RL Dich, 2 Feb. 24

Sun. 10th. contd.
has been recently cleaned.

Mon. 11th. The two men I sent for on Fri. were brought in last night so I continu the inquiry this morning from 8 till 11am. The men brought in could not be detained on the evidence and I was on the point of leaving for Lakwa when I was told that a Kwagira man wanted to talk to me about the case. I sent Kamura in to find out what it was and went on to Lakw

~~Tue. 12th~~ I walked along the beach at Lakwa to the plantation; this will be a fine little plantation; the trees are growing very fast as the soil is mostly ideal for coconuts although there is only a narrow strip of it between the beach and the mangrove swamp behind. Good work has been done here and the place was nice and clean.
On the information brought by Kamura to me at Lakwa I sent him in from that place with V.C. Warura to arrest two Kwagira men who are reported have been seen near where LARUA was found on the day of the murder.
I have to measure the plantation on Guruguru ck. at Airala so after giving Kamura his instructions I went on to Airala late in the afternoon.

Tue. 12th. Went up the Guruguru creek to the plantation at 8am. All the men were there cleaning; the grass grows very strongly here, they do not trouble to pull it I notice, they simply press it down flat and this seems to do very well as the grass dies and withers off.
I took a compass traverse of the plantation, taking in about 55 acres. About 15 acres or more of this area is already planted and doing well, 5 or 6 acres should about come into bearing next year, a few trees are already in bearing. V.C. Lelebin reported at the plantation.

Wed. 13th. I got V.C. Sausara of Airala to turn out all the men today to work on the beach plantation to the South of Airala, there are about 500 trees between the village and the end of the plantation, those should all be in bearing now but having been planted too close in the first place the evil effect of this is now apparent. They are very reluctant to cut any of them out but I did get a few cut out but not nearly enough. About 2 acres, behind this strip of closely planted trees, has been cleared and planted lately and this area will be increased from now on. The station whaleboat arrived from Tufi at 5pm. for me, after having taken Mr. Macdonnell to Pongani.

Thur. 14th. I sent A.C.Undaka and V.C.Sausara away to assist L.Cpl. Kamura this morning - I have only had my orderly with me up till now- and then

Thur.14th. contd.

left in whaleboat for Sinapara and Sinapa. V.C.Lelebin.

The surroundings of those two villages were very dirty, long grass and scrub was growing to within a few yards of the houses. Warned V.C. to get the ground cleared at once. Went on to Uiaku calling at Sesega plantation which is worked by the Uiaku and Ganjiga men. The main portion of this plantation is doing very well indeed; the time when they will get some return is drawing very close now, a few trees near the beach are in bearing now. In the last two years most of the work has been done along the beach but has not been a success at all. The place is over-run with rats which eat off the young shoots as soon as they sprout through the nuts; from this cause at least 50% of the nuts have died. As I pointed out the nuts should be kept in the nursery until they have sprouted well before planting. They also showed me the damage done by rats to the trees in bearing. Here I see that as soon as the nuts are big enough to have some "meat" in them the rats destroy them. I suggested that two families should make houses and live at the plantation and keep rats there, and if this is not effective the trees in bearing will have to have some kind of protection fastened to prevent the rats climbing them.

Went on to Uiaku, V.C. [illegible] and Ganjiga V.C. BOBOGI. Inspected villages at both places, villages clean and tidy. Collected a few outstanding taxes in evening.

V.Cs, Gurubi of Sapia, Siverari of Movera, Foredi of Oiaudi, Uiau of Oiuma, and Rarai of Io-o reported to me here. They were on their way to Tufi when they heard I was here. They are all from the Main Range and Middle Musa districts and as usual most of them had brought "cases" but no witnesses with them.

Fri.15th. Left Uiaku at 8.15 for Iu-ai-u V.C. Bosaru. Inspected plantation and village. Rats are also doing damage here at the end furthest from the village. Once the nuts get a good start the rats do not touch them, but they certainly do a lot of damage amongst the newly planted nuts.

After seeing about some outstanding taxes went on to Ganigela.

The Bishop informed me that the people had sent a deputation to him to complain that they had too much work to do on the plantation and that they could not keep the grass down &c.

I inspected the plantation, it is a big place and there certainly is a lot of work to do in keeping it clean. I found it in very good order, the trees show good growth and it will be well worth their while to keep on