should this area be shot out, the only means of making money open to these people will be effectively and irrevocably closed for good.

There is a plan afoot to purchase the full output of the saw mill at UPA VA, the Departments of Education and Public Works co-operating here. Unfortunately the owner of the pit saw is currently in the Morehead Corrective Institution on a charge of assault resulting from a bout of tuba drinking.

The problem of finding employment for children leaving school is universal throughout the Territory, not just peculiar to the Morehead area. It is a problem for which I know no answer, at least for lower grades.

The patrol was not a hurried one, and I feel sure that the area benefited from it. In conclusion I would say that it has been explained to Mr. Parnwell why it is important that at least one night be spent in every village of the census division when on patrol.

  
(A. M. Douglas)  
Assistant District Officer



MOREHEAD PATROL POST  
DARU SUP-DISTRICT  
WESTERN DISTRICT

Nº 1 - 64/55

Patrol Conducted by

P.J.Parnwell C.F.O.

Area Patrolled

Morehead Census Division

Patrol Accompanied by

Europeans : W.Spalding (part only)

Natives : 1 R.P.A.N.G.C.

1 F.N.O.

1 Interpreter

1 Personal Servant

Duration of Patrol

22/8/64 to 12/9/64

22 days

Last Patrol to Area

March 1964 Elections

Objects of Patrol

Census and Routine Administration





PATROL DIARY

AUGUST 1964

- SATURDAY 22nd. Departed Morehead 0940 per tractor and trailer for KERU, stopped at MATA 1040, continued on stopping at DIRAIA, after many delays caused by bogging the tractor was left to return to Morehead, the rest of the journey was done on foot arriving 1810 at KERU.
- SUNDAY 23rd. Medical, and Village Inspection and Census at KERU. 0940 departed on foot for SERKI, arriving at 1240. Census, Medical and Village Inspection carried out.
- MONDAY 24th. Departed SERKI 0830 on push bike, reached swamp in Sain. (carriers 15min.), 55min. push bike ride (carriers 1hr.), 2hrs 10min. canoeing through swamp arrived ISALA 1240. Census, Medical Inspection and Village Inspection.
- TUESDAY 25th. Departed Isala (IMPOROK) 0815 in canoe, 0930 set out on push bike for DURU, arriving 1345, carriers taking 7hrs.
- WEDNESDAY 26th. Census, Medical Inspection and Village Inspection.
- THURSDAY 27th. Departed DURU for GWIBAKU 0820, mine by push bike to swamp, (carriers 15mins) 2hrs 15min. canoe to GWIBAKU. Census, Medical Inspection and Village Inspection. Afternoon spent at U.F.M. GIGWA.
- FRIDAY 28th. Departed GWIBAKU 0845hrs in canoe for KAWATANGWA on the Fly River, arrived 5hrs later.
- SATURDAY 29th. Census, Medical Inspection and Village Inspection at KAWATANGWA. Departed 0900 down river for TERARUMA, arriving 0950. Census, Medical and Village Inspections carried out, returned to KAWATANGWA (return journey taking an extra hour against the current).
- SUNDAY 30th. Departed KAWATANGWA 0715 up the Fly River and Sukri Creek for IWERE, arriving 1215 (travelling against the current).
- MONDAY 31st. Census, Medical Inspection and Village Inspection carried out at IWERE. Departed 0845 for AEWE arriving 1045.

SEPTEMBER 1964

T

TUESDAY 1st

Census, Medical Inspection and Village Inspection carried out at AEWE.

WEDNESDAY 2nd

Departed AEWE 0915 by canoe for GWAKU, arriving 1300, carried out Census, Medical Inspection and Village Inspection.



SEPTEMBER 1964

THURSDAY 3rd P.O. SPELDENWINE departed for MOREHEAD with Constable RAKATANI. Rest of patrol departed 0800 for KWARI. 1600 camped for the night.

FRIDAY 4th Departed camp 0800 arriving KWARI 1345.

SATURDAY 5th Inspection of KWARI village, Census and Medical Inspection.

SUNDAY 6th Departed KWARI 0615 for GWAKU, arrived back in GWAKU 1715.

MONDAY 7th Rested at GWAKU for the day. Calculated census figures.

TUESDAY 8th Departed GWAKU 0730 on pushbike for GCE after short canoe trip, arrived GCE 1000. Census, Medical and Village Inspection.

WEDNESDAY 9th Departed for KIRIWO 0715 arriving 0930 (on push bike, carriers arriving 1345. Carried out Census, Medical Inspection and Village Inspection.

THURSDAY 10th Departed KIRIWO on push bike for SERISA, arriving in half an hour, census, Medical and Village Inspection, returned to KIRIWO.

FRIDAY 11th Departed KIRIWO 0725 for SETAVI, arriving 0930, (carriers 4 1/2 hours) Census, Medical and Village Inspection.

SATURDAY 12th Departed SETAVI 0745, arrived UPARUA 0900, carried out Census, Medical and Village Inspection. Departed for UPARUA canoe place 1410 arrive 1420 (by push bike). Departed for MOREHEAD in outboard motor powered canoe, arriving 1505.

END OF PATROL



### INTRODUCTION

This patrol was purely routine i.e. census, medical inspection and native affairs. After the Election patrols this was the third patrol in the area this year. Even though this was the third, and one of a regular series of patrols since a Patrol Post was established permanently at ROUKU in 1951 (and intermittent patrols from DARU for forty years), I was rather disappointed in the overall development of this Upper Morehead Census Division.

2. Admittedly these people are law abiding, their villages are well sanitated, and tracks to and from villages are good for an area with little or no economic development; but other than this there has been little progress. Gardens, land tenure and the daily activities of the people would have changed little. Mission activity has left the people half way between their pagan beliefs and Christian beliefs.

3. However progress is hastening with the growing strength of the Co-operative society, the establishment of a Primary school, a hospital and a community Technical School. Contact with the P.I.R. exercises in the area is also broadening their outlook.

4. The Upper Morehead Census Division encompasses an area north-east of MOREHEAD to the Fly River and south-west from the river to the IRIAN BARAI border, and south-east back to MOREHEAD.

### NATIVE AFFAIRS

5. The main aspect of Native Affairs involved the movement of the few remaining people from the border village of KWARI. Formerly Kwari people centred all their outside activities (i.e. trading etc) on ERRAMBO, a large village, and mission some five hours over the border. However they were given the choice of staying in the Territory and moving to GWAKU (eleven hours east) or going over the border and remaining there. As it turned out three-quarters of the people went over the border and the rest remained in KWARI (eight persons). There they have remained for approximately five years, undisturbed except by the odd PIR patrol.

6. After the initial 'shock' of the arrival of the patrol, they were asked why they had not vacated the village. They answered fervently that they were "not" leaving their pigs, sago or coconut palms. As they could not be forced to leave the village they had to be convinced that they should. I then told them if they stayed in the village their would be regular patrols to check on them to see that they hadn't been crossing the border (which was another unmentioned reason why they wanted to stay in KWARI). Other conditions to staying were, the building of rest houses at KWARI and on the track to GWAKU, and the maintenance of the thirty mile track to GWAKU (which is non-existent at the moment). This was obviously an outlandish proposal, but after considering the matter for a day, they decided that there would be much less work and trouble involved in moving to GWAKU than staying at KWARI.

7. Another population movement arose, concerning TERARUMA on the Fly River. These people wish to leave their present site on the Fly River and return to the Lake Murray area where they originally came from. I could see no objection to this as their existing site is on the outside curve of a sharp meander in the river and is being eroded away quite rapidly. Also they do not own any land in this Suki area. However it will be in the hands of the Lake Murray area as to whether they want these people back or not.

8. There were no courts held, and only a few minor marriage disputes were the only other thing dealing with native matters.



CENSUS

9. Census was the main purpose of the patrol. This was carried out quite effectively as there were <sup>1188</sup>absentees other than mission school children. One surprising thing that comes from the census figures (see Appendix) is the very high birth rate and low death rate which gives a natural increase of 5% which is very high by any standards.

10. Another thing to note about the census figures is the range of variations in the average size of families. This can be accounted for by mission influence, villages with low averages are the result of wide practice of polygyny which brings the average down. Villages with high averages are where polygyny is more rare usually the result of mission influence, which is quite apparent here in GWIBAKU and DURE which are close to the UFM at GIGWA on the Suki Lagoon.

HEALTH

11. As the census figures indicate health is very good. Infant mortality is very low. Aid posts at KERU, GIGWA Mission and KIRING adequately cover all minor cases like scabies, grilles and tropical ulcers. While a permanent Medical Assistant at MOREHEAD can cope with more serious cases.

12. Yaws and leprosy have been quite prevalent in the past and there are still quite a few lepers in hospital at BALIMO. However all villagers under went a medical inspection at the same time as the census by a hospital orderly and only one suspected case of leprosy was found.

VILLAGES

13. Except for several small villages, all villages were exceptionally clean. All houses had or shared adequate sanitation, which is used. Villages water supplies are reasonable good except for GOK which draws its water from a small swamp which goes very close to drying up in the dry season.

14. Housing has a lot to be desired as far as neatness goes. It is pleasing to see the mission has had quite an influence in this aspect in villages close to the mission, by their improved dwellings.

15. The innumerable ~~damned~~ diseased dogs still form or must form a health hazard to villages.

ROADS AND BRIDGES

16. At this time of the year (August/September) roads are exceptionally good. If it wasn't for the river, lagoon and swamps you could travel on all tracks in a four wheeled vehicle. With a motor cycle the whole area could be encompassed as canoe and bridges make swamps and lagoons no problem.

17. Canoe travel is slow and tedious but there is no alternative. Government canoes are in good condition and there is no trouble getting paddlers as there is getting carriers in some of the small villages.



GEOGRAPHY

18. The Upper Morehead Region is an extensive lowland with a large depression to the north forming the Suki Lagoon which drains into the Fly River. In the centre there is a series of ridges which distribute the central drainage between the Suki Lagoon and the Morehead River. To the south there are extensive lowlands broken by ridges running east-west, drained by the Morehead to the west and by the Wassi Kussa to the east.

19. Vegetation and soils follow the pattern of the topography. Drainage from the ridges has enabled extensive rainforests to establish themselves and thus the development of lateritic soils with a surface soil of rich humus. The lower areas on the other hand have been unable to drain sufficiently thus restricting growth to the dry season which only enables the growth of grasses for a short period, and the growth of semi-xerophytic scrub. Therefore with lack this area under water for half the year there is no chance for a good soil to develop, only a semi-podsolitic type of soil which is flooded in the wet season and parched in the dry.

20. With this background it's not surprising all the villages follow the ridges except those in the area of the lagoon.

AGRICULTURE? LIVESTOCK AND COMMERCE

21. Gardens around the villages are flourishing with native crops. Cash cropping is not done in any form although there's an excellent potential for it. Transport remains the restricting factor. Recent Agricultural patrols have been encouraging copra production and the growing of citrus fruit. Suki people have been encouraged by the mission in a scheme to back load boats returning from KIUNGA and LAKE MURRAY with vegetables. This seems quite a sound idea, except for the marketing problems which would arise in DAWU.

22. Livestock is made of up to twenty pigs per village. These are raised quite healthily in small pens. Villagers fail to see the advantage in breeding their pigs which is a pity. Deer are abundant although not as prolific as in the Bensbach area. It is unfortunate that these abundance cannot be exploited in some way.

23. Commerce is centred on the Morehead Buyers Society and crocodile skins. However for this industry to continue for any length of time some restriction on the size of skin will have to be made. The only other form of commerce is a small pit sawing mill at UPARUA. This industry should expand with the number of courses finishing at the Community Tech. School.

EDUCATION

24. MOREHEAD is becoming quite a large educational centre with the Primary 1 school going to standard six in 1965 and the Community Tech. School commencing classes in January 1965.

25. Out of the 130 students approximately 60 come from the Upper Morehead Census Division to the Primary school. The U.F.M. at GIGWA caters for a large part of the Suki area in this Division, although the highest standard is Three although they hope to take it to Four in 1965.

26. A few village mission schools play a very insignificant part in the education of the area. The main problem of education in this area is what to do with children leaving school, which could lead to more serious problems in the future, if some form of adequate employment cannot be found.



CONCLUSION

27. The inaccessibility caused <sup>by</sup> long distances and the wet season is the obvious reason why this Upper Morehead Census Division has showed little progress in its long period of contact (that is economic progress). However in other aspects like health, ~~pro~~ of progress is shown very adequately or more correctly, indicated, in the census figures. And with increasing interest taken by the Agricultural Department and the growth of the 'Buyer's Society' the area should progress considerably in the future.

P.J. Farnwell  
CPO

END OF REPORT



Register

27

REPORT ON POLICE

N° 7077

Const. TOMATA-KAUVA

Conduct: Good

Comments: Reliable and efficient.

REPORT ON H.M.O.

N° 39

H.O. Gr.1 SENEBA AUSA

Thorough with medical work and general patrol work.  
An asset to any patrol.





TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

# PATROL REPORT

District of WESTERN Report No. 2 of 64/65

Patrol Conducted by E.B.C. JOHNSTON GPO accompanying I.M. DOUGLAS a/ADC

Area Patrolled THE UPPER MOREHEAD DIVISION (part only)

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans.....

Natives 3 R.P. & N.G.C., 1 interpreter, 1 A.F.W.

Duration—From 9/6/1965 to 18/6/1965

Number of Days 10 days

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? NO

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services AUG SEPT 1964

Medical APRIL 1965

Map Reference Attached Map taken from Fourmil of Fly River with alterations

Objects of Patrol Routine Administration

Forewarning of Forthcoming Army Exercises

Director of District Administration,  
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

21/9/1965

J. O. Bensusan  
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 ..... £.....

.....

.....

.....





TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Telegrams DISADM

Telephones

Our Reference.....67-4-1

If calling ask for

Mr.....IAH:LB

Department of District Administration,  
Western District,  
DARU

2nd September, 1965.

The Director,  
Department of District Administration,  
KORORUA.

PATROL MOREHEAD 2/1964-65 - UPPER MOREHEAD CENSUS  
DIVISION

Attached is Mr. E.B.C. JOHNSON's initial patrol report of his first patrol (10 days). It is adequately covered by the acting Assistant District Commissioner, particularly relative to composition and some lack of logic on the subject on economic possibilities. I agree with Mr. DOUGLAS's overall assessment of the report, which is first class Sunday pictorial copy.

2. Nonetheless, it is pleasing to see pronounced powers of observation, on which the officer merits congratulation. When added experience leads to more logical analysis, I look forward to further exposition of problems, together with realistic suggestions, from this office.

3. To set just a few aspects straight. Upon the Officer-in-Charge's application to the District Agricultural Officer, any person bringing copal gum to MOREHEAD may expect immediate 3d lb payment. This is the DARU price based, as at KIUNGA, on free Administration scow transport here. Even on this basis, the Department of Agriculture, Stock and Fisheries subsidy nears 1d lb. Should the Morehead Buyers' Society be interested in purchasing copra, the same transport facility applies - at least for the present. As the current DARU maximum is 5d, the Society's offer should not exceed 3d - against the "freight payable" day. We cannot offer grower transportation to DARU, which inevitably each bag has a would be owner-traveller. With the proof tubs spirit from one palm worth 30 times its copra production, I foresee little early development except by abstainers. MOREHEAD soils and climate completely preclude cacao development, now even a risky crop in RABAU. Total market demand for chillies is insignificant and adequately serviced. By no means are cattle or deer discounted, when other agricultural activity can leave other, more populated, Western District areas.

4. Transport will always remain a major problem, particularly relative to timber and rubber. MOREHEAD people not on rivers must face the fact that their economy is never likely to go beyond cartage on one's back, a donkey, or over bicycle bars.

5. Insofar as the report is provocative, this is to Mr. JOHNSON's credit. Cynicism is not.

(L. A. Holmes)  
DEPUTY DISTRICT COMMISSIONER.

P.S. You will possibly question the written instructions on a 2-man patrol. This was necessitated by Mr. JOHNSON's strange behaviour and tendencies, of which you have ample personal evidence. What, however, the patrol did prove is that Mr. JOHNSON is quite keen and apt in his fieldwork compared to his relative uselessness otherwise.



191 / 67-1-2

Sub-District Office,  
Morehead,  
Western District,  
Papua.

8th. June, 1965

Mr. E. B. C. Johnston,  
Cadet Patrol Officer,  
Morehead.

Dear Mr. Johnston,

Morehead Patrol No.2 of 1964/65

As previously discussed with you, please be prepared to depart on patrol with me tomorrow, 9th. June. The patrol will take us to Sukl Logosa and back, and I estimate we should be in the field for nine nights.

Although the patrol will be only of short duration, you will be required to submit a full report. This will be good practise for you for the more important job of fully reporting our proposed census patrol to the Trans Fly in July.

I know you have been studying reports of previous patrols in this Sub-District; this, combined with steady reference to the Department of District Administration field officer's handbook, should enable you to present a comprehensive and worthwhile report. Do not hesitate to discuss with me any aspect of the report, or anything we do and see during the patrol. However, the report will be your own work, setting out your own observations and conclusions. Remember that senior officers will largely judge your abilities as a Patrol Officer on its standard.

The objects of the patrol are as follows:

- a) Your own familiarisation with patrol work
- b) Distribution of Extension Services radio receivers
- c) Explanation to the people of the forthcoming, and future, Army field exercises in the area.
- d) Vehicular road, and bridge inspection
- e) Compilation of an up to date shot gun register
- f) General administration.

I would refer you to the District Commissioner's confidential memorandum A7-1-1 of 12th. April, 1965 and suggest that this may be an ideal opportunity for you to complete your copy of this questionnaire. Do not be deterred if you find your answers differ from mine in some respects.

You may also wish to take with you the Morehead Library copy of William's "Papua's of the Trans-Fly" the reading of which you will no doubt find interesting, and beneficial to your work.

I trust that you will enjoy, and benefit from this, your first patrol. Should you have any queries, discuss them with me before we leave.

Yours faithfully,

(I. M. Douglas)

a/Assistant District Commissioner



67-3-46

21st September, 1965.

District Commissioner,  
Western District,  
D. A. R. U.

MONNEHEAD PATROL REPORT NO. 2 1964/65:

Receipt is acknowledged with thanks of a Patrol Report by Mr. Johnston covered by your memorandum 216/67-1-2 of 13th July 1965.

2. The comments of Mr. Douglas and yourself have been noted.

3. Mr. Johnston is to be congratulated on his powers of observation and skilful composition. This report would have been more useful to the officers of this Department if only the writer had followed the form of reporting as laid out in Volume I of the Standing Instructions handbook.

4. Please draw Mr. Johnston's notice to the remarks made by Mr. Douglas at paragraph 4 of his comments.

(T.G. Aitchison)  
A/DIRECTOR.





TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Telegrams DISADM

Telephone

Our Reference 216 / 67-1-2

If calling ask for

Mr.....

Department of District Administration,  
Sub-District Office,  
Morehead,  
Western District,  
Papua.

13th. July, 1965

The District Commissioner,  
Western District,  
District Office,  
Daru.

Morehead Patrol No.2 of 1964/65 - Report by Mr E.B.C. Johnston, C.P.O.

Attached please find two copies of the above report. It must be remembered that this is the first report submitted by Mr Johnston and that therefore a high standard cannot reasonably be expected, and conversely Mr Johnston must read comments on it in the light of constructive criticism. It is pointless to say that the report is a good one, because it is not, but it is neat and tidy, and there is evidence that Mr Johnston has given thought to the peculiarities and problems of the area, as well as evidence that work of a higher standard is possible in future reports.

It is unfortunate that Mr Johnston did not submit a full report as requested of him in his patrol instructions. The following of the form of reporting as set out in volume 1 of the Standing Instructions handbook, would not only have resulted in the reader gaining a better knowledge of the area, but would have caused the writer to give thought and consideration to aspects which it is apparent he entirely neglected.

While a patrol report written in strict 'officialese' can be a boring document to read, so too can an over flowery style of composition, particularly if words are used with which the writer is only partly familiar, as this leads to vagueness and confusion. (I have seen many swamps in the Western District, but never yet a perpendicular one). Whilst not faulting Mr Johnston's grammar, the style used is not suitable for concisely imparting knowledge, the diary in particular containing too much non-essential information and comment.

Facetious and cynical comment on other Departments and officers is uncalled for, and ill-becoming from a junior officer, and it is hoped that Mr Johnston will not employ this approach in future reports.

The problem of finding some means whereby the people of this area can earn enough money to satisfy their needs is discussed in every report written from this office, and there is a wealth of comment on file here. However, the problem still remains. Unfortunately it is necessary to be brutally realistic when considering this. Mr Johnston has made many suggestions covering various means of transport, and many forms of commercial endeavour. Vehicular transport to many of the villages is impossible, and short of expending vast sums of money will remain so. In any case those villages on vehicular roads have shown no interest in exploiting what transport facilities are available. Similarly, a plan to dig a canal from Suki Lagoon to Morehead must surely be out of the question. The only possible answer is for boats travelling the Fly to call in at Suki Lagoon. There is little reason why this could not work.

Referring to various possible development schemes, cattle is out of the question due to the proximity of the West Irian border. I am unaware of the current market for copal gum, but I am sure if the people showed interest in it and a market was available, D.A.S.F. could arrange purchase funds, and I seriously doubt they failed to do this in the past; if quantities of copal gum were bought into the station and not purchased,




there is obviously more to the story than that simple fact. Coffee is out of the question, both due to the proximity to the border, and the unsuitability of the environment. Cacao has never been tried, but would probably be impossible for the same reasons as coffee, and it could hardly compete economically with New Guinea plantations. In any case there is a world glut, and prices are low. Copra is possible, but uneconomic away from Saki Lagoon. The people will not expend the effort necessary to produce a bag, then carry it to available transport for a return of £1 or £2 and who can blame them. On the other hand copra production may well be economic along the shores of the lagoon, but this avenue has been available to the people for years and they still ruin much of their small crop by turning it into tupa. Crocodile hunting is lucrative, but the supply is diminishing. Regrettably it seems impossible to introduce a minimum size scheme, so it is only a matter of time before these reptiles are shot out completely. Of chillies I know nothing, and I have certainly seen none in the Saki area; the Samsbach people produce some for local consumption. Rubber could be a possibility; reports indicate that the area adjacent to the lagoon is suitable. Transport problems prohibit it away from the lagoon or the Morehead River. This is possibly the one avenue that could bear thorough investigation by a qualified Agricultural officer followed by solid backing by the Administration. Pit sawn timber has a ready market at Morehead, Wau, and I imagine, Daru. The mill at UPANUA has ceased to produce, despite an offered price of about £3.15.0 per hundred super feet, plus transport arranged to Morehead. When it was producing, the quality was poor. The Suki people are currently thinking about setting up saws by the Fly River and sending the timber to Daru on passing boats. There is little reason why this scheme should not work, but it will not result in any large scale inflow of money. The problems confronting garden produce are insurmountable, except on a small scale. The scheme for a combined Societies boat, is, I understand, currently in limbo, but not forgotten.

Other aspects of affairs in the Upper Morehead, for example missions, health, roads, villages and officials and officials, etc. will be covered more fully when another patrol is mounted to patrol this area later in the year.

Mr Johnston's claim for camping allowance will be forwarded in due course when he returns from current field work along the Morehead to Wau road.

For your information, please.

  
(I. N. Douglas)  
a/Assistant District Commissioner





TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

67. 3. 46. (B)

Telegrams DTSADM

Telephone

Our Reference..... 67-4-1

If calling ask for

Mr..... IAH:LB



Department of District Administration,  
Western District,  
DARU

2nd September, 1965.

The Director,  
Department of District Administration,  
KONEDOBU.

PATROL MOREHEAD 2/1964-65 - UPPER MOREHEAD CENSUS  
DIVISION

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5. Insofar as the report is provocative, this is to Mr. JOHNSON's credit. Cynicism is not.

*I. A. Holmes*

(I. A. Holmes);

DEPUTY DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

P.S. You will possibly question the written instructions on a 2-man patrol. This was necessitated by Mr. JOHNSON's strange behaviour and tendencies, of which you have ample personal evidence. What, however, the patrol did prove is that Mr. JOHNSON is quite keen and apt in his fieldwork compared to his relative uselessness otherwise.



(3)

PREAMBLE

**MOREHEAD RIVER PATROL POST**

**MOREHEAD S.D.**

**WESTERN DISTRICT**

**Patrol No. 2 of 9/65**

**Patrol conducted by E.B.C. Johnston CPO accompanying I.M. Douglas a/ADC**

**Patrol personnel: 3 members of the R.P. & N.S.C.**

**1 interpreter (Derivi Dundum)**

**1 agricultural field worker (Mrlaki Filisa)**

**25-30 carriers**

**Area patrolled: The Upper Morehead Division (part only)**

**Duration of Patrol: 9/6/65 to 18/6/65 - 10 days**

**Last D.D.A. patrol: September 1964, duration 22 days**

**Last D.A.S.F. patrol: September 1964**

**Last F.H.D. patrol: April 1965 (part area only)**

**Objects of Patrol:**

- (i) Routine administration**
- (ii) Examination of economic possibilities**
- (iii) To forewarn the populace of forthcoming army manoeuvres**
- (iv) To obtain adult pupils for the Morehead Technical Centre**
- (v) To familiarize myself with the general aspects of patrolling**

**Map references: sketch map attached**

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PATROL DIARY1965

- JUNE the 9th: Landrover in which we are to depart starts pouring smoke; remain to have elevenses while axle is greased. En route for MATA when tyre punctures; and continue on flat tyre. Patrol gear and personnel are waiting at Mata whence depart at 1200 hrs. Enter SILAK at 1250 hrs and remain one quarter hour. At 1400 hrs we enter dense forest and this continues for the remainder of the day. At 1425 hrs, a twenty minutes' halt at site of former village named Kombarisa. Arrive KERU at 1720 hrs.
- the 10th: From Keru at 0845 hrs. Through open and forested country lies our track until, at 1230 hrs, SERKI is attained. This village has a medical aid-post.
- the 11th: Set out from Serki at 0830 hrs. At 1100 hrs, patrol is impeded by a deep swamp that spreads itself perpendicularly to the track. Insufficient canoes available, so Mr Douglas and myself plus cooks and personal gear take such canoes as there are and push on to INAOROK, where we grounded at 1340 hrs. Further canoes are sent back for the remainder of the patrol which arrives through the twilight after a devastating downpour.
- the 12th: At 0800 hrs depart in canoes from Inaporek, or Esala as it is more generally known (the latter is the name of the village from which the people shifted in coming to the present site). Beached at 0915 hrs and underway a quarter hour later. One of the carriers is an ex-radiotelephone operator for A.B.C. who has been as far afield as Merauke, Hollandia, Mahaul, Kavieng, and some other place which sounded as if it was in Australia. At 1100 hrs, the patrol halts at what is to be the site of a new village. The coconut palms are as yet immature and no refreshment is to be had. At 1400 hrs the trail passes close to a deserted village, invisible from the track, and the carriers emerge from the forest bearing welcome drinks of coconut milk. Enter the village of DURU at 1615 hrs through some very extensive plantations of taitu (yams) and bananas. Mosquitoes came out in the gloaming by their million.
- the 13th: Sunday. At the lakeside after a quarter hour's walk. A few hours paddling brings the patrol along reed lined canoe-lanes and across the open waters to the picturesque village of GWIBAKE. From here a short distance across the waters brings us to the Unevangelized Fields Mission, Gigua, where we are hospitably entertained to morning coffee, cake, and luncheon by Mr and Mrs Hardy and Family. He is shortly to retire to New Zealand after eleven years at his post. We depart shortly after lunch, and a brief canoe trip sees us to AEWK, where Jan and Corrie Nieuwenhuisen, the Dutch anthropologists, have been established for the past two years. They have nearly finished their work, or rather their term, and will be returning to Holland in a few months. The conversation continues until half past two on Monday morning, when the decision is made to get some 'kip'.

at night  
angles



- the 14th: We bid farewell and embark in canoes for GWAKU. The boats pass up a small river that drains into the Lake. Crayfish are seen in great numbers here and one of the paddlers succeeded in catching one in his hands. After several hours our destination is reached.
- the 15th: Leave Gwaku at 0845 hrs in canoes, which are beached half an hour later. I notice the police and some carriers rub lemon juice into the skin of their legs and feet to prevent leech-bites. Patrol reaches GOS at 1305 hrs.
- the 16th: Depart Gos at 0830 hrs. Rain falls. Arrive KIRINDO at 1405 hrs. Kirindo has an aid-post.
- the 17th: Set forth at 0830 hrs. Halt for a quarter hour at OLD SETAVI, a hamlet of about four houses, the time being 1115 hrs. Cross by foot-bridge a river, to arrive at SETAVI proper at 1300 hrs. At 1325 hrs under way again. Arrive on the banks of the Morehead River after an hour's marching, and take 50 minutes in being shunted across in two small and flimsy canoes. We are now entering the Imaf country. At UPARUA by 1605 hrs.
- the 18th: Depart from Uparua at 0825 hrs. To start with the track is well maintained; this is for as long as the patrol follows the route to the canoe-landing. But we are not going by canoe, and the trail that leads to the south is narrow and sinuous; in fact barely recognizable in places. The patrol finally strikes the Morehead-Wean road after about two hours on the march. Turning left along the road we are immediately confronted with the River, which, it is apparent, has dropped some six feet in our absence. Our presence being made known a boat is sent over. So ends the patrol.



INTRODUCTION AND COMMENTS

1. The Upper Morehead or Suki Division lies to the north of the patrol-post, and is bounded to the north-east by the River Fly. To the west its periphery is contiguous with an international frontier. However the extreme western portion is depopulated with the exception of the small isolated hamlet of Kwari. The region has an area of 3,640 square miles, and a population figure of 1,701 was given in the 1964 census. The villages are for the most part small. There are only three villages that contain more than 150 persons: Duru, Gwibaku, and Aewe with 192, 229, 369 respectively. All three villages are situated at Lake Saru.

2. This patrol did not visit all the villages as time was limited, owing to the approaching end to the financial year and the imminent arrival of a company of native infantry on field-exercises. It was necessitated in no small degree by the need to explain the presence of these troops to the local populace.

3. Travelling north along the patrol route, the place-talk of the people of Mata and Keru is Iau; that of Serki is Tokwebebe; and in the village of Inaporok and the villages beyond they speak Suki. In Gwaku both Suki and Tokwebebe are spoken, and thence southwards Tokwebebe holds its own. The latter language is also spoken in Kwari, two days' march to the west of anywhere. The villagers, excepting only the women and a few elderly men, are conversant with Police Motu. The use of English is certain to proliferate within the next decade, on account of the now well-established Primary T School on the Station.

4. The country consists of dense forests alternating with savannah lands that support the silver-skinned Ti-tree and a poor, parched, stubbly pasture; this latter landscape bears a strange resemblance to the Aldershot country of Southern England in its barren aspect and certain, if superficial, particulars. At the most southerly, the stunted grass gives way to the kunai and more heavily timbered country that predominates around the Station. The forests cling to the higher ground - though there is none higher than a few score feet - leaving the low flat lands, inundated throughout the seasons, baked brick-hard in the dry, to support such poor vegetation as their heavily leached soils will allow. The dank and gloomy forest contrasts strangely with the burning wasteland of the open plains, desolate beneath the white heat of the noonday sun. So sharply do the two zones divide, that you leave one and enter the other much as if passing through a doorway, on one side of which is darkness, the other light. The villages in great measure find themselves deep in forested country.

5. The lakeside villages, and this includes Inaporok since that village stands rather on the banks of an overgrown lake than a marsh, are built upon raised promontories whence they afford imposing views of reed and water; by no means unenviable situations when compared with the forest villages. Across Lake Saru there is often a back-drop of open pastured hill slope.

6. The greater portion of Lake Saru ("The Suki Lagoon") is covered by floating reed through which canoe-lanes wind a tortuous track. One species of reed yields a black-surfaced root which when cut open resembles in every way the interior of sugar-cane. It is sweet too, and hence the reason it is gathered. The Lake holds cranes, wild crane and duck; and geese in season. Barramundi and crayfish are also for the table. Coloured moths and dragon-flies float about, and water-lilies, blue as well as white, gather in clusters. On the surface of things all is idyllic.



7. Things are not always as they would appear. There is no real source of income for these people beyond the provision of labour on the station and during patrols. True they make an occasional tidy pile from the diminishing stock of crocodiles. But there are no prospects; nothing to stabilise the area against the growing threat from the urban areas (there are two sides to every coin). There is little absentee labour at the present, although some years ago the situation was very different. This is both encouraging and yet a potentially evil source of evil. Many of the people have seen wider horizons than they were formerly wont; and these are young men with ideas and ambitions. We have here a fertile ground for a small scale development programme, which it would do well to exploit. If not, we may find the more progressive and disquietened members of the community leaving for richer pastures; thereby that much impoverishing the region, whose wealth as much lies in the people as in the products it may produce. Other consequences of not giving these people the backing they need are not unforeseen.

8. While considerable expansion has taken place on the station since first it came into being a few years ago, and while great improvements have been effected in the fields of health and education, and so to a casual observer everything may seem 'according to plan', there has been no parallel development within the native communities residing in the villages. It is realised that the population of this region is low (though dynamically expanding), and that therefore it can only expect a very thin slice of the budget cake. However every community has a right to be regarded on its own merits and not merely as part and parcel to some grand strategy. And the people of this area demand every bit as much consideration as any other. This they have not received.

9. There are certain prerequisites to the establishment of cash incomes from crops etc., and these may be summed up as follows:-

- 1) To be suited to soil and climate;
- 2) To be storable, i.e. not readily perishable;
- 3) Not to require involved processing before trans-shipment;
- 4) A market offering inducing profits;
- 5) Economic transportation to be available.

Transportation is the universal stumbling-block. Perhaps there is one other condition no less important than the others; namely, that there should be an accessible outlet for the cash when obtained. Since obviously the motivating factor for the native is to purvey goods and the general buy-a-gram with which civilization is cluttered, and money of itself being quite valueless except in respect of what it will buy (sage reflection), it would be unreasonable in the extreme to expect a person to work for a few retail disks, if there was no certainty of converting them into more concrete forms of wealth.

10. Now, to bring these rather nebulous observations down to earth, let us observe in what manner they may be employed to bear the problem 11b from 11b, and thus render it more digestible. By the end of it I trust that we (that is to say you, reader, and I) shall be 'au fait' with, or in the words of lesser mortals, 'thoroughly clued up on', the problem if not the solution. To know your problem, as the saying goes, is half the answer.

11. Examining the points raised, and beginning with the last condition, we find that the outlet for money can to a degree be satisfied by (a) the Morehead Buyers' Society, and (b) the U.P.M. Store, Olgua.



12. With regard to existing transportation, and ignoring air-freight as being prohibitive in its expense, there are yet the following outlets:-

- (1) Back-loading on govt vessels coming down the Fly;
- (2) Back-loading on the U.F.M. boat;
- (3) Back-loading on govt work-boats visiting Morehead.

The first of these propositions is suitable so long as the boats are prepared to stop long enough to permit the loading of cargo. This would appear to be settled affirmatively, to judge from correspondence on files. The villagers have suggested that they erect a flag by the river's bank to indicate when they have produce awaiting shipment. Back-loading on the Mission boat, while it has its advantages, is, to my way of thinking, ruled out by several considerations I shall not trouble to enlarge upon. Trans-shipment on vessels visiting the Station is entirely suitable. According to verbal information, sometimes known as rumour, Morehead is to receive boats at a frequency of one every six weeks. Assuming, in a conservative manner, that these boats have a maximum carrying capacity of 5 tons, then on this basis the quantity of cargo that can be shipped out of Morehead alone is in excess of 40 tons or 800 one hundredweight sacks per annum. The destination of all these cargoes is, of course, that great entrepot of Dava.

13. So far, in considering the means of removing, or exporting, products from the region, that is to say the internal communications, we have neglected the internal communications by which such products may be brought from the place of production to the staging place whence they are trans-shipped. For the villagers living on Lake Saru this is easy enough: goods can be transported by canoe, or maybe double-canoe; down the Suid Creek to the Fly. The Fly River Villages, not visited on this patrol, are even better situated. But what of the villages of the hinterland? Are they to be left to their own devices? Clearly the villagers cannot be expected to walk for hours or days, carrying on their backs loads heavy enough to stagger them, yet when sold offering puny compensation for their toil. Whether expected or not, we can would do such a thing. Motor transport will have to be provided. There is no alternative short of abandonment, or perhaps resettlement, which would be a huge task, but worthy of consideration.

14. To send one of the tractors and a trailer to the inland villages is out of the question in all but the height of the dry, and the journey would only be worth considering if a full load was to be obtained. The most practicable course therefore is for every village to construct a large store-house, built off the ground, and to store whatever produce it may be, say copra, until such time as it can be collected thereby, and in so far as is possible, guarding against deterioration, and ensuring that there will be a goodly load to collect. Some method whereby payment would be effected by a succeeding patrol could be worked out, all responsibility for the products after collection being placed upon the Morehead Buyers' Society.

15. It might here be worth noting that the lakeside villages cannot be reached by vehicles. Progress is barred by the lake before Inaprok and a perennial swamp between Goe and Oraku. However, as the patrol routes are intended primarily to link the villages, and have probably existed since time immemorial, and since a swamp is no great inconvenience to pedestrians who have canoes, there is no reason to suppose that there might not exist a higher, dryer route. If it were ever to be considered desirable to open a dry-season vehicular road to the lakeside villages, an examination of the terrain between Goe and Inaprok could conceivably disclose a passage.



ECONOMIC PROPOSITIONS

16. Cattle: There is no reason why cattle should not thrive around Lake Saru; in fact they are already doing so, as the Unevangelized Fields Mission has had a few head for some time. However, it is unlikely that a cattle scheme would be economically viable unless carried out on a very large scale, and even then it is doubtful. There would be required either a ship with large holds for conveying quantities of cattle, or else the provision of slaughter-house facilities on the spot and a ship with frozen holds. No mean undertaking, especially considering the amount of supervision that would be required. As and when the standard of living of the lakeside villagers is appreciably raised, and when there is less protein to go round, there is no reason why a small herd should not be introduced to meet local needs.

17. Conal Gum: This is very plentiful in the north, as is testified by all patrol-reports to date. Seven or eight years ago D.A.S.F. was offering 3d a pound for the stuff, but they never got past the offering stage. Several abortive attempts have been made to establish the substance as a cash-producer. But the promised funds for its purchase have never been forthcoming. Since the last endeavour when large quantities were brought into the Station and never paid for, the people have given it up as a bad job. Very sensibly they say that they must have the money first and do the work afterwards. I believe the price still stands at 3d a pound.

18. Coffee: Coffee has been planted under administration directions, but it is now understood that no further planting is to be carried out: it is to be discouraged. I.e. it's a washout.

19. Cacao: This crop has previously been suggested, but no comment has ever been heard regarding its suitability or vice versa.

20. Copra: For the past decade and more the Administration has been encouraging these people to plant more coconut palms, and has even issued nuts for planting. It is to this wise move that the people can be thankful for their abundant supplies of tuba, the drinking of which seems to be a major contributing factor in the crime of this area. Be that as it may, the wrong-doers are in the habit of fortifying themselves before going about their evil ways. Touching the production of copra, they say that the returns are not sufficient. By that they mean to say that they are not being sufficiently rewarded for carrying a sack of copra 50 miles on their back. If they were certain in their own minds that any copra they were to produce would be collected and paid for, there is no doubt but that they would be eager. But they have grown mistrustful of promises. There was at one time a copra-dryer at Uparua and another was being constructed at Teraruma, but probably these are no longer in existence. Quite recently there were plans to teach the villagers to build their own dryers in order to obtain a better price for the crop. Smoke-dried copra was recently quoted as fetching 3d a pound, but prices for this crop fluctuate.

21. Crocodile Skins: These provide some income for the lakeside people, but the numbers of the reptiles decrease year by year. Even if it were possible to establish some sort of equilibrium by imposing a restriction on the buying and selling of skins below a certain size, even were this possible I say - and this I strongly doubt - it is not an industry that is capable of expansion.



22. Chillies: Previous reports have commented that chillies are grown in this area, but this does not appear to have elicited any interest among our 'rear echelons'. It is not possible to push forward a scheme unless support, particularly by way of information on markets, prices, etc., is forthcoming from the appropriate quarter.

23. Rubber: There is no objection, that I can see, to the introduction of rubber. It has been said that to grow rubber requires extensive supervision; and so it may if run on the lines of big plantations. But I fail to see that the planting cannot be done on a village-community basis, after training a few selected members of each village at the Oriomo Agricultural Station. I believe this latter has, in fact, been done, but if there is anything in the air it has not been disclosed by that highly secretive organization, D.A.S.F. In the days of the Rubber Boom, tapping of wild trees was carried out by primitive savages who knew a lot less than these people.

24. Timber: Uparua has a pit-saw and this is producing a limited amount of timber for the Station, the sawn timber being collected by the powered-canoe belonging to the Administration. While the patrol was at Lake Saru, many of the villagers were absent on a big crocodile-hunt. With the money thus earned they intend to purvey a pit-saw, and ship the timber to Daru on government vessels. If the Administration is prepared to purchase this timber, there is no reason why the venture should not succeed. If the project proves a success they will probably wish to expand it, as the Suki are a vigorous people and very keen to improve their lot. Once again, if the scheme succeeds, and it becomes a widespread industry throughout the northern villages, they should be encouraged to form some kind of co-operative association, and pool their resources to purchase a mechanical saw; and so on. Only by means of continuing development will the industry be enabled to stand firmly on its feet. The U.F. Mission has planted teak trees, and also possess a small saw-mill operating from a stationary tractor. This is for their own building development. If the villagers' scheme succeeds it might be worth issuing them with seedling trees of a desired type.

25. Garden Produce: It was with the intention of conveying their garden produce to sell in Daru, that the Suki people originally asked for permission to back-load government boats. Whether or not this has been thrust aside in the rabid desire to produce timber, I know not: if my memory serves me rightly, it was the unvisited riverside villages that announced their intention to transport vegetables. In any case, if a market can be found, timber offers more potential.

26. Buyers' Societies' Boat: There has been talk that the Buyers' Societies of Kiunga, Lake Murray, and Morehead might purchase a boat. This, it is hoped, will reduce the high overheads involved in transporting goods to the respective Buyers' Societies' stores. The vessel will also collect cargoes from water-side villages. For instance, by traversing the Suki Creek it will bring the lake-dwellers much closer to their markets. The proposal has the advantage that, if carried out, it will make the Societies concerned completely independent of the Administration in the matter of logistic support, and will ease the burden on government shipping. Such a boat will increasingly come into its own as development takes place.



CONCLUSIONS

27. In a region of so few people as the environs of Lake Saru (although it is the most densely populated part of the Upper Korohead Division) I am against the participation at any one time in more than a single project, and that the most promising. Although alternatives should never be lost to sight, diversity is undesirable where it may lead to a weakening of effort. At the present time the timber trade, which the people have taken it upon themselves to enter, would seem to offer the most promise. Only events will show whether this promise materializes, but every effort must be made to ensure that it does. There is no reason of course why in these initial stages crocodile and copal gum should not be exploited, but the aim should be to provide these people with one successful and expanding trade by concentrating upon that particular project, and pushing it to the limit.

28. The various alternatives are now before us, and let the reader decide for himself what he considers the most suitable.

29. One possible reason why development has not occurred to the extent it might is on account of what appears to be a policy of maintaining a high turnover of o.i.c.'s. Each officer is obliged to start from scratch in learning of the people and the area. When he has at last achieved an intimate understanding upon which to base a sound policy - hey, presto! - he is whisked away and replaced. The newcomer must start where the other began and as like as not sees matters in a different light, and it may be right and it may be wrong, but the net result is no policy. And if one thing is certain, bad policy is better than none at all.

30. There still remain many matters untouched, of course, but as this is only an appendix report I shall refrain from exhausting either the subject or myself too fully; and conclude in the wonted manner with a full stop.



**ADDENDA**

1. Reference paras 1, 3: the hamlet of Kwari was finally evacuated in September 1964.

2. In Uparua Village they speak Andatokwe, not Tokwebebe as implied in para 3. This is the only place where this dialect is spoken. I originally understood these people to speak Keko. However it transpired that the interpreter, who originates from Uparua, misunderstood the question that was put, and replied "Keko", which is Andatokwe for 'no'.

3. Eex is another name for the Iau dialect.

4. Ref para 15: the problem of communications between Morehead and The Sukl. The answer put forward by W.B.R. Smith, Public Works Engineer, in his report on the Western District of 2/12/58 was to cut a canal from the south-west corner of Lake Saru to the upper reaches of the Morehead River.

5. Ref para 20: It has been said that the local type of coconut, while adequate as a source of food, is unsuitable for copra production. However, as pointed out, extensive planting has in the past been carried out with nuts supplied by the Administrator.







