

Nuke's Story (David

int. MacSherry

28/3/97

When Nuke came to Beria, he took his family, men, pigs and dogs. They came to Beria. He came down where ~~the~~ Udidi is. He camped there. He and his men came to fight. The Tatama clan were the first to go out from here. They started fighting there. The Wor people went up and there was a big fight up there. The Tatama people were on the top.

It went on. A man called Vasauran had two wives. He was fighting. He felt that he couldn't fight. He said to his brothers, "I can't fight any longer. Be careful where you fight. Watch out for the spears." He then sat down to rest.

The fighting went on. They shot ~~at~~ Unka on the thigh. He called out, "Vasauran! They shot me!" When Vasauran heard that he got up and stamped the ground with his foot. He went into the fighting.

He saw Nuke who was busy killing the people and moving forward. So he followed him up carefully. Nuke was busy going forward. So Vasauran came up from ~~back~~ behind and speared him from the back. Vasauran said, "Fa-ga-ga-ga-ga!!!" The big man fell there. His men saw this and all ran into the bush. Our men ~~came~~ kept spearing them, throwing the spear so hard that some broke. They got some and the others escaped.

A Woken man named Darei went to where Nuke was down. He took off his decorations and put them on himself. He also took the paint from ~~Nuke's~~ Nuke's face and put it on his. When he finished, he ran to where the Wor clan was. Nuke was dead, just lying there.

There was a river with a bridge across there. He stood on the log. He wanted to throw his spear. The log rolled and he fell off. He fell down with Nuke's decorations. This happened as the other men were still chasing Nuke's men into the bush.

It went on until the fighting finished.

A man called Kamenji was on the point on the coast at the other side of the Beria River. He stayed there and

cleared his place. He burned all the rubbish. The enemy came in and killed him. When they speared him, he called out to his son, "Tamen! Run and escape! The enemies hit me with a spear and I am dying here." So he ran down to Beria and then across to Motiyassi.

He got out his conch shell and blew it repeatedly. The Gorofi people heard it and wondered what was happening. "Something is happening." He kept blowing that conch shell until he reached the village. He told the people, "The men came down to fight. In the fight they killed a big man called Nuke. I came to let you know."

So the Gorofi people all got their spears from the houses and ran down the beach to Beria. The men who were inland had finished fighting. They carried Nuke down. They tied Nuke to a tree. The Gorofi people saw him as they came up.

They sat together, chewed and smoked. When finished, they said, "But singe Nuke and then cut him up." They cut him up and stored him up among all the Maissin. Gorofi had ashore, Sirapa, Airara and Marua also. So when they brought them to the villages, they cooked and ate them.

That is the belief. After eating him they went up to sleep. When they opened their mouths to sleep, Nuke's ghost came in. He used a small knife to remove the flesh stuck between their teeth. After he died, Beria was safe. The fighting stopped there. Before that people were scared of that area. They always told people to be very careful around there.

When that fighting finished everything stopped. Now we own that land. When they came they wanted to take over this place. That is why they came down. Our ancestors fought and ~~lost~~ won and so it is our land now.

The man who killed Nuke was Yansen, a Tatana man (the other name of Vasauran).