Title
Patrolling the Past: Bringing the Papua New Guinea Colonial-Era Reports into the Digital Realm

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Data Availability
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PATROLLING THE PAST
BRINGING PNG COLONIAL-ERA REPORTS INTO THE DIGITAL REALM

Cristela Garcia-Spitz
University of California, San Diego
Compiled by the administration’s man in the field, the patrol officer or _kiap_, patrol reports were intended to keep the colonial administration informed about the native situation... At their inception, patrol reports, much like early ethnography, were highly descriptive and multifaceted, which makes them invaluable as ethnographic documentation.


Tabibuga, line of men carry cargo past the jail building, 1962. Edwin Cook Papers. [http://library.ucsd.edu/dc/object.bb3687217q](http://library.ucsd.edu/dc/object.bb3687217q)
Patrol officer with Narak people, Bismark Mountains, Madang Province, September 1972.

Edwin Cook and Susan Pflanz Cook Photographs. MSS 0187. Special Collections & Archives, UC San Diego. [http://library.ucsd.edu/dc/object/bb81923776](http://library.ucsd.edu/dc/object/bb81923776)
FORETHOUGHT & COLLABORATION

• Nancy Lutton & Vicky Puipui, PNG National Archives
• Tukul Kaiku, UPNG
• Kathy Creely, UC San Diego Library
PROVIDE ONLINE ACCESS & KEYWORD SEARCHING
PNG Patrol Reports Project Plan

Created by Garcia-Spitz, Cristela; last modified by Reser, Gregory on Jan 14, 2016

Project Plan

Project Overview

This project will digitize 5,639 microfiche (ca. 332,462 pages) of patrol reports from Papua New Guinea. UCSF is one of only five institutions in the world to hold a complete set of the microfiche and is the only institution in North America to hold a complete set. The microfiche were produced by the National Archives of Papua New Guinea, with significant funding from UCSF to pay for the microfiche stock and chemicals. UCSF also created volume-level indexing for the reports.


Roger record for microfiche: http://roger.ucsf.edu/record=b3611130-59


Project Objectives

Digitizing the microfiche will significantly improve access to these materials. It will also serve a preservation purpose, since the microfiche are irreplaceable. These materials are significant primary sources for Papua New Guinea and are routinely consulted by anthropologists, historians and others conducting research on this part of the world.
Abau, 1934 - 1935.
Patrol officers: Atkinson, O. J.
95 leaves. 16 patrol reports.
Areas patrolled: Domara/ Kapari/ Hula/ Vilirupu/ Iula Creek/ Dorowaidi/ Main Range/ Keveri/
Cloudy Bay/ Kauru/ Menani/ Iduna Creek/ Mailu/ Dihigua/ Robinson River/ Otomata/ Abau.
Abau, 1941 - 1942.
Patrol officers: Champion, C.; Lees, C.; Marsh, D. R.; Bilstin, K. W.; Clarke, F. L.; Lynch,
M. R.; Corlett, Howard, J. B.; Pitt, Mark; Galloway, R. T.
121 leaves. 20 patrol reports.
Areas patrolled: Kauru/ Otomata/ Labura/ Kapari/ Hula/ Robinson River/ Kelau/ Vilirupu/
Suckling/ Keveri/ Miokorde/ Debana/ Kolu/ Imila/ Kuru/ Mt. Brown / Owo/ Owar/ Derebai/
Bari/ Somal/ Velavola/ Borbaga/ Oial/ Denava/ Yahu/ Segili/ Bambaga/ Waiou/ Ariari/
Kiveri Valley/ Musa Valley/ Sapua/ Liba River/ Table Point/ Deba/ Moguba / Lopon/ Mailu/
Kulele/ Derebai/ Lamruolo/ Wovolo/ Magan/ Mabi-ave/ Nuhu/ Mar-mouina/ Abau.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Sub-District</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Patroil officers</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Abau</td>
<td>1934 - 1935</td>
<td>Atkinson, O. J.</td>
<td>95 leaves, 16 patrol reports</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Abau</td>
<td>1941 - 1942</td>
<td>Champion, C.; Lees, C.; Marsh, D. R.; Bilston, K. W.; C.</td>
<td>123 leaves, 20 patrol reports</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Abau</td>
<td>1942 - 1944</td>
<td>Almoomore, R. H.; Bilston, K. H.; Kolyrink, J.; Galloway</td>
<td>164 leaves, 15 patrol reports</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Abau</td>
<td>1944 - 1946</td>
<td>Smith, S. S.; Turner, H. G.; Clark, J. O.; Atkinson, D. J.</td>
<td>211 leaves, 15 patrol reports</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Abau</td>
<td>1948 - 1949</td>
<td>Williamson, K. R.; Geelan, R.</td>
<td>76 leaves, 5 patrol reports</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Abau</td>
<td>1949 - 1950</td>
<td>Fleay, C.; Williamson, K. R.; Geelan, R. W.; Atkinson</td>
<td>161 leaves, 16 patrol reports</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Abau</td>
<td>1949 - 1951</td>
<td>Williamson, K. R.; Fleay, C.; Routley, H. G.</td>
<td>177 leaves, 9 patrol reports</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Abau</td>
<td>1950 - 1952</td>
<td>Fleay, C.; Rissen, H.; Hearne, R. F.; Driver, F. G.</td>
<td>197 leaves, 12 patrol reports</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Abau</td>
<td>1950 - 1956</td>
<td>Zweck, A. J.; Driver, F. E.; De Ath, C. E.; Brightwell, A.</td>
<td>297 leaves, 42 patrol reports and 1 general report</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Abau</td>
<td>1953 - 1955</td>
<td>Driver, F. G.; Beathe, J. H.; De Ath, C. E.</td>
<td>79 leaves, 10 patrol reports</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Abau</td>
<td>1953 - 1956</td>
<td>Driver, F. G.; Beathe, J. H.; De Ath, C. E.</td>
<td>299 leaves, 14 patrol reports</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Areas patrolled: Abau, Kapari, Kula, Vilirupu, Jula Creek, Kourawa, Main River.
Microfiche: Central - Abau: 001.

Abau, 1941 - 1942.
Patrol officers: Champion, C.; Lees, C.; Marsh, D. R.; Billston, K. W.; C.
Areas patrolled: Kaoru, Otamata, Labara, Kapari, Hula, Robinson River, Koala, V Central.

Abau, 1942 - 1944.
Patrol officers: Almoomore, R. H.; Billston, K. H.; Kolyrink, J.; Galloway.
Areas patrolled: Kauru, Otamata, Labara, Kapari, Hula, Robinson River, Koala, V Central.

Abau, 1944 - 1946.
Patrol officers: Smith, S. S.; Turner, H. G.; Clark, J. O.; Atkinson, D. J.
Areas patrolled: Abau, Kapari, Hula, Vilirupu, Jula Creek, Kourawa, Main River.
Microfiche: Central - Abau: 001.

Abau, 1946 - 1948.
Williamson, K. R.; Thompson, W. H. H.; Atkinson, K. C.
Areas patrolled: Abau, Kapari, Cloudy Bay, Hugobo, Kapari, Hula, Domara, Durum, Ama.
Microfiche: Central - Abau: 001.
Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

About this collection

Description

Reports from government patrols are a major source of primary information on Papua New Guinea's colonial-era history. Patrol officers and other officials wrote detailed documents reporting on all aspects of the work carried out by the patrols. The reports give first-hand accounts on many topics, from first contact with remote Highland villages, to census counts, tax collection, health care, justice, labor recruiting, plantations, missionaries, anthropological descriptions, tribal warfare languages, and more. The reports in this collection date primarily from the post-World War II era of Papua New Guinea, up through 1975, when PNG gained independence from Australia; a few pre-War reports are also included. The documents in this collection were digitized from microforms held at the University of California, with the permission of the National Archives of Papua New Guinea.

The reports are organized by Districts which generally correspond to the boundaries of Papua New Guinea's Provinces in 1975. The reports are further divided by Sub-district or Patrol Post, and finally into chronological volumes (usually corresponding to an administrative calendar running from 1 July through 30 June of the following year). Reports are cataloged by the name of the district as it was known when the report was created. To find reports within a geographical area, search by keyword, such as a district or subdistrict name. The District names used are listed below with modern and alternative forms in parentheses:

- Bougainville District (Autonomous Region of Bougainville, previously North Solomons Province)
- Central District (Central Province, and National Capital District)
- Chimbu District (Chimbu Province, also known as Simbu Province)
- Eastern Highlands District (Eastern Highlands Province)
**Papua**

**About this collection**

Reports from a colonial-era mission of the work as contact with recruiting plans.

The reports are in chronological order, from June 1934 through 1975.

The documents are permission.

The reports are about Guinean reports on the progress of the mission.

- Bougainville Province (Papua New Guinea)
- Keta (Papua New Guinea)
- Bum (Papua New Guinea)
- Boku (Papua New Guinea)
- Kausa (Papua New Guinea)
- Waio (Papua New Guinea)
- Tri וח (Papua New Guinea)
- Hulu (Papua New Guinea)

**Refine your search**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Repository</th>
<th>Collection</th>
<th>Creator</th>
<th>Decade</th>
<th>Format</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<td><strong>Bougainville</strong></td>
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**Patrol Reports. Central District, Abau, 1934-1935**

- **File Size**: 74.9 MB
- **File Format**: PDF

**Collection**
- Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

**Creation Date**
- 1934-1935

**Cite This Work**
Patrol Reports. Central District, Abau, 1934-1935

File Size: 74.9 MB
File Format: PDF

Download file
View file
“I've been trying very hard to know more about who are the first tribes to inhabit Uaripi village. Land has been marked for a gas refinery plant but the investors have requested the Gulf Province Lands Dept to verify who are the principle owners so some agreements can be signed. The ownership of this land is now claimed by number of villages. My village elders who know more about our ancestry history have died away.”

(paraphrase of 2011 query from Papua New Guinea, requesting patrol reports from Gulf Province, requested again in 2014)
RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP
25-2-29. One of the police shot a tree climbing kangaroo, a rich sable brown in colour all over, head like a wallaby and tail about 3 feet long entirely covered with fur, overall length between 5 and 6 feet. This animal is quite different to the one I skinned and saw in the Sydney Zoo…Have had it skinned but doubt if I shall be able to keep it owing to the damp and continual rain.  

--Western District, Daru, patrol report 4 of 1928/1929.  

G.F. Zimmer, patrol officer.
Lib.ucsd.edu/png-patrol-reports

Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports Usage

Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports Usage

<table>
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<th>Year/Month</th>
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<td>2017/08</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017/09</td>
<td>50</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
USER BEHAVIOR, but need user engagement
POSSIBLE NEXT STEPS

✓ Share with PNG National Archives (delivered)

☐ Look for additional patrol reports

☐ Create a unified listing at the report level

☐ Work on a subject index

☐ Explore crowdsourcing (OCR clean-up, adding subjects, names, specifics)

☐ Seek ways to visualization content & Integrate it more with other collections
Koguman: group of people lined up to be counted by patrol officer, August 23, 1962. Roy Rappaport Photographs. 
http://library.ucsd.edu/dc/object/bb6895705m

THANK YOU! & QUESTIONS

CGARCIA@UCSD.EDU

& Special Thanks to:
• Nancy Lutton & Vicky Puipui, PNG National Archives
• Tukul Kaiku, UPNG
• Greg Reser, Gina McCullough, Edgar Favila, UC San Diego Library
Thank you for having me here at PARBICA. I appreciate the opportunity to learn and connect, share this project. Special thanks to Opeta and Eleanor – encouragement and support, take inspiration from them both!

background on me (working with Melanesian archive was just a small part of my job and something I looked forward to, with Kathy’s retirement, become the curator of the archive – overwhelming, challenging, and incredible)

Thanks to Kathy Creely; oversaw Melanesian archive for 30 years, realize what the phrase “big shoes to fill” really means
  • Listen to Opeta’s eloquent words – appreciate all that came before me, and try not to complain ;)

Description of UCSD Project to digitize the patrol reports and provide online access
WHAT ARE PATROL REPORTS?
• First-hand accounts written by patrol officers (kiaps) detailing their work and findings as they patrolled rural areas, essentially acting agents of the government
• Earliest reports date to the 1890s, with British colonial administration practice
• Continue through to the 1970s, ceasing in 1974, just before PNG gained independence from Australia in 1975.

FORMAT
• Daily journal
• Subject or situation notes – becomes more uniform over time, covering set categories
• Map
• Sometimes photographs
• Sometimes census sheets
• Correspondence: Patrol instructions and feedback on reports, in form of memos by higher-level administrators
• Mostly typescript, some handwritten.

Photo from Cook Papers (anthropologists Western Highlands 60s-70s)
TOPICS

• Exploration and geography
• People—villages and other groupings, census figures
• Languages spoken, cultural observations
• Local conditions—health & diseases, births/deaths, local warfare, food supply
• Tax collection
• Infrastructure—trails, bridges, roads, airstrips, government rest houses
• Effects of World War 2 and reparations
• Economic—land ownership, agriculture, cash crops, labor recruitment, plantations, mines
• Political—local headmen, elections, political education, run-up to independence

Patrol officer with Narak people, Bismark Mountains, Madang Province, September 1972.

FORETHOUGHT & COLLABORATION

- Nancy Lutton & Vicky Puipui, PNG National Archives
- Tukul Kaiku, UPNG
- Kathy Creely, UC San Diego Library

Forethought & Collaboration – Exciting when I realized Tukul would be here and I could meet her in person; Geoffrey also here and hope to get a chance to discuss project further.

UCSD collaborated with PNG National Archives to microfilm the Patrol Reports (deposited copies in PNG, Australia, San Diego).

Originals are still available at PNG -

Indexing—to volume level: Procite database > printed lists (never all published) > html pages

Photo of source material used for indexing; folder of correspondence going back to the 80s
Digitization driven by access
Microfiche = aging equipment, poor user experience, online index but enhance searchability
Add value to have the reports available online

Project to scan – subset of the reports
History of conversations about (Andy Connelly, Chris Ballard, Ewan Maidement, PNG Archives)
Getting permission
In-house pilot–why it wasn’t scalable (slow scanner)
Getting funding (library) budget – waited to the end of the fiscal year (good time to ask for one time funds)
This is the project plan in our Library’s intranet. It’s where we keep high-level details on what the project is, who’s working on it, and other logistics.

Over last 10 years, Library developed infrastructure to handle digital projects. DLDP infrastructure = DAMS + people

Kathy = Subject knowledge, thinking big picture, in the weeds
*Metadata Analyst
IT Staff
Army of students

Size of project > Vendor to digitize from microfiche
Cost to digitize, funded by library through one-time digitization funds
Rough timeline: July 2013-Summer 2016
  digitization w/vendor ~1 year
  post production/metadata work ~1.5 years
  ingest into DAMS ~last 6 months
Scale: toughest decision of the project: wanted to create pdfs of the report, but much harder to tell where one report ends and another begins. Volume has clear coversheet. Also, work to create 3,000 volumes (create pdf, name, run ocr, qc) vs. doing same process 21,000 times if by report, which would take much longer. “everything someday, or something today?”

Digitization – kept it simple; vendor created pdf by microfiche sheet (~60 frames per sheet) Students to do work: qa/qc, form pdf by volume, rename, and do ocr; some rescanning done in-house Lots of trouble shooting by Kathy Metadata – also tried to keep simple (always most complex part of digital project) Concentrated on information already identified as relevant Original reports organized by volume in coversheet > transcribed to create microfiche index > created pdfs by volume

Challenges: volumes span across microfiche sheet, collocate reports microfilmed out of order

Example of a project built off of work done in the past; reminder for the present to do what you can at the moment and follow best practices and keep things consistent.
Because index was done well (consistent punctuation, etc.) we were able to re-use it relatively easily.

Still a few things to “massage”
Volume = organized roughly sub-district and year – administrative unit, which is fluid (district, place name because could be place or patrol post, depended on administrative unit over time)

Limitations on how much we could figure out in time available e.g. modern provinces (boundaries have shifted/divided)
normalizing placenames DAMS display/sort considerations
Greg’s role: Excel tool for DAMS metadata ingest/object build qa/qc
Demo the site:
Patrol reports accessible with other Melanesian collections
Relates to other digital collections: Cook, Rappaport, and PNG dissertations, Madang or western highlands shows crossover
Collection page
Faceting
Show report

Searchable – keyword, geographic terms, sorting capabilities
Promotes discovery and facilitates research by discovering content online and with other collections
Copyright statement on website and also as a cover sheet in the pdf

Barriers for use:
Size of pdfs (especially for people in the Pacific where network speed is slow)
OCR can be unreliable
Geographic names ~ Variant spellings, Boundary changes (Original Districts vs Modern Provinces) – decided to go with placename at time of report (in general)

http://library.ucsd.edu/dc/object/bb2015288r
WHO USES PATROL REPORTS NOW?
Papua New Guinea citizens -- high demand for access, especially for LAND OWNERSHIP
  • many questions about reports from areas impacted by resource extraction, such as large liquid natural gas line and plant construction, especially in Southern Highlands and Gulf Provinces. May help to establish case for compensation from mining company or government.
  • Mining company employees -- same reason

“I've been trying very hard to know more about who are the first tribes to inhabit Uaripi village. Land has been marked for a gas refinery plant but the investors have requested the Gulf Province Lands Dept to verify who are the principle owners so some agreements can be signed. The ownership of this land is now claimed by number of villages. My village elders who know more about our ancestry history have died away.”

(paraphrase of 2011 query from Papua New Guinea, requesting patrol reports from Gulf Province, requested again in 2014)

Photo: lngworldnews.com
• Retired patrol officers and their family, including Papua New Guineans who believe that their father was a patrol officer – personal interest, mostly, but some from officers writing memoirs or responding to others’ writing about their actions as patrol officers. Lots of personal memoirs have been published by individual patrol officers.

• Historians and anthropologists – many have used patrol reports in their writings, notable examples with extensive use of patrol reports include some wonderful books:
  - Many of the chapters in In Colonial New Guinea: Anthropological Perspectives – edited by Naomi McPherson
  - Jeffrey Clark’s work on the Wiru people, From Steel to Stone, a Chronicle of Colonialism in the Southern Highlands of Papua New Guinea
  - Edward Schieffelin and Robert Crittenden’s Like People You See in a Dream: First Contact in Six Papuan Societies
• OTHER EXAMPLES OF TOPICS RESEARCHED WITH PATROL REPORTS:
  • Where was the holotype of the tree kangaroo, Dendrolagus Spadix collected? 1936 journal article by zoologists describing a new species, just gives the source of the Skin as G.F.W. Zimmer between the Upper Awara and Strickland Rivers. Robin Hide found THIS!
  • History of first contact and later history for many Papua New Guinea peoples
  • Locations of World War 2-era airplane wreckage, Japanese graves, etc.
  • Medical history—epidemics, presence of diseases like tuberculosis or yaws, earliest written description of neurological disease, kuru
Usage
Went from a handful of questions per year to a few hundred views per month (Viewed ~1,701 last year)
Second most used collection (only other collection is Dr. Seuss, which is hard to compete with)

Steady use, but...

Trade-off because “views” we don’t completely know how they are being used and by whom, also don’t know whether they are finding what they are looking for like we do when we get a contacted directly by the person as a reference question

Does make reference questions much easier, able to search for the volume and send the link

Inspired by Koa and Opeta’s work, because reminds me that I should try to find other means for interacting like fb (hopefully networks that I could tap into)
Tools like hotjar (heat maps) and crazyegg (visual web analytics) to track where users click and understand user behavior.

Need more user interaction and engagement – is it possible to build into the interface more features to do this?

Existing commenting feature has gotten low use.
Think about what you can do well with current means and resources (processing, metadata creation/indexing), and consider what might get easier over time.

One step forward, but of course the work is never done. “everything someday, or something today?”
These are things we can’t do alone, but potential collaborations. Sharing with PNG (as Eleanor mentioned, hope we can remain engaged with PNG Archives)

Many projects to finish (started lots of digital project before Kathy left to justify me moving to the position), but hope to work on:
Next steps—more patrol reports?
Unified listing at the report level—gather more detailed information (Andrew Connelly’s idea)
No subject index—limited points of access (currently, only patrol information named on covers: place/date/patrol officer/places patrolled, if listed)
Crowdsourcing to augment—Australian database called Trove, where you can view and correct; promote using comments feature one way to gather information
Graphical approaches: incorporate coordinates, maps, in order to enhance experience, integrate with other collections > exhibit tools
(Nick, very jealous of geographic searching)
As the saying goes “Takes a village”

http://roger.ucsd.edu/record=b2815342~S9