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Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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PATROL REPORT OF: ROUKU - VENTERN. ACC. NO: 496

VOL. NO: 5 1957 - 1958 NUMBERS OF REPORTS: 3

REPORT NO		pregr	OFFICER CONDUCTING PATROL		AREA PATROLLED	MAPS/ PHOTOS	PERIOD OF PATROL
L	10= 1857/58	1-9	J.A. FREY	p.o.	LONGE MOREHEAD & BENEBACH RUS TRANS-FLY CENEUS DIVISION		15.7.57 - 29.7.57 3.9.57 - 21.10.57
2	2 0= 185/188 3 0= 185/188	1-11	<i>n</i>	".	BENSBACH RIVERS	map	11.11.57 - 17.11.57
THE REAL PROPERTY.							



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA



PATROL REPORT

District of ROUKU - WESTERN Report No. 1/57-52							
Patrol Conducted by J.A. Frey , Patrol Officer							
Area Patrolled Lower Morehead and Bensbach Rivers							
Patrol Accompanied by Europeans.							
Natives3							
Duration—From.15/7/19.57to29/7/1957							
Number of Days. 15							
Did Medical Assistant Accompany?							
Last Patrol to Area by-District Services/2/1957							
Medical //19.54							
Map Reference Refer Patrol Report No. 4/56-57							
Objects of Patrol							
DIRECTOR Of DISTRICT SERVICES AND NATIVE AFFAIRS, PORT MORESBY.							
DIRECTOR Of DISTRICT SERVICES AND NATIVE AFFAIRS,							
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30-4-35

25th September, 1957.

The District Officer, Western District, DARU

M

ROUKU PATROL REPORT NO.1 - 1957/58

Receipt is acknowledged of the abovementioned Patrol Report.

Your remarks to the Officer-in-Charge at Rould adquately cover the problems raised in the Patrol Report.

I should be pleased to have a copy of the map you call for in Para. 6 of your comments to the Officer-in-Charge.

It is interesting to find that there is am improvement in the standard of house construction - it shows the people are at least prepared to try and improve their living conditions.

I am very pleased to note that Mr. Freu is prepared to include in his Report suggestions such as the cultivation of "wet" rice. Mr. Frow has performed this routine Patrol Report in a thorough manner. Such routine Patrols are frequently far more beneficial to the people generally than the more spectacular type of patrol, and an Officer who can perform well a routine report is, in my opinion, a better man in his job than the Officer who can perform enthusiastically only spectacular patrols.

(A.A. Roberts)

30/4/35~

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

30 - 4 - 12 / 2

District Office, DARU, WESTERN DISTRICT.

12 Sep 57

JJM/ml

The Director,
Department of Native Affairs,
PORT MORESBY, PAPUA.

ROUKU PATROL REPORT NO 1 OF 1957/58

- 1. The above Patrol Report is forwarded, together with Camping Allowance Claim.
- 2. The report has been read by local officers of relevant Departments.
- 3. In my Report of a visit to Rouku (q.v.) I have already proposed that the station for the area be re-established at Garaita.

(John J. Marphy)
District Commissioner, WESTERN DISTRICT.

30-4-12/3

District Office, MARU. WESTERN DISTRICT.

JJM/ml

12 Sep 57

The Officer-in-Charge, ROUKU.

ROUKU PATROL REPORT NO 1 OF 1957/58

- The Medical Officer here ascribes the high incidence of tuberculosis to three main factors - Bad Housing, Poor Diet, and the Climate. I am glad to note the improvement in housing in your area, some of which I saw during my recent visit. Your efforts are apparently having good success.
- 2. Propagating tomatoes from cuttings is an old practice.
 I do it here with good results. Other factors influence fruit production leached soil, lack of water, fungus, etc.
 Vegetative propagation from good stock eliminates most of the genetic factors that cause degeneration.
- 3. The D.A.O. confirms that January-February is the best time for rice planting in the area. The consignment of rice seed, part of which was proceed you, arrived well after the wet. More is coming, however.
- of the "Elevala" which should be early October. He have to bring a trained native copra producer with him for work in nearby villages while he himself examines areas designated by you. In the meantime think up a scheme for trying a small area of wet rice production as mentioned in your second last paragraph on page 3.
- The Western District is unlike any other District in the Territory for Administrative mechanics. We have to think in terms of area rather than population. If anything is to be achieved beyond an annual head count, the limiting factors for what one officer can do should be cast in terms of distance and density, not numbers. It therefore follows that our attention be directed to equipping posts and their staffs to deal with distance for ordinary administrative functions and for development. This means provision of roads, water-landing facilities, land and sea transport and, to a certain extent, airfields. The part you play is the promotion of trunk and feeder roads in your erea and later on landing points on navigable waterways. I have already asked that you be supplied with a Trak-Crip one-ton tip truck.
- 6. In general the coastal villages must look to the inland road and waterway system for development and progress as the

beaches are shallow and inaccessible. You could perhaps from your knowledge of the area let me have on a map an integrated land and waterway system that would be available for at least 8 months of the year.

(John J. Nirphy)
District Commissioner, WESTERN DISTRICT

Rouku Patrol Post, Western District.

7th August, 1957.

The District Commissioner, Daru , Western District.

: Patrol Report No. 1/57-58. Reference

: J. A. Frew, Patrol Officer. Patrol By

: Lower Morehead and Bensbach Rivers. Area Patrolled

: Rentine Administration. Nature of Patrol

: 15th July, 1957 Date Departed

Duration: 15 Days .

: 29th July, 1957) Date Returned

: 2 R.P. & N.G.C. Patrol Accompanied By

1 N.M.O.

: February, 1957. Last Patrol

: Refer Patrol Report No. 4/56-57.

Introduction.

Weather conditions were considerably different on this patrol as compared to those experienced on the last patrol earlier this year. No rain had fallen in the area for over two months; swamps and flood waters had almost entirely receded from the tracks, leaving them hard and dry; and in the areas away from the main rivers, potable water was scarce and that available was scum covered, discoloured and 'fruity' to the teste, even when boiled.

The area patrolled lies south-west of the Rouku Patroi Post, bounded by the Netherlands New Guinea border, the coast and the Morehead River. The country is mainly savannah with small scattered forest areas where villages, with their small populations, and gardens are sited. South of Korombo, there is a marked fall in height of the country, which, considered overall, would not at any point exceed sixty feet above sea-level, such that areas around the lower Bensbach River and between Wando Village and the Morehead River are covered in swamp waters for all except four months of the year. In these swamp areas, fish and water-fowl are plentiful.

The native situation was found, as usual, to be satisfactory. Progress is hardly discernible, though for an isolated area, with a small and scattered population, lacking transport facilities, the amenities that civilisation has to offer and contact with other people, the result to cate is better than what could otherwise be expected.

Diary.

Departed Rouku at 1130 hours and walked to Tokwa, arriving 15th July at 1345. Continued on at 1500 and reached Wemenevre at 1715. Left Wemenevre at 0830 and arrived Korombo at 1300. 16th July Departed Korombo at 0820 and reached Wando at 1200. 17th July Left Wando at 0500 and travelled by canoe to Bandaber, arriving 18th July at 1145. Departed Bandaber at 0800 and reached Bula at 1445. 19th July At 0900, set out on return trip to Bandaber, arriving at 1600. 20th July Left Bandaber by canoe at 0800 and arrived at Wando at 1100. 21st July Departed Wando at 0800 and arrived at Korombo at 1145. 22nd July From Korombo, at 0820, walked to Mengete, arriving at 1100. 23rd July Departed Mengete at 0815 and reached Kandarisa at 1000. 24th July

Continued of at 1100 and arrived at Weam at 1315.
25th July : Left Weam at 0800 and arrived Wereave at 1045.

26th July : Departed Wereave at 0800 and walked to Kandarisa via Weam-Continued on from Kandarisa at 1410 and walked to Iandorodo,

along a bush track, arriving at 1610.
27th July : Left Iandorodo at 08.0 and arrived Tokwa at 1300.

28th July : Departed Tokwa at 0730 and arrived Rouku Patrol Post at 1200.

29th July : Visited Rouku Village . End of Patrol .

Native Affairs .

No disputes were referred to the patrol for adjustment and it was not necessary to sold courts. The people live a peaceful, law-sbiding life and relationships, b both between individuals and village groups, are particularly narmonicus.

During the dry season, the people move out of their willages to live in small encampments beside the larger creeks and the Bensbach River, in order to hunt, fish and make a little sago. Occasional visits are apparently paid to the villages and garden areas to check the security of houses, belongings and crops.

The standard of housing construction at Rouku has improved considerably over the past months. A number of new buildings have been erected, and the design and materials used show a radical change from the usual unsubstantial bark houses typical of the area. At Rouku, use of kunai thatch as a roofing material has been made and bark walls have been replaced by plaited bamboo strips - giving an overall neater and aesthetic appearance. At Mergete, Iandorodo and Wereave, sago mid-rib and kuani thatch have been used with good effect in house construction — the sago-mid-rib, used as wall material, is fastened to-gether with wooden spikes, a method used in the Netherlands Territory and adopted by some people on this side of the border. The standard of housing is steadily being improved throughout the area. Where a man has constructed an improved type of house, then he is commended and other members of the illage are encouraged to adopt the design of the building as the model and standard for future constructions.

Agriculture .

Food, though not plentiful at this time of the year, appears sufficient for the needs of the people. Manioc, taro and bananas form the major part of the diet, at the moment, with a little sage made from the small stands that most villages possess. Some of the taitu planted earlier this year is now being dug, but the main harvest is not collected until about October.

At lokwa, the Councillor complained that their taitu gardens had been ruined by earth-worms eating the tubers, however, investigation showed that the damage was slight and the claim that commlete destruction of the crop had resulted could not be substantiated. A further check of the crop will be made at the main harvest, later this year. Claims that the ground near the village was unsuitable for taitu cultivation were voiced, and preparations are being made for the cultivation of now gardens, next season, at a site a few miles south-west of the village.

The only introduced vegetables in the area are tomatoes and a little corn, beans and chinese cabbage, mainly grown at Wando. Tomatoes are propagated by cuttings from mature plants, which method would appear to have an adverse effect on the size of the fruit, as they ripen when no bigger than marbles.

As mentioned in my previous report, the perola of Wando, last year, obtained some seed rive from a village across the border in the Netherlands Territory and experimented with it in an area adjacent to the village. The rice planted in swampy ground produced exceptionally well, whereas the yield from that planted on dry land was not as great. The people saved some seed from the crop and intend to plant up further area this year on swampy land. The Councillor has already planted a small need plot which he intends soon to transplant to the swampy land. However, during my visit, it was noticed that the swamps were fast receding and as no further heav heavy rain is expected until December, I suspect that the people may be disappointed with their results this year. Last year, the period June to December was wetter than usual for that time of the year and undoubtedly benefited their rice production , but, certainly, the same conditions are not being experienced this year. In a recent publication on the Netherlands rice scheme near Merauke, it was stated that rice planting commences in that region about January-February and is harvested in June-July, thus the rice benefits from the rains of the wet season and is assured dry weather for harvesting. Should the Wando rice fail this year, then the people will be persuaded to try an experimental planting in February of next year.

Economic Development.

This matter has been previously discussed in my Patrol Reports Nos. 4-8 of 1956-57. There appears to be a potential in the erea, but the impetus for development must come from the Administration. The problems to be overcome and the form of the assistance that the Administration will be required to supply were mentioned in the above Reports.

The area is probably suitable for the production of rice, copra and peanuts, and, possibly, coffee and cocoa on selected ground. A visit by the District Agricultural Officer to advise on the suitability of the area for the production of these crops would be appreciated, or, in the event that such a visit is not at present possible, the District Agricultural Officer may be able to supply some printed information on the cultivation and environmental conditions required by these crops, in oreder that an appraisal may be carried out by this office and information on cultivation methods imparted to the people.

The Netherlands idministration has piloted a rice scheme in the area around Merauke, in country which probably resembles that around the lower Bensbach River. I am not suggesting that a similar scheme should be undertaken here, however, the idea would warrant consideration if the economics of the matter were not out of proportion, but perhaps something could be undertaken at the village level. During the wet season, much of the 1 wer Bensbach is inundated and, with the onset of the dry season, these floods gradually recede. During this patrol, wax it was noticed that in some small sections it may be possible by construction earth embankments, to trap and regulate the height of the water, thus providing means for the cultivation of 'wet' rice. Provided water, thus providing means for the cultivation of 'wet' rice. Provided without possibilities. The people of Wando are interested in rice growing without possibilities. The people of Wando are interested in rice growing and have endeavoured in the past, with varying success, to grow rice on both dry and wet land.

The Rouku Sub-District covers and extremely large area, approximately 8,000 square miles, with a small population, 5,500, in villages widely separated. In order to promote any scheme in such an in villages widely separated. In order to promote any scheme in such an in villages widely separated. In order to promote any scheme in such an area and to ensure it with a modicum of success, a four-wheel drive vehicle, a Landrover and trailer, would be required for the use of this office so that regular visits may be made to oversee and advise on the projects. Also, a vehicle would provide a means of transportation for the marketing of any surplus crops produced. The suitability of the area for a vehicle and the extent of trafficable roads in the Sub-District have been discussed in the reports mentioned above.

Education. The London Missionary Society have schools at Wards and Rouki, each staffed by a native pastor. Though it is claimed that these schools teach to standard 2, it is doubtful whother pupils could satisfy en examination in standard 1. Schooling last year was interrupted by the frequent absences of the teachers at Daru; the pupil's gaining he more than three or four months tuition during the year. Schooling has beer again interrupted this year, as both teachers have been absent at Daru for the past two months. Despite the setback to the educational progess of the are, the L.M.S. schools still remain popular with the people and children, though, at times, misgivings at the frequent interruptions are expressed. It is hoped that the time is not too far distant when the Administration will be able to make available the funds and staff for the establishment of an Administration school at Rouku. Realth. The health of the people was found to be satisfactory. Approximately three weeks prior to this patrol, a medical procrly visited the area and attended to a few miror cases. A medical orderly also accompanied this patrol and remained at Mengete for ten days , after the return of the patrol to Rouku, to attend to a few minor complaints. A. Frem) Patrol Officer.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of ROUKU , WESTERN	Report No. 2/57-08
Patrol Conducted by J.A. Frow , Patrol O	fficer
Area Patrolled TRANS-FLY CENSUS SUB-DI	VISION
Patrol Accompanied by CompeansT.P.Bergin	.GaPaQaa
Natives 2 Consteble	B
Duration—From 3/9/1957to.21/10./1	19.57
Number of Days	49
Did Medical Assistant Accompany?	
Last Patrol to Area by-District Services/	/19.57
Medical/=	
Map Reference Trans-Fly 4 mile to 1 i	noh Series (Lands Dept)
Objects of Patrol	
AND NATIVE AFFAIRS, PORT MORESBY.	
For	rwarded, please.
/ ./19	District Commissioner
Amount Paid for War Damage Compensation	£
Amount Paid from D.N.E. Trust Fund	
Amount Paid from P.E.D.P. Trust Fund	7

NA. 30-4-41

14th February, 1958.

The District Officer, Western District, DARU.

PATROL SEPORT NO.2 - 1957/58 : ROME.

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

I am impressed by Mr. Freu's notes under the heading "Mative Affairs". It seems to me that he goes to great pains to gather facts and present them together with suitable comment.

(S.K. McCarthy)



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA



In Reply
Please Quote
No. 30-4-14/2

District Office, DARU, WESTERN DISTRICT.

5 Feb 58

JJM ml

4-

The Director,
Department of Native Affairs,
PORT MORESBY.

ROURU PATROL REPORT NUMBER 2 OF 1957/58

- 1. I have requested in my submissions for 1958/59 that a TrakGrip be allocated to Rouku. Development is severely limited without it.

 You have by this received a general report from Mr Frew on the Rouku area.
- 2. Consideration is now being given to the establishment of a council area based on ligabaduru and a survey will be conducted soon. It might well be that inclusion of Sigabaduru in the Daru council might be indicated as a first measure.
- 3. I am adopting a road building programme in the Rouku area. Finds to assist are a bit obscure at the moment.

The Papuan Revival Mission at Arufi is now being withdrawn.

District Commission WESTERN DISTRIC

Rouku Patrol Post, Testern District.

28th November, 1957.

The District Commissioner, Daru, Western District.

Reference : Patrol Report Fo. 2/57-58.

Patrol By : J. A. Frow , Fatrol Officer.

Area Patrolled : Trans-Fly Consus Sub-Division.

Nature of Patrol : Routing Administration.

Date Departed : 3rd September, 1957 } Duration : 49 Days.

Date Returned : 21st October, 1957

Patrol Accompanied By : Mr. T.R. Wergin, Gadet Patrol Officer 2 Constables , R.P. & N.G.C.

Lust Patrol : April, 1957.

Map : Trans-Fly 4 mile to inche Series (Lands Dept.)

Introduction.

As mentioned in my previous report of a patrol to this area, the Trans-Fly is certainly the most uninviting area administered. Thom the Rouku Patrol Post. Patrolling in the wet stand, with its extensive sheet flooding of the countryside and constant rain, is difficult, but, during the 'dry' season, climatic conditions are severely reversed and patrols are subjected to extreme heat and a searcity of notable water which, in my opinion, more than cutweighs the inconveniences of travel experienced on the former patrol. F.E. Williams, in his survey of the area entitled 'Papuans of the Trans-Fly', makes note of the trying conditions and quotes Sir Rubert Murray, after his trek to Tonda, as reporting: "It was the dry season and the track across was good and hard, but the heat was come y appalling both day and might. I have never had so hot a walk before, wither in New Guinea or anywhere else." Mr. Lyons, a former Resident Magistrate, described the small regions as "a hot and godless place to be in, in the dry season. It is absolutely without water except perhaps for some slimy and in a swamp here and there, wherein wild pigs wallow.".

The present dry conditions, however, has favoured the Lands Department Survey Officer who is at present investigating the area for a potential cattle grazing industry. The dried-up watercourses and hard-baked ground has permitted the extensive use of a vehicle, which had been introduced into the area to facilitate the work of the survey. Mr. R.J. Munn, the Lands Department Officer, was met at Wam, and my especial thanks are due to him for his generous assistance in transporting the patrol by his vehicle over a distance exceeding 80 miles. The intensity of my feelings towards this mode of travel can only be gauged by anyone who has traversed the six hours walk from Tais to Mati and the nine and a half hours walk from Mari to Tonda during the Trans-Fly dry season.

A detour was made by the patrol to visit Darg, there a week was spent, mainly discussing Rouku Sub-District affairs with the District Commissioner and other Departmental representatives.

the patrol was of a routine nature and the area was found quiet and law-abiling with no outstanding 'aldents to report.

Diary.

3rd September : Departed Rouku at 1115 and arrived Morehead River crossing at 1145. Crossed River by cances and continued on to Garaita arriving at 1247. Left Garaita at 1333 and reached Mata at 1614.

4th September : Visited Daraia Hamlet, and returned to Mata.

5th September : Departed Mata at 0845 and arrived Pongaki at 1040; thence on to Dericeri, arriving at 12125.

6th September : Left Derderi at 0915 and reached Arufi at 1215. Visited Pastor and Mrs Ellis of Arufi Mission during the evening.

7th September : Departed Arufi at 0807 and arrived at Gubam at 1140.

8th September : At Guban. Const. Gay despatched to Ronku to investigated reported death by burning of a Rouku native.

9th September : Const. Gay returned to Gubam at 0630. Departed Gubam at 0800 and reached Bimadebun at 1300.

10th September : Departed Bimadobun at 0800 and arrived Dimisisi at 1230.

11th September: Left Minisisi at 0530 and arrived Bur at 1130. The early morning start averded the main heat of the day.

19th September : From Buk walked 25 hours to Kondoba arriving at 1130.

13th September : Departed Kondoba at 0800 and arrived Kinkin at 1130.

14th September : Left Kirkin at 0830 and arrived Limol at 1245. Met Cons.
Hago , Daru Detachment, who is attached to the Lands Survey
Party.

15th September: Departed Limol at 0730 and arrived Kanera at 0920. Continued on from Kanera and arrived Lim at 1230. Net Mr. R.J. Numm, Lands Department Officer.

16th September: Travelled to Podari and return by LandRover. Supervised bridge repairs.

17th September : Assisted Mr. Mamm with road and bridge construction between

18th September : Assisted with road and bridge construction between Wim and Kanera. Reached Kanera by vehicle.

19th Beptember: Departed Wim at 0730 by LandRover and arrived Wuroi wharf or Oriomo River at 1200. Thence by out-board motored cance to Oriomo Sawmill. Transferred to Oriomo Launch and departed for Daru sariving at 1930.

20th September : At Daru . 26th September :

27th September : Departed Daru at 1030 on M.V. Urangah and reached Wurvil at 1630. Camped night.

28th September : Departed Wurdi by LandRover at 0930 and arrived at Wim at 1400.

29th September : At Wim.

30th September : Patrol gear despatched by vehicle to Halam.

lst October : To Malam by LandRover.

2nd October : At Malam.

3rd October : Patrol gran despatched to vehicle to Kwimung.

4th October : Travelled by vehicle to Kwiwing.

5th October Cat Kwiwung. Constable Maikeri despatched to Sibidiri to arrange cances.

6th October : At Kwiwung.

7th October : To Belevi by vehicle to assist with road construction. Returned

to Kwiwung.

8th October : By vehicle from awiwing to Gija. Constable Maikeri arrived

with one cance.

9th October : At Gija awaiting further cances. Aruri Massion launch arrived

p.m. with Mrs. Ellis on board on route Daru.

10th October : Depa ted Gija at 0730 on board Arvfi Mission launch and arrived mouth of Mai Kussa at 0930. Disembarked and walked

to Buji arriving at 1000. Departed Buji on sailing sances

at 2030.

11th October: Arrived Mogai Greek at 1225. Disembarked and walked to Rugit Tabatata, arriving at 1325. Left Tabatata at 2130 and reached Mogai Creek mouth at 2230. Embarked on canoes and waited for

change of tide.

12th October : Set sail from Mogai Creek at 0230 and arrived Sigabaduru at

C900.

13th October : Departed Sigabaduru at 0730 and arrived Buji at 1800. One

cance damaged at Mogai Greek, but repairs were effected and

it followed on arriving late at night.

14th October ! Visited Ber and returned to Auji.

15th October : Departed Raji at 0100 by sailing canoes, Aground off Tauga

at low tide at 0300. Arrived Tauga at 0900.

18th October : Departed Tauga at 1020 and arrived Mojbut cance landing at

1420. Sent for carriers from Tais. Arrived Tais at 1715.

17th October: Departed Tais at 8900 and arrived Mari at 1530.

18th October : Visited Jarai ant returned to Mari-

19th October : Left Mari at 0730 and arrived Tonda at 1700.

20th October : Departed Tonda et 0900 and reached Mibini at 1130.

21st October : Left Mikini and returned to Rown 1105 End of Patrol.

Native Affairs & Intelligence.

The native situation throughout the area remains quiet and staisfactory. The Court for Native Matters was convened once during the patrol to hear a charge under Section 34(1) of the Native Regulations Ordinance, but, apart from this exception, there were no other disputes or complaints referred to the patrol for settlement.

Reforts are still being made to maintain interest in the salling cance industry on the coast which was revived by previous Officers. On the last payrol, I reported that three canoes were available and an additional four were under construction, however, some losses in cances recurred during the early part of the present South-east season and the rumber has been reduced to four actual and one under construction. Councillors and Village Constables are being encouraged to maintain and expand the number of sailing canoes in order to facilitate the movement of visiting patrols and aslo to provide a means for the people to market copra and garden produce at Daru, as well as permitting case of trade and social contact produce at Daru, as well as permitting case of trade and social contact between coastal villages. Previous Office as were for a mately able to stimulate the industry by providing cance owners with carvas flys discarded by A.P.C. seignic parties, but as A.P.C. have now re lated the area, seemed that this curve of valuable assis ance would a longer be available

however, a number of canvas flys were recently salvaged at Morehead River and these will be ande available to deserving cases. The flys are, in most cases, badly were but cutting and patching they can be made into serviceable sails. The cost of fully equipping a cance with sails and rigging purchased from the stores is in excess of £30, which is a considerable outlay to people without a morey income. Some of their sails and much of their rigging is obtained by trading garden produce to Boigu and Saibai I. Islands, however, much of this material obtained in the exchange is usually discarded seconds and third-hand items, liable to break and collapse with severe strains. To provide the coastal people with the ears of purchasing brand new materials and to expand their small cash income, at present mainly obtained by selling their labour to Territory enterprises, A.P.C. and Burns Philp being the most favoured, and training garden produce to neighbouring islands, village people are being encouraged to plant up areas with occounts and to produce copra from existing plantations. The response to this suggestion can hardly be termed satisfactory.

Attention in previous reports has been drawn to the personality of Councillor Done of Sigabaduru. The Sigabaduru po ple have been strongly influenced by the neighbouring Torres Strait Islanders at Selbai. Under the strong leadership of Courcillor Done, the Sigabeduru villagers have endeavoured to keep pace with the development of the saibai Islanders, but lack the educational means and cash income to do so. In their endeavours to be the equals of the Saibai Islanders, European type elothing and Torres Strait English is widely spoken. Unable to participate in Saibai society as members of the Island clubs and council, they have endeavoured to associate themselves with similar newly-formed institutions at Daru, such that, by contributing #34.10.0, the majority have been admitted as members of the 'Western District Community Centre' at distant Paru, which on account of its distance from sibabaduru, can hardly benefit them, though membership has its prestles value for them. Learning that the people of nearby Mabadouan are to be incorporated in the Boru Local Covernment Council, they informed me, on his visit, that everyone had collected sufficient money to pay his tax as mombars of the para Local Government Cornoil. In my previous report, it was siggested that consideration should be given to the inclusion of the sigabeduru people in the Daru Council, so that by association with the Council the advancement of the Sigabacuru people could be promoted and they would no longer feel themselves at a disadvantage vis-a-vis the saibai Eslanders. Also, as members of the Council, besides the social cultural and auterial benefits to be gained as members, an outlet for the energy of Councillor Done would be provided in the political field.

Councillor Done informed me that he had consulted with the Local Government Officer at Daru and was advised to discuss the natter of Local Covernment Councils with me on my next visit. The formation of a Local Government Council amongst coastal villages of the Rouler Sub-District appears too remote, at this stage, owing to the small population, small cash income of the people and the lack of transport and the inadequacy of communications between the coast and Rouler Until these problems have been overcome in some measure then it is preferable that Sigabaduru should be incorporated in the Dark Council.

The arrival of the Lands Department survey party in the area to conduct an investigation into the potentiality of the area for supporting a cattle industry has been enthusiastically received in most quarters. The people seem to have co-operated exceptionally well with the survey party and bad worked hard in reopening much of the old A.P.C. vehicle roads and in widening inter-village tracks to permit the passage of the party's vehicle. The presence of the Lends Departments vehicle will not be the first time that the suitability of the use of a vehicle in the Trans-Fly - in fact throughout the Rule Sub-Mistrict - during the dry season has been demonstrated. The purpose of the Lands Department's xehicle visit was explained to the people as the reason for them assisting with the road-works and it was also explained that the roads would also be required for the use of a vehicle which it was hoped would soon be supplied to this Office for use on patrols and for fostering economic levelopment. The purpose of Lands Department's visit probably seemed too visionary to many of the people, especially as few seen carrie or have whereas the latter explanation was more realistic and accorded with their own general feelings.

tericition.

Fool throughout the area was generally sufficient for the present needs of the people, though some villages had little surplus to wade to the patrol principally the coastal villages excepting Tais, Mari and Javai, which always seem to have an abundance of food and are well known in this area for the quality of thoir yars which they trade to Torres strait Islanders and other people on the coast who travel from as far as Mabadouan to trade with them.

This year, the period from May onwards has been very dry, perhaps drier than usual. Nost creeks and swamps had long since fried up and drinking water, obtained from village waterholes, was often considerably discoloured by vegetable water and contained a high percentage of sediment. All drinking water had to be boiled by the patrol and containers and water bags were used to carry drinking water for the use of carriers and patrol personnel on the tracks between villages.

From June to September, the people are unfully engaged in hinting, fishing and sugo making activities. Hunting reacher a peak during august and September and large bush fires are to be observed burning on wide fronts as the people fire the undergrowth in the course of the burning the Jry season, fish becomes as important part of their diet. From September-October orwards, increasing attention is given to the preparation and larting of yam gardens in time to catch the early rains of the wet season which commence in December-January.

A searth was wade for specimens n' the wild rice reported growing in the Torde-Mibini area during the visi: of the lst patrol. However, the effects of the dry search and the burning of the countryside by the people had destroyed the plants. A further search will be made next wet search and some seeds may be obtained.

Villages.

Many of the old houses have been demolished in the village of Diminisis and new buildings erected on a newly cleared site adjoining the old village. The new houses are large and soundly constructed, many being of radically row designs. Credit for the improvement here must go principally to the newly appointed middical aid post Orderly who has exsisted the people with the planning of the village and the designs of the houses. Instructions had been issued on the previous patrol for repairs and improvements to be made to a number of the dwellings, but the erults have exceeded all expectations.

village of Kwiwing on a site about an hour's walk to the South of the old v willage. The road from halam to Kwiwing, during the wet season, is about ankle deep in water, making walking extremely difficult and tiring, however, the road to be out to the new village is believed to follow higher ground thus permitting easier travel during the wet — this appears to be the main reason prompting the move.

Housing at Ber has been completed. However, little effort has been made at Puji to comply with instructions regarding the completion of partly constructed buildings and those people concerned were ordered to have the houses completed within a month, with the penalty of probable prosecution for thoses who fail to comply.

Roads.

During the month prior to the visit of the patrol, village people have been busil engaged in widening and straightening the foottracks and re-opening he old A.P.O. wehicle roads, to permit the passage of the Lands D partments survey party through the area in a Landsover vehicle. The A.PO. seismic parties, in 1955-55, used vehicles extensively throughout the area, with roads extending from the Bensbach River, west of Rouku, to Buk and Kwiwung in the Trans-Fly. The work of the village reople has been of considerable assistance to the Lands party and has mernt that the task of their labour force has been reduced mainly to the construction of bridges over the many creeks which cut the countryside.

By the time of the patrol's return to Rouku, a road had

been opened from Wuroi, on the Oriomo River, to the Mai Kussa and on to Rouku, a distance exceeding 150 miles. This is but a small portion of the mileage available to vehicles in this Sub-District, and, it would seem that, during the dry season, it would be possible to visit all villages, except four situated on Suki Lagoon, by vehicle. The use of a vehicle would permit more frequent visits to villages, reduce travelling time by a quarter and avoid the imposition made on people for carrying, permit the servicing and extension of medical posts, promote economic development by providing transport for cash crops to chipping and marketing centres and permit the rapid movement of technical officers through the Sub-District without loss of valuable time in travel by foot.

GRAND

M + I

Missions and Education.

There are no Administration schools in the area. Education is undertaken by two Missions; the Papuan Revival Mission at Arufi and the London Missionary Society at three villages on the coast.

The L.N.S. has native teachers at Sigabaduru, Ruji and Mari. No schools were in session during my visit, and the teacher at Mari departed for Mabadouan, where he spends the greater portion of his time, on a day prior to my arrival there. The standard of teaching does not one day prior to be very high and the periods during which actual school instruction is given seems most inadequate.

The Papuan Revival Mission has influence in the villages of Mata, Pongaki, Derderi, Arufi and Gubam. Besides providing a school at Arufi for the instruction of young children, the Mission also conducts a medical aid post and has undertaken, in the past, some adult education a medical aid post and has undertaken, owing to the absence of the The Mission has been closed this year, owing to the absence of the European Missionaries, Pastor and Mrs. Ellis, on leave. Pastor and Mrs. Ellis have now returned and it is expected that the school will be reopened next year.

Health.

Medical patrols from Roula visited the area at intervals of two to three months until June, when two new aid posts were established at Mari and Dimisisi by the Department of Health. Since then, the medical at Mari and Dimisis by the Department of Health. Since then, the medical orderlies at Rouku have been able to direct their attentions to other parts of the Sub-District.

The health of the communities visited was generally very good. Administration staffed aid poses are established at Buji, Mari and Dimisisi, and the Papuan Revival Mission have an aid post at Arufi. Minor Dimisisi, and on patrol are referred to the aid posts for treatment, but ailments found on patrol are referred to the aid posts for treatment, but com laints requiring prolonged treatment are usually sent to Roula.

An aid post is required among the villages on the Bituri River watershed, and one youth from Limol offered to undertake medical training on the understanding that he could, at the completion of training, be posted to the area to staff an aid post there. However, of training, be posted to the area to staff an aid post there. However, the Department of Hralth at Daru advises me that the quota for trainee the Department of Hralth at Daru advises me that the quota for trainee medical orderlies has been filled for the year and there is no possibility of accepting any further trainees.

J.A. Frew)
Patrol Officer.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of ROULU MESUERN Report No. 5 ANT-58
Patrol Conducted by J.A. Frew , Patrol Officer .
Area Patrolled BENSBACH RIVER.
Patrol Accompanied by Europeans Mr. A. N. Gilli m, Assistant Agriculture Officer
Natives 2 Constables R.P. & N.G.C.
Duration—From. 11./11./19.57to17/11/19.57
Number of Days 7 Days
Did Medical Assistant Accompany?
Last Patrol to Area by—District Services/7/1957
Medical/19
Map Reference Trans-Fly 4 mile to 1 meh Series (Lands Dept.)
Objects of Patro! (1) To accommony Assistant Agriculture Officer on survey of various Bensbach villages. (2) To assist with distribution of rice seed and demonstration rice planting. (3) Generally observe dry season conditions in the area.
DIRECTOR OF DISTRICT SERVICES AND NATIVE AFFAIRS, PORT MORESBY.
Forwarded, please.
/ /19 District Commissioner
Amount Paid for War Damage Compensation £
Amount Paid from D.N.E. Trust Fund £
Amount Paid from P.E.D.P. Trust Fund £

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA 14th February, 1958. THE DIRECTOR OF NATIVE AFFAIRS. File No NA. 30-4-38 Govt. Print .- 275/9.57. SUBJECT PATROL REPORT NO.3 - 1957/58 : ROUKU. Development Western Die Your attention is invited to We sketch map attached to this patrol report. (T.G. Aitchison) June.

14th February, 1958.

The District Commissioner, Western District, DARM.

PATHOT, REPORT NO.3 - 1957/58 : ROCKH.

Receipt of the . We-sentioned patrol report is acknowledged with thanks.

I have noted with particular interest the plan for road development in the area.

I am pleased to note that you have taken the trouble of writing to the Department of Agriculture comporting partoral development and attached a copy to the patrol report. I can assure you such active is appreciated at this Headquarters.

The patrol report has been well assumiled and is indicative of the capacity of the officer to make a proper appreciation of the situation in the area as regard both the native people and their future economic development.

(J.K. McCarthy)



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA



In Reply
Please Quote
No. 30-4-15/2

District Office, DARU. WESTERN DISTRICT.

5 Feb 58

JJM/ml

The Director,
Department of Native Affairs,
PORT MORESBY.

ROUKU PATROL REPORT NUMBER 3 OF 1957/58

- 1. You will see from the map that road development is possible in the area patrolled. Those marked with a double line were in use as vehicular roads by A.P.C. during their stry in the area.
- 2. In the new financial year I expect to step up development somewhat in the Rouku area. I have had to take it easy with Rouku during the last 12 months in favour of Balimo and Kiunga, but I must have more sea and land transport.
- 3. Mr Frew has always insisted that the area patrolled is superior to the Fly River as cattle country.

District Communicationer, WESTERN DISTRICT

30-4-15/3 12-4-1/

District Office, DARU. WESTERN DISTRICT.

JJM/ml

5 Feb 58

The Chief of Division, Animal Industry, D.A.S.F. PORT MORESBY.

ROUKU PATROL REPORT NUMBER 3 OF 1957/58

The following is an extract from a Patrol Report by Mr Frew. Patrol Officer at Rouku, dated 3rd December 1957.

> Particular note was taken during this patrol of conditions prevailing in the area during the dry season. A Lands/Agriculture survey is at present underway in the Trans-Fly region investigating the potentiality of that area for supporting a cattle industry and it was considered that if suitable grazing country was noticed on this patrol, then perhaps the Lands/ Agriculture party might consider the extension of any possible cattle industry to include the Bensbach region as well. I have included a sketch map indicating findings of suitable grass lands and areas which might bear fruitful investigation. Above the 8° 45' line, the country seems to consist of open forested kunsi ridges suitable for the maintenance of cattle during the wet season. Below this line, the country consists of large swamp plains and river flats which, during the dry season, mainly along the Bensbach River flats and swamps around Bandaber, is thickly covered with a type of couch grass about a foot high this area would appear excellent for dry season grazing and is far superior to any other area in the Sub-District at this time of the year. Water appears to be no problem in the dry meason, as the Bensbach and Morehead Rivers are permanent streams and the swamps near Wemenevre still contained excellent clear water. I had recently endeavoured to interest Mr R.J. Munn, Lands Survey Officer, in extending his Trans-Fly investigation to include this area, but time did not permit any deviation from his already tight schedule."

Although no attempt has yet been made to open roads in the Lower Morehead-Bensbach . rea, it should be noted that the A.P.C. seismic parties used vehicles between Rouku and Wando in their surveys of the area. If a vehicle is supplied to this seation, then a possible 500 miles of road may be open to traffic during the latter half of the dry season. The wet season, with its sheet flooding of a large part of the Sub-District,

limits the use, at present, of vchicles to about 30 miles of road about Rouku. However, the presence of a vehicle in the area promotes road construction and it may be expected that the limit of wet season road may be extended by re-routing and reconstruction of low-lying areas."

I have been thinking on the country here and the diseases and pests that would attack cattle. It struck me that buffalo would likely be just as good stock for meat canning and nides. It seems it might be feasible to bring in calves to reception centres where they could be horseman and fence-broken before release onto holdings. I am assure by Buffalo ha ters that the meat is excellent and I dare say it would can well.

District Commissioner. WESTER' DISTRICT

Territory of Papua and New Guinea.

Rouku Patrol Post, Western District.

3rd December, 1957.

The District Commissioner, Daru , Western District.

Reference

: Patrol Report No. 3/57-58.

Patrol By

: J. A Frew , Patrol Officer.

Area Patrolled

: Bensbach River.

Nature of Patrol

- : (1) To accompany the Assistant Agriculture Officer on a survey of various villages in the Bensbach River arec
 - (3) To assist with the distribution of rice seed and the demonstration of rice pleating .
 - (5) To generally observe dry season conditions in the are

Date Departed

: 11th November, 1917

. 17th Movember, 1957 Duration : 7 Days

Date Returned

Patrol Accompanied By

: Mr. A. N. Gillison, Assistant Agriculture Officer 2 Constables R.P. & N.G.C..

Last Patrol

: July, 1957.

Map

: Trans-Fly 4 mile to 1 inch Series (Lands Dept)

Introduction .

Previous patrols to the Bensbach area have commented favourably on the area, particularly the region about Wando village, with rejards to its suitability for the production of rice, both as an economic crop and as a supplementary food for the people. The District Agriculture Officer was able to meet the request for seed rice, and this patrol was organised for the purpose of distributing the seed and demonstrating methods of planting to interested persons.

The economic development of the area has been under consideration for some time and investigation was also made during this trip to ascertain what other economic crops might successfully be introduced on developed. Also, the absence of transport facilities has been a great handicap to the development of this regionand examination was therefore made of the possibilities of opening the area to vehicular transport.

With a Lands/Agric deture survey being undertaken in the Trans-Fly region, at the present time, to investigate the potentiality of that area for a cattle grazing industry, particular note was therefore taken on this patrol of the country traversed, with a view to its apparent suitability for cattle grazing .

Mr. A.M. Gillison, a stant Agriculture Officer, who accompanied the patrol, also examined native gardens tround Rouku. He was also successful in obtaining specimens of the stem borer which had been reported as responsible for the destruction of sugar came in the Sub-District.

Diary.

11th Movember : Departed Rouku and walked to Wemenevre, passing through Iokwa en route.

12th November : Left Wemenevre and walked to Kormobo.

13th November : From Korombo walked to Wando on Bensbach River. Visited native gardens during afternoon.

14th November : At Wando. Distributed rice seed and demostrated planting methods. Visited gardens during afternoon.

15th November : Departed Wando and arrived Bandeber. Afternoon spent examining local countryside.

16th November : Departed Bandaber and travelled north along a bush track to Kawaritivit Hamlet. Made camp.

17th November : From Kawaritivit returned to Rouku, visiting lokwa en route. End of Patrol.

Native Affairs

The native situation, as is usual for the Rolan up-District remains satisfactory. The people live a particularly harmonists like and, so far as I can recollect, there has been only by dispute referred during the year to this Officer, and this was such a minor matter that it was easily anicably settled without recourse to formal court procedure. Relationships between the Administration and the people of the arectare at a highly satisfactory level.

The people of lokwa, who previously resided at afformal, the now abandoned site of the A.P.C. It illing Camp, are now considering a return to a site on the Morehead Liver, I will or two above the old site of Sibarasi. The village of lokwa had only but been completed earlier this year but, as was mentioned in previous reports, it was doubtful whether the decision to rebuild on this site was wise, as it had tobe abandoned several years ago owing to the lock of water during the dry season. The present dry season has reached its peak and the water at lokwa has proved to be almost undrinkable this season, so that serious consideration is thing given to the removal of the village to the Morehead River where an unlimited supply of clear water is available.

People throughout the area have been preoccupied over the past three months in cutting, fencing and planting new yam gardens, preparatory to the onset of the wet season in December. The wet season seems to be eagerly awaited this year, as the South-east season has been prolonged and extremely hot and dry.

Agriculture & Economic Development.

In Patrol Report No. 4/56-57, it was reported that, in 1955. the people of Wando Willage planted a small plot of rice which produced an exceptionally good hervest, and since then further plantings have been made with varying success. The people have been pleased with the results obtained to date and encouragement in this enterprise has been given from this Office as it is considered that rive may be the answer to the seasonal food shortage in the Sub-District for it is capable of being stored for long periods and therefore available for use as a food when required. Also, rice is suitable as an economic group and a market lies at Poulcu, if the transport is available.

Mr. A. M. Gillison, Assistant Agriculture Officer, who accompanied the patrol, brought a quantity of seed rice with him, about 60 lbs, and some of this rice was distributed in the villages of Wemenevre, Korombo, Wando and Bandaber. A small quantity has also been retained at Roulau Government Station for planting in trial plots in the station gardens

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and in the gardens of the neighbouring Rocku Village, where observations on growth and production may be more easily recorded.

A ffield day', attended by natives from Koroma's, Wando and Wemenevre, was held at Wando and again, later, at Bandaber for Mandaber and Bula natives, where the methods of preparing the garden and planting the rice seed was explained and then a producal demonstration was given. It was emphasised that plantingschould only be made at the onset of the wetseason, approximately after Kmas. The Councillor at Wando planted a small plot of rice in July, however, lack of rain has meant the almost complete failure of the croo, as was forecasted in my provious report. Nowe plants are have survived and are about a foot in height and with the onset of rain in becember they should show a good growth, however, they may produce a head at the middle of the wet season which is not partmoularly satisfactory so far as harvesting is concerned.

Mr. Ottrall-Dormer — printed in simple English and well illustrated — was presented to the Councillor of Wando to be used as a reference for the rice project. Although few of the people can read English, a number lave half some schooling at the Mission and it should be possible for them to be guided in the methods of rice growing and harvesting by the clear illustrations in the book. Also, the native Mission teacher, who is at present on leave, should return to the village about January and he will be able to translate the written words in the book for them.

In Patrol Report No.1/57-53, the possibility of extending the planting season for rice was suggested by utilibing some of the seamps which surround Wando for the most part of the year. My examination of the area during this dry season visit lends encouragement to the idea. By constructing earth embankments across the drainage outlets in some of the swamps, it may be possible to trap some of the flood waters and plant up some areas of swamp rice in them to be harvested about August. There are a number of problems to be overcome in such a scheme - one being the effect of birds on such a letterice crop, as the swamps and river flats around. Tando are thick with bird-life at the end of the wet - and it is perhaps better to establish the success of the afore-mentioned scheme before promoting bolder ventures.

Rice growing is, at the moment, being confined to the Bensbach River area, but as more seed becomes available it is intended to extend the project to the Suki Lagoon area, where there is a large population and suitable country for the production of the crop. Although the Suki villages are about four to five days travel from Rouku, thus precluding the close are about four to five days travel from Rouku, thus precluding the close supervision which I would like to give to the scheme, it may, however, be supervision which I would like to give to the scheme, it may however, be possible to enlist the aid of the local European Missionary in this regard who, I am sure, would be pleased to assist in any scheme designed to favour economic development in the area.

In promoting the rice scheme, and in fact, any economic development in this Sub-District, I am acting under the assumption that the vehicular transport requested in previous correspondence and Patrol Reports may soon be made available to this station. The question of economic development in the Sub-District has been fully discussed in previous reports and it has been fairly stated that the lack of transport facilities must be regarded as the main hindrance to any development here. The economic value of rice development, apart from its use as a supplementary food for the people, will depend on the availability of transport to a market. The establishment will depend on the availability of transport to a market. The establishment of an Agriculture Station at Oriomo will be of benefit to this area, as I believe that the station will be equipped with a Ferguson tractor and the Agricultural Officer may be able to spare some time to visit this area with a portable rice huller for processing rice, if produced in quantity. However, a portable rice huller for processing rice, if produced in quantity. However, Oriomo is apar more than a hundred miles in a direct line from Rouku and visits by this Officer to the Bensbach River will involve him in lengt y absences from his station, so that the provion of machinery and transport for this station must be expected.

Particular note was taken during this ratrol of conditions prevailing in the area during the dry season. A Lands/Agriculture survey is at present underway in the Trans-Fly region investigating the potentiality of that area for supporting a cattle industry and it was considered that if

Agriculture arty might consider the extension of my possible cattle industry to include the Benebach region as well. I have included a sketch map indicating findings of suitable grass lands and areas which might bear fluitful investigation. Above the 8°45' line, the country seems to consist of open forested kunai ridges suitable for the maintenance of cattle during the wet season. Below this line, the country consists of large swamp plains and river flats which, during the dry season, mainly along the Bensbach River flats and swamps around Bandaber, is thickly covered with a type of couch grass about a foot high—this area would a mear excellent for dry season grazing and is far superior to any other area in the Sub-District at this time of the year Water appears to be no problem in the dry season, as the Bensbach and Morehead Rivers are permanent streams and the swamps near Wemenevre still contained excellent clear water. I had recently endeavoured to interest lire R.J. Munn, Lands Survey Officer, in extending his Trans-Fly investigation to include this area, but time did not permit any deviation from his already tight schedule.

F

Roads.

During the dry season there does not appear to be any part within the Sub-District that may not be reached by a vehicle. A road has now been constructed throughout the Trans-Fly region by the Lands Department survey party, assisted by the local native people. This road system covers several hundred miles and requires little maintenance apart from the repair and reconstruction of bridges at the end of the wet season.

Although to attempt has yet been made to open roads in the Lower Morehead-Bensoach area, it should be noted that the A.P.C. scismic parties used vehicles between Rouku and Wando in their surveys of the area. If avehicle is supplied to this station, then a possible 500 miles of road may be open to traffic during the latter half of the dry season. The wet season, with its sheet flooding of a large part of the Jub-District, limits the use, at present, of vehicle to about 30 miles of road about Rouku. However, the presence of a vehicle in the area promotes road construction and it may be expected that the limit of wet season road may be extended by rerouting and reconstruction that of low-lying areas.

The country around Rouku could be compared with that in the Northern Territory or in Northern Queensland and the part that road transport is playing in the development of these areas is all too apparent.

Conclusion.

The amount of time permitted to the patrol was all too short, in fact a month could not be regarded as too long. This appears to be the first Agricultural patrol carried out in the Rouku Sub-District, and the benefits to be gained from such combined patrols are of considerable value.

Although not too much can be expected from such a cursory visit, some significant information was gathered about the area by Mr. Gillison and the report of his findings and impressions is awaited with interest. It is hoped that availability of transprt and staff fill permit of more frequent visits by technical officers to advise and assist with the development of the Sub-District.

(J.A. Frew) Patrol Officer.

DUTCH NEW J.A. FREW BO. 6-12-57. LEGEND: A.P.C Anads: Other Fracks: Patrol Route:

UTCH NEW GUINEA NEW GUINEA

