

ANTHROPOLOGY

"Lost Peoples" of New Guinea Were First Seen by German

Before the War and the Turning Over of the Territory To Australia, Dr. Hermann Detzner Found "Semites"

DISCOVERY of the "lost peoples" of New Guinea, reported by the Australian anthropologist E. W. P. Chinnery before the International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences, is no new thing under the sun.

The same peoples were seen and partially studied by a German, Dr. Hermann Detzner, formerly an official in the pre-war German possessions in the Far East. In 1914, just before the outbreak of the World War, Dr. Detzner discovered the high-lying plateau described by Mr. Chinnery and visited two or three of the tribes who lived on it.

Then came news of the outbreak of the War. Dr. Detzner could not get out, because Australian forces had occupied all the ports of German New Guinea, and he would have been captured and interned as a prisoner, since he held a major's commission in the Imperial German Army. So he plunged into the interior, living with and like the natives, and evaded capture until 1918. Due to lack of food—he had to live chiefly on sweet potatoes—he was worn down to a 97-pound shadow of a man by the time he finally emerged.

In the meantime, the Australian forces had captured from one of his assistants some of his books of scientific notes on the tribes. Others he had buried. These were ruined by decay. Thus Dr. Detzner was able to publish only an incomplete account of his studies in the German scientific journals.

Invited to Congress

After the War, the League of Nations mandated to Australia the former German territory in New Guinea, thus opening the way for Mr. Chinnery's later explorations on behalf of the Australian government. As a courtesy to a former opponent and at the same time the real proto-discoverer of this newest "lost world," the Commonwealth invited Dr. Detzner to attend the International Congress. The German ex-

plorer in turn has complimented Mr. Chinnery on his success, stating that the recent exploration was more complete than his own earlier one.

Smooth-Shaven "Semites"

The bearded tribe which Mr. Chinnery named the Wahgi was called *Rocke*, or "skirted," by Dr. Detzner because the men wear skirts. The smooth-shaven people called *Purari* by Mr. Chinnery received the nickname "Semites of Papua" because of the characteristic and striking facial types found among them.

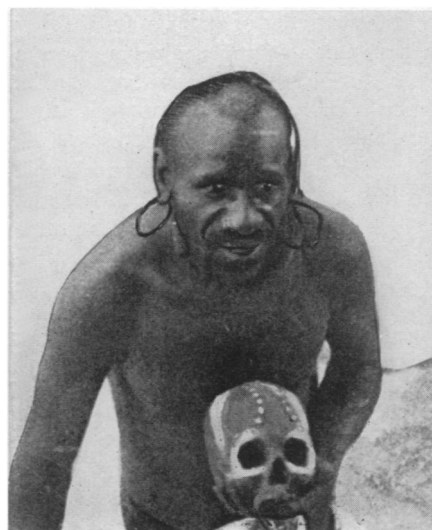
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ANTHROPOLOGY

"Semitic" Faces Common Among New Guinea Natives

"SEMITIC" faces on brown Papuans in the mountain fastnesses of New Guinea, which have caused comment in connection with the "lost tribes" discovered by E. W. P. Chinnery, Australian scientist-explorer, are really nothing uncommon in that part of the world. Bold, convex noses on dark-skinned faces are rather frequent not only in many parts of New Guinea but even more so in islands farther toward the east, especially in the Solomon Archipelago. Their presence among the estimated 200,000 new-found tribesmen is not, therefore, a source of particular wonder.

Two American scientists who have penetrated into the interior of New Guinea, M. W. Stirling, anthropologist of the Smithsonian Institution, and Dr. E. W. Brandes, botanist of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, showed a representative of Science Service many pictures of Papuans with decidedly "Semitic" countenances, ranging all the way from the finely-chiseled aristocratic Sephardic type to the low-comedy mask of slapstick burlesque.



SEMITIC?

Perhaps it is just as well, for the peace of mind of Germany's new "All-Highest Lord," that the Reich lost its Papuan lands to Australia during the World War; for these Semitic-appearing types are fairly common among the natives of the former German possessions on the great tropical island of New Guinea.

There is no need, however, to find in New Guinea another abiding-place of those most-travelled of the sons of men, the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel. Neither is it necessary to credit the noses to the Semitic Arabs, who were traders, slavers and conquerors throughout the East Indian region during several medieval centuries. It is not impossible, to be sure, that the Arabs brought the noses; but the much-mixed dark-skinned peoples of the Far Eastern islands have always been able to produce features of an astonishing variability within the limits of a single tribe.

Two of the tribes reported by Mr. Chinnery are widely separated, Dr. Brandes stated. The *Kukukuku* he knew by name as a tribe of the high mountain country. The *Purari*, however, are a coast people, living on the delta formed by one of the rivers of southern New Guinea where it meets the sea. Mr. Chinnery's third tribal name, the *Ramu*, was unfamiliar to Dr. Brandes.

Dr. Brandes' explorations were conducted as a part of the Department of

Agriculture's research for better disease-resistant varieties of sugar cane. He flew in a pontoon-equipped airplane over a great deal of mountain territory near the region explored by Mr. Chinnery, landing at will on the many inland lakes.

Mr. Stirling expressed considerable skepticism over some details of the first press reports of Mr. Chinnery's discoveries. Efforts to link the mountain peoples with ancient Egypt through the type of stone mortars used in grinding

flour, he felt, were unjustified, since mortars are a common kind of household utensil among peoples of a simple culture-level everywhere.

"It is much more likely," he said, "that we have here a group of tribes, hitherto unknown or little known, but which in the end will prove to be quite similar in racial makeup and customs to their nearest neighbors in the already known parts of the New Guinea uplands."

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FORESTRY

Lightning and Drought Cause Over 100 Forest Fires

LIGHTNING and excessively dry conditions throughout the Northern Pacific States were responsible for over 100 forest fires during the week ending August 4.

High winds fanned one blaze of 3,000 acres near Curlew, Wash., into a roaring furnace covering 18,000 acres.

Another fire originating in Canada crossed the border over a three-mile front and entered Coleville National Forest near Vulcan Mountain. A total of nearly a thousand men from C.C.C. camps and the neighboring region fought the two conflagrations.

Lightning storms caused 45 fires in the Wenatchee National Forest alone. Of the 25 that were burning in the Chelan Forest, three were reported as class C, which means over ten acres were burned. These three have laid bare a total of 780 acres of heavily wooded landscape.

Region one, the northern Rockies in Central Idaho and Montana, was at last reports still in a critical state. Koniksu, Kootenai, Selway, Bitterroot and Clearwater National Forests all had fires. All but one in Koniksu and Kootenai were controlled. In Clearwater Forest a fire raging over 8,000 acres was reported to be well manned with C.C.C. crews.

Snoqualmie National Forest, in Washington, has suffered severely from 19 fires. One burned off 1,500 and another 3,000 acres of big timber.

The Forest Service has not as yet computed the extent of the damage done in the West. Reports up to the present time, however, show that this year is heading for a record of destruction from forest fires.

So far, the number of forest fires in 1934 showed an increase of 66 per cent. over the average for a comparable period in the past three years. Officials of the U. S. Forest Service believe that this large increase is in part due to the lack of rain throughout the country.

National and state forests have become like tinder in a great many large areas. The smallest spark is likely to ignite the scorched underbrush and in a very short time a blaze is raging for miles across a wooded countryside.

If the number of fires increases at the same rate throughout this year the total number will exceed the total of 140,722 fires recorded for 1933. The area burned last year was 43,889,820 acres, with a total damage, estimated as accurately as possible by the Forest Service, of \$60,274,960.

Only 3,722,920 acres of the land burned in 1933 were in areas protected by the Forest Service and state forestry organizations. The other 90 per cent. of the damage occurred in regions not included in the 160,000,000 square miles (100,000,000,000 acres) of National Forests. The heavily damaged areas lie in sparsely populated regions of the South and West that have not as yet been dotted with fire stations.

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ZOOLOGY

More Moose Seen By Tourists in Yellowstone

MOOSE, seldom seen in Yellowstone National Park by casual visitors eight or ten years ago, of recent summers have become one of the interesting



BEAR-PROOF

Here's how rangers in Yellowstone National Park protect their beans and bacon from marauding black bears that make things uncomfortable for the cook who doesn't take precautionary measures in storing his food. A huge cage is suspended between two trees on a wire, and is lowered or raised on pulleys. The trees themselves are encased in metal from the base to about 12 feet upward to make sure that Bruin can't get a toe-hold and climb up to do a tight-wire act.

tourist sights. This year these animals are being met more than ever along the roads and trails, according to Superintendent Roger W. Toll, of the park, for an abnormally large "crop" of moose calves resulted from the mild winter which turned conditions topsy-turvy in the Yellowstone.

In fact, abnormal increase in all game animals had been expected, but indications now are that except in the case of the moose the increase was not as big as anticipated. It has been impossible to make a satisfactory check on the increase of the game herds, however, as the early spring caused them to migrate to the summer range much earlier than usual, and for some reason the general route of migration apparently was abandoned. At present the game animals are found scattered all over the park. As a result the rangers are having difficulties in their attempts to count the various species.

Fortunately range conditions in the Yellowstone have shown a slight im-