

Sydney,
August 1, 1955.

To: TRIPP Committee.

Second Report on Linguistic Field Project.

My last report was sent on April 2, when I had just arrived in New Caledonia. I remained there until July 15 - a total of 3 1/2 months. Almost exactly half of this time was spent in the bush in the native villages, and half in Nouméa. I had excellent cooperation from everyone. The South Pacific Commission provided me with lodging in Nouméa at a moderate cost, and the assistance I received from the Institut Français D'Océanie - and particularly Guiart - was invaluable. All of my work in the bush was organized by my simply telling Guiart what languages I wanted to work on and his then working out the details of where they were spoken, who might serve as an informant, and how his own work might be arranged to permit him to take me to these places and bring me back. He provided all my transportation outside of Nouméa.

I collected the entire questionnaire - or virtually all - in 10 languages of New Caledonia, the three Melanesian languages of the Loyalty Islands, and three New Hebrides languages. I think the 10 New Caledonia languages represent a very good sample of the languages of the island - each of the other 20 or so spoken there is closely related to at least one of those I got. As to the value of this data for the classification, about all that can be said now is that it gives us the full word-list for a good sample of the New Caledonia languages and for the three Melanesian languages of the Loyalties, and that this material is more nearly phonemic than the previously existing information. The theoretical importance of these languages - which have always been treated as something strange and aberrant in Melanesia - was discussed in the last report.

I had planned to leave New Caledonia about the first of July, but when I found that I would not be leaving Hollandia for Australian New Guinea until August 11, I decided to spend two further weeks in Nouméa, rather than in Sydney or Hollandia. I chose Nouméa because I saw the possibility of getting further New Hebrides material, which had a double value - the data collected, itself, and the experience of working through Pidgin.

One of the difficulties of a big survey trip of this sort is that different contact languages must be used. In this case there are three, French, Pidgin, and Malay. To begin with I only knew French. As a result of the considerable time I gave to the New Hebrides languages in New Caledonia, I am now able to get through the questionnaire in a reasonable time in New Hebrides Pidgin. New Guinea Pidgin is somewhat different, and Solomon Islands Pidgin different again, but I think I can make the transfer without too much difficulty. This means that from my arrival in New Guinea, I will be able to work with informants with a tolerable efficiency.

My itinerary for Australian New Guinea and the Solomons has been completed and all reservations made. I am considering a few changes which I will mention below. The airline, Qantas, has agreed

to forward my mail to me while I am in Australian New Guinea and the Solomons. My address, then, will be:
c/- Qantas Empire Airways,
Lae,
Territory of New Guinea.

The following is my itinerary as it now stands:

Hollandia	Aug.	5-11
Wewak	"	11-15
Kavieng	"	15-18
Rabaul	"	18-29
Honiara	"	29-Sept. 13
Vella Lavella	Sept.	13-20
Lae	"	20-21
Port Moresby	"	21-25
Lae	"	25-Oct. 3
Madang	Oct.	3-5
Hollandia	"	5-

The changes I am considering would involve increased time in Vella Lavella, Rabaul (probably as a second stopover there), and perhaps Lae, and elimination of the stop in Madang and perhaps Port Moresby. The elimination of the two stops is considered because they were intended principally to do microfilming for the South Pacific Commission, but that project has fallen through since they have a new secretary-general and have not been able to obtain authorization to buy the equipment.

The increased time at Vella Lavella seems advisable since I have now heard from Hall, the missionary who runs the boys school there, and it looks as if I could get some good work done there on the languages of the western Solomons. Goodenough's material makes the situation in the southeastern part of New Britain look more confused than I realized, so if there seems to be any way of getting material from there in a reasonable time, I will try to get it. I think that in Lae I might be able to get material on the languages of the Markham Valley. There is no published material; I have only what I got from Capell. Since I was not able to compare it with the data on other languages which I have in New York, I cannot be certain how badly more data is needed. However, I am inclined to the opinion that it is needed.

Financially, I am in good shape. I have \$4023.62 on hand. Subtracting the \$1980.00 additional grant I received, leaves \$2043.62 of the original grant remaining as compared with \$3159.10 on April 2. This makes my expenditures for the period April 2 - August 1 come to \$1115.48. The only big items in this are the excess baggage from Nouméa to Sydney (\$31.84) and my ticket for New Guinea and the Solomons (\$167.27), a total of \$199.11. Subtracting this leaves \$916.37 for living and miscellaneous expenses for the 4 months or just over \$7.50 a day. This is less than I had estimated and I think can be almost entirely accounted for by the fact that I spent over 7 weeks living with the natives, where I lived very cheaply. At any rate I seem to have sufficient latitude to permit some added time in Australian New Guinea and the Solomons, and probably also in Dutch New Guinea if the situation warrants it.

I will give the financial statement in a more readable form.

On hand		\$4023.62
Additional grant received		<u>1980.00</u>
Remaining from original grant		2043.62
Cash on hand April 2		3159.10
Subtract what now remains		<u>2043.62</u>
Spent in period April 2 - Aug. 1		1115.48
Minus transportation expenditures		
Excess baggage Nouméa-Sydney	\$31.84	
N. Guinea-Solomons ticket	<u>167.27</u>	
	199.11	<u>199.11</u>
Living expenses Apr.2-Aug.1		916.37

George W. Grace