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Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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VOL. NO: 3

1965-1966

NUMBERS OF REPORTS: 1

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TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of WESTERN Report No. BAMU No. 1 of 1965/66

Patrol Conducted by R. P. KEMEDO, Patrol Officer.

Area Patrolled BAMU DELTA AND DIBIRI CENSUS DIVISIONS.

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans NIL

Natives 1 member H.P.N.G.C.,
1 Interpreter.

Duration—From 22/9/1965 to 17/10/1965.

Number of Days 16 days - 14 nights.

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? NO.

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services 7/1964.

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

Map Reference SEE REPORT.

Objects of Patrol CENSUS REVISION AND ROUTINE ADMINISTRATION.

Director of Native Affairs,
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

16/11/1964

J. C. Bessell
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~~

Telephone

67-1-11

Our Reference

calling ask for

IAH:LB

Mr.



Department of District Administration,

Western District,

DARU.

16th November, 1965.

The Director,
Department of District Administration,
KONEBOBU.

Patrol BAMU 1/65-66: BAMU Delta and DIBIRI
Census Divisions.

Attached is report of the above 16 day patrol by Mr. R.P.KEKEDO, Patrol Officer. Also covering memorandum by Assistant District Commissioner, BALIMO Sub-District.

2. The latter adequately covers the report, of a depressing area whose people's apathy, malaise and acceptance of existing conditions has to be seen to be believed. The young BAMU male seeks to get out of the place, and does so fairly effectively as about the lowest class of the coastal plantations, PORT MORESBY and DARU communities. He may benefit, but his families and his area certainly do not. Resettlement may be the only answer in the long term; on the other hand there are many other Territory groups more deserving of same than the BAMU.

3. With our BAMU establishment we thought we had instilled some hopes and wants into the community, particularly under the leadership of BATANU NEDE (he has virtually "given away" his people). Bamu River Mission, which has been trying to do just this for 25 years, was sceptical. They were right.

4. Though the 1964-5 resurgence was transitory, and might have continued had the people not been subject to wild "money for nothing" suggestions by an electioneering M.H.A. (who has not revisited the area). Mr. Kekedo still gets a number of individual responses. At least that is something, although overshadowed by the general apathy and uselessness of village officialdom, despite "V.C.'s Courses".

5. The report shows conscientiousness and determination in the face of unrewarding conditions.

6. As the term EMETI is meaningless and artificial I prefer to see "BAMU" used wherever possible.

Emeti is the official name of the station. It may be artificial but this can't be helped & was unavoidable

F. A. Bensted
(F.A. Bensted),
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER.

67-3-6

4th January, 1966.

District Commissioner,
Western District,
DARU.

EMETI PATROL REPORT NO. 1/1965-66:

Receipt is acknowledged with thanks of a Patrol Report by Mr. Kekede, covered by your memorandum 67-4-11 of 16th November, 1965.

2. Your comments and those of Mr. Kelly have been noted.
3. Emeti is the official name of the station. It may be artificial, but this cannot be helped and was unavoidable.
4. Mr. Kekede has concluded a good patrol and written an informative report.
5. The Village Directory surely cannot be altered every time two villages decide to combine and form a single village. Changes such as those noted in this report will be included in the new Village Directory only if they appear to be permanent.

(J.X. McCarthy)
DIRECTOR.

JFK:AA

Emeti P/B.1/65-6

Department of District Administration,
Balimo, Western District.

5th November, 1965.

The District Commissioner,
Western District,
Daru.

Emeti Patrol Report No. 1 of 1965/66.

Attached is the above patrol report submitted by Patrol ^{OFFICER}
R. Kekedo.

I fully agree with Mr. Kekedo^{that} the Lower Bamu area is a most unrewarding area to patrol and that the people are as apathetic as one would wish to find. The people cannot be held solely responsible for their apathy as the area in which they live is the most depressing I have seen and there is no scope for their economic betterment - unless rind and nipa palm become marketable commodities.

The large number of males absent from the area at work and the resultant problems are well known by you. Although some of these men have moral and lawful obligations towards their wife or families one cannot blame for getting out of the area and attempting to satisfy some of their wants.

There are only two things which can be done for the Bamu Delta people :

- (1) Maintain law and order in the area, attempt to make their villages better to live in and promise them nothing.
- (11) Resettle all the Delta people along the large uninhabited section of the Upper Bamu and Wawai Rivers which appear quite suitable for settlement and which would have some economic potential.

Census: In the new Village Directory the Lower Bamu and Dibiri Census Divisions have been combined to form the Lower Bamu Census Division. The census figures have been compiled accordingly.

All notable increases and decreases in population have been caused through migration and not through natural increases or decreases. For example the big increase in population at Aragi has been caused by the migration in of over 40 people from a North Bank Fly village and the big decrease in Asaramic's population has been caused by the migration out of the Sarau people who have returned to the North Bank Fly from where they came two years ago.

General: I have drawn to Mr. Kekedo's attention that Emeti is to be used in place of Bamu on patrol reports and all correspondence.

Emeti Patrol No. 2 will depart Emeti on the 9th November, 1965 for the Sama Census Division.

Mr. Kekedo continues to do a pleasing work in the Bamu. He has carried out a good patrol.



a/Assistant District Commissioner.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

9

Bamu Base Camp,
Balimo Sub-District,
Western District.

27th October, 1965.

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

PATROL REPORT BAMU No. 1 of 1965/66.

PREAMBLE:

The above numbered report is hereby submitted. The area patrolled was the BAMU DELTA and DIBIRI Census Division, of the Balimo Sub-District.

OBJECTS OF PATROL:

- (1) Census Revision.
- (11) Routine Administration.

OFFICER CONDUCTING PATROL:

Mr. R. F. Kekede, Patrol Officer.

PERIOD OF PATROL:

28/9/65 to 17/10/65.

ACCOMPANYING PERSONNEL:

1 member R.F.N.G.C. - No. 7736 Const. FOWNGON/SIBANE.
Interpreter BATANU/NEDE.

LAST DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION PATROL:

July, 1964.

MAP REFERENCE: See accompanying map of patrol.

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PATROL REPORT BAMU No. 1 of 65/66

PATROL DIARY:

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER, 1965.

Tuesday, 28th.

Departed BAMU Station at 1335 hours for ARAGI via KURIA Passage (high tide). Obtained fuel at KURIA and proceeded down Aramia River to ARAGI, arriving at 1540 hours per outboard motor. Village a very miserable sight. People on cleaning up. Slept at ARAGI.
Travelling Time: 2 hours 5 mins.

Wednesday, 29th.

Revised census at ARAGI and talked to people. Instructions issued to Village Constable re cleaning up of village and repairs to buildings. No complaints received. Left for ARIKINAPI at 1315 hours, arrived 1350 hours at new village site approximately 5 minutes further down river from old village. New buildings under construction. Talked to people and revised census. No complaints received. Proceeded to MIRUWA at 1530 hours, arrived 1603 hours. Met Village Officials and slept the night at MIRUWA.
Travelling Time: 1 hour 8 mins.

Thursday, 30th.

Talked to people, revision of census completed thence returned to station. People instructed to clean village and will be inspected on 5th October enroute continuation of patrol to the Lower Bamu Census Division. Left for BAMU Base Camp at 1330 hours, arrived at 1445 hours. At station on general office duties.
Travelling time: 1 hour 15 mins.

Tuesday, 5th.

Left BAMU Base Camp at 0700 hours for SOGERE. Inspected MIRUWA enroute and village found fair and in much improved condition than previously. Continued on to SOGERE, arriving at 1025 hours. People to sage gardens in the morning and returned p.m. Inspected village and revised census at 1345 hours. Talked to people, one minor complaint settled with people concerned. Slept at SOGERE.
Travelling Time: 3 hours.

Wednesday, 6th.

Departed SOGERE at 0745 hours for WAKAU, arriving at 0800 hours. Met village officials and inspected village. Village a most depressing sight. People assembled at 0830 hours. Talked to people and revised census. Instructions issued to Village Constable re clean up of village. Left for BAMIO/ANIADAI at 1050 hours, encountered heavy seas, arrived at 1130 hours. Met Village Officials and inspected village. Village fair. Census revised and camped for the night. At BAMIO/ANIADAI.
Travelling Time: 55 minutes.

Thursday, 7th.

Left BAMIO/ANIADAI at 0900 hours in very rough seas for BUNIGI, arriving some 40 minutes later. Unloaded patrol equipment and proceeded up Dibiri River for 10 minutes thence followed Eina Creek to UPATI about 5 minutes. Inspected village and revised census. Village fair. Returned to BUNIGI, revised census. Two minor complaints settled. Village fair. Slept at BUNIGI.
Travelling Time: 1 hour 10 mins.

PATROL DIARY (CONT'D):

OCTOBER, 1965.

Friday, 8th.

Departed BUNIGI at 0930 hours for DARAVE and SIBARA. Arrived DARAVE at 0945 hours in rough seas. Inspected village and talked to people on village cleanliness. Revised census and left for SIBARA at 1230 hours, arrived 1240 hours. Village inspected and revised census. Village fair. Slept night at SIBARA. Travelling time: 25 minutes.

Saturday, 9th.

Due to S.E. Trades and rough seas patrol waited for the wind and seas to ease off. Departed at 1030 hours for PIRUPIRU No. 2, arrived some 45 minutes later in still rather rough seas. Met Village Officials and inspected village. It was intended to overnight at PIRUPIRU No. 1 first but it was discovered that they have since moved to a new site inland. Revised census. Two complaints heard and all to report at station for further investigation and possible court hearing by A.D.C., Balimo. Slept at PIRUPIRU No. 2. Travelling Time: 45 minutes.

Sunday, 10th.

Departed PIRUPIRU No. 2 at 0700 hours for new village sight PIRUPIRU No. 1 where people awaiting patrol's visit. Unloaded patrol equipment at BUNIGI and proceeded up DIBIRI River for 5 mins. and then travelled approximately due East up Padare Creek for 15 minutes and met by people in dug out canoe to proceed rest of the way. Arrived at new site some 15 minutes later. People assembled and census revised. One minor complaint settled. New village underway but few wish to return to old village site. People instructed to settle matter and report to station on decision. New site seems a good site. Returned BUNIGI at 1130 hours, loaded and left for TOROBINA while seas calm. Arrived at 1203 hours. Met Village Officials and observed Sunday for the rest of the day. Travelling Time: 2 hours 20 mins.

Monday, 11th.

Inspected village and Mission School. Talked to people and revised census. School run by the Bamu River Mission and staffed by husband and wife teachers from TOROBINA. Departed at 1105 hours for OROPAI, arrived at 1210 hours. Village inspected and revised census. Village only fair. Slept at OROPAI. No complaints. Travelling Time: 1 hour 5 mins.

Tuesday, 12th.

Left OROPAI at 0815 hours for SISIAMI No. 2, arriving 10 minutes later. Inspected village, talked to people and revised census. One minor complaint settled. Proceeded to SISIAMI No. 1, arriving some 15 minutes later. Inspected village, talked to people and revised census. One complaint to station for further investigation. At SISIAMI No. 1. Travelling Time: 25 minutes.

PATROL DIARY (CONT'D):

OCTOBER, 1965.

Wednesday, 13th.

Left SISIAMI No.1 at 0630 hours hoping to go through early morning calm seas, however, this was not the case. Arrived BINA No.1 at 0750 hours. All equipment drenched in water. Unloaded and made camp for the day. Inspected village and revised census. To BINA No.2 at 1130 hours while seas eased off. Inspected village and revised census. One complaint to be settled at BINA No.1. Returned to BINA No.1 at 1400 hours. All minor complaints settled and one to report station for further investigation. Slept at BINA No.1. Travelling Time: 1 hour 45 mins.

Thursday, 14th.

Departed BINA No.1 at 0840 hours for WARIO which is on the coast. Arrived some 55 minutes later. All patrol equipment again drenched by heavy seas. Inspected village and revised census. This is the only village where sand exists. Drifting canoe found at BINA No. 1 with a shotgun and various articles. An S.A.P. was also in the canoe and identified as being the property of one PAGU/ARUBA. Proceeded to MAIPANI to investigate and it was discovered that PAGU/ARUBA was taken by a crocodile and his remains were found by the Councillor from TIRERE. Shotgun and S.A.P. returned to station. At WARIO for the night. Travelling Time: 95 minutes.

Friday, 15th.

Departed WARIO at 0810 hours for AMAGOA, arrived at 0925 hours. Met Village Officials and inspected village. Village not in a very pleasing condition. People ~~examined~~ assembled and revised census. Talks to people on village cleanliness. One minor complaint settled with those concerned. Overnight at AMAGOA. Travelling Time: 1 hour 15 mins.

Saturday, 16th.

Departed AMAGOA at 0703 hours for ASARAMIO. Arrived at track leading to village 0740 hours. Unloaded patrol equipment and tied up dinghy and outboard thence by foot to village. Track overgrown and walking mainly on logs throughout. Arrived actual village 0906 hours. Inspected village and talked to people. Revised census. One complaint received and settled. Overnight at ASARAMIO. Travelling Time: 2 hours 4 mins.

Sunday, 17th.

Departed ASARAMIO at 0835 hours, arrived DIBIRI Passage where dinghy and motor was left at 1005 hours. Proceeded to BIMARAMIO 1025 hours, arrived 1145 hours. Inspected village, a most depressing sight. Talks to people and instructions issued. Revised census. One minor complaint settled. Left for Banu Base Camp at 1335 hours, arrived at 1506 hours. At Banu Base Camp. Travelling Time: 4 hours 20 mins.

-----END of DIARY-----

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INTRODUCTION:

As previously discussed with the Assistant District Commissioner at Balimo, preparations were made and the patrol to both the BAMU DELTA and DIBIRI Census Divisions were commenced on the 28th September, 1965.

The area patrolled were the BAMU DELTA and DIBIRI Census Divisions and all villages in both census divisions were visited. It was intended to stay at least one night and one day in each village but this was not necessary due to the close proximity of villages.

The main objects of the patrol was to:

- (i) Revise Census.
- (ii) Routine Administration.

The area covered is approximately due East from the station and is low lying country, thus is an area for most part covered by mud laden swamps, and sage and nipa palm overgrowth. Due to the prevailing dry period during the past few months the people were able to keep their villages clean. However, during wet and high tide periods the area is inundated with mud, sandflies and mosquitoes and in most cases villages covered with water. This was the first patrol to the area by the writer since being transferred here and it certainly is a most depressing area and has very little to recommend in the way of any other developments.

Travelling throughout the area was done on a fourteen foot "TRADEWIND" dinghy with a 28hp Johnson. It was due to the writer's good fortune that no mechanical difficulties were encountered on the motor and the patrol was carried out as planned.

Census generally was well attended and the patrol faced no difficulty throughout its entire stay in the area.

NATIVE AFFAIRS:

(a) Native Situation:

The people in both the Bamu Delta and Dibiri Census Divisions were advised when they were to expect the patrol and so the people were prepared for the pending visit. Throughout the area patrolled the villages were found to be cleaned and although their isn't much to show they have actually attempted to tidy up the surroundings. The only village which did not make any effort whatsoever to clean up the village was BIMARAMIO, a village in the Dibiri Census Division.

Census was well attended and it was a pleasing sight to see everyone make the effort to be present. Those who were absent, however, were mainly men away at work on plantations and the few children who attended school.

All the villages had rest houses and all were found to be in fair condition.

There are ofcourse far too many men away at work leaving their wives at home and thus adultery cases are most prevalent in the area. In few of the villages the older men also complained that due to many of their men being absent, work in the villages is at a stand still.

Two Aid Post Orderlies have again been posted in the area, one at BUNIGI and the other at SISIMI No.2. It was quite noticeable that the people showed no interest in their presence, insofar as to construct new and better Aid Posts. The Orderlies have already complained of the lack of cooperation on the people's part. The people told they are also expected to do their share of work and if this goes on the Aid Posts will just have be closed down as was done to the BUNIGI School, however, it is hard to say what the people actually think. I have come to the conclusion that these people have this 'CARITLESS' attitude and would like someone else to do the work for them.

(b) Economic Development:

This area has no great economic potential due to the fact that there is very little dry fertile land available and the only crop which would have any success is coconuts. There is very little being done at present to increase production and the few trees that exist people tend to make a bit now and again when they feel like doing it. Generally the quality of the coconut palms are also very poor and thus production is very low.

The crocodile industry in the Bamu Delta and Dibiri Census Divisions is now getting to the point of non-existence. Actually the people were asked if they were getting much skins and have found that they get the odd one now and again so it could be said that the crocodiles are at the point of being shot out.

One may think of some other improvements in economic fields but availability of suitable is so scarce that one might as well forget the idea.

The people themselves show very little interest and it seems that they have relatively very few 'wants' and thus would take some time and patience to convince them to increase their present coconut stands.

It would be wise I feel to leave them progress as they wish but to keep a close watch on what is going on and give the people advice whenever necessary. A most depressing situation.

MISSIONS:

The only mission which has a bit of influence on the people of the Bamu Delta is the Bamu River Mission, in so much as they run the only Aid Post in the area and the people occasionally visit the place.

At TOROBINA the mission have a Primary 'T' School staffed by two local teachers - husband and wife team. Over fifty children attend and of course the majority of them being TOROBINA'S

In the Dibiri Census Division a Seventh Day Adventist local teacher is posted at BIMARAMIO and although he has shown interest in helping the people, he lacks co-operation from the people. It therefore could be said generally the Missions have very little or no influence at all.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Travel is done throughout the area by canoe. The only track which was used by the patrol was from the Dibiri Passage to ASARAMIO which was situated on the headwaters of Sagay Creek. The track itself was not in good condition and due to the dry spell the swamp track was dry but during the wet one has to swim to the village.

EDUCATION:

As mentioned above under Missions, the only school in the area is at TOROBINA run by the Bamu River Mission and is staffed by local teachers. However, this does not cater for the many children in the various villages. Previously a school was to be opened at BUNIGI but due to the lack of co-operation from the people this was closed.

At BIMARAMIO the SDA teacher is also in the process of building a school, and of course this will be again limited to religious teachings and very little general education.

VILLAGE CONSTABLES AND OFFICIALS:

For the most part the Village Constables are rather ineffective. It was noticed that since they knew the patrol would be arriving everyone did some work. The Village Constables are very reluctant to place their complaints in the presence of the people.

CENSUS:

The census was well attended throughout and it was to my amazement that there were no defaulters. *There*

VILLAGES:

The Villages were generally clean and kept tidy as best they could and it was pleasing to see some effort was made to tidy up the villages prior to the patrol's visit.

Previously the villages of BAMIO and AXIADAI were separate but have since joined forces at BAMIO. Likewise the villages of AMAGOA and ETERE; ASARAMIO and TAPAPI. All have combined and the villages are now AMAGOA and ASARAMIO.

Census figures are done separately as these villages are shown in the village directory. It therefore is recommended that in future the villages in both census divisions be listed as follows:

BAMU DELTA CENSUS DIVISION

BAMIO
BINA No.1
BINA No.2
BUNIGI
DAKAVE
MIRUMA
ORCPAI
PIRUPIRU No.1
PIRUPIRU No.2
SISARA
SISIAMI No.1
SISIAMI No.2
SOGERI
TONOBINA
UPATI
WAKAU
WARIO

DIBIRI CENSUS DIVISION

AMAGOA
ARAGI
ARIKINAPI
ASARAMIO
BIMARAMIO

The village of ARAGI had an inflow of people from KINADIBA a village on the North Bank Fly. The people have migrated in at their own wish and have asked to remain at ARAGI.

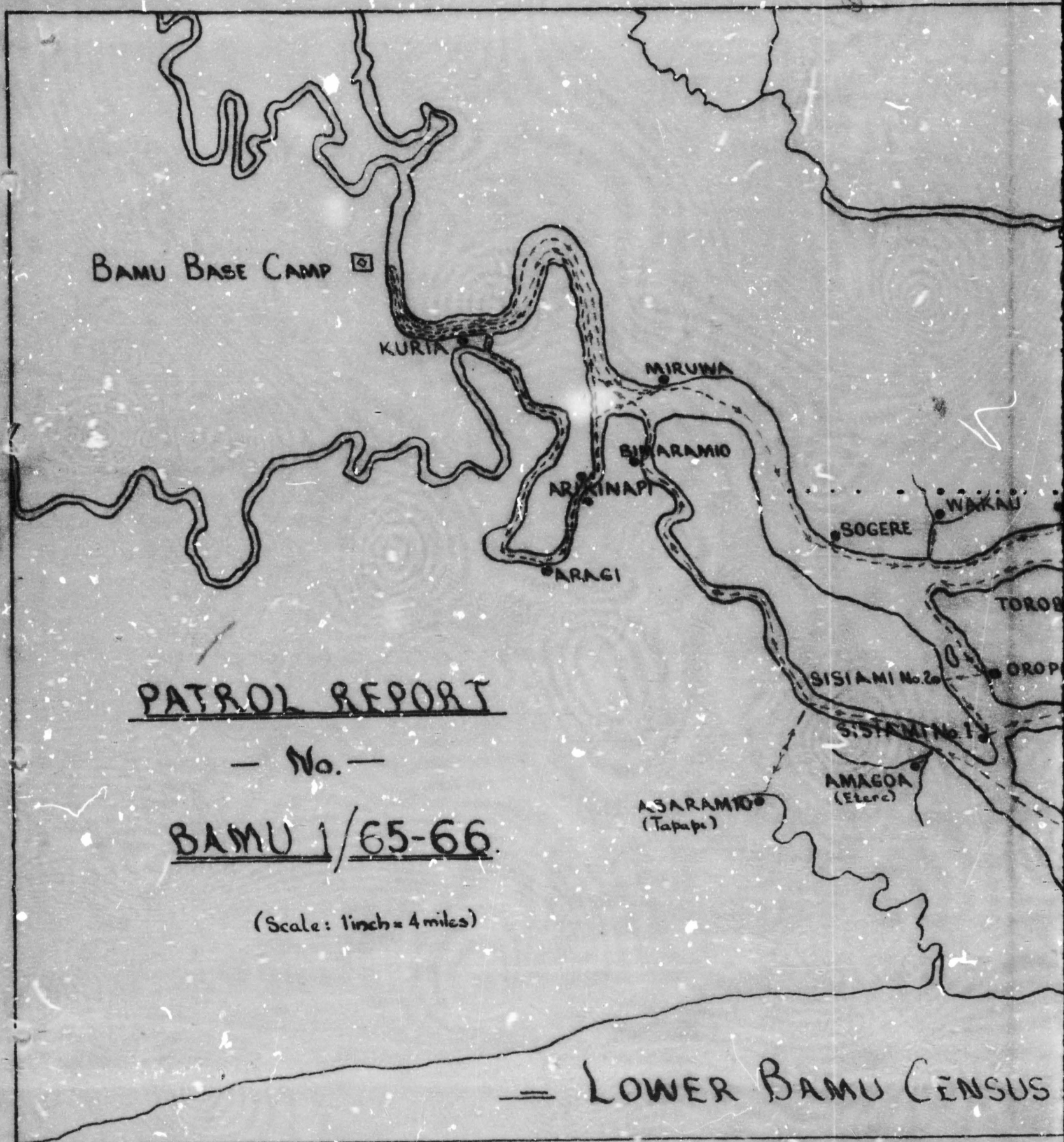
It would also be recommended that the above Census Division be combined as the villages could be visited no more than two weeks in the area. It was brought to my notice that Mr. Becke had previously recommended such a move and I in turn would strongly support the move.

CONCLUSION:

This area is one where very little could be done not because of the terrain but because of the people's attitude, it certainly is a very depressing and disheartening area to patrol.

I hope that the conduct of this patrol meets with your approval.

R. P. Kekedo
(R. P. Kekedo)
Patrol Officer.



BAMU BASE CAMP

KURIA

MIRUWA

BIRARAMIO

ARINAPI

ARAGI

SOGERE

WAKAU

TOROB

DROP

SISIAMI No. 2a

SISIAMI No. 1

AMAGOA
(Eterc)

ASARAMIO
(Tapape)

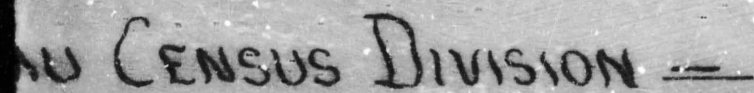
PATROL REPORT

— No. —

BAMU 1/65-66

(Scale: 1 inch = 4 miles)

— LOWER BAMU CENSUS



Rosland - P. Keredo R.O.
10/66