Hooper 1915

Sunday 9th. Have only been able to procure 3 decent canoes so far and as I now have I6 Venereal's most of them are walking round the coast. Arrived at the village of Marua and find that again some Venereals I had heard of are away in the bush. The people have planted a number of Cocoanuts and are still clearing for more. No water in or near this village, the natives going to Airala for all theirs. Sent out and obtained two Venereals, thence on to Airala, where V.C. SIWANA is in charge. Most of these Maisin people are away in their gardens so I will await their return.

This evening I witnessed an attempt at netting a shoal of fish, by the Airala people. All was quiet in the village when suddenly a woman cried "KWARUME-KWARUMA, dozens of men appeared from nowhere and in a couple of seconds two canoes were manned and racing for the shoal, but about a couple of hundred yards apart. All this time a man on each canoe was paying out the nets, and these same, although apparently thrown haphazard on the decking of the canoes, were paying out without a hitch. The canoes seemed to fairly fly through the water but in spite of all their exertions the fish outdistanced, them, going straight out to sea. When I took my eyes off the canoes I discovered that the two men who had been paying out the tow line were hanging to same and some hundred yards from the beach. The sight reminded me of one of the Sydney Life Saving Crews and matched in quickness that useful body. Large shoals of fish are caught by these people in the above manner.

Monday I0th. Left 7.30a.m. for Sinipara (MAISIN), arriving at that village 8.30 a.m. All the natives have cleared out from this village and they have not planted the required number of cocoanuts. There are II houses in this village and only five old men remained in the village; it will be necessary to make a night job of this village. At Sinipara No.2, all the natives remained in their village and they have done all the cocoanut planting possible in their village. Went on to Sinapa (the Island) these people have done some cocoanut planting on the point adjoining the Mission Station. Went back to the mainland for lunch. Held C.N.M. The water here is too salt to drink but the natives use it, being unable to obtain fresh water.

onday IOth. Continued.

Left Sinipa 3.I5 p.m. arrived U-ia-ku 5 p.m.

Nearly every house in this village is closed up and the owners somewhere in the bush. This is the headquarters of the MAISIN tribe and a very large village. Coconuts have been planted in a swamp at the back of the village but only a few in comparison with the number of able bodied men in the village. The nuts have not been kept clean and the village is in a very dirty state, gambling with cards goes on at night in several of the houses, and even in the daylight they are said to play.

The only way that these people can be brought to book, is in my opinion, by coming to their village and camping there for some time. Not only do they clear out to their gardens and the bi bush but on the approach of the Government, they go right along the coast to Airala. In is I believe, absolutely necessary to make these people feel their responsibility.

V.C's WOIDA and ARIMA met me here and report all their people to have cleared out. ARIMA who has left U-IA-KU because he could do nothing with his people (and is now established at Bonando) tells me he did all in his power to keep the natives in their village. Obtained One case of Venereal from Sinipara , one from Ganjiga (which is divided from this village by a creek. Sent letter to R.M. ,who will I expect be at Wanigela tomorrow. Having only three police with me I cannot hope to do anything with the U-ia-ku or Ganjiga natives, I cannot even obtain native food with all the natives away. Camped in village.

ay II th.

Natives still away in the bush. Left for Wanigela, arriving at Mission Station I0.30 a.m. Interviewed the Rev. J.E.J. Fisher, who tells me he has had a note from the R.M. Tufi and that he he expects him here tomorrow the IIth. April.

Procured a loan of 4 lbs. of tobacco from the Mission to carry me through till the R.M. arrives. Raining heavily during afterno afternoon.

sday 12 th.

Left Wanigela 8.30 a.m. and travelled per canoe to the village

Wednesday12 th. Continued.

To the village of U-A-U. Held enquiry re certain reported cases,which proved to be without fact. Inspected road to Ibenambo ,which I found to be all overgrown. Sent out for natives and later visited their gardens but could see nothing of them. Returned to Wanigela 4.30 p.m.

Thursday 13 th.

Visited the villages of Ai-afi,Murin and Airam who have plante a lot of cocconuts and are still clearing for planting.
their tracks are clean and also the villages.
Slept at the Mission.

Friday 14th. Saturday 15 th.Sunday 16 th. and Monday 17th.- See R.M. report.

Tuesday 18th.

Left Wanigela in Tufi whaleboat accompanied by LO Constables. Arrived U-IA-KU 11.30 a.m. and erected camp in the village. Sent the A.C. and V.C.out to bring in the natives who are still in in the bush. Police returned having made no arrests. Sent boat round into the Waiowa creek for a safe anchorage. V.C.WOIDA and ARIMA report a number of Ganjiga men have returned to their villag Sent for the Ganjiga men Fourteen of whom are wanted for Threatning Behavior. Ex Constable GAITO applied for the V.C.ship of U-ia-ku.He claims to be the son of the Lohiabada of this village. GAITO is a well made boy and keen for the position.
Sent all my A.C. out into the Maisin gardens ,they returned having caught seven old men whom I released.this at I a.m. on the 19 th.

Wednesday 19 th.

Sent police away again at daylight. Livingston the New Guinea Mission teacher in this village informs me that a lot of card playing goes on in this village but cannot tell me the names of the offenders.Made a search of three houses in which I was informed the cards were kept ,but without result.

Police returned and state that a lot of Maisin natives left their villages per canoes before I arrived and that they cannot see any signs of them in their gardens. As I cannot obtain native food and have no stock of rice I will be forced to leave this tribe tomorrow. Also I am to meet the R.M. tomorrow and ~~attempt~~ proceed to the acent Tufi. ~~of Mt. Victory~~.

Wednesday 19 th. Continued.

Moved camp to Ganjiga, where all the young bucks with the exception of the 14 arrested yesterday have cleared out, some even going as far as the Korapi Tribe, With whom they are friendly. Visited Bonando village /who/ the owners of whom have planted the required coconuts and have a clean village.
In all the Maisin villages a certain number of coconuts under 12 months are to he found /and/ but not the required number.
None of the villages with the exception of Bonando have cleared the scrub ,grass and undergroth from their plantations nor ,as far as I can judge has any work been undertaken justifying the neglect on the Coconuts.

Thursday 20th.

Left Ganjiga for Wanigela visiting the Maisin village of U-A-U, where I was able to make 21 arrests. I now have 21 Venereals and 36 other prisoners.

Arrived at Wanigela 10.30 a.m where the R.M. takes charge. Visited several villages and arrived Tufi ,having camped at Naniu on the night of the /20th/21st/ 21st.April.

Geo. S. Hooper.

Patrol Officer

Cape Nelson

N.E.D.