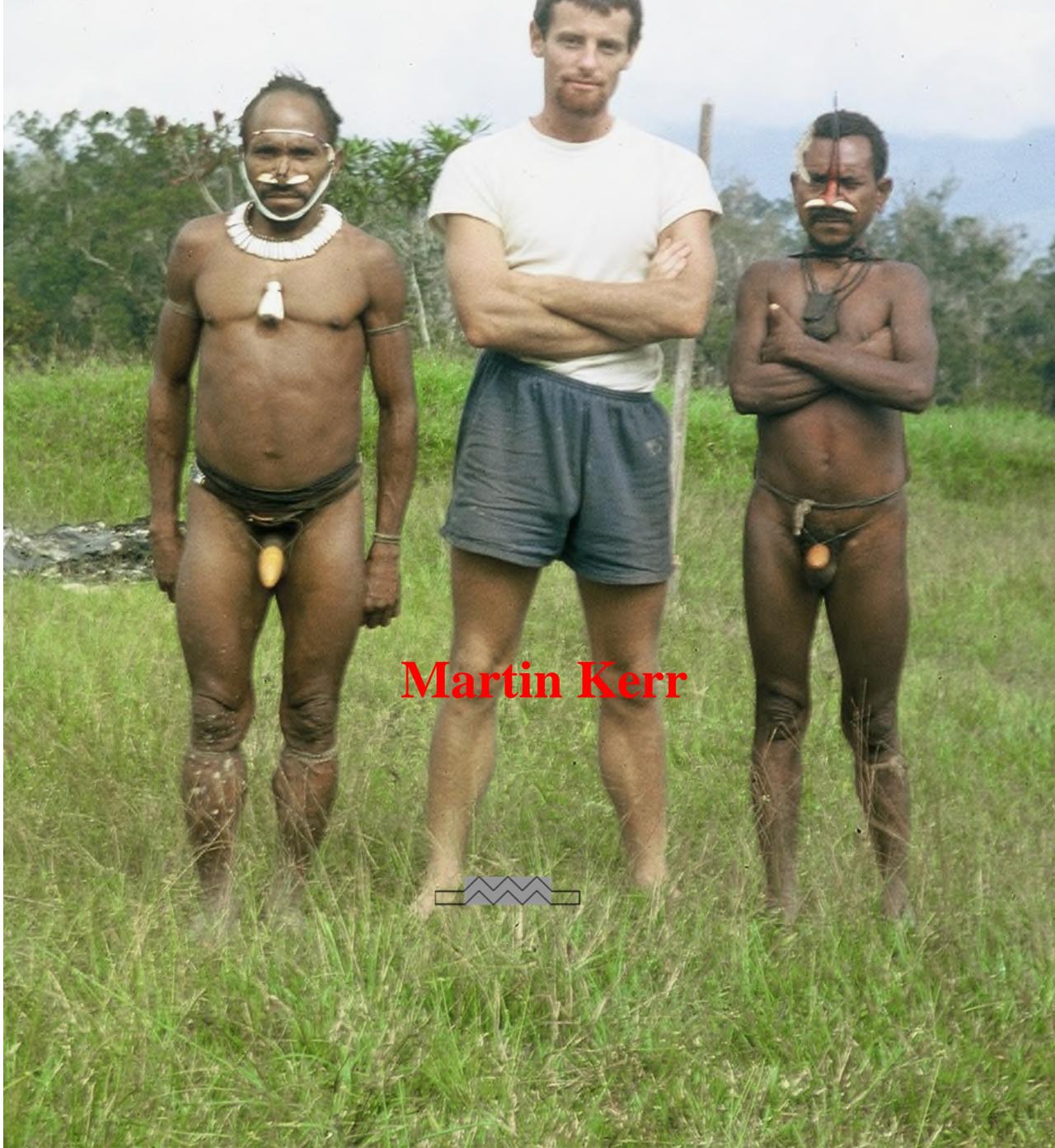


**FRAGMENTS OF NEW GUINEA**  
**– CATALOGUE OF IMAGES 1964 ...**



**Martin Kerr**

## FRAGMENTS OF NEW GUINEA –

### CATALOGUE OF IMAGES 1964 ...

Born and raised in New Zealand, Martin Kerr travelled to New Guinea, joined the Australian Trusteeship Administration as a cadet patrol officer and later operated as a crocodile shooter along the West Papua border. Teaching at Sydney High School for three years he settled in Victoria and moved to North Queensland in 2002.

#### **Published previously:**

*New Guinea Patrol*

*Brutnall's Follies* (co-authored with Harry Brutnall)

*Tamariki and the Whales*

Nine books authored by Martin Kerr are available on Kindle via [maskimedia.com.au](http://maskimedia.com.au)



## FRAGMENTS OF NEW GUINEA –

### CATALOGUE OF IMAGES 1964 ...

*Martin Kerr*

CD-ROM



[maskimedia.com.au](http://maskimedia.com.au)



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1965, 1967, 1968-69, 1997-98. Further images  
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chronological order.

**Camera:** Agfa Optima II with three stop  
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## Group 1

Rigo, approximately 30 miles south west of Port Moresby, and Port Moresby, August – December 1964.



1. Rigo Agricultural show. Singing group of men beating hand drums(*kundu*).  
September 1964.



2. Young boy dances at Rigo Show.



3. Young woman dances to beat of kundu at Rigo show.



4. Woman takes a break during pause in dancing at Rigo Show.



5. House of Assembly, Port Moresby. October 1964.

## Group 2

### **Telefomin and environs, January-June 1965.**

*Diary Note (February 1965) of weekend hike from Telefomin to Bogelmin, covers several images.*



1. Wewak from the air 7.1.65.



2. Cessna takes off in front of Telefomin government office. January 1965.



3. Haus boi Anton (from Wewak), patrol officer Mick Edgar and Mouli (probably Edgar's *haus boi*). January 1965.



4. On 'patrol' during a walk to Korborenmin. Martin Kerr in front of haus tambaran (men's house) 10.1.65.



5. Seven Day Adventist pastor's house being built at Korborenmin. This is not usual Telefomin construction. 10.1.65.



6. Telefomin man carries sugar cane on bridge over narrow canyon in which flows the Sepik River about ten miles from its source. January 1965.



7. Bridge over Sepik River (refer previous image) is about a mile from Telefolip village near Telefomin. January 1965.



8. Bogelmin bowmen pose with their hunting dogs. January 1965.



9. Urapmin hamlet looking towards Telefomin. January 1965.



10. Urapmin hamlet. January 1965.



11. Bowmen of Urapmin including Luluai. January 1965



12. Father and son on a hunting expedition. January 1965.



13. Police rest house (for patrols) at Urapmin. Anton (Kerr's *haus boi* or *mankimasta* [servant] from Wewak), Mick (Kerr's dog), Suni and Bekinok (both of Telefomin). Suni is Telefomin's first interpreter, taken as a young boy from Telefomin to Port Moresby in 1928 during the Karius-Champion patrol across New Guinea. January 1965.



14.Urapmin River joins Sepik River to be lost in the Sepik Gap.



15. Sepik River at Urapmin Gap. Here 2 metres wide, perhaps 15 metres deep. White banks show potential flood level. January 1965.



16. Heavily pregnant woman with others looking over the Sepik Gap (huge canyon) about ten miles downstream from Telefomin. Now-tattered mission-donated clothes do not make them so attractive. January 1965.



17. *Haus boi/manki masta*, Antonabove Sepik River. January 1965.



18. Cess, Bekinok and Anton look down on Sepik River. January 1965.



19. Bogelmin family pictured on the track on way back from Urapmin. January 1965.



20. Frequent stops at pristine streams during this weekend hike. January 1965.



21. Misinmin couple near Telefomin. January 1965.



22. Cadet patrol officer Peter Bunch heads back to Baptist Mission with missionary's wife Jean Beaver. January 1965.



23. Cadets Martin Kerr and Peter Bunch looking towards Kialikmin from Telefomin. January 1965.



24. Patrol crosses a river on the way to Feramin. January 1965.



25. Patrol stops for a rest on the way to Feramin. January 1965



26. Women sell taro to patrol at Feramin. January 1965.



27. Women and children of Feramin. January 1965.



28. Patrol Officer Tim Gill, *luluai* and interpreter Suni at Misinmin. January 1965.



29. Temkiakmin, showing mission influence on construction of houses. January 1965.



30. Carrier, policeman, Tim Gill heading towards Telefomin station. Feramin is up six miles to the right. January 1965.



31. Tim Gill gives a talk to Feramin villagers. January 1965. January 1965.



32. Mouli's father – on the steps of *kiap* (patrol officers) single quarters at Telefomin. January 1965.



33. Tractor being unloaded from a Bristol Freighter at Telefomin while a local man looks on. January 1965.



34. Martin Kerr's Winchester 30/30 carbine at Telefomin memorial to officers killed by Telefomin and Eliptamin warriors in 1953. This was PNG's only planned rebellion resulting in killing of Administration officers prior to independence in 1975. (See also Group 16.1)



35. Pacific Islands Regiment soldiers after two weeks on exercises at Telefomin. January 1965.



36. PIR troops boarding Piaggot for Wewak. January 1965.



37. Parade by police detachment at Telefomin. May 1965.



38. Police parade, Telefomin airstrip. February 1965.



39. Police wives playing basketball, Telefomin. 9.1.65.



40. Senta Taft, artefact dealer from Sydney inspects Telefomin shield Bekinok is holding the shield. Martin Kerr later sold this shield to a Swede visiting Angoram in June 1965 for US\$90. The shield is new, but the unusual feature is the blending of the red ochre and white clay at undefined (by carving) areas of the shield. April 1965.



41. Two Telefomin women near Telefomin station.



42. Barry Craig (subsequently PhD in anthropology), Dave Cook (geologist), Tom Hayllar and Mike Shepherd (Uni of Sydney student and glaciologist) outside single kiaps' quarters at Telefomin, decorated by Telefomin shields. This group, plus Jean Huon Navrancourt (subsequently granted Légion d'honneur d'outre mer), medical assistant on leave, have just returned from a major discovery expedition through the Star Mountains. They are lucky to survive due to a shortage of supplies and carriers and a falling-out over these matters, and leadership problems. Barry Craig (2005) is curator of Aboriginal art at the Museum of South Australia. Many historic images were taken while on this expedition, but the value of this expedition apparently faltered due to a lack of sponsorship and interest by the public; and after the expeditioners went their largely separate ways. Late April 1965.



43. Tom Hayllar, Star Mountain expeditioner. After his return from StarMountains. Late April 1965.



44. Jean Huon de Navrancourt on Telefomin airstrip. Huon's widow, H el ene was met by Martin Kerr at Independence Day celebrations in Atherton (North Queensland), 16 September 2006. She came to Telefomin with a baby and stayed at the Baptist Mission while Jean was on the expedition. Late April 1965.



45. Two Telefomin men demonstrate attack team tactics with a shield.



46. Paying labour for road and airstrip work. Patrol officers Ian Smalley and Tim Gill (standing). The district office is in the immediate background looking from side of airstrip towards Feramin. May 1965.



47. Same day as in previous image. Martin Kerr walks along line of small-statured Telefomin labourers.



48. Ofekamin woman at *haus* (house) *kiap* near Telefomin. This image probably was taken at the end of Mianmin Patrol. April 1965.



49. Two Tifalmin men pose at Telefomin. April 1965.



50. Two Tifalmin men pose at Telefomin with Martin Kerr (height 5'10"). April 1965.



51. Telefolip *haus tambaran*. Image taken from entrance to narrow defensive canyon leading to Telefolip village in centre. The *haus* is up on stilts on a mound, indicating years of occupation, as rain has washed away uncovered soil; and giving credence to local oral history that Telefolip is the mother village (from where the arrow *pitpit* was taken to Mianmin) for Eliptamin and Mianmin. House on right foreground is a family dwelling of recent construction and has a verandah. April 1965.



52. Telefolip *haus tambaran* showing small defensive entrance. April 1965.



53. Patrol officer Ian Smalley climbing to entrance of Telefolip *haus tambaran*. April 1965.



54. Martin Kerr at entrance to Telefolip *haus tambaran*.



55. Assistant district commissioner John Wearne's children on tennis court at Telefomin. April 1965.



56. Australian army Caribou troop transport at Telefomin. April 1965.



57. Police waiting for pay at sub-district office, Telefomin. May 1965.



58. Junior *kiap* house, Telefomin. May 1965.



59. Government compound, Telefomin. May 1965.



60. Kerr's supervisory effort at road making at Telefomin. June 1965.



61. Bekinok with his father and mother shortly before he leaves for Angoram with Martin Kerr. June 1965. Bekinok went on patrol to the Murik Lakes and Porapora (July/August 1965) as Martin's *manki masta*, then was flown back to Telefomin.



62. Telefomin station (4,600 feet above sea level) taken from over hospital and looking across airstrip towards Feramin. On the far side of the airstrip is the district office, supporting buildings, single police and workers' barracks to the left and single *kiap* quarters and European married quarters to the right. June 1965.

**Group 3**

**Mianmin, 25 February - 1 April 1965.**

*Patrol Report - South Sepik Report No. 7 –  
1964/65.*



1. Patrol led by assistant district commissioner John Wearne takes a break during a long haul up the Donner Range. (27/2/65)



2. Camp 4 Donner Range. (27/2/65)



3. Camp 4 Donner Range – John Wearne supervises police and carriers. (27/2/65)



4. Atbalmin on left of Sepik. Patrol country Mianmin on right. (27/2/65)



5. Fak River at Timelmin. (2/3/65)



6. Morning tea at Timelmin. Medical assistant Matthew Aruki is shown at folding table with Kerr's government-issued Smith & Wesson sidearm hanging from chair. (2/3/65)



7. Timelmin group. (2/3/65)



8. Surudup, Tultul of Timelmin. Ex-Bomana, Port Moresby, jailed for murder. (2/3/65)



9. Organising camp at Timelmin.(Constable Paulus in blue shirt. His daughter Rose works for the mine at Ok Tedi) (2/3/65)



10. Constables Liksy, Kaure & Ganim at Timelmin. (2/3/65)



11. Unfocussed shot of Timelmin woman who looks like Sophia Loren. Unfortunately the shot does not show it and Martin stands accused of an over-active imagination. (2/3/65)



12. Timelmin warrior with wild boar penises attached as trophies to his arm. He is standing on partially Completed airstrip constructed by Timelmin villagers with the encouragement of the Baptist Mission at Telefomin. This is a Restricted area and as such does not allow European missionaries to directly supervise construction. Armed police are in background. (2/3/65)



13. Timelmin airstrip site (uncompleted). 2/3/65)



14. Timelmin airstrip so far. (2/3/65)



15. Mianmin is typical for its clear streams, some of them bearing gold. (3/3/65)



16. John Wearne in action at Sogamin. (3/3/65)



17. Sogamin, overlooking May River headwaters. Interpreter Suni carries .303 jungle carbine. (3/3/65)



18. Sogamin, overlooking May River headwaters. (3/3/65)



19. Lining for medical inspection at Sogamin. (3/3/65)



20. A Sogamin hamlet. (3/3/65)



21. A Sogamin hamlet. (3/3/65)



22. Two Mianmin men at Sogamin. (3/3/65)



23.) 'Pukpuk' (nickname - possibly because of his skin condition, tinea [*grili*] which is common in the area), Mianmin carrier with son. Mianmin men do a lot of babysitting while the women work in the gardens and bring in firewood. Kerr speculates that because of the slash and burn nature of Mianmin agriculture, hamlets move regularly to new communal garden sites within calling distance of heavily-armed men guarding the children in semi-fortified men's houses. It is claimed on this patrol that Mianmin men assist at childbirth.  
(4/3/65)



24. John Wearne purchases a pig at Sogamin. (3/3/65)



25. Men's house at Sogamin. Villagers await census by patrol. (4/3/65)



26. May River at Sogamin. (5/3/65)



27. Nearing May River at Amaromin. (5/3/65)



28. Crossing Ietma River at Amaromin, place of air drop site (yet to be cleared) is on left. (8/3/65)



29. Camp and airdrop site, Ietma/May junction at Amaromin. (9/3/65)



30. Fiak Valley looking west into unexplored territory. This is the camp site area offered by the Mawaimin clan 50 metres below their hamlet of four houses. The men's house (not in picture) has loopholes for defensive Purposes and strategically dominates the camp. (18/3/65)



31. Martin Kerr in Fiak Valley with group of Mawaiimin. (18/3/65)



32. John Wearne briefs police prior to making arrests at Mawaimin. (18/3/65). Constable Paulus in blue shirt.



33. Mawaimin and abducted light skinned Fiyarenmin girl. Surudup (in laplap and shirt) married the girl who is standing next to the woman carrying a baby on her shoulders. These people are seeing Europeans for the first time. They have steel axes, the most valued being the round-hafted Dutch axe obtained through trade routes into West Papua. One stone adze is seen in this area. (19/3/65)



34. Suspected Mawaimin murderers and brought into camp by Surudup (tultul of Timelmin), former detainee for murder held for several years in Port Moresby and guide for the patrol. He is in shorts behind group. (21/3/65)



35. Line up of Mawaimin murder suspects with policeman, Kaure. (21/3/65)



36. Mixed Mianmin group (including Mianmin carriers) pictured in Fiak Valley. Note goitre on one man. Man In centre has two thumbs of his right hand tucked into his cane belt. (21/3/65)



37. Mawaimin camp site for patrol and *haus singsing* left hand background. (21/3/65)



38. Bovaripmin hamlet with visiting Karenmin (in laplap). For some of these warriors this is the First time contact has been made with Europeans.(27/3/65)



39. Bovaripmin hamlet with visiting Karenmin (in laplaps). (27/3/65)



40. Boveripmin and Karenmin awaiting census. (27/3/65)



41. Young Boveripmin warrior. (27/3/65)



42. Patrol crosses Fak River. (30/3/65)



43. Crossing Fak River. (30/3/65)



44. Patrol crosses Elip River. Martin Kerr is on left bank helping carriers while John Wearne takes photograph. Wearne's *manki masta* in foreground carries the assistant district officer's jungle carbine and also some well-made bow and arrows the *manki masta* purchased from Mianmin. Mianmin weaponry is recognised as being superior to that of Telefomin. Matthew Aruki is in white shirt on extreme upper right, near the Sepik River and huge landslide. (30/3/65)



45. Patrol crosses Elip River. (30/3/65)



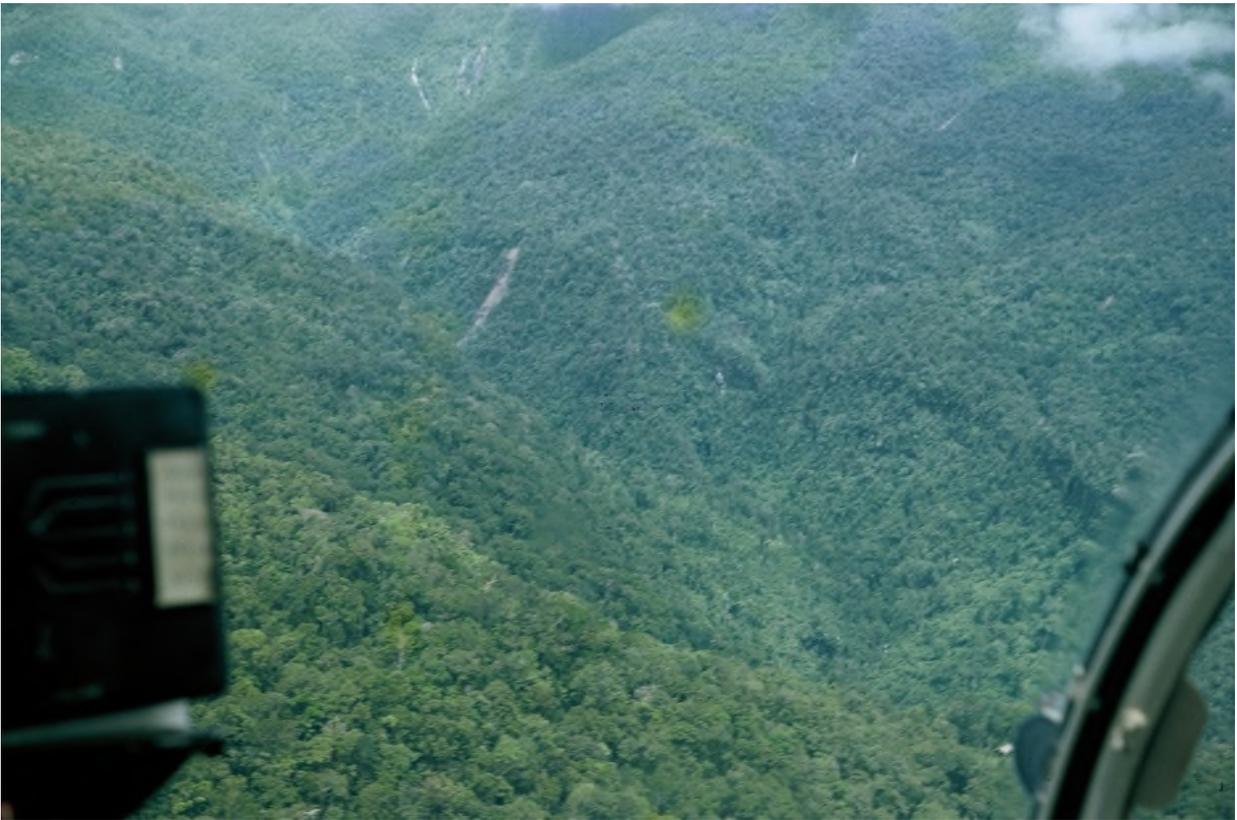
46. Patrol crosses Elip River, looking upstream from junction with Sepik River. (30/3/65)



47. Looking into the start of the Telefomin valley. Patrol is one day's walk from Telefomin. (1/4/65)



48. Nearing Telefomin at the end of a five-week patrol. (1/4/65)



49. From helicopter. View of newly discovered Mianmin area. (May 1965)



50. View into Mianmin, possibly Fiak Valley. (May 1965)



51. Mianmin. (May 1965)



52. Martin Kerr at junior *kiap* house, Telefomin, just after the Mianmin Patrol. April 1965.



53. Martin Kerr settling in drinking an 'SP', prior to going to Angoram. May 1965.

#### Group 4

#### **Murik Lakes and Porapora, 14 July - 12 August 1965.**

In this patrol Martin Kerr accompanied assistant district officer David Bretherton for most of the time.

*Patrol Report - Angoram Patrol No. 1 - 1965/66.*



1. Government work boat *Onyx* negotiates a narrow manmade canal (*barat*) going from Sepik River into the Murik Lakes. (14/7/65)



2. Constables Gombu, Matum, Walamaui, Peter (Bekinok) and boat's crew. (14/7/65)



3. Assistant district officer David Bretherton.



4. Crossing Murik Lakes by carved pull canoe from Kaup to Kis. Note man in foreground at stern of canoe with his right leg on the gunwale to assist balance of the canoe. Kaup canoe paddles are generally shorter in length (a long paddle provides balance in a single canoe) so they can be used in both sea going (outrigger) and river canoes. (16/7/65)



5. In *barat* in a carved pull canoe heading for Kis. (16/7/65)



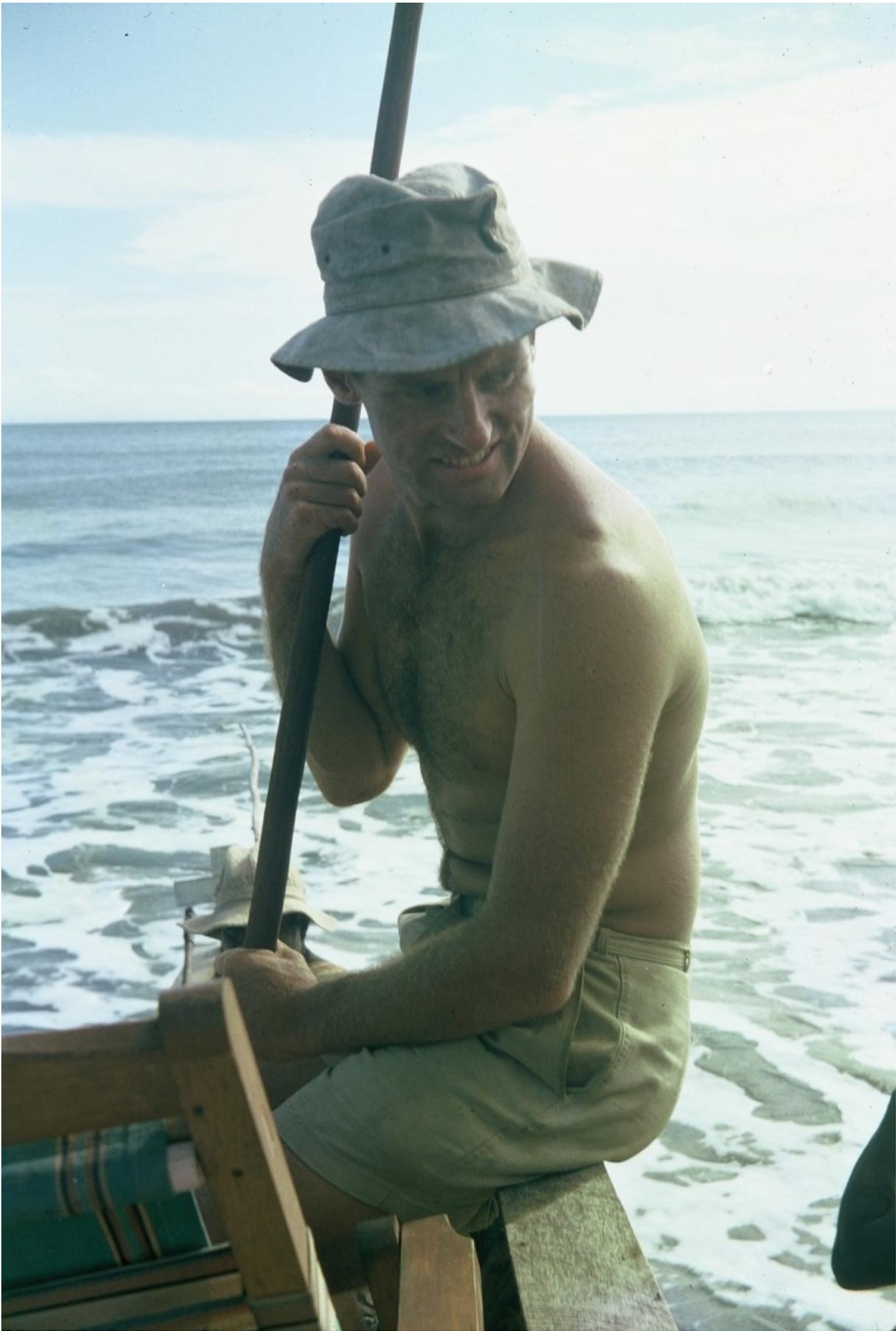
6. Dave Bretherton (formerly of Dunedin after being interned in Hong Kong by the Japanese) in canoe heading for Kis. (16/7/65)



7. End of *barat* at Kis. Note carvings on canoes. Kaup paddles are carved at the handle end, some with the well-known Murik figurine. (16/7/65)



8. Martin Kerr with *luluai* (headman) of Kaup standing beside a sea-going motor canoe. The patrol report notes that a Tom Sumare (of Karau) is attending the University of Queensland. This is Michael Thomas Somare who became PNG's first Prime Minister in 1975 and for a second and third time as Sir Michael Somare (2003-09). Kaup and other villages of the Murik Lakes were occupied by the Japanese during World War Two. Michael Somare's father, Somare, carved a canoe paddle which he sold to John Pasquarelli and which was in Kerr's care for about fifteen years. (17/7/65)



9. Crossing the surf at Kaup. (17/7/65)



10. Crossing the surf. (17/7/65)



11. Looking towards Wewak from Kaup. (17/7/65)



12. Old man of Kaup. (17/7/65)



13. Patrol at sea in two outrigger motor canoes hired from villagers, going from Kaup to Murik. (17/7/65)



14. Constable Matum (left) and Martin Kerr take census at Gapun. (23/7/65)



15. Taringai man in bow of carved canoe in round water (lagoon) at Taringai. (25/7/65)



16. Patrol ready to leave Tarangai. (26/7/65)



17. Long paddles in use on dugout canoes as patrol travels across round water for Unkenang. (26/7/65)



18. *Lululuai*, *tutul* & ex-servicemen (recruited when they worked on plantations) who fought the Japanese, and village officials at Jangit. (29/7/65)



19. Sundown and flag down, police and village officials at Jangit. (29/7/65)



20. Martin Kerr canoeing in Porapora River. (July 1965)



21. Martin Kerr falling out of canoe. (same day, July 1965)



22. Dave Bretherton and Martin Kerr pose with dead cassowary shot by Kasiman people in the Marienberg Hills. (10/8/65)



23. Kasiman looking towards Wewak. (10/8/65)

**Group 5**

**Middle Sepik, 28 August - 12 September 1965.**

*Patrol Report - Angoram Patrol Report No. 3 - 1965/66*



1. Early morning start on Sepik River. August 1965.



2. Kwowia caves at Seraba. View looks down on a natural 'altar' showing incisions from grinding substances. Figures can be seen on walls of cave. Douglas Newton takes a lot of pictures here. Newton and Kerr talk of the possibilities of arranging an archaeological dig. (29/8/65)



3. Douglas Newton and patrol cautiously approach Seraba caves.



4. Douglas Newton points out cave painting.



5. Paintings at Seraba caves.



6. Hills of Seraba where caves are found.



7. Paintings at Seraba caves.



8. Douglas Newton walks past natural 'altar'.



9. Similar view as above.



10. Man with long ear incision and newspaper rolled cigarette and child with two wives with loaded *bilum* and child on hot kunai plains between Kamangai and Seraba. (29/8/65)



11. Woman works up clay for bowl making at Kamangai. See completed carved, fired and painted sago bowl in left foreground. (29/8/65)



12. Woman pushes air out of fine clay. (29/8/65)



13. Woman rolls clay out on a *pangal* (dried piece of palm) ready to tease out in coils to begin making conical sago bowls. These bowls are traded with Tambunam and other Sepik villages for fish and basketware. The bowls are left to dry before a man incises a flying fox and other symbols, and maybe at this stage also applies colours to the incised patterns about 6mm wide, prior to firing in a mound of dried sago fronds. The potter is nowhere near satisfied as to the consistency of the clay and keeps re-kneading the clay. She also suffers from *grili* (tinea) to the lower half of her body. Douglas Newton (out of picture) observes this scene, takes a photographic record and purchases bowls originating from Kamangai. (29/8/65)



14. House at Tambunam. (29/8/65)



15. Haus tambaran at Aibom, Chambri Lakes. (1/9/65)



16. Phil Watson, Seven Day Adventist teacher at Avitip (his boat in b.g.) views pottery made at Aibom. From right to left: Sago storage container with possible flying fox image in white, chalice, sago fry pan for *priam saksak*, two chalices, fry pan, two westernised 'flower' pots in foreground, two traditional hearths used for cooking in houses with wooden (i.e. pangal covered) floors. At this time other items are being produced for the tourist trade including copies of Roman Catholic ritual items such as chalices and candle sticks. Martin Kerr (not in image) observes older women training some of the girls of Aibom in the art of pottery making, but many girls are not so keen as there were other distractions such as education and/or getting married to someone with a job outside the district. Aibom is the centre of pottery making in the Middle Sepik as it has the quality of clay that fires well and is rugged in use. Aibom cooking hearths and flat sago bowls for making sago pancakes are found throughout the region. (1/9/65)



17. Stove and fry pan and other pottery at Aibom. (1/9/65)



18. Roman Catholic Church at Chambri. It is extremely 'dri wara' and dead fish may be seen lying on the shore. (1/9/65)



19. Three sacrificial stones at Chambri. (1/9/65)



20. Preparatory school at Chambri. (1/9/65)



21. Phil Watson's fiancé, ?, Phil Watson and pastor, Chambri. (1/9/65)



22. Suimbo of Seraba. A good village leader. (1/9/65)



23. Patrol leaving Tambunam. (7/9/65)

**Group 6**

**Kwongai-Chimbian, 23 - 27 November 1965.**

*Patrol Report - Angoram Patrol Report No. 6 - 1965/66.*



1. Bebe (looking at camera) and his cattle at Timbunke. Note virtually endless cattle space on Sepik Plains. (15/11/65)



2. *Meri* wait for Roman Catholic Church at Timbunke. (15/11/65)



3. At Namuk. Villagers in a shady area with access to water prepare to burn off *kunai* to round up game. Boy carries hunting weapons. It is at this village that a partial eclipse of the sun is observed. Villagers are not at all distressed. (21/11/65)



4. Going hunting. (21/11/65)



5. Waiting for kill at Sau. (21/11/65)



6. Kill at Sai. (21/11/65)



7. In for the final kill at Sai. (21/11/65)



8. Government agricultural extension centre at Namuk. (21/11/65)



9. Patrol in a large carved canoe gets stuck in low waters of the Nagum River on way to Mundomundo on the Sepik River. (26/11/65) Jeff Liversidge was cutting timber on this river on a previous occasion: *Patrol Report - Angoram Patrol Report No. 3 – 1965/66(11/9/65)*.



10. All hands to help on Nagum River. (26/11/65)

**Group 7**

**Yuat River police investigation, 10 - 12 December 1965.**

*Patrol Report - Angoram Patrol Report No. 9 - 1965/66.*



1. Martin Kerr, suffering from malaria and eating ear of local corn in *haus kiap* at Asangamut, Yuat River. Note strong house construction using local materials including sago palm (*moreta*) roof. (11/12/65)



2. Exhuming human remains with village official (luluai) on right. The grave is a trench about 2ft 6in deep covered with sticks, allowing rising ground water to soak and rot the body. Maranyam village of Kansimeia on Konmei River, a tributary of the Karawari River. (19/12/65)



3. Exhumation remains. (19/12/65)



**Group 8**

**Kambaramba Village, Grass Country, near Angoram,  
1965.**



1. Kambaramba village during dry season July 1965.



2. Kambaramba. Often described as brothel (traditional) of the Sepik. Village has almost no dry land and rely on trade of wives and children to supplement incomes. July 1965.



3. Kambaramba with water at mid levels, January 1967.



4. Man in bush *tambuna* (devil) mask holding bow and arrow. July 1965.



5. Sikel with man in bush *tambuna* (devil) mask. July 1965.



6. Man in bush *tambuna* mask. July 1965.



7. Man in bush *tambuna* mask. July 1965.



8. Young boy with man in 'ordinary' *tambuna* mask. July 1965.



9. Children look on at *singsing*. July 1965.



10. Old man beating a *kundu*. July 1965.



11. Young boys look on. July 1965.



12. Girls with boy with *kundu*. July 1965.



13. Titus (schoolboy) and nursing sisters at Kambaramba. July 1965.



11. Tola beats sago palm pith with a stick in preparation for the pith to be washed through the *pangal* sieve at left of picture. December 1965.



14. Bopa assists Commonwealth of Australia cameramen. Sago pith mash is in background. Sago palm log floats in water at right. Part of *pangal* sieve is at left. Young boys look on. December 1965.



15. Bopa stands at *pangal* sieve. Sago starch drips into an old canoe in foreground where the water gets away allowing sago starch to settle in the bottom of the canoe. December 1965.



16. (partially over exposed) Martin Kerr with Bopa at Kambaramba. Late December 1965.

**Group 9**

**Angoram and environs, 1965-66.**



1. Loaded canoe with a motor and temporary outrigger heads upriver from Angoram market. June 1965.



2. Cargo arriving at Angoram waterfront. Rob Sintes (NZ), patrol officer Dan Claasen, Graham Paterson (school teacher), Len?, Len Willis (ship's captain), Al Sauve (trader). June 1965.



3. Haus tambaran, Angoram. June 1965.



4. Tobacco Road, Angoram. June 1965.



5. Tobacco Road, Angoram looking down river. June 1965.



6. Angoram from the Sepik River. Bekinok from Telefomin in foreground. June 1965.



7. Government workboat *Onyx* going to Amboin Patrol Post with seed coconuts. August 1965.



8. Timber rafts for sawmills of Angoram. August 1965.



9. Bush camp for land survey at Kasiman, Marienberg Hills. November 1965.



10. Wira, headman of Kasiman at ancestors' cave. November 1965.



11. Men of Kasiman at ancestors's cave. November 1965.



12. Early morning at Moim School. Len Pascoe, Graham Paterson, Dave Willis (*didiman* – agricultural officer). December 1965.



14. *Singsing* at Kiwim, Keram River on the occasion of the opening of an agricultural extension project by Angoram agricultural extension officer David Willis. December 1965.



15. On the way to Kiwim. Dan Claasen and Len Pascoe join the canoe.



16. Graham Paterson, Len Pascoe, Dave Willis.



17. Woman in bra enjoys a joke at Kiwim *singsing*. December 1965.



18. Girls at Kiwim *singsing*. December 1965.



19. Martin Kerr in *pulpul* doing Maori *haka* at Kiwim *singsing*. It is early morning and the *singsing* has been going all night. December 1965.



20. *Singsing* in action at Kiwim after going all night. December 1965.



21. Mother (Uena Doris Wamo) (Anna Chu's first cousin) and child, Joe Knora at Kiwim. December 1965.



22. *Singsing* at Kiwim. December 1965.



23. Dan Claasen and government double outfit ready to leave Kiwim. December 1965



24. Agricultural extension centre at Kiwim. December 1965.



25. David Willis and Lucy (soon to be his wife) and Dan Glaasen at Kiwim. December 1965



26. *Singsing* at Angoram, New Year's Day.  
This is a group from Kiwim village on the Keram River.  
The girl third from right looking directly at camera is  
Shirley Doris. 1966. (See 16.17)



27. Man in mask and aeroplane at Angoram *singsing*, New Year's Day 1966.



28. *Singing at Angoram, New Year's Day 1966.*



29. MV *Kilinainau* on beach near Murik Lakes early January 1966. This vessel, according to Harry Brutnall (in Ravenshoe, North Queensland, 31/10/2006), was run ashore by a Captain Evans who was working for Captain Bill Cunningham. Harry said he first saw the vessel in Darwin in 1942 under another name as the Bishop of Northern Australia's official yacht, but by then commandeered by the Australian navy. Harry arrived in Darwin as a navy diver and was subjected to many air raids by the Japanese. The ship obviously survived the war and was originally well-appointed with nuns quarters, etc. It was renamed after a group of islands east of small Buka by Bougainville Shipping Company. Harry Brutnall spent many years in PNG (mainly Rabaul) and became a major coastal shipping owner.



30. Martin Kerr, who appears in image 31, has only a vague idea who some of these people are. They may well include teachers from Wewak and Angoram for the New Year celebrations. The man at far right of picture is *didiman* Dave Willis. Kerr's correspondence does mention a trip to the Murik Lakes during this period prior to his return to New Zealand in February 1966 to take up further study. January 1966.



31. Martin Kerr stands at right. January 1966.

**Group 10**

**Sepik River between Ambunti and May River, 1967.**

Martin Kerr was working for John Pasquarelli, Las  
Kompani Pty Ltd.



1. Healthy plantation labourers return to Iniook village carrying their worldly possessions after two years absence. *Pangal* palm logs brought in at high water lie on river bank ready for use in house construction. May 1967



2. Sepik River albino boy with his brothers and relatives, possibly at Angriman. May 1967.



3. Close up of Albino. He suffers from the effects of the sun. May 1967.



4. Sepik man's body carving including female genitalia. May 1967. He is same person who is named as boatswain (river pilot) in image 13.2 .

**Group 11**

**Ambunti and environs, 1967.**



1. Sikel of Kambaramba stands in front of trading canoes under repair at Angoram. January 1967.



2. Sikel with her relatives on motor canoe heading for Ambunti. January 1967.



3. Las Kompani's trading and crocodile shooting canoes, Ambunti. January 1967.



4. Martin Kerr's canoe in foreground taking trade goods and equipment to May River. February 1967.



5. Martin Kerr takes a relaxing moment on hiscanoe on the way to May River. February 1967.



6. New Las Kompani workshop at Ambunti May 1967.



7. Domestic washing scene, Sepik River at Ambunti. June 1967.



8. Washing scene Ambunti. Double canoe is without its motors. Looking upriver. June 1967.



9. Mission Aviation Fellowship float plane lands at Ambunti. June 1967.



10. Faye (?), Martin Kerr, Barbara (?), Warren Hanson (John Pasquarelli's business partner) at Ambunti. Note the rare 'three'-legged basket hook and catfish basket hook on wall. Faye and Barbara are two nurses on a break from Wewak Hospital. September 1967. The 'three'-legged hook of kwila is from Kanganaman and is modelled on the gable figure holding the ridge poles of the Kanganaman *haus tambaran*. The catfish hook, also from Kanganaman, was purchased later in 1967 by Douglas Newton for the Museum of Primitive Art.



11. Warren Hanson dances with Faye and Martin Kerr with Barbara. September 1967.



12. Faye, Martin Kerr, Warren Hanson and Barbara are all well-armed and full of good cheer at the end of a dinner party at Ambunti. Note catfish basket hook of woman giving birth to a catfish mentioned previously.



13. Duncan Dow, geologist from Auckland, Rod Ryburn, geologist and John Arthurson, pilot in helicopter at Ambunti. August 1967.



14. Geologists take off in helicopter, Ambunti. August 1967. Fibro buildings in background were at the end of 1967 all painted in Sepik designs.



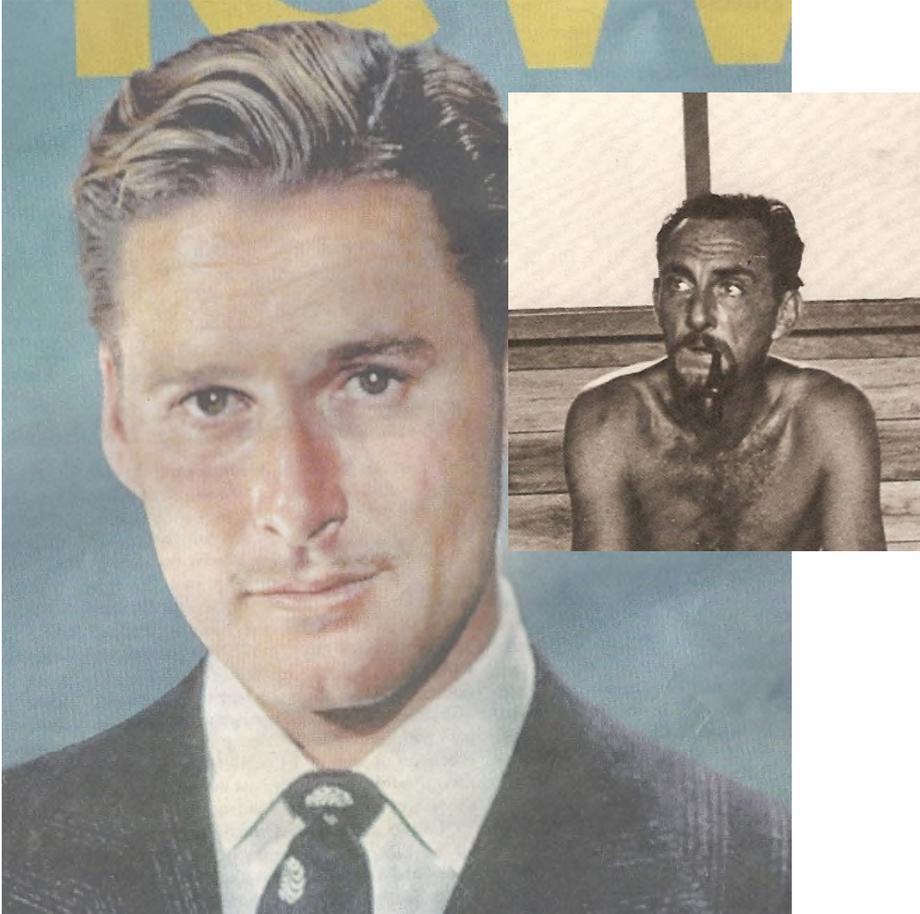
15. Bureau of Mineral Resources Geologists prepare for trip to April River in a Jet 91. August 1967.



16. Unfocussed shot of John Pasquarelli and Graham Gilmore (allegedly a son of Errol Flynn) in Las Kompani Pride jet boat, at the start of their own April River prospect. August 1967.



Errol Flynn (Photo from Errol Flynn internet site 1.2.09)



Errol Flynn The Australian Review (Cover) June 6-7, 2009

Right: New Guinea-born Graham Gilmore. One-time army officer, hotelier, Member of House of Assembly. (taken 1967)

Source: New Guinea, James L Anderson and Donald Hogg  
AH & AW Reed, Sydney 1969 P 129

Email to Martin July 27, 2023. Authors names deleted.

Hi Martin

I thought you may be interested in some further information about Graham Gilmore if you did not know about his connection to the Leahy family. When I arrived in January 1970 I was working as a governess for Di and Fred Leahy on their plantation Korfena in upper Asaro.

Graham at the time was married to his first wife Colleen who is Di Leahy's sister. They had previously been in Madang. He had separated from Colleen but had built the plantation house which was a unique and wonderful structure. Sadly it was burnt down some years later. At the time his son Ian (decd) was at boarding school in Sydney and two adopted daughters lived with their mother. I also saw him when visited KarKar in 1997 when he was with another son and sailing a boat which I believe he delivered to the owner in the Solomons.

My best wishes to you both and our love to Anna for future good health.

Regards



17. Martin Kerr at sundown on a large round water, shooting ducks. August 1967.



18. Hamilton Jet 91 shows its paces on the Sepik River at Ambunti. September 1967.



19. Martin Kerr poses with Pasquarelli's side arm at Ambunti. December 1967.



20. Maids from Angoram at John Pasquarelli's *banis* (business premises). Sikel of Kambaramba is on right. May 1967.



21. Las Kompani dependents, Ambunti. January 1967.



22. Wayne Heathcote with Nancy Simogun (her father a WWII hero and politician). January 1967.



23. Wayne Heathcote with Nancy Simogun. January 1967.



24. Las Kompani, Ambunti. Pasquarelli in background centre right. January 1967.

**Group 12**

**May River and environs, 1967.**



1. This man, Ambuk Awia of Angriman, guided Martin Kerr to May River, an employee of John Pasquarelli. Martin met and photographed this man at Angoram in February 2006. May River, January 1967. (See 16.16)



2. Martin Kerr and Ambuk at May River with Las Kompani employees. (See 16.16)



3. Walio, first store keeper at May River. January 1967.



4. Pause for motor maintenance on Sepik River on way to May River. January 1967.



5. Trading canoe comes into May River Patrol Post. January 1967. The patrol post was set up in 1957 as a result of the Yellow River massacre on the SepikRiver by warriors from May River.



6. May River Patrol Post looking north towards SepikRiver over a broad sago swamp. January 1967.



7. May River Patrol Post looking south up river. January 1967.



8. Assistant district officer Bernie Maume at May River Patrol Post looking south-west. January 1967.



9. Martin Kerr at May River Patrol Post. January 1967



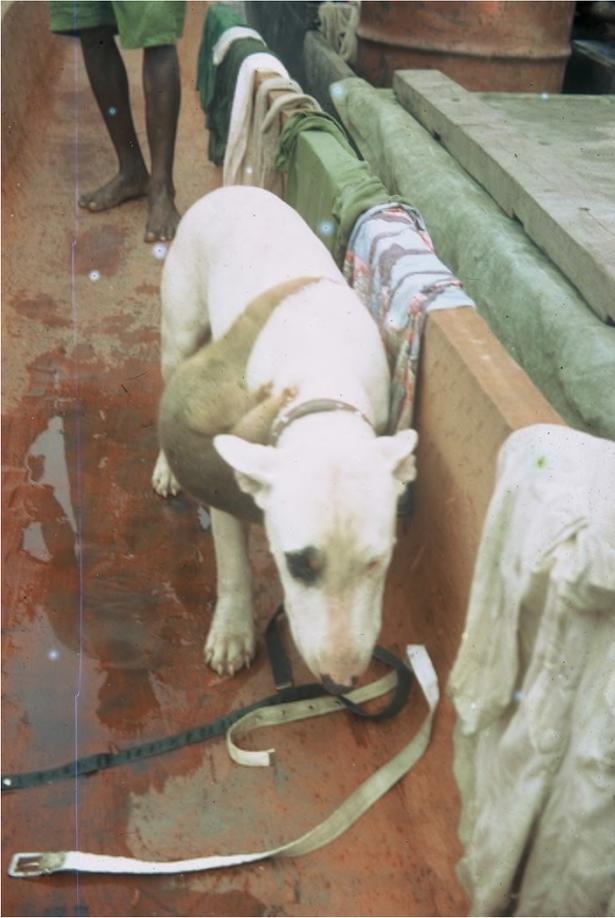
10. Las Kompani workers shape canoes for crocodile shooting at very high water. January 1967.



11. *Meri* and *muruk* at May River. March 1967.



12. Villagers launch a cedar canoe. Upper Sepik River. May 1967.



13. John Pasquarelli's dog Radar is not too happy standing in a new canoe with a friendly possum round his neck. May 1967.



13. Martin Kerr looking for crocodiles. May 1967.



14. Sikel of Kambaramba stands on steps of Las Kompani house at May River. May 1967.



15. Kigu of Abagaisu (May River) makes scones in Las Kompani house at May River. May 1967.



16. Kigu with her children standing in front of extensions to Las Kompani trade store at May River. Kigu's first husband (she married at about the age of 15) was imprisoned for murder and cannibalism (Yellow River massacre 1957). Subsequently she was abducted by a policeman who married her and left her a widow with three children. June 1967.



17. Two maids at Chinapian village, upper Sepik River. June 1967.



18. Towing crocodile hunters up river towards Green River. June 1967.



19. Supplies arrive by workboat at May River (three or four days out of Ambunti). June 1967.



20. Camp at limit of motor canoe navigation on May River. Martin Kerr is here to investigate copal gum and other timber resources. June 1967.



21. Kigu's children: Mera, Yagu and Asta (foreground) with pawpaw at May River. June 1967.



22. May River woman (from a distant village) in front of Las Kompani store. June 1967.



23. John Pasquarelli catches up with the newswile on the deepest pit toilet in the Sepik valley. May River, June 1967.



24. Las Kompani staff, dependents and police at May River with Radar and puppies, and dead egret (shot). September 1967.



25. Large cedar single canoe leaves May River with empty fuel drums for Ambunti. September 1967.



26. Kigu and Asta, May River. September 1967.

**Group 13**

**Green River and environs, 1967.**

Near border with West Papua (formerly West Irian).



1. Sikel of Kambaramba holds two flying foxes of a dozen shot with a .22 rifle for dinner and for local villagers on Sepik River near Green River. May 1967.



2. Martin Kerr at Green River with Sikel, canoe crewman Naudi, local guide and canoe boatswain. May 1967.



3. Walking into kunai country near Green River Patrol Post. May 1967.



4. Sikel has a rest at Green River. May 1967.



5. Martin Kerr at Hupi village at a trig marker about 100 metres from the West Papua border. May 1967. This is a standard Sepik River type settlement under the control of the Administration. But the Hupi have another settlement, which Kerr paddles to in a canoe, within West Papua which is essentially a fortified long house. Kerr has colour slides taken of him at the border obelisk about 100 metres away. He dressed in traditional native costume (penis gourd). These slides went missing after an assistant district commissioner saw and confiscated them for being allegedly obscene. A similar pose was struck at the same spot when visiting the area later that year with Richard Leahy. (See images 15.5, 15.6)



6. Hupi villagers. Few men at home (this one with filaria); mainly women and children. Men are at the long house over the border. May 1967.



7. Man finishing off a canoe with a stone adze at a canoe making 'factory' (men like to work together and share the work over a number of canoes using a variety of tools). This man prefers a stone adze to finish off a canoe in order to give a firmer (smooth and crushed) surface to preserve the soft timber from water logging and rot. June 1967.



8. Las Kompani crocodile shooters display night's kill on Sepik River near Green River. September 1967.



9. Las Kompani crocodile shooters and hangers on at the junction of August River with the Sepik. May 1967.

**Group 14**

**Maprik and environs with Douglas & Kathleen Newton, 1967.**



1. Haus tambaran at Maprik. August 1967.



2. Kathleen Newton at haus tambaran, Maprik. August 1967.



3. Close-up of entrance facade, haus tambaran, Maprik. August 1967.



4. Village at Maprik. Village pet baby cassowary is behind woman. August 1967.



5. Cargo vessel *Kathleen* from Madang at Pagwi, port for Maprik, on the Sepik River. U.S. yacht in background. Douglas Newton on left. August 1967.



6. Douglas Newton at Maprik *haus tambaran*. August 1967.



7. Douglas Newton & Kathleen Newton on the Maprik-Pagwi Road. August 1967.

**Group 15**

Miscellaneous images 1965, 1967, 1968, 1997.



1. Martin Kerr helps carry a dead male cassowary shot by a local villager while on patrol through Marienberg Hills. See *Patrol Report - Angoram Patrol No. 1 - 1965/66*. Photo taken by David Bretherton.



2. Bill Graham, *didiman* and John Pasquarelli at Angoram. December 1965.



3. Martin Kerr with two maids (Sikel and Gaua)Kambaramba. December 1965.



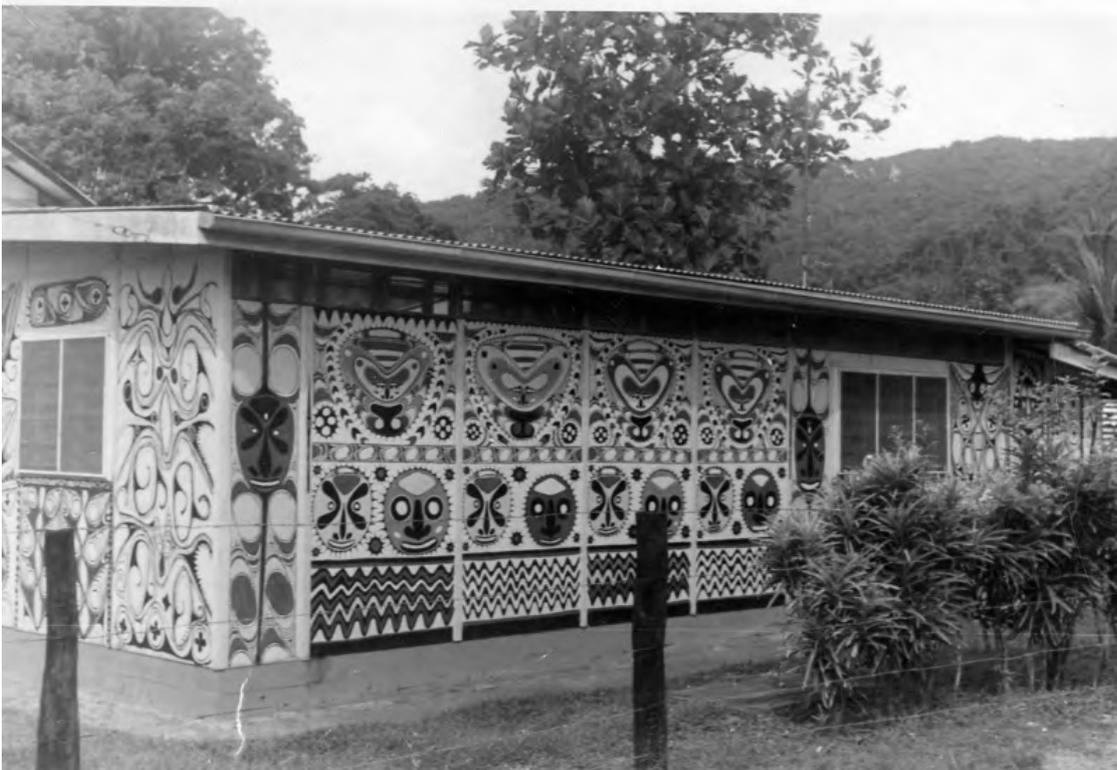
4. Kwowia caves, Seraba. Douglas Newton photo sent to Martin Kerr. Kerr on right. Note by Douglas on back of photo: 'This ought to bring back memories of a hot day. Sorry you seem to have a bamboo up your nose.' See *Patrol Report – Angoram Patrol Report No. 3 – 1965/66*.



5. Richard Leahy son of New Guinea explorer and gold prospector Mick Leahy at border marker with West Papua, at Hupi, Sepik River probably about September 1967. (See also image 13.6)



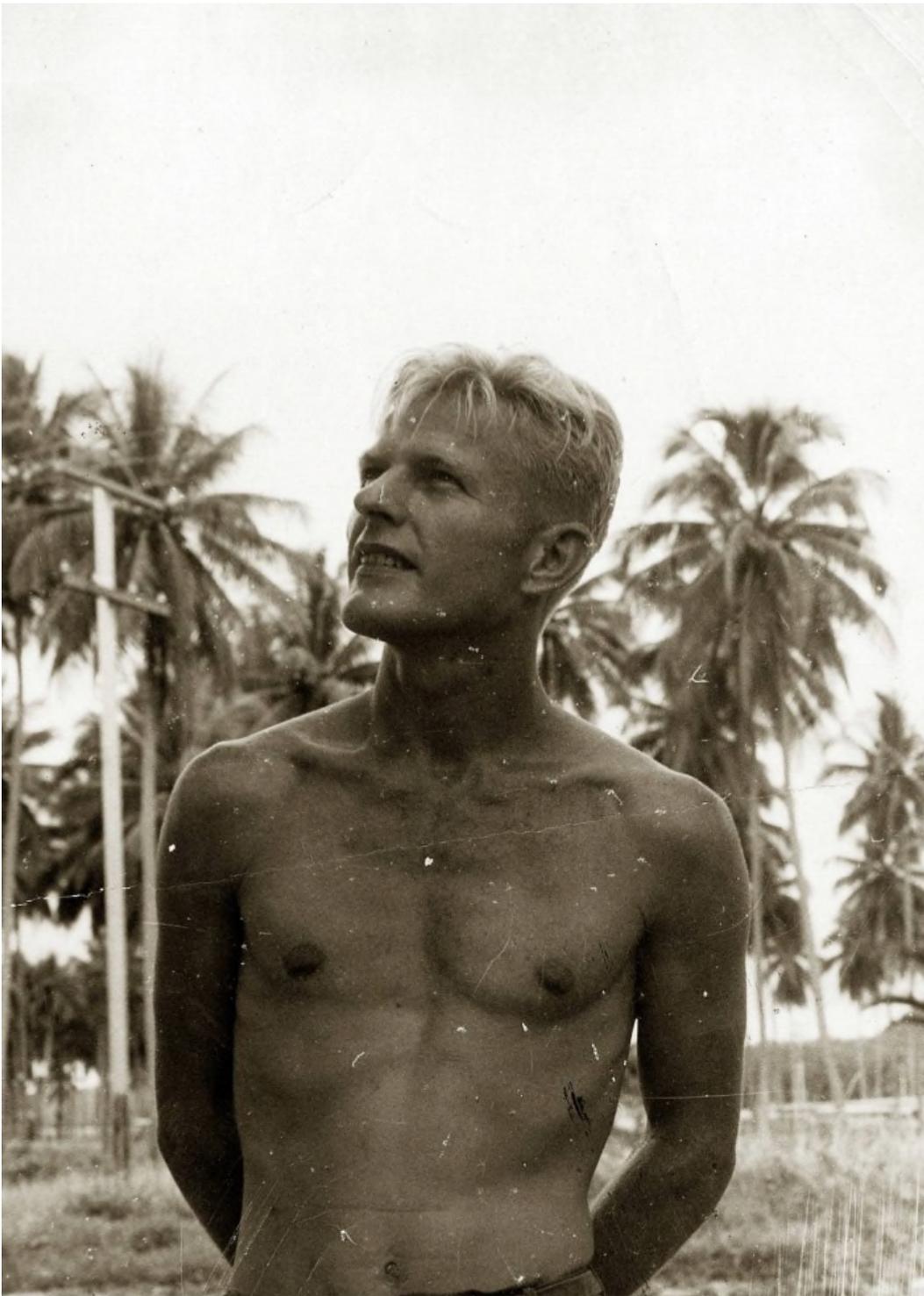
6. Martin Kerr at border marker with West Papua, doing his thing native style. Photo taken by Richard Leahy. In a letter to Professor Ken Inglis at The University of Papua and New Guinea 18 May 1968, in an attachment, Kerr reports: 'Border Marker at Hupi reads "Australian Team Survey, Team Survey Indon - 141 00E 4 8 41S 12 9 66"'. To preserve diplomacy and territorial integrity the Indo. Survey team slept in a camp constructed by Australian Protected New Guineans from Hupi, a mile up river inside West Irian, after being flown into Hupi with the Australian Survey Team by an Australian Helicopter from Green River. One Hupi Native's comments of the Indonesians. "Me tink dispela man long Indonesia em i manki tasol!" As far as writer is aware no further Indo. patrols have been in the area west of Hupi, though Hupi Natives refer to many high flying aircraft (Australian) which have flown over while they themselves were in West Irian.'



7. John Pasquarelli's house at Ambunti. Martin Kerr arranged painting by local Waskuk people, perhaps the first time such work was completed on non-native materials and on a European dwelling. This was undertaken by enthusiastic artists when the owner was away in parliament and to avoid possible objections by him. Pasquarelli was happy with the result. Graham Gilmour, who returns to Ambunti with Pasquarelli, gets Waskuk artists to record their totems with coloured felt pens in an exercise book which is among Kerr's papers at the UNPNG. September 1967



8. Native paintings on Las Kompani building September 1967.



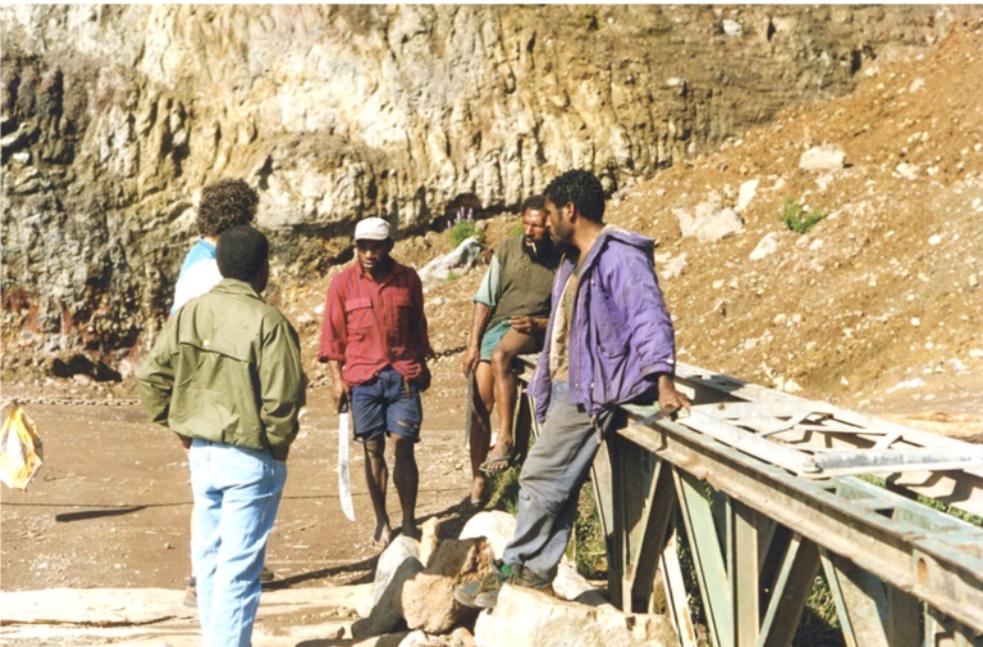
9. Adrian Visser at his business, Vanimo. Netherlands-born Visser fled West Papua in 1964 as a result of the Indonesian takeover of West Papua and at the time of this photograph is actively assisting refugees from across the border. Adrian Visser became the inspiration for the character Rudi van der Sloot in Kerr's first novel *Diansinkan - The Exiled*, 1969 and revised 1996. December 1968. Available on Kindle.



10. Martin Kerr's guide and paddler loads small canoe for voyage from Green River to May River. December 1968. This canoe was subsequently exchanged for a larger one and two extra paddlers after an altercation with a crocodile and large whirlpools.



11. Las Kompani at Ambunti. The business is at this time owned by Warren Hanson, Pasquarelli's former business partner. January 1969.



12. Bridge on the Tambul Road, Western Highlands. John Burton anthropologist, running a business called Social Mapping based in Canberra negotiates with armed men who have blocked the bridge to Tambul with a chain. After payment of a suitable fee Kerr and Burton are able to continue their journey making an assessment of drought conditions in the area in preparation for the delivery of Australian Government food aid distributed by CARE Australia. December 1997.



13. Tense scene at government agricultural depot near Mount Hagen airport (Kagamuga) as villagers wait for food aid supplies. January 1998.

## Group 16

### Selection of images taken during a trip to PNG February-March 2006



1. Geoffrey Brodribb Harris grave at Wewak Cemetery situated beneath the east side of Wewak Hill overlooking the sea. The memorial beside the Telefomin airstrip to his and others' deaths reads as follows: "Territory of Papua and New Guinea in memory of Patrol Officer Gerald Leo Szarka and Cadet Patrol Officer Geoffrey Brodribb Harris field officers of the Department of District Services and Native Affairs 6092 PA Constable Buritori and 3349 Constable Purari Royal Papua and New Guinea Constabulary who lost their lives on Territory Service in the Telefomin area 6<sup>th</sup> November 1953" (See Group 2.34)



2. Wewak Cemetery. Johnson Saongo stands at Harris grave in background. Russell Kenny and Max Ray Ningel (in blue beany) and unnamed other person stand at grave of Raymond Ningel who was murdered in 2000 at the age of 22. Margaret Ningel (Raymond's and Max's mother) has a visitors' book to record visitors to the cemetery and to accept donations for the cemetery's upkeep. Margaret lives about 60 metres to the south of the cemetery



3. Lyn Visser and some of her grandchildren. Lyn, together with her sons Jeffrey, Derek and John run Visser Enterprises Limited, PO Box 201, Vanimo, Sandaun Province, Papua New Guinea. The business includes a guesthouse, vehicle hire, a well-equipped mechanical workshop and petrol retail outlet. Adrian Visser (See Group 15-10 ) at the time this photo is taken (27 February 2006) was in Holland. His wife, Lyn, comes from West Papua, and has relatives along the north coast of both countries. This part of the coast plays host to international surfers in January-February each year.



4. Anna McGibbon (Chu), niece Stephanie and her father and Anna's brother, Wiky.



5. Desecrated graves of Chu Leong and his wife Elekema of Kiwim. The grave site in Angoram was cleared by Jimi Kami shown in image with Anna McGibbon (Chu Leong's and Elekema's second daughter). The Sepik River is in the background.



6. Anna McGibbon with Namok and her son Jimi Kami at Angoram. Jimi is the son of John Pasquarelli, a former cadet patrol officer and member of the House of Assembly for Angoram Open 1964-68.



7. Sikel of Kambaramba with granddaughters at the Angoram market. Sikel appears in various images taken in 1965 and 1967.



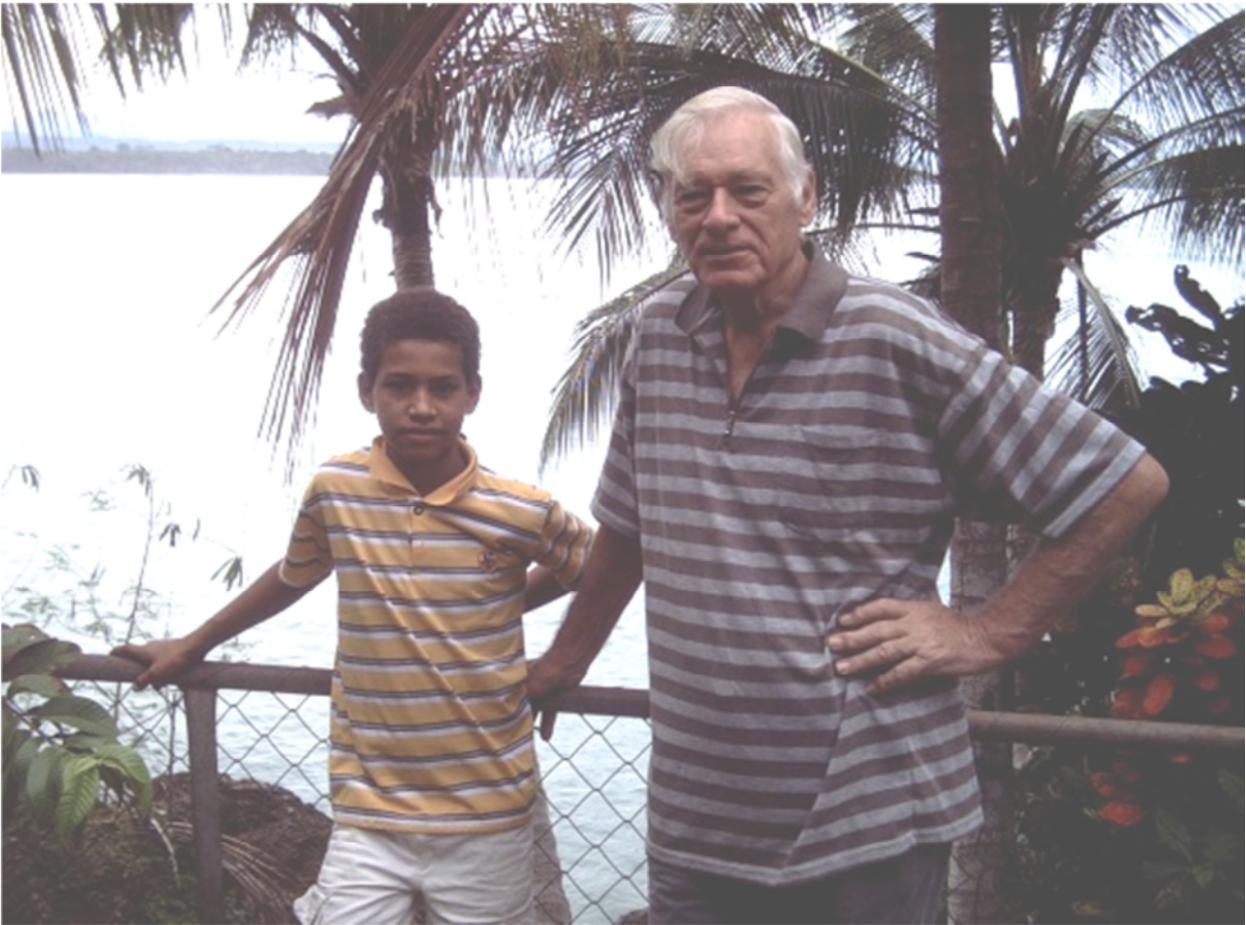
8. Joe and Anna Chu (brother and sister) at the PNG border at Wutung taken from the West Papuan side. The building is to display PNG's efforts of welcome visitors to a planned free trade zone extended to Vanimo, where they could possibly gamble at the town's hotels. There is precious little to purchase in PNG which cannot be obtained more cheaply in West Papua.



9. Indonesian security police, West Papua border, 27 February 2006. Three international tourists with scuba diving gear were seen to be given every assistance to cross the border into PNG.



10. Anna McGibbon goes shopping in Batas, West Papua, about three hundred metres from the PNG Border.



11. Brendan and Peter Johnson (father) in Wewak. Peter was in Angoram when Martin Kerr was there in 1965 and runs a gas distribution business. His other three children by his first wife are: a barrister and former Australian Federal politician, a brain surgeon, a general practitioner.



12. Jeff Liverside Jnr is the son of Jeff Liverside who Martin Kerr and Anna McGibbon briefly met in Wewak. Jeff Jnr is a woodcarver and deals in artifacts. Jeff Liverside (Snr), who married a girl from Angriman was known to Martin in Angoram in 1965.



13. Three of Kigu of Abagaisu's grandchildren photographed at Kreer near Wewak. Kigu was Martin's storeperson while he was in May River. She later married Alan Gallagher an ex-serviceman, had more children and settled in Ambunti. (See also Group 12.12)



14. Martin Kerr with Sikel of Kambaramba with the Sepik in flood.



15. Wharf at Kreer, Wewak showing new tuna loining factory.



16. Ambuk Awia of Angriman\* with Anna McGibbon (Chu) at Angoram February 2006 is same person who showed Martin the way to May River, January 1967 (See Group 12.1 & 2)

\* Name confirmed by Joe Chu, Wewak by telephone 9 February 2009



17. Shirley Doris, Juliana Doris & Anna McGibbon (Chu), Gavien, February 2006. (See Group 9.26)



18. Widow Hélène Huon Navrancourt marching in Atherton, Queensland, Anzac Day, 2008. The medals (and coat) belong to her French ex-serviceman husband and includes Jean's Légion d'honneur d'outre mer. Refer to Group 2.44 and Dr Barry Craig's comments in Corrigenda 1.



19. Left to Right. Martin Kerr with PNG identities Harry Brutnall and Anna Chu (on chair). Jean Huxley stands next to Maerangikahu Kirkwood who presents the author's *Tamariki and the Whales* at a book launch in Ravenshoe, North Queensland, 15 November 2008. Traditional landowner and author Maisie Yarrcali Barlow sits behind Anna Chu (McGibbon).

– Photo: Jean Versace

-oo0oo-

# Afterword and Corrigenda 1

*New Guinea Patrol* CD-ROM – from Barry Craig PhD to Martin Kerr 9.09.09

Martin,

Thank you for the CD – I have a Travel Book Club edition of your book, *New Guinea Patrol* but the other material (photos and patrol reports etc) is a most interesting addition to my PNG resources. What you have done in organising your material is most important for providing the basic materials for a history of Australia-PNG relations (as Ken Inglis is saying) and others should do the same.

I do feel a need to make some corrections to the caption to the photo of the Star Mtns expedition members. First I can add that the chap on the right is not Dave but Mike Shepherd who, at the time of the expedition in 1965, was a geology student at Uni of Sydney studying glacial geomorphology – hence his interest in the Star Mtns where there was considerable evidence of glaciation in the past. He subsequently got a teaching job at Massey University, Palmerston North in NZ. He visited Adelaide with his daughter a few years ago. I've lost track of Tom Hayllar and David Cook. I remained in contact with Paul

The main corrections are that there was no falling out over shortage of supplies and carriers – in fact everything went pretty smoothly and in three months away we had no serious injuries at all, everyone was decently-fed (under the circumstances), and we made decisions by consensus. We had seventeen full-time carriers, supplemented them with short-term locals as needed, and staged all our advances to use our carriers to the full. The only problem we had was with Jean Huon who was rather bullying in his association with us and may have been the source of the rumour that we had leadership problems – he wanted the dominant role. But he left us after three or four weeks while we were still encamped on the south side of the Stars and the rest of the trip went quite well. There was a bit of hoo-hah about airdrops but it was bloody Huon who stuffed that up. On the first run by Piaggio, quite low over the Plateau on the Stars, he was in the plane to push out the goodies and was waving his arms around when shouting at the pilot (as the French tend to do) and knocked one of the two engine switches into OFF position and the plane faltered as the pilot was trying to clear a rise in front of him. That scared the hell out of the pilot and he abandoned the rest of the drop and returned to Telefomin. Subsequent airdrops took place like bombing raids over Dresden from high up and we had a devil of a time locating the bags.

The expedition took place 18 February to 20 May so the piccies you have (40, 41) must have been taken when Mike Shepherd and Tom Hayllar arrived at Telefomin on 22 February just before we left (not after we came back) – that should be apparent from their clean clothing and fresh countenance!

Since 1995 I have been Curator of Foreign Ethnology at the South Australian Museum (not Aboriginal ethnology); Foreign Ethnology includes ethnographic collections from the Pacific, SE Asia, Asia, Africa, ancient Egypt and the Americas. Of course I'm not an expert in all these areas but I have networks I activate when needed. Previously I was a Curator of Anthropology at the PNG National Museum 1980-83 during which time I did three long trips along the middle and lower Sepik and tributaries. Douglas Newton was a mentor when I was in New York 1969-71, and again 1973-4, while I was studying at the Institute of Fine Arts, NYU. During 1972-3, I was a year in the Idam valley, just south of Green River. That's when I met Kevin Rigg (PO Green River), and we became friends, consolidated when I was living in Moresby 1980-83.

Pasquarelli rang me the other day to comment on something I'd published in the Oceanic Art Society Newsletter recently. He's as bombastic as always. Become a painter (art-type, not house), he says...

I have a couple of hundred images from the central NG and upper Sepik regions on the website of the 'Upper Sepik-Central New Guinea Project' – [www.uscngp.com](http://www.uscngp.com) Go to 'Gallery' from the horizontal menu line, select 'Photosets', then select an ethno-linguistic or other category listed eg. 'Star Mountains' has three shots from that 1965 expedition; 'Wopkeimin' and 'Atbalmin' also include 1965 expedition photos. The photos in 'Telefolmin' also will be of interest to you. You click on individual thumbnails in the set and then click on the Flickr link at bottom left to get a larger image with caption. You can choose the largest image from the size options along the top of the image-with-caption.

Keep in touch...

Barry

PS

I got interrupted when I was typing up the email I sent a couple of hours ago and just realised I hadn't finished a sentence. After details of Mike Shepherd, I meant to add:

I remained in contact with Paul Symons who later became Regional Psychologist based in Lae and later Chief Psychologist based in Moresby. He was there in the early 80s when I was at the National Museum . He retired from PNG c. 1983, before I left, and went to Sydney but then I lost track of him. He was prematurely aged (a heavy drinker) and probably did not survive the nineties.

Cheers

Barry

**Martin Kerr**

### **Walls of Wonder**

10 September 2021

The Star Mountains

By Tom Hayllar

Balboa Press, Bloomington, Illinois. ebook 2016 ISBN: 9781504303309 (e) 9781504303293 (sc)

The reviewer has an association with the Star Mountains Expedition even though the book was not published until 2016. There may be various reasons for this. Tom Hayllar writes sympathetically and knowingly about an expedition to New Guinea's Star Mountains, first explored in outline in 1963 by a government patrol out of Telefomin near the border with West Papua. The mountains, some over 12000 feet, were viewed but never topped by explorers going back to the late nineteenth century.

Hayllar's expedition of six Europeans and a number of local carriers began in February 1965. Members stayed at my patrol officers' cottage in Telefomin. I helped entertain them and feed them. One of them visited me when I was posted to Angoram later that year. The expedition inspired me to write novels associated with a similar but fictional expedition to the Star Mountains.

I was intrigued with the expeditioners' enthusiasm, some of it quite amateurish, but also their dedication. This was a mixed group with their own agendas and experience. Tom Hayllar, a school teacher and experienced bush walker, put the show on the road. How he did it he describes with great modesty in his thought provoking, entertaining and revealing book.

The book is packed full of the trials and tribulations of an expedition which could have ended in disaster. Was it not for the support of local villagers, headmen and interpreters with the encouragement by experienced government medical assistant (on leave), John Huon and school teacher and anthropologist Barry Craig, who with his anthropologist wife Ruth spent some years in Telefomin.

Problems were endless: the weather, the bush, the rivers, waterfalls, sink holes, limestone slivers, rocky barriers, moss, bugs, fleas, dangerous river crossings, sometimes arguments with their porters, care for injuries, confusion with airdrops, wild dogs, constant wet conditions, problematic sleeping and cooking arrangements, excess baggage and overloaded portages.

Tom Hayllar, Paul Symonds, John Huon (Jean Huon Navarancourt), Barry Craig, David Cook and Mike Shepherd had their own skills and interests, as did their carriers. The individuals could break off to pursue their own investigations at times, allowing time out for others. The whole mission was a cultural and human business where men and sometimes local girls took up new challenges, including the capture of a murder suspect. Two Star Mountains, Cappella and Scorpio (Scorpion in the ebook) were summited for the first time in 1965. Returning to Telefomin (and maybe life in general) was never going to be a walk in the park.

Barry Craig made his research offerings available over time, others may have done similar things, but it Hayllar's writing, his skill describing landscapes and the slush and slosh of moving forward and sometimes backwards on an expedition with varying aims, some achieved and some not, makes this book a wonderful example of humans working under constant mental and physical stress.

Hayllar's *The Star Mountains* should be on everyone's reading list.

Martin Kerr's *New Guinea Patrol* was first published in 1973. His cult memoir, short stories and seven novels including, *Amon On*, *Amon Two* and *Amon Three*, are available on Kindle or through [maskimedia.com.au](http://maskimedia.com.au)



Barry Craig, Dave Cook (geologist), Tom Hayllar and Mike Shepherd (geology student); four expeditioners of the Star Mountains outside single kiap quarters in Telefomin, February 1965. Local shields hung by Martin Kerr. Photo: Martin Kerr