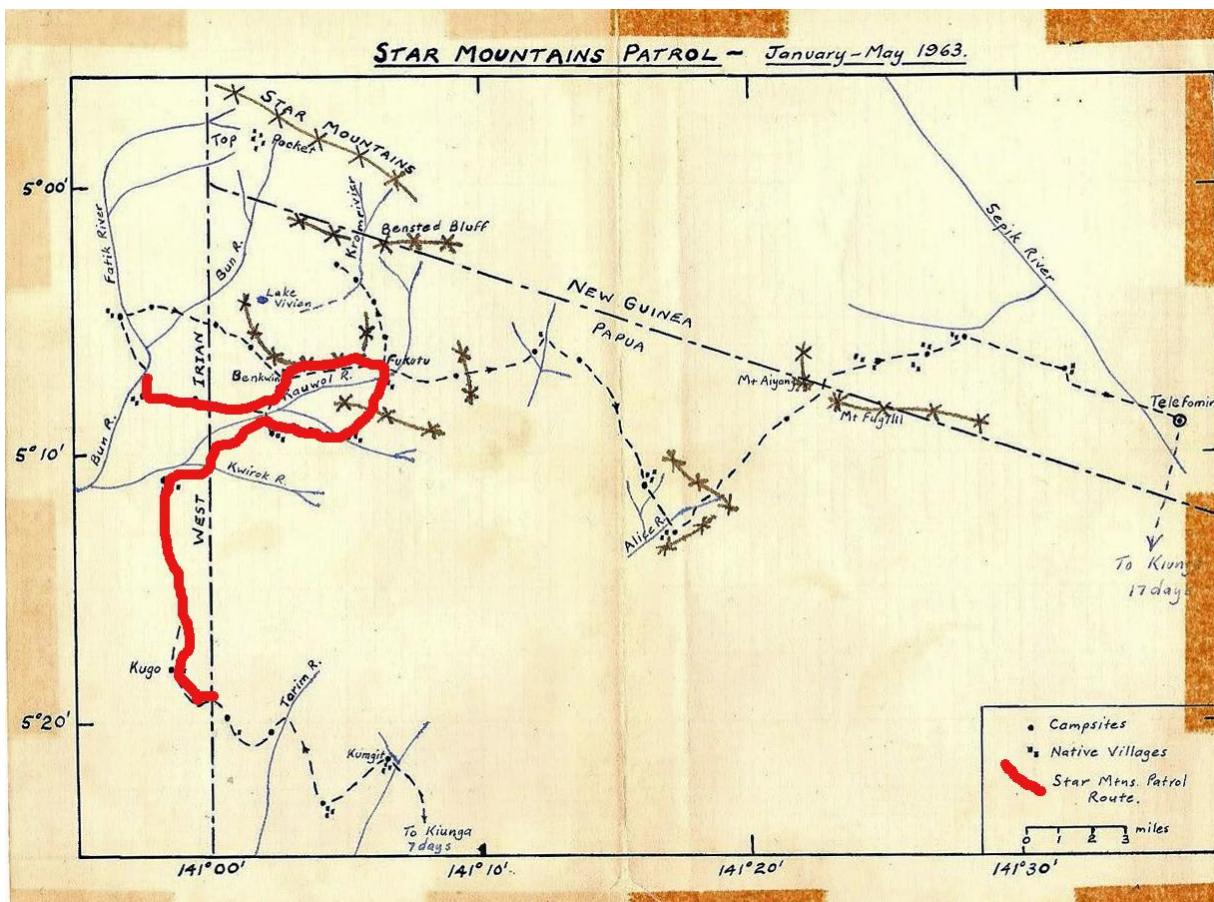




# JOHN GROENEWALD'S DIARY

## *Part 3 – West New Guinea Border to the Bun River 14 February to 9 March 1963*



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FEBRUARY, 1963

THURSDAY 14

45-320

Another 4 hours walking done today and we've arrived at a village (consisting of 2 huts) well into West Irian and which was visited by a Dutch patrol about a year ago. The last hour was a hell of a climb and we're high up on a ridge with a beautiful view of the country we've come thru, some huge limestone cliffs and the mountains which are covered by cloud. The walking was very much up-hill-and-down-dale and we crossed 3 small rivers all with beautifully clear water.

These people are the least civilized we've seen and the men only wear gonks and several of them have the horns of rhinoceros beetles sticking in their noses. A few of them came in a while ago with their big bows and arrows (of which I hope to get some later on). Of course it is raining again and chances of doing any work tonight seem very slim. At least there are only one or two bees around here so we're having quite a pleasant break after being swarmed over by them yesterday.

Managed to observe to 3 stars this evening but after that it became completely overcast. This should give some result but not good enough.

**Extract Patrol Diary - Patrol Report Kiunga 9/62-63 (14/02/63)**

Departed camp site and arrived at hamlet of Kugo. This hamlet is reported to have been visited by one Dutch patrol which is said to have followed our proposed route to visit the Taub Valley people. We are now some one to two miles inside N.N.G. This group consists of some 40 to 50 people and though contacted, remained shy and extremely primitive. Track time 5 hours. Slept at Kugo 2500 a.s.l. Surveyor takes third astrofix.



**Part 3 – West New Guinea Border to the Bun River (14 February - 9 March)**



*Getting directions*



*Rough country*



FEBRUARY, 1963

FRIDAY 15

46-319

Today we did a further 5 hours tramping almost due north. Again it was up and down all the time and our campsite tonight is at 3000ft. Almost an hour today was down a little creek over stones - it was awful walking or rather slithering and sliding over the rocks. My rubber soles are certainly not the kind of boots for this country - one needs good hob-nails. This endless walking is getting us down by now and I find it very boring but we hope to get to the first uncontacted villages by the morning of Sunday.

Our campsite is an awfully dreary place - a little gap chopped in the jungle and soaking wet. Again we were very lucky for no sooner were the tents up than the rain started. Everything is damp and it took nearly 2 hours to boil a billy as the firewood was sopping wet. And a last moan, both Leo + I have colds so don't feel the best.

**Extract Patrol Diary - Patrol Report Kiunga 9/62-63 (15/02/63)**

Departed Kugo and again camped in the bush. Position passed to Daru. Think it is the first time that we have managed to raise either Daru or Kiunga since leaving the top of the Ningirrum. I am at a loss to understand why this should be so, as [the] A510 would seem to be functioning perfectly. Track time 4 hours. Camped at 3,000 a.s.l.

FEBRUARY, 1963

SATURDAY 16

47-318

The same story - 3½ hours up-hill and -down-hill till we got to the village of Kwirok which is still on the wrong side of the border. Parts of the track we have been on these last few days have been used by a Dutch patrol and this village has also been visited by the Dutch so we have still not made any initial contact.

One of the police had a nasty fall today and in doing so his rifle hit him on the head. Anyway he does not seem too bad off (bullet broke in net so hard woods die with big die him). This walking on fallen logs is really dangerous and I've slipped off them several times but fortunately without much damage being done.

With the radio test being played in Sydney it is very pleasant to be able to listen to it once we've set up camp in the afternoons.

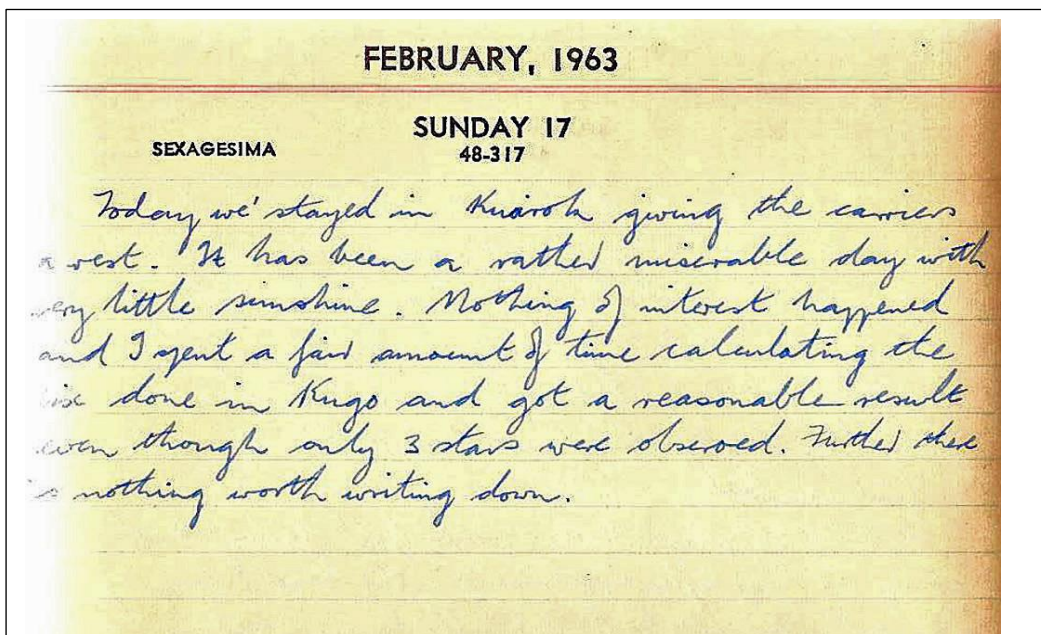
**Extract Patrol Diary - Patrol Report Kiunga 9/62-63 (16/02/63)**

Departed camp-site and reached hamlet of Gwirok, again to receive reports of an earlier visit by the Dutch people - again reported to be a route to the Taub Valley. Contact again established with Daru and our position passed. Track time 3½ hours. Slept at Gwirok, 2,300 a.s.l.





*Nice Village*



FEBRUARY, 1963

SUNDAY 17  
48-317

SEXAGESIMA

Today we stayed in Kiungo giving the carrier a rest. It has been a rather miserable day with very little sunshine. Nothing of interest happened and I spent a fair amount of time calculating the stars done in Kiungo and got a reasonable result even though only 3 stars were observed. Further there is nothing worth writing down.

**Extract Patrol Diary - Patrol Report Kiunga 9/62-63 (17/02/63)**

Day spent at Gwiwok obtaining new guides and resting carriers. Small quantity of manioc purchased and given to carriers.



FEBRUARY, 1963

MONDAY 18

49-316

A further  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hours into the mountains and now we really are in the mountains of the <sup>Kauwol</sup> valley. We did one very steep climb of about 500ft but the rest of the track was fairly flat and very wet. By my calculations we are back home (Papua) in a village on the <sup>Kauwol</sup> river. At this point the river runs through a deep gorge and looking across the gorge one sees towering mountains which disappear into low cloud - it is a fantastic sight.

The people here are pretty wild looking with things through their noses and ears but nevertheless they seem quite friendly. As far as we know they have not been visited by white men before. From here on things should get interesting as we progress further into the uncontacted areas.

Of course it has rained again this afternoon and now it is completely overcast.

**Extract Patrol Diary - Patrol Report Kiunga 9/62-63 (18/02/63)**

Departed Gwirok and thence on to the hamlet of Tauwannam in the lower Taub Valley. We are now back in Papua and in the lower foothills of the Stars. From discussion with local people, we find that the Taub is, in point of fact, known as the Kauwol and that they have never heard of the Taub. Our subsequent patrol map will carry this name but to avoid confusion at the present stage, it is deemed wiser to continue using the name Taub in conversation with Daru and/or Kiunga. Track time  $5\frac{1}{2}$  hours. Camped at Tauwannam, 3,400a.s.l.



FEBRUARY, 1963

TUESDAY 19  
50-315

Much the same as yesterday we walked for a bit over  
hours through very wet country, as Ross said;  
"Anything not at 90° is a swamp." I'd love to know  
the annual rainfall here, it must be near 400 inches.  
It has rained about an inch each night we have been  
here. Again there was some very steep country and I  
fell but fell over a 30 ft drop.

We are staying on the banks of a river where there  
is a single native hut (probably a dozen or so people stay  
in it and it's only the size of a small room). We had  
a lovely swim when we got here and it is nice to be  
fresh and clean again.

These days my feet are no longer sore but I still  
get very tired of walking and feel rather weak at times.  
It is probably due to little food — there is nothing I  
could like more now than a big steak. Almost every  
day our meals are: breakfast — 2 or 3 dog biscuits (whole wheat  
biscuits about the size of a slice of bread and hard as rocks)  
with butter (tinned) and Marmite; lunch the same;  
dinner — Bully beef, rice, sweet potatoes and sometimes some  
native cabbage. One can live on this but it is not really  
the most exciting sort of food and I must say there are  
times when I'm rather hungry.

**Extract Patrol Diary - Patrol Report Kiunga 9/62-63 (19/02/63)**

After further discussions with the local people which elicited the fact that the Dutch patrol turned back from this hamlet, departed for Kolom hamlet. This, though an offshoot of the main Tauwannam hamlet, is extremely small and will consist of no more than 15 to 20 people. It is situated on the banks of the Harom River at 4,000 a.s.l. Track time 4 hours — slept at Kolom.





*Main Range from South*

FEBRUARY, 1963

WEDNESDAY 20  
51-314

Things are still going well and today we had a fairly pleasant walk - it started off with a 1300 ft climb but thereafter it was reasonably flat and we have got to another village (these last few have only been single huts so can hardly be called "villages"). There are at least 20 people here and they are rather interesting and looking more like what I expected to find in these parts but still not "wild" enough.

Last night it was clear for a while but by the time the instrument was set up the cloud had come over and there was no chance of doing any work.

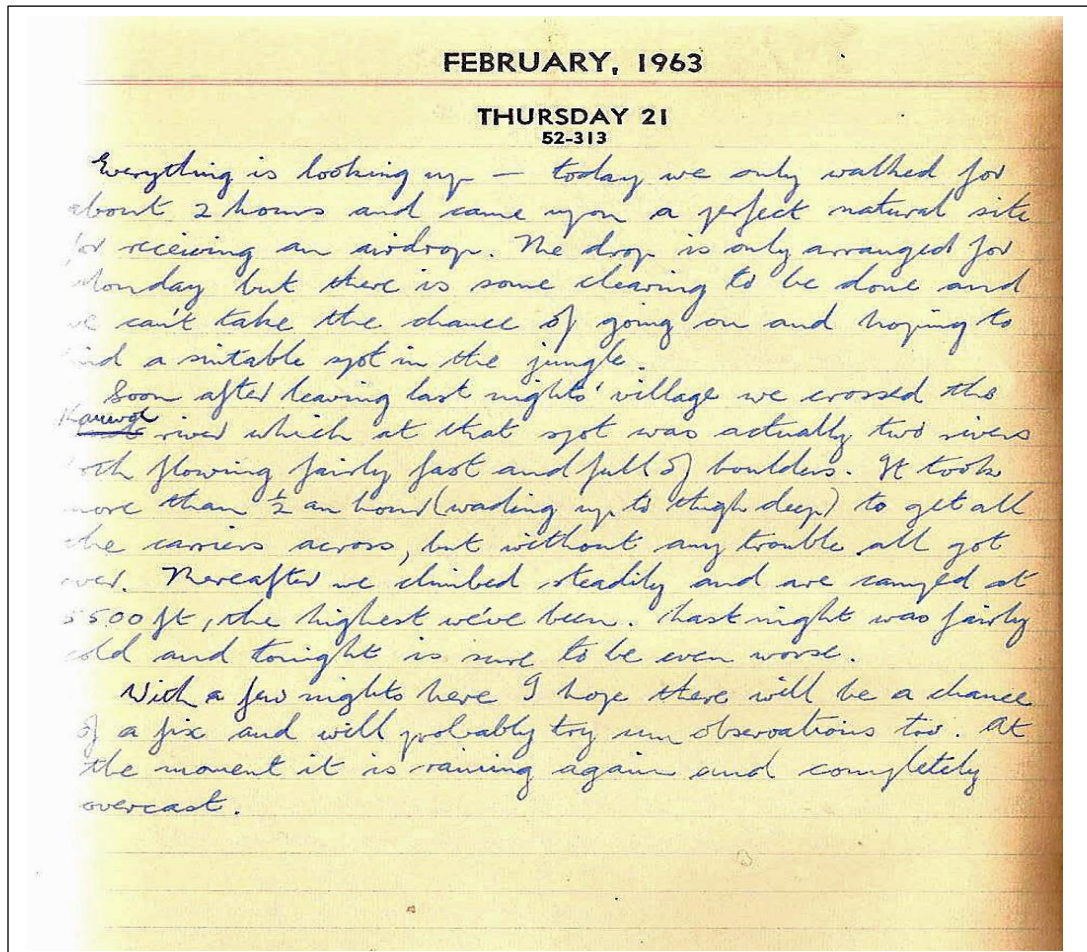
We have not made radio contact for over a week now and Ross stayed behind on the high ridge we crossed to try from there. We are hoping to make contact to arrange for an airdrop on Saturday as we are running low on food for the carriers. Anyway the airdrop will probably come in even if we don't speak to Ross and I'm really looking forward to it as there is sure to be a fair amount of mail and I can't wait to hear from the outside world.



**Part 3 – West New Guinea Border to the Bun River (14 February - 9 March)**

**Extract Patrol Diary - Patrol Report Kiunga 9/62-63 (20/02/63)**

Departed Kolom and moved to Sugulomeng hamlet, the centre of a group known as Bumdis. This group, the largest in the area to be contacted so far, would consist of some 100 to 150 people and led by one Tinoiem who proved most friendly, co-operative and helpful. Meagre quantities of taro, tapioca and native cabbage have been forthcoming at each hamlet but we have arrived at wrong time of the year and have missed the taro harvest season. Food, or rather local food remains a problem. Track time 3 hours.



**Extract Patrol Diary - Patrol Report Kiunga 9/62-63 (21/02/63)**

Departed Sugulomeng and after crossing the Kauwol River, camped at an old garden site of Fukutu. Will take drop here as food supplies are now all but exhausted. Track time 2 hours. Slept at Fukutu 5,500 a.s.l. Surveyor takes fourth astrofix.

**Extract Patrol Diary - Patrol Report Kiunga 9/62-63 (22/02/63 - 27/02/1963)**

Drop site cleared and awaiting drop at Fukutu



FEBRUARY, 1963

FRIDAY 22  
53-312

This morning at 2am. the police wicket woke me to say the ~~stars~~ stars were out. Ross and I got up and I managed to get a good fix which was really good luck. Today has been sunny and hot at times and overcast with light rain at others. Last night was fairly cold and the sleeping bag was just warm enough.

I spent all today doing calculations while the others were busy preparing the drop site. We also managed to make radio contact and the drop is scheduled for Sunday - all we can hope for now is that the weather will be good enough for an aircraft to get in to the ~~valley~~ <sup>Kayhoo</sup> valley.

Our campsite here looks like a city with 4 tents and numerous hitches, toilets and other little buildings made of timber and leaves. It is rather nice to stay in a spot for a few days and get one's clothes washed and generally clean up.



Des Fitzer, Ross Henderson, John Groenewald



FEBRUARY, 1963

SATURDAY 23

54-311

Last night we got our first mention on the ABC news concerning the airdrops which are to be made to us within the next few days. The drops (2 of them) have now been put off till Monday because the aircraft had to be modified.

It was a lovely day today and while the others continued work on the deposits I went on calculating. The nights are really cold here and we reckon the temperature goes down to about  $50^{\circ}\text{F}$  whereas it was  $85^{\circ}\text{F}$  today.

The natives living around here bring a bit of food in each day (mainly taro) but it is not enough to feed all our carriers + yotice so they get rice and tinned meat which are brought from Kuninga. (Rice + meat will ~~be~~ <sup>make up</sup> the greater part of the air-drop). Buying food from these natives is done on the trade basis. They get matches, beads or tobacco in trade for their taro - a ~~quantity~~ <sup>block</sup> of matches or 2 tins of small beads for about 14 lbs of taro [taro is a tuber and tastes much the same as yotice] is approx. the payment.



Ross at Fukutu



FEBRUARY, 1963

ST. MATTHIAS' DAY

SUNDAY 24  
55-310

QUINQUAGESIMA

Today they completed all clearing for the drop site and collected big heaps of firewood for the fires which we'll light so that the pilot can find us. I completed the calculations of all the observations done to date and everything came out nicely which is a great relief.

It is now 17.30 and raining as on most afternoons. Actually it hasn't rained much in the time we have been in this camp - a bit every afternoon and a little each night has been all. It is a terrific spot this and the thought of walking again as soon as the drop is done, is not very pleasant, although on the other hand this sitting around is getting boring and it will be nice to see something different again. The plan is for us to move north to near the main range of mountains and to do so we'll have to go back into West Irian. There is an uncontacted pocket up in the mountains and after visiting them we'll probably return this way and go over into the Alice valley.

Weather permitting the airdrop will be tomorrow morning but anything else could also hold them up so it is just a matter of wait-and-see.



FEBRUARY, 1963

MONDAY 25

56-309

We had no luck with the air drop today - the TAA Cessna chartered did not arrive in Ham. So we had another day of sitting around and our position is not at all good now, we gave the last rice and meat to the carriers + police this evening so unless some food is dropped to-morrow there will be very little for them to eat.

This evening we had a fantastic collection of moths in our tent, all shapes, sizes and colours. Some of them were really beautiful and there must have been at least 30 different varieties. I took a photo but in the lamp light it is hardly likely to come out.

FEBRUARY, 1963

TUESDAY 26

57-308

SHROVE TUESDAY

Still nothing has been dropped to us in spite of attempts by the District Officer to get a mission plane from Kinga. To me it looks as if things are very badly organized at that end but at least they do realize that our food is finished. Fortunately the local people brought in a fair amount of taro today so the police + carriers will be able to have a meal this evening. The 3 of us still have a few tins of bully beef left so should be okay. If nothing is dropped by Thursday we will however not be able to stay here and will start walking out to Telepina.



FEBRUARY, 1963

ASH WEDNESDAY

WEDNESDAY 27

58-307

Our luck is back to the start of the patrol and we still haven't had anything dropped to us. Things are looking bad as the carriers and police haven't had much to eat for the last few days and even our food is getting low. All we've had today was some rice and bully beef for breakfast, did without lunch and will have an evening meal. Needless to say we're all pretty hungry and would give a lot for a decent meal.

Today there were two planes standing by but the weather up here in the mountains was too bad for them to get in. - Actually the mission lesson from Buinga came in and flew right over us but didn't see us because there was a lot of light cloud about. Tomorrow Ross is moving off with the carriers and Alice to the Alice Valley where they should get enough food from the local people. Les, 4 police and I am staying behind and waiting a further few days hoping the drop will come (if not we can get enough food for 6 of us from the local people). As soon as the drop comes Ross will return from the Alice with the carriers.

This certainly isn't a very happy position to be in and we can only hope the drop comes tomorrow.



FEBRUARY, 1963

THURSDAY 28

59-306

A beautiful day today in many respects. The weather was perfect this morning and at 10.15 our first air-drop was made by TAA - that plane was a wonderful sight. Everything went off well except that one bag got caught on a wheel strut and only fell off after a while when the plane was over the jungle and there is no hope of finding it. As the bags came in I was sure it was going to be the one with my mail & boots but eventually they turned up - thank goodness! There were about 16 letters for me and what a thrill it was to read them (even 2 Xmas cards from S.A.). Today we have been out exactly 1 month and time has flown.

After yesterday's starvation diet we now have plenty of food and can eat to our hearts content. Her's wife sent a fruit cake which is going down very well. Also we got some frozen steak so tonight will be having a grand dinner.

We still don't have enough food for the carrier <sup>to start with</sup> so have to wait for another drop tomorrow (we hope). The second drop wasn't possible today because it clouded over before they could get in again.

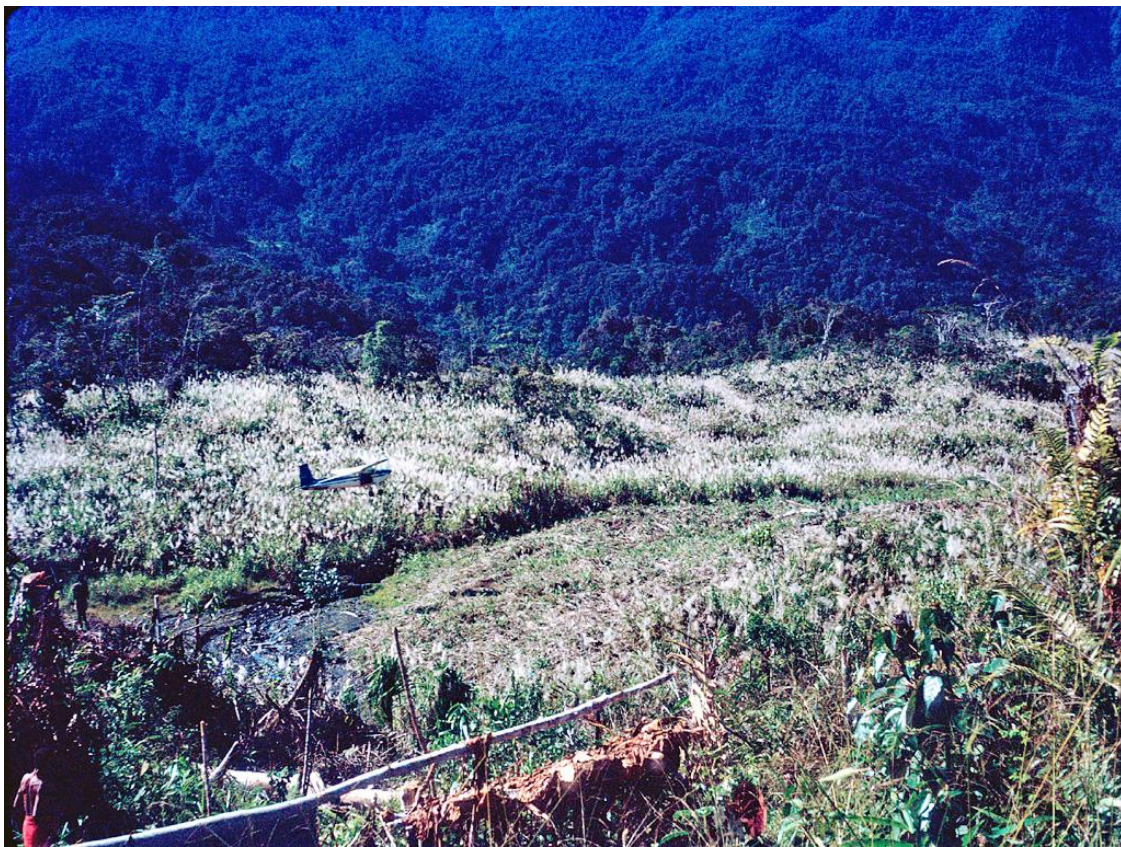
The locals were fascinated by the aeroplane and on one run it passed low over the camp and natives scattered everywhere - about 3 of them were clinging to me.

We don't know what was in the lost bag.



**Extract Patrol Diary - Patrol Report Kiunga 9/62-63 (28/02/63)**

First drop received. 100% recovery with the exception of one rice bag which, after catching on the Cessna strut-step, fell loose miles away on the other side of the Kauwol Valley



*Airdrop*

MARCH, 1963

ST. DAVID'S DAY

FRIDAY, 1  
60-305

Further success today with another drop so now we have enough food to start moving again and tomorrow we'll start heading north for the pocket near Mt. Kayella. It will probably take us a week to get there and then we'll return through here to the Alice River. Our estimates we'll be back here in 3 or 4 weeks time. Today's drop was all rice and except for one bag which broke on hitting a tree all were recovered.

It will be nice to get going again and after last night and today's good food we all feel much stronger. What a treat the steaks is after a month of bully beef.

This afternoon there was a slight earth tremor here lasting about 15 seconds.



**Extract Patrol Diary - Patrol Report Kiunga 9/62-63 (1/03/63)**

Second drop in, again one bag partially lost upon bursting against a dead tree to the left of the drop area. However, all meat and 90% of the rice was recovered, so the drop could be deemed 100% successful. Earth tremor of strength 3 and 20 seconds duration noted at 1435 hours accompanied by numerous minor rock falls and landslides. Bagging drop cargo and preparing carrier loads. Slept at Fukutu.

MARCH, 1963

SATURDAY 2

61-304

This has been about the worst days walking we have done so far. It rained all night and we packed up and started walking in the rain this morning. Fortunately the rain wasn't very heavy so we didn't get too wet. The track was an absolute bog - one wouldn't believe it possible at 5000 ft. and on these steep slopes. Most of the time we were ankle-deep in mud and we did almost 6 hours walking.

The new boots I received on the air-drop have Tricomi nails fitted and are very good over logs and slippery rocks. They make walking a lot easier and although I'm fairly tired I seem to be quite fit by now.

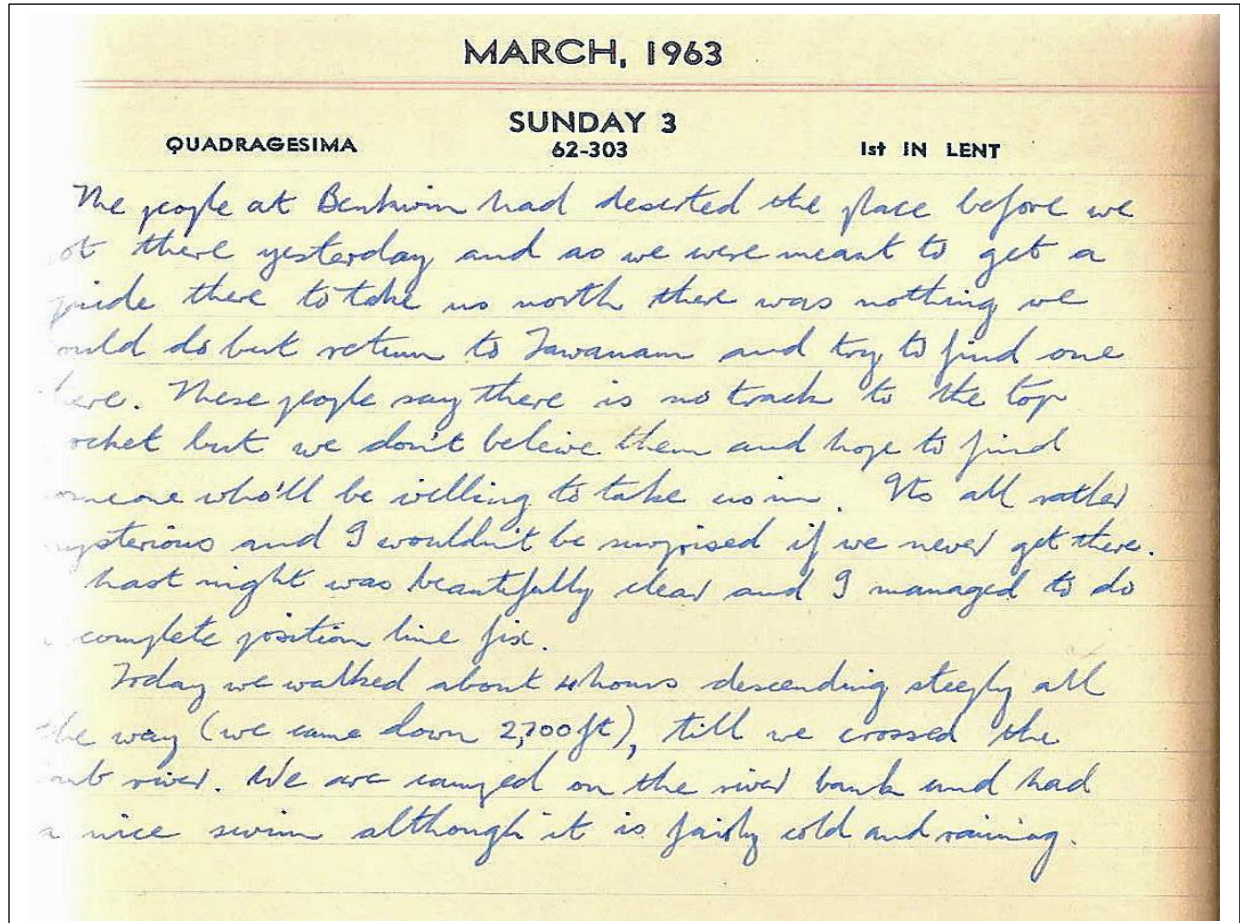
The village we have reached (BANKWAN) consists of two huts and is a very neat little place compared to the last few we have been through. It is right at the foot of a limestone bluff rising sheer for about 2000 ft - it's a most impressive sight but unfortunately most of it is covered by cloud at present.



Part 3 – West New Guinea Border to the Bun River (14 February - 9 March)

**Extract Patrol Diary - Patrol Report Kiunga 9/62-63 (2/03/63)**

Departed Fukutu in pouring rain along face of towering bluffs and after a most unpleasant day's walking through moss forest shrouded in cloud, arrived at Benkwun hamlet. This hamlet reported as the centre of the Benkwun people who we estimate at some 100 souls. Track time 6 hours. Slept at Benkwun, 5,100 a.s.l. Surveyor takes fifth astrofix.



**Extract Patrol Diary - Patrol Report Kiunga 9/62-63 (3/03/63)**

No co-operation at all from these people who deny vehemently that there are any tracks apart from the one that we have just walked over. Immediately behind the hamlet the same bluffs under which we walked yesterday, tower away into cloud. All efforts to obtain a guide or information on any possible routes towards the people in A1 proving futile. It was decided to return to Tauwannam in an effort to locate routes from there. The faint track running off in the direction of the Kauwol River was followed for 3 hours where the patrol camped at 2,300 a.s.l. En route we passed through an old garden site and in a small cave noted a hand painting of fish-like design after the manner of the Australian Aborigine. Having no locals with us, we were unable to obtain any information on same.





*Bensted Bluff 3 (behind Benkwum hamlet)*

MARCH, 1963

MONDAY 4  
63-302

LABOUR DAY (W.A. & TAS)

Today we reached Tawanam for the second time and have completed a large circle of the upper Tumb Valley. Here the people also say there is no track into the Ayella pocket and to us it appears as if they are just being diffident and don't want to take us up there. Without guides it will be a real impossibility to get north so we'll have to leave it and try from some other direction at a later date.

Last night six of our carriers deserted so we are a bit short and will find it hard to move if there should be a big airdrop. In doing so they lose all the pay due to them so have been eating these loads for more than a month for nothing.

It now looks as if we'll have to move over into the Alice Valley and will probably start moving east tomorrow.



**Part 3 – West New Guinea Border to the Bun River (14 February - 9 March)**

***Extract Patrol Diary - Patrol Report Kiunga 9/62-63 (4/03/63)***

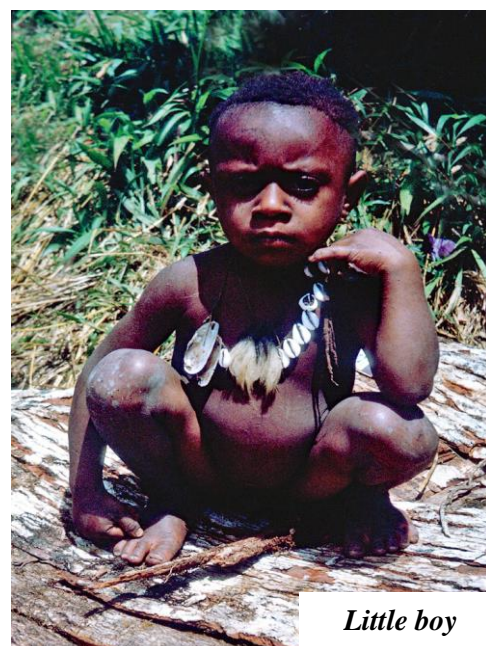
Six Kativa carriers left last night and their loss is going to be felt as the locals are far too primitive to recruit as carriers. These people are from the same group that Kent had so much trouble with when he and Jacobs tried to reach the Stars in 1954, losing all but 3 of some 70 Kativa carriers used during the course of that patrol. Moved to Tauwannam where people deny any knowledge of routes or tracks of any sort in the direction in which we wish to proceed. This despite the fact that when we first arrived, they told us of a route running west into N.N.G. and thence North North East to the people in AI. No amount of discussion or persuasion, bribes or even polite threats proved of any avail. The patrol will therefore reassess the Kauwol in the direction of Benkwini and search as I feel quite certain that such a track or tracks do exist. Slept at Tauwannam.



*Women Traders*



*Boy with Taro*



*Little boy*



MARCH, 1963

TUESDAY 5

64-301

What a day this has been. We decided to take a chance and try to find our own way to Kajella and started off from Tawaram. Before going far we ran into the six carriers who had deserted with a lot of Benkwins. The carriers were promptly re-enlisted and the Benkwins admitted that they knew a track leading in the direction of Kajella. Two of them agreed to guide us so we set off with them.

After about an hour it started to rain and then to pour. We kept going and got thoroughly soaked. It was a real tropical downpour and the country we were going through wasn't exactly the best. We crossed two creeks that were raging torrents and climbed up a few cliffs with spectacular waterfalls alongside us. While we were walking everything was okay but once we stopped to make camp and had to stand around. It was freezing. It took nearly an hour in the rain to get the tents up and it was wonderful to get into dry clothes (or rather half-dry 'cause all my things are a bit wet as water got into my rucksack). I'm writing this inside my sleeping-bag and am seasonally warm again.

Let's hope tomorrow is a warm sunny day because this is no fun. At least there was no need to shovel this evening.

**Extract Patrol Diary - Patrol Report Kiunga 9/62-63 (5/03/63)**

Departed to search for tracks and en-route ran head on into our missing Kativa carriers with a group of Benkwins, all happily on the way home. Carriers returned to line and after much talk, two young Benkwins suddenly remembered a track and agreed to guide us to a group of people living some two days walk away in the valley of one of the Kauwol Taub tributaries. Track time 4½ hours. Camped in bush 3,500 a.s.l.



MARCH, 1963

WEDNESDAY 6

65-300

After yesterday today was glorious. We walked west steadily and are again in West Irian. It took only 2 hours to get to a hut on the Kuan river but it doesn't look as if we'll get any further than this. From here the only way to get to Layella is by going thro' a village in West Irian which has a Dutch village constable so that is out of the question.

The people here are not at all co-operative and have been lying to us about tracks so we can only hope we will find something on our way back east.

Today we had to build ladders to get up two small cliffs we came up against. The weather was glorious and pleasantly hot.

**Extract Patrol Diary - Patrol Report Kiunga 9/62-63 (6/03/63)**

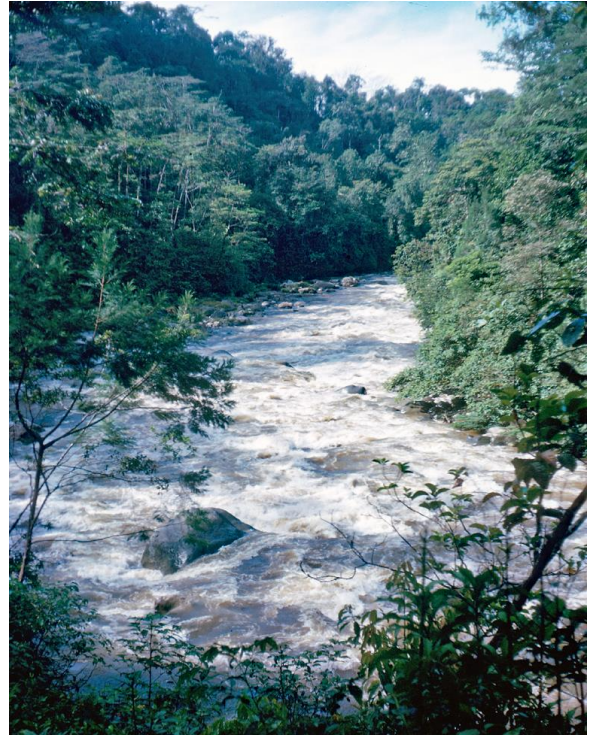
Departed camp site and moved down to the Bun River where we located a Benkwin garden and camped. Group of locals both Benkwin and from N.N.G. arrived late in the afternoon. There is a cane suspension bridge some half to three quarters of a mile below our camp and from there a road runs to a group of villages previously contacted by the Dutch and still with Dutch Native Officials present. Obviously, it is no longer feasible for us to follow this route so the patrol will now move north along the Bun River in an effort to find a route to AI. Once again, all questions resulted in vehement denials of the existence of any roads, tracks or paths. I am at a complete loss to understand why these people are proving so uncooperative. Even when one finds a track and walks over it, they are still prepared to deny its existence.



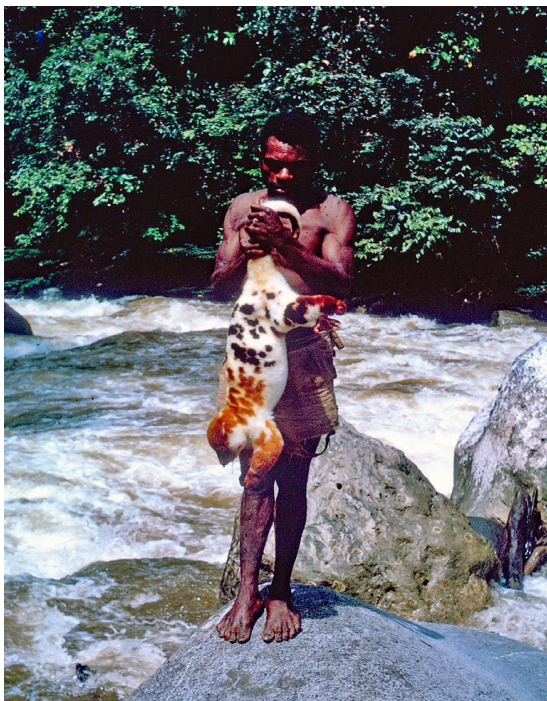
**Part 3 – West New Guinea Border to the Bun River (14 February - 9 March)**



*Ladder*



*Bun River*



*Spotted Cus Cus*

***Extract Patrol Diary - Patrol Report Kiunga  
9/62-63 (7/03/63)***

Departed camp and moved back over our previous paths to find a faint track running off to the West; followed this past an old garden site and thence on to a small hamlet Kulkulmot on the banks of the Bun river. Once we had found this small track past the gardens, our guides suffered another return of memory and were quite prepared to tell us about the hamlet. Track time 2½ hours. Slept at Kulkulmot 2,800 a.s.l.

***Extract Patrol Diary - Patrol Report Kiunga  
9/62-63 (8/03/63)***

Moved up the Bun River and commenced bridging, in the course of which, N.M.O. Paro was struck by a falling tree and suffered extensive bruising to the left shoulder. No obvious broken Bunes or internal injuries. Paro treated as best as possible and carried to camp. Party slept on the banks of the Bun.



MARCH, 1963

THURSDAY 7

66-299

A late start today because we tried to get out on the radio first but had no luck. We did not walk very far and got to a village on the Kan river. Here at last we have found someone who will take us north on the way to Sayella and at last they seem to be telling the truth. These people are really strange and if they don't want to take you somewhere they just simply won't. What we owe this sudden change of heart to I don't know.

MARCH, 1963

FRIDAY 8

67-298

This has been a day of trouble. Moving up river from last night's camp we came to the spot at which we had to cross. The Bun river is a big one and very swift flowing so a bridge had to be built and while chopping down a large tree a piece of it broke off and fell on our medical assistant. It narrowly missed Hes and two of the police but badly hurt the medic's shoulder. He won't be able to walk for a few days so we'll be laid up here for a while and hope it won't be too long as the food is getting low again.

Before the medic was hit the carriers caught a *cus-cus* (type of possum). It is a lot bigger than the possums I've seen in Australia and a rather nice looking animal.

Also last night the carriers we had found deserted again and took a seventh with them.



MARCH, 1963

SATURDAY 9

68-297

Yesterday the police managed to get a log across half of the river but during the night we had the heaviest rain since leaving Kinga - the river came up and the log was washed away. Today the whole day was spent building a bridge and the boys really did a good job and by 4 o'clock it was completed.

The medic is not as bad as ~~it~~ he looked yesterday so once the bridge was up we crossed the river and are now camped on the opposite side. We were very lucky as there was no rain this afternoon so we had a dry walk.

We also managed to get out on the radio for the first time in a week and have an airdrop arranged for Thursday or so. Tomorrow's moves depend on the condition of the medic.

The river in flood today was a very impressive sight. It was the fastest flowing one I have ever seen and as it is full of huge boulders there was foam and spray flying and it made a terrific roar. The volume of water must have been tremendous.



**Part 3 – West New Guinea Border to the Bun River (14 February - 9 March)**

*Extract Patrol Diary - Patrol Report Kiunga 9/62-63 (9/03/63)*  
Bun bridged by 1530 hours and patrol crossed to the right bank and camped some 400 yards above bridge site. N.M.O. Paro in considerable pain and unable to walk, terrain such that carrying virtually impossible. Party again slept by the Bun.



*Bun `River Bridge (or part of)*





*Bun River Bridge 2*



*Bun River Bridge 3*



**Part 3 – West New Guinea Border to the Bun River (14 February - 9 March)**



*Boulder Crossing 2*



*Boulder Crossing 1*



**This concludes Part 3 of John Groenewald's description of his Star Mountains Patrol.**