

DIARY OF W.R. HUMPHRIES R.M. N.E.D.
COLLINGWOOD BAY.

LAND BUYING

Tuesday 8/9/31.

Left TUFU at 8 a.m. in launch "UNA" with part stores and arrived WANIGELA 11-30 a.m. Whaler heavily laden with police and remainder of stores arrived 6 p.m. Sgt GAIBERI in charge.

Wednesday 9/9/31.

Left WANIGELA at 8 a.m. with 35 carriers. Sgt and 1 A.C. arrived at Base Camp at 10-30. Built kitchens and store room. 20 MAISIN carriers and 1 A.C. arrived at 4 p.m. with rest of stores. Paid off some of the WANIGELA men. Engaged the MAISIN men (36) for 1 month at 10/- per month. Going until late at night.

Thursday 10/9/31.

Made an early start. Got three gangs organised, one cutting on line 45 degrees another another 225 and a third gang cutting some sort of a road back through scrub to KOREAF. Self superintending these lines, buying native food and enlarging official map from scale of 4 miles to an inch to 2" miles to an inch.

Friday 11/9/31.

Paid off 16 WANIGELA men and sent them back to the coast. I am now working two gangs 18 men in each. The country is very dry and fires lighted for hunting purposes have in places left it back and bare.

Saturday 12/9/31.

While cutting on 225 line this morning two of the land owners came and said that they were not prepared to give the area thru which I was cutting - this in spite of the fact that I had left DOUMOKURE (the other side of the U-AI-U) and come back again to this area at their express wish. I looked at them in amazement and went ^{back} to camp. Here throughout

the afternoon I had to listen to new views and wishes until I felt thoroughly sick of the whole thing. I could scarcely trust myself to speak. A crowd of Jews and Arabs would be less difficult to meet on land matters than these people of KOREAF. A fair example of what I had to put up with - "All right if you don't like that we won't take the money". When my turn came to speak I said ---

"Months ago I came here because you said to Bunting you would sell this land. You told me that Bunting had spoken the truth, that you were willing to sell this land - as much as I wanted. I started to cut and chain it. I worked for a week or more you pulling me this side and that side, every side. I cut and measured 400 acres. Then you said that I wanted too much. I knocked off. Later I walked thru your lands to the U-AI-U River (5 miles). On the other side I saw a very big piece of land which you said belonged to nobody. You were present when Gordon and the others said that. You all heard it. I therefore crossed and started cutting and chaining. What did you do then? The next day you sent Egbert to tell me that the land was your land and you called it DOUMOKURE. I knocked off again and assembled you all in my tent on the land and there you told me that the land was yours and you would sell it to the Government.

"I asked you many questions about the land and you said that many years ago your people had lived on it (on a corner of it) and that they had hunted over it (over a part of it) and that therefore it was yours. When I asked you why you left it you told me that you were driven out of it, that you were afraid of the DORIRI and that therefore you crossed the U-AI-U River and settled down there to live. I told you that a white man would lose this land if he did like that. I told you that DOUMOKURE might have been yours years ago. I told you that I did not think you held it properly now, but that I would pay for it all the same. You agreed to accept £250 as payment. I then went back to TUFU. Later I returned and cut and chained a very long line on DOUMOKURE very hard work. What did you do? You sent me word that

you had changed again, that you wanted DOUMOKURE for your hunting and that you would give me all the land this side of the UAI-U River as promised to Bunting. Your chief men GORDON, LESLIE and another man came to me with this talk. I said to them "You mean all the land this side of the UAI-U? and that they "Yes you can have it all and we will hunt on DOUMOKURE instead; It is better hunting ground; EN-NA is too near the villages for hunting" I said "You speak for yourselves or for all" They said "The others sent us with this talk".

" I went to Samarai. I came back and started here on EN-NA again. I have been working here now one week cutting a line thru to the U-AI-U. And now what do you do? You come to me today and say that I am wrong. Now I did not come to you: you came to me and said that I could buy all the land between the camp and the UAI-U. I am doing that. Now tell me Where am I wrong ? "

One old man stood up and answered me. He said "We told you that you could have all the land to the U-AI-U, but you are taking the grass as well. We did not say you could take the grass - we want the grass, the three grass KAI-ION, DOMOGOB, and DINUWEN ourselves. You can have the land. "

Grass and land, land and grass! Apparently scrub is land and grass is nothing of the sort. I could not tell them what I thought of the distinction, for I knew that any sign of anger would terminate the proceedings. Their attitude was "You are lucky to get anything". I therefore told the old chap that I was mad for thinking that grass grew on land and for not knowing that scrub (UDA) only was land.

After the meeting terminated I sat for a while and thought of the irregular lines that I should now have to cut to avoid the three grass patches named, and whether after all I should get 20,000 acres. My line 225 to the UAI-U runs thru these patches and will of course have to be diverted. Still I don't mind what I do, what obstacles I have to overcome so long as I get the

20,000 acres. But if I get it I am determined there shall be no grounds for 'Inquiry' or Appeals.

Sunday 13/9/31.

Several V.Cs and Councillors came along from the WANIGELA and MAISIN districts. Interviewed them and bought native foods. Later looked to the tools.

Monday 14/9/31.

Up at 5 a.m. At 6-30 with one gang I left the 225 line at the 50 chain mark and turned 155 for 20 chains and then 270 for 46 chains, then back on to the old 225 line again for an unknown distance - perhaps 150 chains. A pretty good day. The grass area are responsible for the irregular lines to-day for I had to go round the hunting patches named. With me with five of the KOREAF men shewing me exactly where to go. And unwilling helpers they are. They think that I should know by vague indications of the hands ^{land} what/they want and what land they are willing to sell. But no, ^{been} I have/cought twice and I have cut miles of lines in vain. I sometimes think that they don't quite know themselves quite what they want to give me. They cant visualise such a huge area. More than once a mere child has stepped into the conversation and changed the minds of half a dozen men. I am negotiating with the whole village. There are no head men and yet every one has a voice in things. Ignore one of them and the whole lot come back the next day after a talk at night at home and the decision is altered again. I have more than once been tempted to abandon the task and to report them unwilling to sell, but it has soon passed. I keep in mind three things -

1. Nearly all of them are willing to sell
2. They have for 80 people an enormous area of land only a fraction of which they'll ever require for gardens
3. The depressing state of the industries in this benighted land.

So I put up with their vacillations, their importunity and their 'take it or leave it' spirit. I feel that if I annoy even one of them I'll meet with reverse. To complicate matters a little further Sgt GAIBERI who returned to-day from TUFU with mail

and stores told me that some of the old men in the coastal villages say THEY are willing that I should take all the land I need between base camp and U-AI-U, that years ago they took compassion on the KOREAF when they were being killed by the DORIRI and allowed them to cross the U-AI-U and settle down on THEIR lands! - this is all the land this side of the UAI-U River. This however may only mean that the coastal folk are jealous of KOREAF having all the good hunting grounds to-day. I sent word back to the effect that if any man wished to speak to me I should like him to come along (I have heard nothing further of this talk).

Tuesday 15/9/31.

Heavy rain all night and day, so little or nothing done. Interviewed V.Cs and Councillors from the coast. Held C.N.M. and attended to some corrs. from TUFI. All lean to, so badly leaking - no suitable roofing material at hand. I need more flies. With me I have one good one and two others old and torn. From something I heard this morning I am beginning to think that there is some one in this district frightening the natives with such ideas as -

The white men and other foreigners will spoil your women.
If many foreigner (Europeans and natives that means)
come here your hunting grounds will be no good.

One of the owners WARREN said that and when I asked him who had told him all he would say way "Oh, the people are talking".

Wednesday 16/9/31.

Got away from Camp at 6-30 and cut along 225 line. Heavy going thru thick scrub. Night was falling when we returned to camp.

A five miles tramp along fallen timber at the close of such a day's work calls for some energy - in the tropics, though I suspect that few understand what it really means. Scarcity of water and other circumstances here render it unavoiable. Later it ^{will} not be necessary.

Thursday 17/9/31.

Have cut and chained enough of the land now to know that I shall not get 20,000 acres from the KOREAF people. I shall get something between 12 and 16,000 acres. But I'm afraid they will still want the £250. A mere suggestion to-day that they might not get that amount met with silence and black looks. And later I here enough to know that there is going to be trouble again. However we'll meet it when it comes.

Left camp at 6-30 a.m. and proceeded to end of cut line bearing 45 degrees distant one mile from camp. Here I crossed the IMARAM River and entered, with the owners, the lands of the AI-AFI people. Under their direction I cut first in one direction 90 degrees and then in another 17 degrees. Good people these, and seem to know their own minds. Got through a lot of country by 5 p.m. and then tramped back to camp. A very satisfactory day. At night discussed things with owners and all of them with one accord said that I was "All right now". That is to say they are satisfied with the lines, I and they know for the first time where the boundaries will be.

Remains just the question of price. KOREAF want the £250 although they have not given me 20,000 acres. The AI-AFI people two only trust me entirely. One of them, AIDAN, is the V.C. They both know me intimately. AIDAN said "We will take what you give us - we know it will not be bad".

Friday 18/9/31.

Having heard that H.E. the Lt Governor and the G.S. were calling at TUFU on the 19th Sept. I determined to go to TUFU for the purpose of getting fuller instructions. Breakfasted in the dark and set out for the coast, with 10 MAISIN and 1 A.C. intending to take a canoe all the way. We found the weather on the coast however too rough for a canoe and after a bad start put back again and calling on hands left the villages got the Whaler in the water. Could not get an experienced crew though so set out with the lot I had.

Friday 18/9/31.(Continued).

It is fourteen miles to NANIU from WANIGELA and we took eleven hours to cover it. Head winds and heavy seas made it hard going. Things got so bad at last that I had the money box tied on to a thwart and beat out to sea, then I fully realised the ignorance of my crew. I had to remain at the tiller and main sheet the whole of the day, and once in going about I thought that we had come to the end of things; the seas were really too much for a whaler with such a crew, or even with a good crew. (this was the day that held up the "Matoma" Mr. Grist informed me, off TUFI) A hazy dusk was falling when we made the last tack into NANIU. I sent out for the local V.Cs and told them to scour round for a boatscrew. Ten turned up after midnight and at the first peep of day I got away for TUFI. Even so it was about 11 oclock when I landed at the station, 6½ hours to cover 12 miles.

Notes:

I no longer fear that I shall not get this land (for purposes of reference I shall called it "A" block); I think the owners have never been unwilling; they have been swayed by others, among whom I include natives who have been their guests for years past at hunts. Pressed by these and other men who have joined them in nightly councils they have not found it easy to arrive at a decision.

Most of the land now is scrub land. To walk through it one must cut lines through it and if the owners know their own minds and assist with the direction one can cut two miles a day. The chaining is little trouble. I could chain the whole area in five days once the lines are cut.

HE

DIARY (continued) OF W.R. HUMPHRIES, R.M. N.-R.D.

LAND BUYING 26th SEPTEMBER, 1931 to 8th OCTOBER, 1931.

Having interviewed H.E. the Lt-Governor at TUPI on the 24th September I left again on the 25th for WANIGELA in the launch "Hascot".

Saturday 25/9/31.

Left WANIGELA at 8 a.m. and walked thru to Base Camp. Here I found some men of KOMABUI (UBIRI) waiting to see me. Led by AIAMENDI they protested that a portion of the land being sold by AIDAN and WANUA belonged to them. I assembled all the men concerned and after an hour's debate settled AIAMENDI's fears and got his consent to continue line thru small portion of his land. Compared with some of the others this man is very reasonable and obliging. He complained he said really because AIDAN had not consulted him first.

Shifted camp to KOWAKI Creek - a job that Sgt. GAIBERI should have seen to when I was at TUPI.

Sunday 27/9/31.

Left camp at 6.30 a.m. and out to end of AIAMENDI's line bearing $17^{\circ} . 0' . 0''$ for about a mile Timber getting heavier and thicker, was turned here at this point by AIAMENDI into AIDAN's ground but on a line bearing $203^{\circ} . 30' . 0''$ for another mile and then knocked off/arrived camp at 5.15 p.m.

Monday 28/9/31.

Left camp at 6.30 and resumed cutting where yesterday's work finished/timber formidable, had to off-set frequently. Shifted camp from No.2 camp.

Tuesday 29/9/31.

Made an early start, but moved slowly and laboriously against a ^{wall} ~~gate~~ of timber and vicious vines wishing I had with me the man who said "Why not walk round the area and just step it out". The remembrance of his well meant humour was the only bright spot in the hard and wet day. Camped at 5 p.m. above a deep

Tuesday 29/9/51. (continued).

chasm thru which alas the line must pass.

Wednesday 30/9/51.

Passed down into and up out of this dry gorge called UTAH and on again thru more or less level country. Camped at 5 p.m. too tired for rest or food.

Thursday 1/10/51.

It is now obvious to me that the whole of the country between KOREAN and Mt Victory resembles an inclined table. It is in fact a sloping plane rising not abruptly, but gradually everywhere. The N.W portion of this table however is deeply rent by gorges or chasms 400 and 500 ft deep smothered with ~~the~~ jungle and running roughly N and S. As my line is crossing these gorges diagonally one might if one has a vivid imagination realise something of the nature of the task in hand. See ahead we could not. ^{Merely} ~~Merely~~ to step it out along this line of fallen timber is a fatiguing business; few can realise what it has meant to find and cut it and keep it straight. I would have given up yesterday but for two things -

1. The soil on this table between the gorges is rich and deep beyond promise.
2. It is all or nearly all accessible ~~if~~ the transport (horses, motors or tramline) runs with and not across the gorges.

That is the position as I see it today and I am not quitting - I am going on. But it seems to be my fate to follow rough roads to the end of my days as a G.O., only rarely and for short periods have I been free of them. There is apparently to be no easing up, no quiet autumn for me. We left camp at 6.30 a.m. and soon were descending straight into another pit a small stream at the bottom of this one - called the IJUN. ^{On top} found good land again though not so level, still it would produce rich sugar cane in abundance. Afternoon gullies and small hills, and at 6 p.m. our straight and unbroken line had brought us near-~~ly~~ to the URUNO which river is to form the western boundary of the land I am marking. We left the line here for want of water

Thursday 1/10/31. (continued).

for supper and camped in the wide stony bed of the URUNO. The scene here at this camp is rather striking. The broad river bed (100 yards wide) lies at the very foot of Victory. There is little or no intervening land; in fact the volcano rises so abruptly from this stony expanse that the "pencil" on its summit is invisible. Blood red in parts are the sands and stones on its sides and at its base; and this also is the colour of the ground in my tent. Volcanic soil? Yes, of the richest kind I should say all treated by nature's chemicals before being poured forth from the furnace. It has been deposited lavishly for miles along the way we have come during the last few days. I have never seen richer soil in my life and I have grown corn on the rich northern lands of N.S.W. If other portions of the area were similarly favored Mr. McGown's Coy would be fortunate indeed.

I noticed that though the evening was still and clear with early stars hovering gem like against the sides of Victory there was something about the aspect of the place that was gaunt and funereal. We looked upon the gigantic scars - some blood-red and some pure white - in the river sides of the mountain and simply wondered. But some of my more ignorant companions turned away manifestly alarmed at finding themselves overlooked by such a monster. As night fell great flocks of hornbills passed to their sleeping places in Kererore's caves and crevices, and even after dark the raucous cries of late comers continued to break the silence: The night was uncomfortably cold.

Friday 2/10/31.

Left camp at 7 a.m. and returned up a creek to the end of the line 305° 50' 0" Resumed cutting and at noon came out of the jungle on ^{to} the URUNO again, 56 chains above yesterday's camp. Here we planted a pointed hardwood post 3 feet in and 3 feet out of the ground. This done I started the compass traverse of the river - which I calculated would be a three days task. At 3 p.m. we were at last night's camp again.

Saturday 3/10/11.

5.30 a.m. An early start to avoid as much as possible the fire of the sun's rays in the open river bed. Passed the junction of the URUWO with the VAI-U where the sands changed color, apparently the volcano has poured forth streams of rich red soil only on one side. The VAI-U rises on the western slopes of the mountain, the URUWO on the eastern.

We went on after a short halt for breakfast and at 3 p.m. met the Kereaf men in a hunting camp. A gruelling day on account of rocks and sun. At this camp some more trouble over the land awaited me. Three men Leslie, Warren and Gordon, came to me much agitated and bade me listen to some talk which had come to them thru two others in the camp - Coleman and Keith - both UBIRI men, having heard this talk (see my letter to the Rev. A.J. Thompson attached hereto), I called in Coleman and Keith and they admitted - though reluctantly! - that they had conveyed it to the Kereaf. They had they said got it from Samuel and Noah.

It was a disturbing piece of news, and true or untrue it had upset the Kereaf men and was threatening my chances of purchase, I saw the whole thing in jeopardy. I therefore wrote to the Rev. A.J. Thompson, and then spent two weary hours dispelling the fears of the Kereaf men. So the barometer of my own hopes rises and falls almost daily. When my chances seem fair some storm occurs and the outlook becomes black. I would not say even now that the men will sell the land.

Sunday 4/10/11.

Left camp at 5.30 a.m. and resumed traverse work, after 7 o'clock the wide river bed, destitute of all shade became for me a furnace. Sighting in this heat was slow and difficult work, and to make matters worse the old and unsuitable chain sent to me from Port Moresby must break, ^Q only a stout instrument will stand the swift waters and rocks of the VAI-U.

We went on until 6 p.m. and came nearly to the end of our way in the river, a pretty good day. Am burned to a frazzle. But tomorrow we shall have some shade on the line back to the point of arrangement.

There is
sense in
what
has been
written
HRC

Monday. 5/10/51.

Where we left the river this morning it begins to break up and a mile further down enters a huge swamp. We made a late start, but moving along well chained 58,000 links to point of commencement by 6 p.m.

Tuesday 6/10/51.

Sent out for all/^{the} owners of the land to come in tomorrow morning, also sent word again to the UBIRI men. Self plotting traverse and triangulating area. Engaged till nearly midnight. Greatly disappointed to find that after all our efforts we have marked out only 14,580 acres. Still the men concerned would give no more. They may do so later. But what a huge tract of land is 20,000 acres!

Wednesday 7/10/51.

One of my worst official days in Papua. The Koreaf men turned up at 8 a.m. A little later some of the UBIRI men came along, and with them the AIAPI crowd, headed by V.C. AIDAN. Talk commenced at 9 o'clock and went ^{on} for four hours. The Koreaf men told me at once that they wanted the whole of the £250,000. I showed them the large scale map of area I made yesterday (most of them read and write), pointed out that the whole area, including AIDAN's portion only amounted to 14,500 acres whereas the arrangement was £250 for 20,000 acres. I pictured myself offering them £250 for 20 bags of copra and their supplying only 8 or 9 (their part of the area amounts to about 9,000 acres). I stressed the fact that AIDAN had to get some of the £250. I let their own educated youngsters study the map - & I think I convinced them that I was not misrepresenting their share of the area. I did all these things several times over endless cigarettes. I contrasted my price with the £31,500, paid by Macdonnell for 7500 acres in the UWE district. But it was all in vain, or nearly so. At 1 p.m. they gave me their final word - £200 and one case of tobacco or no sale. Never in all my career have I met such grasping shysters.

Wednesday 7/10/31. (continued).

They had me in a cleft stick and they knew it. Rightly or wrongly - wrongly I think - I gave way to their demands and finally got rid of them without obeying my true impulses. They courted every note and to cap all on departing asked for a smoke, matches and newspaper! And overcome by their effrontery I gave them these things and then suggested that they take my tent as well.

I felt mentally exhausted, but AIDAN's gang remained to be dealt with. I had in my cash box now only £87.4.0. AIDAN's men of course had heard all the talk, in fact at one point AIDAN urged them to be reasonable. It sounded promising, but speaking he said for his people he said they would take £100!

£100 for about 5000 acres of land. A strange relative to reason to be sure! Yet what was I to do? Mr. McGown was arriving in a day or two, and I had paid Korea £200 I had no choice again. When I told them that I had only £87.4.0 left, they said "Give us two cases of tobacco as well".

In despair I did so and so I completed the sorry transaction. I need now only one more sting to force me over the brink of endurance.

I need not have paid this money it is true, I could have closed the proceedings and reported the natives as unwilling to sell, but that as I see it would have been to embrace the worse of two evils. However I endeavour to get some calm from the thought that my action in paying this money is justified by

1. the present state of industry.
2. the Government will in all probability get the money back in one way or another.

But I shall never again think of these WANIGELA natives as ignorant. If a white man is honest the chances are he will lose against them everywhere. They are all of them christians, but in name only. Their teaching has made them trustless and untrustworthy and they are destitute of all understanding of the conduct of christian man to man. It might only be a passing phase in the ~~wether~~ wether of the hasty civilisation

7/10/31 Wednesday. (continued).

that is being forced upon them, but there it is, a menace to all decent white men. It is the fruits of our toil among them, for I believe they were better before ~~they~~ were Christianised. And it seems to me that it is the decent white man who needs protection where these natives are concerned. With regard to the balance of 20,000 acres and the 500 applied for by Mr. Nelson I shall shortly make an effort to get these areas - the land is here - if the natives will sell it, but before a price is fixed I desire to know from the Hon: the G.S the limit to which I may go, later after consulting with Mr. McGowan I move elsewhere. In conclusion I wish to say that I am not blind now to the fact that I erred when, in response to repeated requests of the owners I arranged a price for the 20,000 acres. But they were persistent.

(Signed) W. R. Humphries,

R.M. N.E.D.

11/10/31.

N.B. This report was written before I received news of the exposure of Mond and others.

(Sgd) W.R.H.

R.H.

15/10/31.

Copy

W.R.H.

W.R.H.

C O P Y / .

KURU Camp. 2/10/31.

The Rev A.J.Thompson.

WANEGELA.

Dear Sir;

Two natives of Wanegela - Coleman and Keith have informed the KOREAF men as follows:-

" Father Thompson received the newspaper. He spoke to Samuel and Noah and the Church Councillors after Church and said,, " They are fools to give this land to Mr Humphries. Plenty of white men will come to Wanegela and that is no good. This place will be full of white men and where will the KOREAF go then?

Why are they not strong enough to refuse Mr Humphries? They will not be able to stop in KOREAF village. Where will they go? The white men if they come will drive them away."

Here their statement ends. Coleman and Keith say they and the people heard Samuel and Noah use all those words and that they came and told the KOREAF men

Of course it cannot be true; but the issue is so serious that I am bound to record it.

Yours faithfully;

Sd. W.R. Humphries.

R.M. N.E.D.

C O P Y.

Wanigela. 3-10-51.

Mr W.R. Humphries.

R.M. N.E.D. River Camp.

Dear Sir:

Your letter amazes me. The words spoken by Coleman and Keith and for which they claim the authority of my name came for the first time to my consciousness as I read your letter. It not only cannot be true but it is definitely untrue. The only part I had in the matter is that which I wrote to you in a private ~~message~~ note last Sunday. In case you have not the note by you I shall repeat the substance of it.

" I understand the UBIRI men claim the ownership of the land this side of the YU-AI-YU river - the land the KOREAN men say is theirs, and I believe they are going out to you to state their Claim".

These are not the exact words but they state the substance of them. I do not keep a copy of letters written privately to you as a man to his friend. I acquired this information in conversation with an UBIRI man whom I was visiting in the capacity of a Pastor. I did speak to Noah after Evensong as we walked along the path together and advised him to tell the UBIRI men to lay their claim before you, before the purchase was completed, adding that then it would be too late. Whilst we were speaking Samuel joined us. I positively disclaim any association with the words accredited to me by the two boys named, in your letter. I hope I am sufficiently a Patriot of Papua not to advise the people to act contrary to their own interests nor to suggest their obstructing the work of the Government. In short the whole statement is as you suggest obviously untrue and I wonder you thought it necessary to write me.

Yours faithfully;

Sd. A.J.Thompson.

1931.

DIARY (continued) of W.R.Humphries R.M.N.E.D. Land
Buying, Wanigela District. 8th October to 13th November 1931.

Thursday 8/10/31.

Self checking computations and plan. Rev. A.J. Thompson called. Went along 185 line with him.

Friday 9/10/31.

Self interviewing UBIRI men and chaining line 185 - 91 chains. Sgt GAIBERI chipping grindstone. Prisoners removing some of the timber off line 185.

Saturday 10/10/31

UBIRI men arrived again and I continued the discussion relating to land adjoining block purchased. Think I shall get it. They also own grass lands (near my camp) applied for by Mr. J.G. Nelsson, but these they decline to sell.

Sunday 11/10/31.

Resting.

Monday 12/10/31.

Went along face of land offered by UBIRI men. It is not going to be a big block, but it is good ground - part of the main block in fact. Local and southern mail arrived from TUFU. Got news of Mond's exposure. Went down to coast.

Tuesday 13/10/31.

At Wanigela on mail and reports. Despatched Sgt GAIBERI to TUFU for more rice.

Wednesday 14/10/31.

On mail and reports for a while, but feeling very seedy. Sgt returned from TUFU with rice at night.

Thursday 15/10/31.

6 middle MUSA V.Cs arrived with cases. V.C. BEDILA reported murder of Councillor at V.C. FALAI's village, POASI River, by (he said) men on BRERE River. Self in C.N.M. (with Assessors) most of the day and attending to V.Cs. Wrote instructions to A.R.M. Grist to send P.O. Champion to me soon after he returns from northern boundary patrol.

Instead of assisting me the P.O. will have to go to the Musa and clear up this murder. At the same time he will also make another attempt to arrest men concerned in the murders at KULIE Village (2 women and 1 child). The men he arrested in July for this latter crime were not concerned in it; they were discharged.

Friday 16/10/31.

Moved back to Mosquito Camp.

Saturday 17/10/31.

Interviewing AI-API people re land north of 303 line. Prisoners and police sharpening tools and making the camp more tolerable.

Sunday 18/10/31.

Resting.

Monday 19/10/31.

Self with police (3) and prisoners (14) started on new block offered by UBIRI men. Cut and chained 84 chains about as much as one can do per day in this sort of country. Went down to WANIGELA at 6 p.m. to meet Surveyor Panton.

Tuesday 20/10/31.

At WANIGELA. Mr. Panton arrived noon. Arranged for 60 carriers to transport his gear and stores and my rice inland.

Wednesday 21/10/31.

Moved in to Mosquito Camp at 7 a.m. Paid off carriers and detailed prisoners to help Mr. Panton clear and erect camp. Self and Mr. Panton going over my large scale plan.

Thursday 22/10/31.

Made early start (6 a.m.) and completed UBIRI block 886 acres. Mr. P.O. Champion arrived 3 p.m. Discussed with him matters relating to the murders at KULIE, URERE River and at POASI middle MUSA and other inland matters. Gave him written instructions for this patrol. He left again for WANIGELA at 5 p.m. Gave him A.C. KUBA and thus brought

We returned to Mosquito Camp at 1 p.m. Mr. Boylan conferred with Mr. Donaldson and the latter gentleman then asked me if he could apply for the land on behalf of his people in New Zealand who were he said supported by Lord Amptill and others in England. Told him that I could not advise him on this matter I said he had better proceed to Port Moresby and interview His Excellency the Lt. Governor there. At his suggestion I sent the following wire to Commissioner for Lands -

"Suggest granting of McGowans areas be deferred
 "pending Donaldsons arrival Port Moresby tenth
 "November approximately".

(This wire was neither acknowledged nor replied to, and if as it seems to me, it has been considered unwarranted or impertinent, I can only express my regret and allow my regard for the country's welfare to plead my excuse.)

While I was discoursing with Mr. Donaldson the UBIRI men arrived again and this time I was able to come to satisfactory terms. One case of tobacco and £2 for their section of the land - 286 acres. So the thing goes on, bit by bit I am gaining my objective, i.e. 20,000 acres and everybody satisfied. At 3 p.m. self and Messrs Donaldson, Boyland and Spencer left for the coast. En route we inspected the KOMABUN gardens. Here Mr. Boylan demonstrated to the natives advantageous methods of sugar cane planting. He shewed them how they could increase their crops and save themselves labour. First he acted alone, then he got them to repeat the performance, correcting them in the manner of a trained teacher. A most interesting hour. Mr. Boylan was astonished at the growth of the cane. He said "If I reported such growth as I see here to my people in Queensland they would think that I was romancing. They would never believe me". This gentleman's quiet earnest manner, and his patience and kindness impressed the natives very favourably, as also did his profound knowledge of his subject. Looking on I could not help but think that men of his type working ten years ago untrammelled in a Native Agriculture Department would have

achieved for this country and its people results which we are still struggling to attain. For he has practical knowledge and experience in the ~~field~~^{field} of labour itself as well as in the school of controversy and theory. To my personal knowledge Mr. Boylan has been growing his own sugar cane in Queensland for upwards of 16 years. I might mention that before leaving me he stated that the conditions for sugar growing in this district were well nigh perfect.

We arrived at the coast at 6 p.m.

Wednesday 28/10/31

I set out from Wahigela for the Base Camp at 9 a.m. without Sgt. GAIBERI. I had to leave him at the beach in a bad way with fever and other ailments. The life and conditions inseparable from such a task as ours have left their mark on this wonderful old man. I arranged with Mr. Thompson that GAIBERI should not want for attention.

At the Base Camp I made preparations for moving away tomorrow to a point four miles along line 303, where I commence designing the final block of land area unknown yet).

Thursday 29/10/31

Moved along line 303 with the owners and commenced clearing for a camp. Owing to lack of flies (I had to loan one to the P.O.) bush houses again necessary for the prisoners.

Friday 30/10/31

Rain fell in torrents throughout the night. Little sleep for anybody. Improved the bush houses somewhat and then made a start cutting on a line bearing 48 degrees E. Timber of heart-breaking dimensions. I had never, while here in N.T., but we are a poor crowd now - 14 prisoners (look two, including I.I.), 2 chain men and my cook - all see some for beer. The thing savours of David and Goliath: but I'll finish it if I remain reasonably well.

Saturday 31/10/31

Heavy rain throughout of the night. Went word to the coast (7 miles) for the Halsey men to come and assist us for a few days.

I did 'nt want to incur this expense but I can see that it is un-avoidable if the job is not to drag on interminably. Opened up the ~~rain-soaked~~ camp, but could get little or no sun into it - timbers too high and close.

Sunday 1/11/31

Mr. Panton paid me a visit . He inspected my compasses and agreed with me that one was de-magnetised . 4 V.C. from Maisin arrived with several assault cases - women again - and as they wished to get back to the coast (how these salt-water men loathe the bush!) I agreed to hold C.N.M. Result, ten men sentenced to 14 days I.H.L these with 12 others who arrived in response to my request now give me an efficient gang. I feel more competent now to tackle the nine miles of line still before us

Monday 2/11/31.

Got away at 6 10 a.m. with the land owners and continued line 40. Soil still rich and deep, timbers just as thick and high as ever. But the country on this line is not level; it is broken by many small creeks and the gullies they form are from 20 to 50 ft deep. Still when one finds 20,000 acres of the richest land in one block free from swamp commencing 2 miles from the coast , one must not complain if 10% of it is difficult and more costly to work than the remainder. Instead one should be glad and marvel that such land exists in Papua and that it should have remained hidden all these years. It is a source of gratification to me that it should have fallen to my lot to find and design the boundaries of such a fine area of land. It is in fact a solatium for the expense, the discomfort and the toil of the past few months. I certainly would not advise the Government to allow any applicant to pick the eyes out of the thing, the applicant should take the lot as it stands.

We continued cutting until 4 p.m. and then made out way back to camp thru thunder and lightning and heavy rain. The wet season is now in full swing.

Tuesday 3/11/31.

Sent the prisoners down to Mosquito camp to bring up Mr. Panton's

7.

stones and gear . He will use my present camp and tomorrow I shall move off to the end of line 40 , about 2½ miles away. If the fever will leave me alone I shall be finished in another nine days. Returned to camp at 5 p.m.

Wednesday 4/11/31.

Self with gang working to far end of line 40. Mr. Panton and staff on near end. At 4 p.m. passed down into the ILIA River and after conferring with the land owners decided that I had reached on this line the limit of the land they are prepared to sell. I also decided to make the ILIA River the northern boundary

Thursday 5/11/31.

Arranged with Mr Panton to travel with me up the ILIA River. We left at 7 30 a.m. with loaded prisoners and carriers . Left all gear at the river and line intersection and turned N.W. up the river bed. Self with carriers ahead cutting and opening up line of traverse and establishing stations. Good deal of scrub and grass in river bed. Mr. Panton and staff chaining and establishing direction. Covered in this way over two miles by 4 p.m. Sent back prisoners to bring up gear, and made camp on left bank.

Friday 6/11/31.

Continued on as yesterday until we came to a deep pool lying shoreless at the base of the river's banks - here 150 high. Ascended abruptly to a kind of plateau and proceeded cutting again in a general N.W. direction following closely each turn of the river and rising gradually all the time . Steepest slope 8 degrees. At 5 p.m. we camped, soil and timber unchanged.

Saturday 7/11/31.

Left camp at 6 a.m. and continued as yesterday. Self cutting and designing the line, Mr. Panton chaining and establishing it. The URUWO again is my objective , but we did not make it though we made every effort to do so.

Sunday 8/11/31.

Left again at 6 a.m. and at 9 a.m. left the ILIA to the north,

passed across a low and short water shed and descended into the IUBUM- URUWO Valley and so came to the end of our way. Here Mr. Panton could see down the URUWO-UAI-U Rivers and obtain a general idea of the lay of the land, and here I had the pleasure of hearing him say that I had saved his department six months time and expense - he was referring to the choice and design of the area.

After breakfasting we returned $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles along the boundary and camped again on the ILIA river.

Monday 9/11/31.

Left at 7 a.m. and arrived at camp 303 at 3 p.m. Paid off the carriers and despatched the prisoners to the coast for rice for Mr. Panton, and other stores. Wrote requesting the A.R.M. at TUPI to send me £40/£50.

Tuesday 10/11/31

Resting. Prisoners with gear and some rice arrived 3 p.m.

Wednesday 11/11/31

Packed up everything and took leave of Mr. Panton. He said "Thanks to you I need not go back to that remote and difficult corner; it is finished". He is starting now on a piece of line $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length, quite level; but he said it would take him three weeks or more to finish it. This I mention to give one an idea of the nature of the timber growing on the land.

I arrived at Wanigela at 2 p.m.

Thursday 12/11/31

Sent prisoners back into Mosquito camp for rest of gear and tools. Considerably astonished to see Mr. P.O. Champion arrive at noon. Soon after noon Mr. Wells arrived with the "Mascot" bringing stores and mail from Cape Nelson for myself and Mr. Panton. Engaged carriers and sent Mr. Panton stores inland (30 bags of rice and several cases). Arranged with Mr. Wells to take us all back to the Station tomorrow i.e. self and P.O. 6 A.O. and prisoners, also tools and all the gear connected with the P.O.'s patrol and my land work - charge £2. But for this launch we should have needed at least six canoes.

at least six canoes.

During the afternoon I paid out the last of the sums of money and tobacco due to the land owners for their land, the full particulars of which expenditure I attach hereto. And needless to say in doing so I experienced an infinite sense of relief.

Friday 13/11/31.

Left WANIGELA at 6 30 a.m. called at NANIU for an hour and arrived at Cape Nelson at 1 p.m.

R.M.N.E.D.
R.M.N.E.D.