

JOHN GROENEWALD'S DIARY

Part 2 – Kiunga to West New Guinea Border : 28 January to 13 February 1963



JANUARY, 1963

MONDAY 28

It last we are under way and what a day it has been!! The archivedes outboard would't start and when it did gave trouble so all we could do was to wath from Kringa. Hes and I set out with 2 police at 11.10 and were ent the jungle right away - it is just unbelievable how auful it is to walk in the jungle. Walking through salf deep water and wind half the time and over tree roots the other half At me get we waded thigh deep for about 30 yds and frequently crossed tog excho box log-bridge. Fortunately it was farly flat going all the vay The leedes were impossible - when I saw the first few I but them off at once, but after a while it was just ingosinble and I was too tired to even worry. I was also to tied to take much notice of anything around me - saw two cassowary and heard a lot of bride, one beautiful butterfly. After six hours walking not got to a fair suged owed and had a swem (out clockes were scaled with perspiration) From there it was only another & hr. to SIUKNAI and what a welcome right at was. We had no food but got some bomanas and a curumber which were very veleone. hose arrived one hour afterns with the carrier and our gear that hadn't gone on the Mawa. The yest carriers! We are all Juling finished and if this is the way things are going to be I don't know how long I'll last. [See January 1.]

	28	JANUARY, 1963	(continued)
	NEW YEAR'S DAY	TUESDAY 1-	COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA DAY
2	he first few vel	lager we will or	tay at are gotfolled
M	rut out on n	ear to then ha	we remark to water
li	he the village	huts, on stil	nd jolice. Wese are
	- www.		Mage but Senompia
no,	n bit cettel.	These natives a	we meant to be
AU AU	ild making	a terrific and	c they look ratter
~	nost of the	time. When I	arriers love of
	sound Most	of the native	a loud yodelling
(oles of their	car statches	d of split and hanging
Na Y	like carrings.		
1.41	7/1/2		
	Tain The		

Extract Patrol Diary - Patrol Report Kiunga 9/62-63 (28/01/63)

After considerable trouble, engine running smoothly only to find water cooling system U/S. 1100 hours when self, Surveyor and Sergeant Keme departed on foot for Siuknai village. Mr Henderson to follow with carriers and balance of patrol stores and equipment. Party slept at Siuknai.



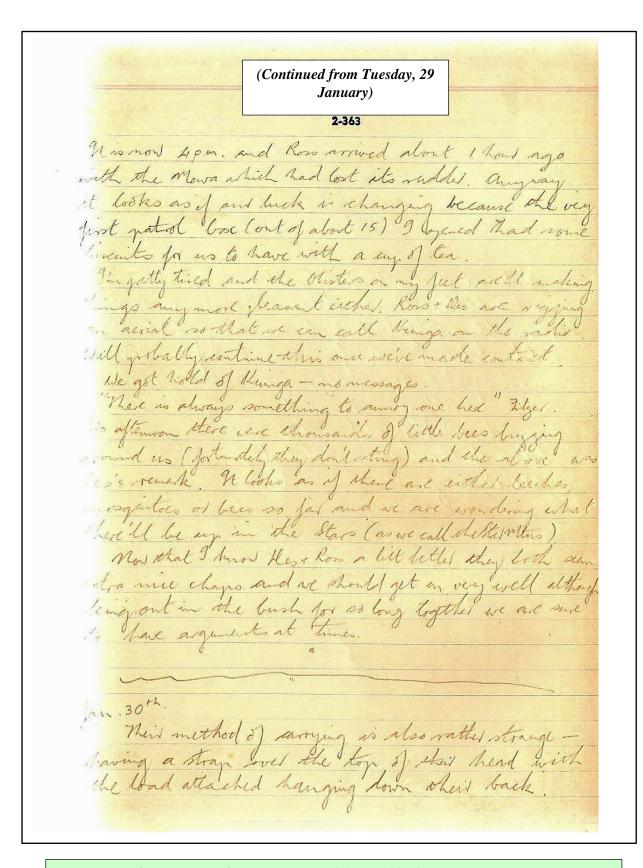


108-018 - Carriers arriving and starting off.

108-019 - The Carrier Line

Part 2, Page 3 of 30

JANUARY, 1963 TUESDAY 29 today we continued valling - it had raingtheavely dering the early morning so it was a case of "water, water everywhere". The going was songled than yesterday andle-deep in much or voites most of the time and one 's how stretch over logo of which is object a few times going buce deep into mud. My feel were giving me hell as I had wan Misters on the top of every toe. We had put plenty of insect regulant on our legs and this helped to keep some of the leeches away but even so at the end of the walk there was blood all one my lego. (Mosting like yesterday though when I and have taken off at least 30 when we stopped !. Anyway after 2 hos walking we got to the Ok West rice only to find the Mewa hadrit arrived with our egipent. We worsed the rived in names to the village of SENANRE and hoss set off down the rived in a canoe in search of the Mewa. Her and I are waiting here and have no food but got a cocounts from the villagers and well got a chicken tonight. We can only hope hors finds the newa because with all the bad luch we have already had not much more can go wrong my feel are rather sore and the sest here is most welcome Meretheless I must say that it is most intersting and so fat I'm enjoying it



Extract Patrol Diary - Patrol Report Kiunga 9/62-63 (29/01/63)

Moved to Semnare where Miwa arrived at 1515 hrs with balance of supplies which Mr Henderson was unable to move. En route had lost rudder. Party slept at Semnare.



109-014 The 'Mewa' arriving at Semnaria



110-015 Women and children of Semnaria Village

JANUARY, 1963 WEDNESDAY 30 It rained throughout the night and today has been competely overcast and quite feara as weatled goes The gold have been out looking for I some of their have just got back, not having ad much luck - it looks as if were going have a lot of trouble getting enough carocers to We have been sitting around reading and listening the wicket allday. I was hoping to do Noted-fix tonight but with cloud Everywhere it 13 Choseless Thank goodness we didn't have to with today and I of these blister will be ok. a morrow. The pigo in these native villages are judical solving animals being very flat and narrow - like wild jugo. I have been eating a lot of bananas and they are very nice indeed (bought of the villages at about 6d a burch of \$ 30). This evering we got a fair (chevated growns about 8 wiches long from some native work I her + how haidly said I could have them to try as there wit enough to go round. I the mans tuned out to be delicion A few more carries have just arrived. These carries get graid 1/- a day. They really must be tough as I can hardly even more myself over this country let alore easying 110 lb or so. They start other young too - said a give bout 10 garring a load of at least 25 lbs

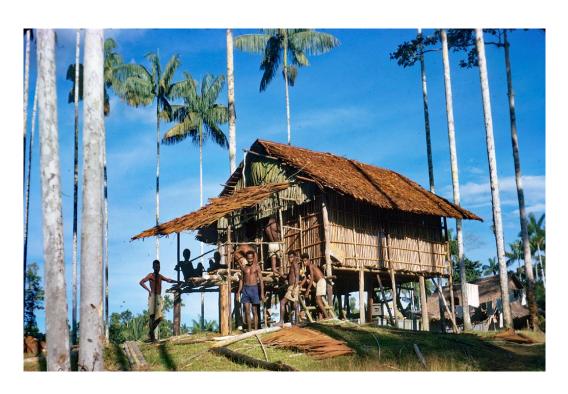
Extract Patrol Diary - Patrol Report Kiunga 9/62-63 (30-31/01/63)

Seventeen carriers departed for Garan – balance of party awaiting arrival of further carriers to uplift supplies and stores. So far Awins have proved slow to respond but reports indicate that thirty men should arrive this afternoon or in the morning.



110-016 A family group (Semnaria Village)

JANUARY, 1963 THURSDAY 31 Today we had a fairly easy walk of just under 4 hours. We were going over ridges most of the time and are out of the swamp country so don't walk in water or much much . Also with the insect regellant the leedles stay away and I didn't wer find one on myself which makes things a lot more pleasant. We arrived in Marthonnai Jaily early after joining through two other villages. In Marthonia the natives built a showed and butchen outs out vest house in about 2 hours. I set up to try an astro-fix but by 6 p.m. a beautiful clear day became overast so g had no luch Tot drined we had the usual bully beef vissoles and some Taro - a tube something like sweet- ptats which we have had grite often) and not bad at all. These carriers detainly do a mighty job - we have about 50 at present but will have many more once we catch up with the strings set in early in Juneary. mae of the present carriers are girls of about 17, 14, 13 and May are rother small but earny up to 35 lb loads. so far we have been very licky as it has never ramied Shile we were walking - suppose there'll be glenty to come though. Book Ales + Ross speak Mota which is used in where you to but soon will be in a different area. The provide geople are Awars but to-morous we get into



111-017 'Additions' being made to the Village Rest-House

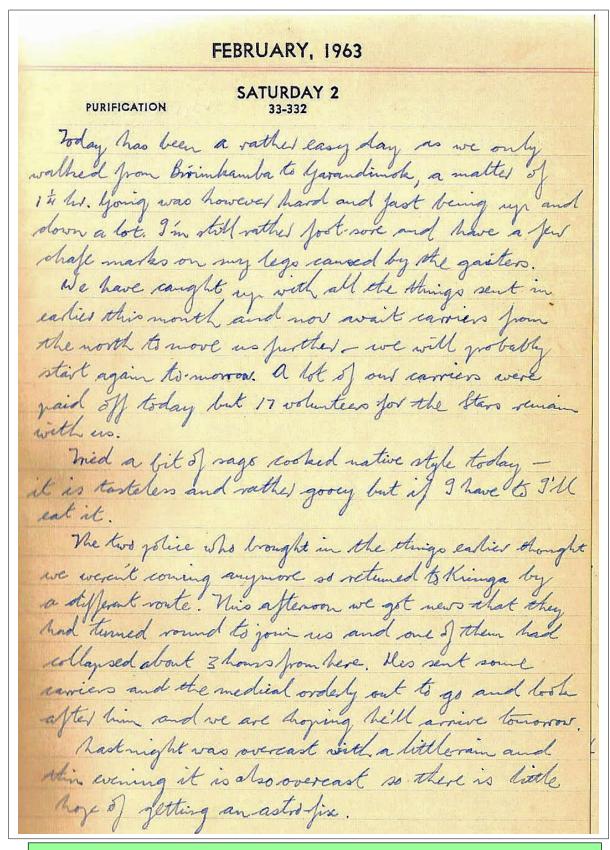


111-020 Crossing the Alice River

FEBRUARY, 1963 FRIDAY I 32-333 Today has been a hell of a walk again starting at 8.40 from athomai we got to Birinkamba at 16.00. On the walk ac passed two other villages and sommutes out of birmhanda we had to cross the alice kives where the Okbirin joins it The walking was again over ridges and mee and dry but the going was fairly hard because it is up and down all the time. With a long hine of carriers at int , wille to more very fast so I am finding it a lot lasied than the first day when vewent very fast and also I think I'm getting a bit fitter. The blisters on my feet are still nother but but should be o.k. in a few more days time. The crossing of the dice was done in a big doubte canoe Was on the wrong side so a few of only stice swam through The rived was rinning and besides is crocodile infested so we were very pleased to see then reach the other side. On the walk today we caught on Jerst glungst of the Star Mountains which are still a long way If Brimbamba is at 560 ft elevation and one each see the mountains from here too. This is the first village we have come to and tomorrow we join things sent in earlies this month up. 14., 15 + 66. Crossing the alice Revel. Many natives are blind, have a shin disase of something else wong - it's really nathetic

Extract Patrol Diary - Patrol Report Kiunga 9/62-63 (1/02/65)

Carriers arrived late yesterday afternoon. Departed Semnare passing through Dande and Ipoknai to Matkomre village. Track time 4 hours. Slept at Matkomre.



Extract Patrol Diary - Patrol Report Kiunga 9/62-63 (2/02/63)

Departed for Birim Kamba passing through Mimingiri, Tekenai, and Mendna, thence across the Alice at the Birim Junction to Birim Kamba. Track time 5 hours – slept at Birim Kamba – 560 feet a.s.l.

		FEB	RUARY, 19	63	
	4th AFTER EPI	IPHANY	SUNDAY 3 34-331	Moda	alace as to
H	rained hear	ily most of	last ingl	it and the	in monin
ive a	et Mat	about "	1.30 crossi	ig the Bir	im River
just	out of yas	andinok 1	by canoc.	all out	Mingrem
carr	us had.	arrived l	y this tim	ne so we	mod he
ovel	100 carriers	. Walkin	g was a l	little wet.	at time
bull	fairly east	y being !	up and s	down quit	te a lot
Wey	assed the	o' 2 other	villages o	nd slowly.	de geogle
ave	getting les	s civilized	judging,	by their of	loess. The
crome	in still all	wear the	grass sh	its as ha	o been to
case	since 1km	ringa but	there as	e quite a	e lot of
mer	- + boys i	without 4	trousers a	nd wearing	g almos
no	mg.				
h	day there	ucre sucra	(lovely be	etterflue d	de sea
aut,	day there one was es	secially be	intiful - a	big swalls	W-tail for
		The same of the sa			
	I evening	I did b	the first i	astro-fid	in good
weat	his evening her and	all wen	t very we	U. Was a	Ne to
iden.	tify one so a good je	al so s	hould ge	t a Now	W- N
10 1	a good je	eling to	have done	soul con	Structure
woll	۷.	4			

Extract Patrol Diary - Patrol Report Kiunga 9/62-63 (3/02/63)

Dearted for Garan Dimok arriving only to find that Constables Kere and Karara had left for Kunga – runners sent to recall them and also runners sent to Police waiting in the Ningirrum to bring all carriers to Garan Dimok. Track time $1\frac{1}{2}$ hrs – slept at Garan/Dimok, 440 feet a.s.l.

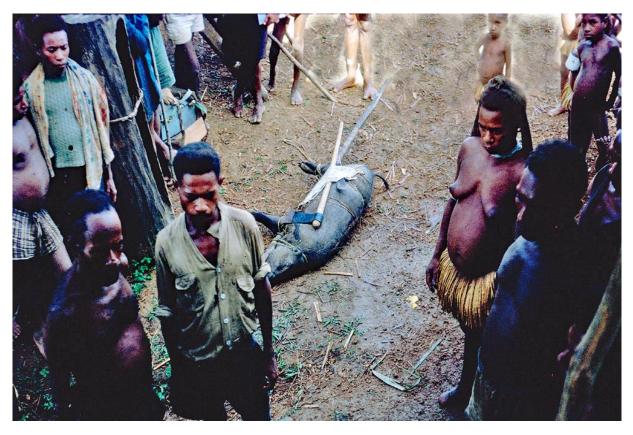
FEBRUARY, 1963 MONDAY 4 This has been a rather hot day and although we only did 22 hours walking it was enough for me. We built a caron and cross over last nights fise and feel ground to have a mark in their village hast night there Her moved offearly with the carried line and I remained behind will Ross who had to hear a few "cases". Mo. I was an old who who had threatened to hill the Village Constable and condently he is a born trouble makes. He tried to run off but was saught and just in hand-cuffs and will be sent to Kninga as som as jossible to agreat before the court there. The vest case was a fellow who had stolen another wife - the first husband no longer wanted her but the second had to your for the damage. Payment was settled at a redience sized jug make, a bush high and a head doeso made of sea-shells (they did not know where this originally came from) All concerned were happy at the transaction but to my wind (having seen the woman) the progress made was rather high. You getting to Brown (tonights' village) I tried some cales. without much success. We are seeing more of the Star Wither each day and should be at the base of their in two daystime.

Extract Patrol Diary - Patrol Report Kiunga 9/62-63 (4/02/63)

Carriers arrived. Self with 40 carriers departed across Birrim for Tengkim, passing through Digam and Wambon en-route. Mp P.O. Henderson with 70 carriers and balance of stores arriving at 1600. Track time 4 hours. Slept at Tengkim 660 a.s.l. Surveyor takes first astrofix.



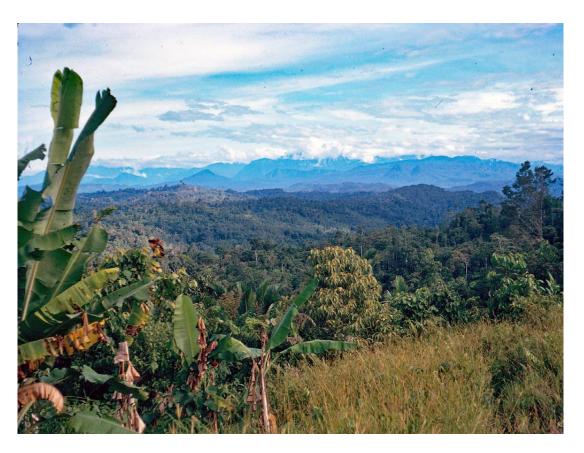
115-021 Getting ready to 'sort out' a marital dispute



115-022 Part of the 'Judgement' - a medium size pig

FEBRUARY, 1963 TUESDAY 5 36-329 Today has been one of the worst as falors I'm concerned - we did about 42 hours walking over very willy country gon y and down some nather steep sloges. I certainly did not myong the walk as my feet were welly sove and felt like aching my but once we got to Bulin everything was skay and we could laugh at what had passed. On the way we got some beautiful views of the that without and we are fairly close to them now. hast night we had sory made from the jug I mentioned sed as payment for the native woman and then had voast The which was a rather welcome change from the bully beef vissoles wive had ever since leaving Kringa. In quite of all the trials and tribulations we are having a It of langers. Her and hors are both very interesting chaps to talk to being very intelligent and having a good sense 8) homond This afternoon I finally found the mustake made in calculations yesterday and the Tenghim fix should be o.k. It raised a lot this afternoon so that is little hope of any observing tonight.

Extract Patrol Diary - Patrol Report Kiunga 9/62-63 (5/02/63)
Departed for Bwakim passing through Bikim Minipon and Hukim. Track time 2 hours. Slept at Bwakim 940 a.s.l.



116-027 Our destination, the Star Mountains



116-027A Our destination looking NW to West New Guinea

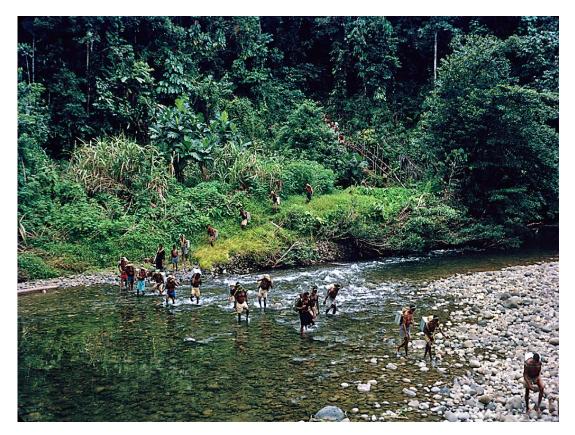
FEBRUARY, 1963 WEDNESDAY 6 ACCESSION OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II These last few days on I luch has cetainly improved and equally as fat as the weather goes. Today we did 5 hours walking much the same as yesterday, up and down No some had we arrived at Kungit than it started young. We managed to get everything under cover before the vain fell at still have been buckey enough not to have done any walking in rain - touch wood! My first impressions of themget are that it is the but village visited to date - it is situated on a vivel with a terrific swimming-hole which is rather pleasant. When we got here this afternoon Hes, Ross and I just fell to the river clothes and all - it was glorious. I Just stroke of luch was that the rivel cause down a few hours after we'd crossed it. Hunget is at the foot of the Stat with bit one can't see the metro from here as there are a few hills in The way. This is the last village regularly patrolled or from here on we are going into unknown country. We Nam to use Kunget as a base for going into the first Has Mtn. gochet shere we saw villages on the recce flight. We'll probably leave in 2013 days time, be out approse. a month before returning to thingit and then justing on

Extract Patrol Diary - Patrol Report Kiunga 9/62-63 (6/02/63)

Departed for Bankim passing through Butipkawok. Track time 3 hours. Slept at Bankim 1200 a.s.l.



117-023 Kumgit Village



117-024 The Carrier Line arriving at Kumgit

FEBRUARY, 1963 THURSDAY 7 hast night I managed some observations but as there were many clouds around could not identify any tail. Today I spent trying to sort out the obors. but did not have much buch but still should get a result ent of it eventerally. There might be a chance to do It has been a rather pleasant day her and we had a few somes in the river which were rather refreshing. Ross has a boil under his arm so is not Juling very well but it is ungooing and we hope he'll be fit by to morrow. This rest has been very welcome and I'm hoping my feet will have recovered by the time we take all.

Extract Patrol Diary - Patrol Report Kiunga 9/62-63 (7/02/63)
Departed for Kumgit passing through Dorongo (1600 a.s.l.). Track time4 ½ hours. Slept at Kumgit. Surveyor takes astrofix.



118-024 At Kumgit – raising the 'flag'

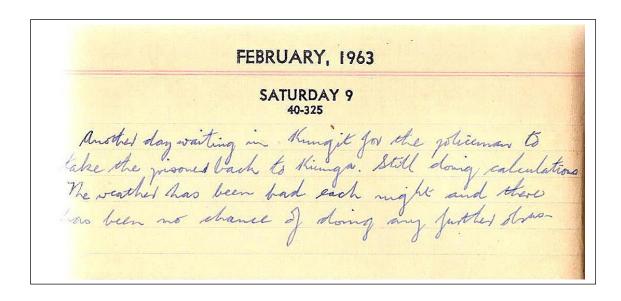


118-025 At Kumgit – a refreshing swim

FEBRUARY, 1963						
FRIDAY 8 39-326						
Irday has been another day of sitting around.						
Most of the time I sport calculating but and still having trouble identifying the stars observed						
Mis afternoon there we two FAIWOMIN natives						
here in Kningst. They are rather wild looking						
pather and sticks strongh their noses. Nay						
told hoso (Atwoongh interpreters) that there are tracks into the mountains where we've going.						
There was a terrific thunderstown here this afternoon and several times the lightning struck						
within a mile of us. Not much rain fell						
and by now it has stopped.						

Extract Patrol Diary - Patrol Report Kiunga 9/62-63 (8-10/02/63)

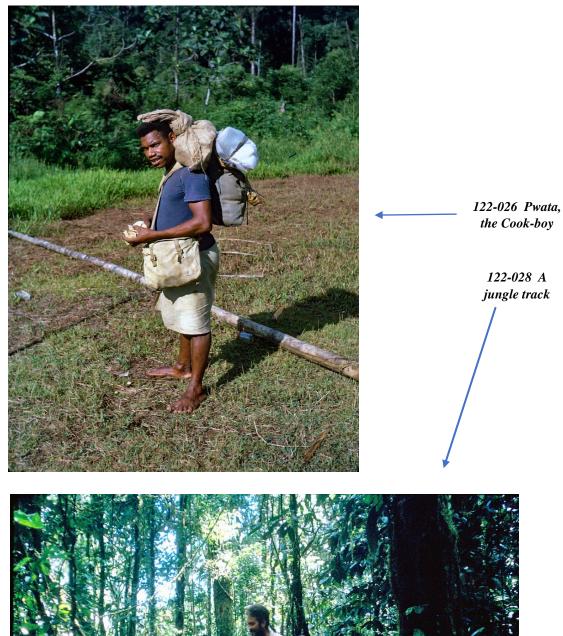
Remained at Kumgit drying out rice and other supplies soaked in yesterday's driving rain. Three carrier loads lost crossing river to Kumgit but party intact and well. Selected 43 carriers and paid off balance of line. Load sorted for move into the Taub Valley area. Routes from here will be via Netherlands New Guinea. The track leads East into the Arip and Alice Valleys but as wee know of no route from there to the Taub, the patrol will swing West along reported trade tracks moving through the grid numeral squares.

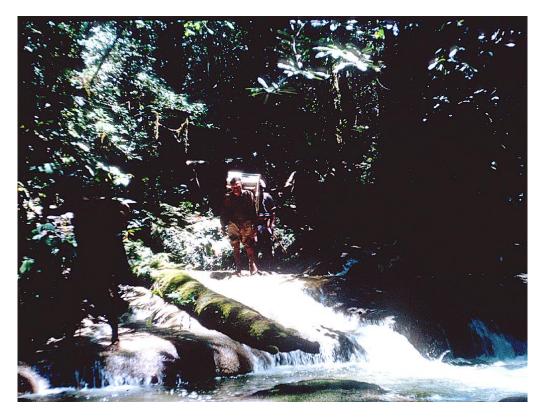


	FEBRUARY, 1963
SEPTUAGESIMA	SUNDAY 10 41-324
More calcula	tions so that at last I have
	stars but still a lot to ds.
	eiting is getting rather boring
We got a mess	rage this afternoon that the govern
from thunga h	ad packed up on the track with
	to moron will rend the prisoner
) out police. at present how in
	at Shich the gisoned is agreering
To-morrow are	will now definitely start morning.
on and I'm 1	ooking Joward to start off again

FEBRUARY, 1963
MONDAY 11 42-323
Were on the move again and today walked 3 hours
We're on the move again and today walked 3 hours
got we waded hnee deep up a river for about
got we waded have deep up a river for about
I work new boots and expected blisters but have
my one on my heel. Also I'm friding the walking
Kunguin is over 2200 get and on top of a hill
he view from here all round is beautiful and one
can see well into West Frian (we're only about
uniles from the border). Unfortunately the mountains
are covered completely by cloud but I hope it will
e josible to take some photos to morrow money.
It stated saming at about 14.00 and is quite
cold now which is rather immonal Were all
laring weaters and expect to sleep in sleeping-by
conight.

Extract Patrol Diary - Patrol Report Kiunga 9/62-63 (11/02/63)
Departed from Kumgit and moved to Kaiumgin whence our route is reported North-Wes in the general direction of the Stars. Track time 2 hours, slept at Kaiumgin 2250 a.s.l.





122-029 Sometimes it's easier to follow a jungle stream

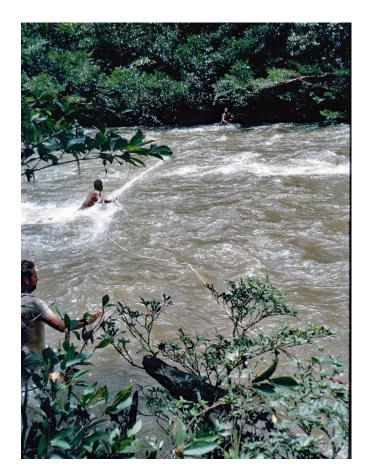


122-029 or following the course of a river

FEBRUARY, 1963 TUESDAY 12 43-322 Mors the adventive has started and we have completed on first step into the unknown from Kaningin the track was no longer a "four lane highway" as hes had called it them fat. It was narrow uneven and very wet after rain all night. This morning we had quite a good view of the mountains but it was overast and not very good for photos. at one got we waded briedeep for about to mile down a beautiful livestone gorge. It was a lovely little erech with registal clear water. The most interesting went was the crossing of the Ok Jamin which was well up after all the rain. The current was very strong but are of the plice managed to vade through (at times thest deep). They got a roje across but it was deal that even with its help the carriers would never get their loads over. We decided to baild a raft but in the mean time the carrier got a tree across and in about an hand built a bridge which groved setisfactory and well got across safely. We did another homo walking after this and are mond the tento up than it started to saw and can down really hard. We rather disinal sitting here in the text with ram yourng down outside.

Extract Patrol Diary - Patrol Report Kiunga 9/62-63 (12/02/63)

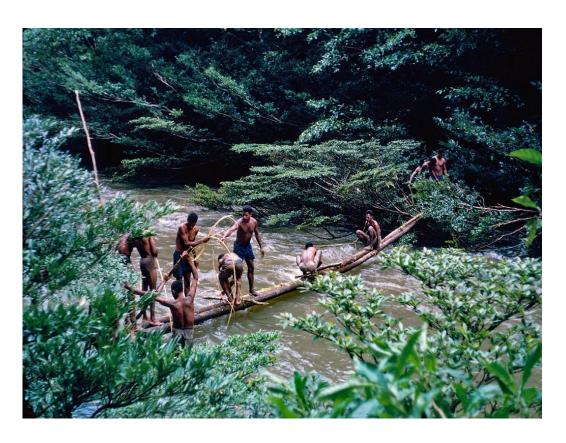
Departed from Kaiumgin and camped in bush after crossing numerous small creeks and bridging the Tarim River. Track time 5 hours. Camped at 2100 a.s.l.



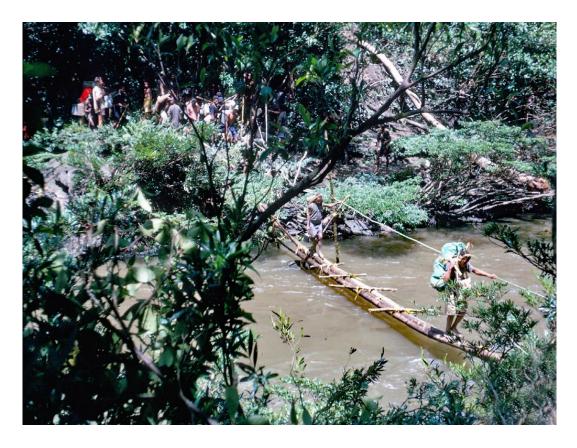
123-027 and 123-028

The Police 'wading' across the OkTarim river at times chest deep





123-029/123-030 The Ok-Tarim crossing – a bridge had to be made for the carriers



FEBRUARY, 1963 WEDNESDAY 13 hast night we had a very good deep with the entiful sound of heavy vain on canvas. Today we walked about 3 hours but going was very Low as a track had to be cut most of the time. We a still on a track but it is seldom used and very who overgrown. We passed through one haulet consisting one but and there was no joint in staying there so are anying again tonight. The natives are very quick at they my a camp and within an how of stopping and cut a dearing and put my the 4 tento, and led-sleeves the lot. On the track today there were several throng glants and got ranght a few times. Also picked my a few leeches as seve been careless lately and us longer just on jegellent, werther we are being annoyed by thousands of little bees that drive one mad evanling alloved you Ithey's -one than Nies) and then several march flies which jul a rather painful bite. The chances of doing a fise here are nil because one can hardly see any of the sky the jungle is so dense around us I rechar we crossed she border into West man today and it would be interesting to have a fix here.

Extract Patrol Diary - Patrol Report Kiunga 9/62-63 (13/02/63)

Departed campsite and again camped in bush after passing through the hamlet of Tundenghaitkwi. One rough bush shelter with an estimated 20 people. Track time $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours. Camped at 2200 a.s.l.

This concludes Part 2 of John Groenewald's description of his Star Mountains Patrol.