

D 7919/5(L)

ROUGH DIARY OF

DR. FREDERICK EMIL RENNERT

FEB. 25, 1872

TO

AUG. 2, 1872.

(WITH INTERPOLATED NOTES

ON VARIOUS SUBJECTS).

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Pres. by MRS. E. A. RENNERT.

1.

Sunday, 25th February, 1872. (No entry).

Monday, 26th February. Mr Musgrave returned from Charlotte Waters. Letters and newspapers from Adelaide. Latest date 6th January.

Tuesday, 27th, February. (No entry).

Wednesday, 28th February. Started for Section D. Weather unsettled. Towards evening thunderstorms. Roads still very bad.

No entries for 1st 2nd 3rd March.

Monday, 4th March. Arr. At Barrow's Creek Section to camp. Carpenter and cook ill. Country looking beautiful. Bauhinias done flowering. Plenty water everywhere. Walter Feast, carpenter, haemorrhoids - congestive hepatitis, peridarditis, erysipilis scrotum. Thomas Maddock, cook, Dysenterie, G.Marsh.

Tues. 5th March, no entry, until

Wednesday, 13th Marsh. W. Creek, haemorrhoids. English mail arr. in Adelaide. England and America cannot agree about Alabama claims.

(Then followed four or five sentences on notes from Pal Mal Gazette on geographical features on rivers and geographical features round the Panama Canal, many words are illegible and seem irrelevant to the work of the Overland Telegraph Line.

Thursday, 14th March. Patients doing well. Left for Tennant's Creek. Arr. by 4 o'clock at the crossing of the Taylor and camped. Mt Morphett(?) to the left as also Mt Strzelecki. The former a cone. Fine day.

Friday, 15th March. Through a beautiful scrub, full of lively vegetation and (illegible, ? particularly) rich on Ipomoea (or illegible). to the Lagoon where I found Section E teams. Camped. Beautiful day.

Wednesday, 16th March. Plenty new shrubs, one with a yellow bitter fruit. A few flowers I find here are new to me. Meet Mr Flint and party between Southerland and Dixon. Camped on the Bonney. Plenty water everywhere. Very hot day. Wind N.

Sunday, 17th March. Left the Bonney early. Beautiful day. Ranges (Davenport and Mt Blythe) to the E and NE. After crossing the Gilbert went more to the E to cross Baker's Creek. Came to 1 well by 3 o.cl. Well destroyed and also the others. Ground very soft from here to the 2nd on the creek. Mr Mills encamped on the same on his return from the Taylor to Tennant's Creek. Camped with him.

Monday, 18th March. Early start. 12 o.cl. Mt Samuel. Plenty rain water in well there. 3 o.cl. Tennant's Creek. Mr Clarke, Mr Soucaut, Connor, Mr Mills. Plenty water here. Cloudy day. Wind E.

Tuesday, 19th March. Cool night. Wind E. Connor started with despatches to Mr Todd for the N. Territory. He is to hand them over to Mr Roberts at Attack Creek, who is to go on in his place from there. Cold night.

Wednesday, 20th March. Left for Attack Creek with Mr Mills and Mr Harvey. Road very boggy at Phillip's Creek and Gibson's Creek. Reached Hayward Creek about 5 o.cl where Mr Harvey's party was encamped on return of (illegible ? n. sec. ) camp to Tennant's Creek. Fine day.

Thursday, 21st March. Fair night. Medical services. Men suffer from haemorrhoids on acc. of the food, attacks of diarrhoea with severe pains. Started after dinner with Mr Roberts and party. Arr. by 3 o.cl. at the camp on Attack Creek. All creeks still running. Plenty poor and fair country. Small patches good grass. Short's Ranges. Country still boggy.

Friday, 22nd March. Night hot, morning cool. Very hot day. Wind N. Mr Mills started early in the morning with Luxon in search of the bullocks. Very hot day. After tea, towards sunset when returning from the creek met a big snake of dark green color and came running towards us about 50 yards from the tent only Davis remained behind. The snake was no sooner killed, when Davis sung out, "Here are the blacks." Two bold fellows had unnoticed crawled towards the tent from the opposite side, seeing the men running towards the creek, they had been less cautious and Davis espied them. A shot was fired at them, but they boldly attacked us, running towards the tents and throwing boomerangs. A volley from revolvers turned them and they had to retreat quickly. Mr Mills not returned. Warm night. Plenty mosquitoes. Very uneasy about Mr Mills.

Saturday, 23rd March. Morning very hot. The tracks of the natives plentiful. There is no doubt there were plenty of them behind the 2 men who came so close. Hot wind. Mr Mills returned by 3 o.cl pm. Very glad to see him back. He has only 6 bullocks out of 34. Unfortunately he went from camp without food and had to fast all the time. Cool evening. Cool night. The men look an hour's watch each.

Sunday, 24th March. Mr Mills started again in search of his cattle with Luxon, Davis and Not. Very hot. Plenty shrubs here with a fine green leaf, red flowers in bunches like elderflowers.

Monday, 25th March. Cold night. Mr Mills not returned. Day very hot. Wind N. Mr Mills and party returned at sunset with 14 bullocks, - there are still 10 waiting.

Tuesday, 26th March. Cold night. Loaded the drays and started by 10 o.cl. for Tennant's Creek. Cool day. Wind S.E. Arrived by 4 o.cl. at Gibson's Creek and camped.

Wednesday, 27th March. Cold windy night. Early start.

4.

Crossed Phillip's Creek by 12 o.cl. Very boggy, the natives burning the grass close to us. Left the drays by 2 o.cl and arrived at Mr Harvey camp by 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ pm. Drays arr. by 10 o.cl

Thursday, 28th March. All day professionally occupied. Cold night.

Friday, 29th March. Good Friday. Read Dr. Goethe's courtship by Otto Muller. (Words illegible written in German).

Saturday, 30th March. Very cold night. Wind E. Mr Mills started with party for Alice Springs, 2 teams, Connor with buggy. Telegram from Muller A. Sp.

Sunday, 31st March. Easter Sunday. Cool night. Morning soon changed to hot weather. By 10 o.cl.am., wind from the north. Evening cool. Stars very bright. The great (illegible ) on the horizon to North.

Monday, 1st April. Weather the same, fine, cold night. Hot in daytime. Rode down the creek to the pole cutters' camp.

Tuesday, 2nd April. The same weather. Cloudless sky. Warm, very hazy. Wind N. Calm night.

Wednesday, 3rd April. Hot from beginning. Wind north. Consulted from Charlotte waters about a snake bite, the sufferer being a native female bitten on the 2nd April. Recommended the stimulating drops of the medicine chest.

Thursday, 4th April. Warm night. Wind N.E. Changed to north. Hot. Telegram from Mr Todd, 20th March. Roper, via Townsville. Unable to move and proceed to work. Rainy season very severe. Roper flooded. No news of McLachlen's and Burton's parties.

5.

Chambers Journal.  
Reminiscences of Walter Scott.  
Earth walked on the earth  
Glistening like gold.  
Earth goeth to the earth,  
Sooner than it would.  
Earth buildeth on the earth,  
Palaces and towers.  
Earth sayeth to the earth,  
All shall be ours.

Friday, 5th April. Cool night, hot day. Wind N. Weather close in the evening. The tent full of insects, ants, mosquitoes. A cool breeze sprung up during night.

Saturday, 6th April. Cool morning, strong breeze from S.E., flies very troublesome.

S.A. Chronicle, Sptbr. 16, 1871.- The fate of Leichhardt.

A statement of a prisoner, Andrew Hume to the effect, that in the years 1862, 63, travelled from Queensland towards the west coast, crossing all the rivers running north. He says, passing them I came to small dry plains and with difficulty succeeded in reaching the falls, where, as I got plenty of water, I stayed with the blacks until I happened to find a man who had been amongst them some time. He further states that he saw two trees marked

L.C.

Nov. 1847

Dig

L.C.

Aug. 1848

Rock

and that under both instruments and documents were buried. According to a statement in the Sydney Morning Herald by a friend of Leichhardt, the scene had not started then (Nov. 1847) and acc. to another statement, L.C. is not Leichhardt's mark.

6.

Some years back a grey horse was found S.A. of Lake Eyre with very long hoofs, brand unknown in S.A. Sydney Gov. brand.

Mr McKinley found in a native wurley a piece of great coat. This was in the neighbourhood of a lake which he called after a bullock killed there, "Rambler." In the neighbourhood of this same lake the Inspector of Native Police for (illegible, ? Parvo ) district, Queensland, found in February, 1871, the skeletons of four men on a sandhill. There was the appearance of an old grave, but nothing under the soil.

Mr Jarvis of Mt Margaret Station in travelling in a north east direction from the station with two native stock riders was urged on by them to go further to the east, to a large creek, which according to their statement, was running through that country. They stated that they had been on the creek as youngsters when a number of white men had come there with plenty of cattle, horses and trays and had all been killed by the natives. They told Mr Jarvis that the natives had collected in great numbers from all parts of the country, N. W. and E. of Lake Eyre, to watch the movements of the white men, the news having spread from tribe to tribe. Hidden in the scrub they followed them and watched them closely. On the creek, then full of water, a running river, not fordable, the whites camped, making preparations to cross. They crossed the cattle first and then loaded boats with their goods and chattels. All hands were busy pushing these across the stream, all in the water. This was the moment for the blacks to attack them.

With a yell the attack was made, spears and boomerangs were thrown, armed with clubs the blacks jumped in the stream and finished their murderous work. A small number, unarmed, attacked suddenly by hundreds, were soon killed. This, the story of those two natives who had been witnesses as youngsters, as lookers on.

There is no doubt, that all the creeks coming from the MacDonnell Ranges, the Todd, the Finke with all their tributaries must bring a great quantity of water into Lake Eyre and form after a severe rainy season, a good sized river.

What strikes the most, is that the latitude of Moreton Bay is nearly the same as the latitude of the Locality pointed out by the natives.

Mr Jarvis, as overseer of Mt Margaret Station, had unfortunately not the time to proceed then and years have passed since then, leaving that part of the country unexplored. This is the country between Stuart's route and Mr McInlay's route to the Albert. All the watercourses on Stuart's route to the Roper, south of the MacDonnell Ranges, run in a S.E. direction and I have no doubt, fall in Lake Eyre. Mr Jarvis in trying to get round the N. shore of Lake Eyre fell in with a deep large riverlike stream, much as broad as the Murray. The Neales drains a large extent of country, so the Macumba farther north, (Stuart's Stevenson), so, the Finke which derives from the west a number of tributaries and from the MacDonnell Ranges, the Hugh. To the east of the Hugh, the Todd collects all the watercourses from the same ranges but this stream is only known for a short distance in its southerly course.

The statement of a large stream there, could be <sup>the</sup> correct one. The story of the story of the white men, the attack and their destruction was given, not through enquiries about Europeans but came voluntarily, as a confession how they came to the knowledge of this country and this stream. The age of the two blacks is also in accordance and corresponding.



B.

Sunday, 7th April. Hot wind E.

Monday, 8th April, Cool day. Telegram to Mr McMinn. Mr Harvey's party busy erecting poles to finish the line of his section, having on the north end only 10 poles to the mile. Evening cool.

Tuesday, 9th April. Night quite chilly. Day fine, strong gusts of wind from east. Read Kingsley On the tropics in Good words and Mr Woods work on Northern Australia. New moon.

Wednesday, 10th April. Sleepless night. Can not account for cause of want of sleep. Strong wind from east. Fine day. Horse teams returned from Kelly's Creek.

Thursday, 11th April. Wind blowing strong at night. The same all day. Wind E.

Friday, 12th April. Weather the same as before. Telegram from Mr Mills res some patients. (Barrow Creek).

Saturday, 13th April. Weather the same. Telegr. from Barrow's Creek and from Alice Springs. Bullock teams returned from Kelly's Creek.

Sunday 14th April. Stormy night. Clouds to the E and N. in the morning. Wind blowing hard. Very sickly after breakfast. Feel better after taking some Citrate of Magnesia.

Monday, 15th April. Feel better, started on my return trip. Sky cloudy. Reached Kelly's Creek by 5 o.cl. pm., where I found the teamster, Kirk, with two teams building materials. Scanty supply of water in the creek, no water for the teams.

9.

Tuesday, 16th April. Started early and reached the Gilbert by 1 o.cl. Road across Baker's Creek quite dry. The view of the Murchison Ranges makes this road more interesting. We found plenty water in the McLaren and before this in the Gilbert. Reached the Bonney by 5 o.cl. The wind was blowing fresh in the morning, from the east, by all this a bank of dark clouds rose in the west, and the sky was all overcast by clouds in the afternoon. The evening was very calm and hot, the mosquitoes very troublesome. Feel very bilious.

Wednesday, 17th April. After midnight the air was cold. Started again by 8 o.cl. The water in the Bonney abundant, very good.

Then follows notes on opossums and palms in the West Indies which are very difficult to decipher.

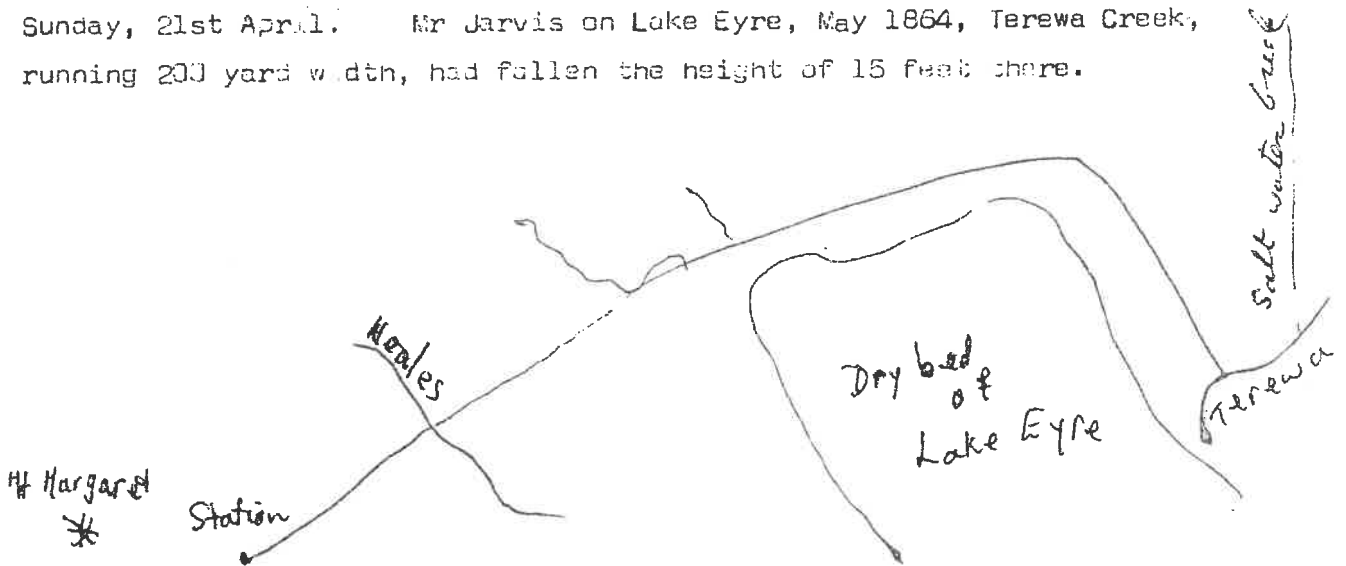
Thursday, 18th April. Very feverish all night. Plenty mosquitoes. Early start, followed the line all the way. Ipomoea and Grevillea in full bloom. Beautiful view of Mt Strzlecki from the line. There are several high points in the same chain and the whole scenery of the Crawford Range looks grand. Reached the Taylor by 4 o.cl. Its well grassed plain, on which the beantree which its dark green foliage grows to great height, bordered by the Crawford Range is a pleasant spot. There was no water at the crossing and I had to proceed to the elbow, 5-6 miles further south. Beautiful evening and sunset in view of Mt Morphett. Several small waterholes here, where 5 weeks before were long reaches of water.

Friday, 19th April. Still very feverish till midnight. Cool night. Started by 8 o.cl. Left the road to follow the line. Met emus and kangaroos. Where the line crosses the first ridge of low stony bare hills, I turned my back to have a view of the whole of the Crawford Range, whose southern side lay before my eyes towards north. To the east is also a high point.

On the southern side of this range, the line makes for the gap in the second chain of hills through which the Barrow's Creek runs. This is beautiful grass land and the beantree grows also plentiful here. The hills are table topped and run out in several round points. These rise in conical shapes to 200 feet height, from there the rock rises perpendicular to 40-50 feet height, the table top resting like a crown on the cone. This peculiar shape of hills is often met with in Central Australia, found on the Finke. Reached camp on Barrow's Creek by 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ , dinner time. February mail fr. Europe. Denison speaker, made a peer. Brand elected in his place. Great changes amongst the governors of the colonies. News of (illegible) France speaks of imperial intrigues and of money difficulties of (illegible) Govt. Earl of Mayo assassinated, making a tour of inspection of the Islands in the steamer Glasgow, he was stabbed by a fanatic Mahomedan when entering the boat to return on board the steamer where Lady Mayo had remained.

Saturday, 20th April. Wind N.E. Game at whist.

Sunday, 21st April. Mr Jarvis on Lake Eyre, May 1864, Terewa Creek, running 200 yard width, had fallen the height of 15 feet there.

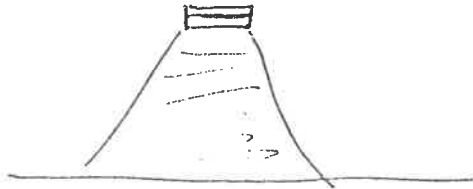


10.11.

Around the lake peculiar white sandhills, high and steep like honeycombs, jumble of ridges with deep cups in it. On the Terewa Creek of River acc. to the blacks Leichhardt's party was destroyed. Some of the horses lay speared, others they (illegible ? draw ) to large flats N.W. Strange, this party out with the Master of Blentyre, the brother of Gov. Ferguson, towards the centre found fresh tracks of a horse there. On the Terewa Creek Mr Jarvis found the ( illegible ? bones ) of large (illegible ? f b s.). Higher up the blacks say are fine gum trees of great size. The soil was rich, black soil. The water was clear and fresh, although close in the neighbourhood a large creek, the water as salt as bran, ran in the Terewa. This latter is very likely the one Major Warburton was on.

The statement of the blacks was made voluntary although still soliciting not to mention to the old man that they had told Mr Jarvis.

Climbed on top of the low stoney hills east of the building and had a good view of the Forster Ranges. To the east, I saw the top stretching out as a table land to the south, the view from south on more hilly country. Below me, between the rise and the ranges a fine valley stretches, scrubby to the east, more open to the west. There it is dotted over with low rocky hills of fanciful shapes, the looser stuff has been washed away and the rock is left. A number of conical hills, round on the base and the table top a crown of steep rock. From the valley, the northern side of the range rises steep, only sharply sloping, I dare say 600-700 feet, from there, the towers of rock rise perpendicular.



12.

A good crossing for the Plain is to the S. from the station where the high chain is interrupted and the rise is of scarcely 300 feet above the level of the valley. The top of the rise I was on is also table and all stone with porcupine. Still there are shrubs, gulleys have been formed by water running down. On the edge was a thick scrub of a fine flowering shrub the leaves like saltbush leaves but running out in several thorny points. The flowers are bright red and in bunches (like the redcurrant).

Monday 22nd April. Took a walk after breakfast on a rise east of the station. Good view of the Crawford Ranges to the north. The ranges stretch far to the east. To the N.W. a thick scrub. Below some fine open country towards the Taylor. Evening cloudy towards bedtime, a few drops of rain. Telegram from Tennant's Creek. Return of (illegible ? Ewart ) from Daly Waters.

Tuesday, 23rd April. Morning again fair. Telegram to Mrs Ar.

Stanford map of Australia, 1860.

Mt Remarkable 3179 ft.

Mt Brown 3000 ft.

Wednesday, 24th April. Left Barrow's Creek. Rode along the road. Crossed lagoon dry. Plenty water in the Stirling. Camped on the Hanson. Heavy thunderstorm in the evening. Very hot and plenty mosquitoes.

Thursday, 25th April. Late start. Slight rain during night. Met 3 horse teams with rations for Sections D and E. Camped on the Hanson, S.W. of Mt Stuart.

12. Friday, 26th April. Wind S.E. Cold. Reached the Woodforde by 1 1/2. Rode on as far as Mt Boothby where I camped. Plenty rain had fallen between the Hanson and Woodforde.

Saturday, 27th April. Early start. Reached Native Well by 11 o.cl. am. Fine weather. Arr. late at the Burt, 8 o.cl. pm. Cold night.

Sunday, 28th, April. Early start. Fine day. Reached Alice Springs by 5 o.cl. pm.

Monday, 29th April. Mr Lewis here.

Tuesday, 30th April. Aluridge arr with flock of sheep. Papers. Account of Mr Gilmore's trip in Central Australia, 138' long. 25 lat., found plenty relics in an old camp supposed belonging to Dr. Leichhardt.

Wednesday, 1st May. Weather cloudy and cold. Mr Mills left.

Thursday, 2nd May. Cloudy and cold.

Friday, 3rd May. The same.

Saturday, 4th May.- Monday, 6th May. No entries.

Tuesday, 7th May. Change in wind. North wind. Cloudy.

Wednesday, 8th May. Cloudy. North wind blowing hard. Heavy showers in the evening.

Thursday, 9th May. Cloudy. Calm. Slight showers of rain. Telegram from Tennant's Creek reports the creek flooded.

Friday, 10th May. Clearing wind, S.E. Fine afternoon. Cold night.

14  
13.  
Saturday, 11th May. Beautiful day, cold night. Wind S.E.

Sunday, 12th May. The same.

Monday, 13th May. The same fine weather. Mr Musgrave starts with 28 head bullocks for Tennant's Creek. Aldridge starts with the sheep for Northern Sections. Telegr. from T. Creek reports return of Mr Roberts from Birdum Creek. Despatches from Mr. Patterson. Work only resumed at the end of April, loss of stock, sickness in camp, loss of time. Mr. Knuckey at the Roper. Mr Millner to return. Bagot with Mr Patterson.

Tuesday, 14th May. Very hot wind S. Cloudless sky. Rec. telegr. to start for Daly Waters.

Wednesday, 15th May. The same weather. All Tuesday and today, plenty telegr.

Thursday, 16th May. Telegr. to Mrs Ar. (illegible, two words). Very hot. Wind N.

Friday, 17th May. Blowing from S.W. Cold. Packed up for journey. Masters (illegible ? Acid Hallers??). Very cold, stormy night.

Saturday, 18th May. Very cold, south wind. Bond's drays arr. fr. Charlotte Waters. Fine night. Cold.

Sunday, 19th May. Cold wind.

Monday, 20th May. Cold, cloudy, S.W. Got the buggy ready for start. Did start by 2 o.cl. pm. Went as far as the waterhole on the north side of the ranges. Arr. there by sunset. The evening was very cold and bleak.

Tuesday, 21st May. Early start. Still cold with south gale.  
 Arr. early on the Burt. Water in the creek and in the small well.  
 Country dry.

Wednesday, 22nd May. Very cold morning. Wind S. Had the tank filled  
 with water. 18 miles from the Burt by 4 o.cl.pm. lost my horse, Timmy,  
 with my bridle on. He had followed the team so far and at once took it in  
 its head to gallop back. The man William, went after him, unfortunately  
 on foot, and returned after an hour without him. Came late to camp.  
 Watered the horses out of the tank. Midnight before I went to bed.

Thursday, 23rd May. Very cold morning. Ice in the buckets. Started  
 by 10 o.cl. Arr. at Native Well, Hann's Range, by 2 o.cl.pm. Plenty water  
 and fine feed for the horses. Camped, Cold wind from S.

Friday, 24th May. Queen's Birthday. Many happy returns. Very cold  
 night. (illegible ? 1 o.cl) Rose early. William brought only 3 horses  
 in. Did not find the two others before 2 o.cl.pm. Too late to reach the  
 Woodforce. Got on top of the hills west of the well. Good view of the  
 Strangway Ranges to S.E. and of the part of the Reynolds Range to N.W.  
 North, Mt Boothby, farther W another high hill and still farther a third one  
 the last must be Mt Freeling.

Saturday, 25th May. Started by 8 o.cl. Very cold morning. Ice.  
 Left the line to follow the road W. of Mt Boothby. This road goes through  
 beautiful country, well grassed and, although not thickly timbered, overgrown  
 with a variety of shrubs, Gossypium Sturtii, the Beantree, Acacias of all kinds,  
 gums, etc. The flats between the stoney rises are extensive. There is a  
 narrow gap between Mt Boothby on the N.E. side and low rocky hills to the  
 South side, through this the road passes in a N.W. direction. From here  
 is a good view of the Southern part of the Reynolds Ranges. A high hill to  
 the W., then in a northern direction a mass of peaks, conical hills, narrow  
 ridges, a picturesque, hilly country. Coming along the road I saw some  
 beautiful pigeons, brown, with topknot, scarlet under the wing and tail.



Reached the Woodforde by 2 o.cl and came to water and camp by 3 o.cl.pm. Grass here, very dry. Plenty water in the well(native) here and also in the creek.

Sunday, 26th May. Cold night. Wind E. Early start. After a mile crossed the Woodforde, well grassed plain. After 7 miles, recrossed the same good country. After 14 miles crossed where the line comes across. The grass is all dry now, wind continuing from east. Very hazy. Beautiful afternoon and evening. Camped at the Tea Tree Well, where I arr. by 3 o.cl.pm. Mt Stuart north from here. Today coming along I saw kangaroos and emus, they did not know what to make of the buggy and looked with curiosity at it. In the sand of the creek, I noticed small fossils (illegible ? lime ).

Monday, 27th May. After midnight, wind blowing strong from E. Cloudy sunrise. Horses had parted and in consequence a late start. 12 o.cl. start. Went as far as Mr Woods second camp on the Hanson, S.E. of Mt Stuart, 20 miles distance from Tea Tree well. A few clouds but otherwise a fine warm day. Fine evening. Crickets very lively. The day was favorable for a distant view. I never saw Mt Esther so plain. The peak is remarkable for its form, sloping gently first and then rising almost perpendicular to a great height. The grass is now quite dry. There is not much water left in the Hanson.

Tuesday, 28th May. Mild, warm night, cloudy sunrise. Wind E. Cloudy day. Reached the Stirling soon after 1 o.cl.pm. Camped, a bend above the crossing of the line, two good waterholes there. Splended grass country. There is not much water left in the Hanson lagoon. The edge of it was covered with (illegible ? ). (? thorns).

18.17

Wednesday, 29th May. Mild night. Followed the road across Forsters Ranges. Fine view of Mt Stuart and the hills N. of it. Also of the west part of the Forsters Range, there is a peak very much like the peak of Mt Esther. Arr. at Barrow's Creek by 12. o.cl. Musgrave and Aldridge there.

Thursday, 30th May. Long conversation with Mr Jarvis about the Terewa. Blacksmith busy repairing wheels.

Friday, 31st May. Buggy finished. Sheep started. Warm night.

Saturday, 1st June. Started after dinner. Came with Musgrave and Aldridge to camp at a waterhole in the Taylor, 4 miles below the elbow. Rain during the night.

Sunday, 2nd June. Very cloudy and windy. Came 4 miles past the crossing of the Taylor. Fine grass feed for the cattle there. Wind changed to south. Cold.

Monday, 3rd June. Fine, cool day. Wind S.E. Came by the line to Wycliffe Lagoon. Arr. by 5 o.cl.p.m. Cold evening. Musgrave arr. after dark.

Tuesday, 4th June. In camp. Very cold night and heavy dew. Beautiful day. Feed round lagoon very rank. Banks boggy. Aldridge and sheep arr. by 12. o.cl.

Wednesday, 5th June. Cold night, heavy dew. Travelled on to the Dixon. Country looks still very well. Plenty water in the Dixon.

Thursday, 6th June. Cold night. Wind still S. and SE. Did not go farther than the Bonney. Country still well grassed. Plenty water.

Friday, 7th June. In camp. Windy day. Wind E., cloudy, heavy clouds towards W. in the morning. Caught a few fishes in the Bonney with the hook.

13  
20.  
Good water and feed.

Saturday, 8th June. Night not so cold. Still cloudy. Travelled as far as the Gilbert, 15 miles. Splended grass on the McLaren, also water. Country on the Gilbert is burnt. Long waterhole in a billabong of the G. Very hot and cloudy. After 10 o.cl.pm. a steady rain came on which lasted till daybreak.

Sunday, 9th June. Everything wet. After 9 o.cl the day became bright, sun very warm. Middle of the day clear and very hot. Travelled after 12 o.cl as far as Baker's Creek. A small deep waterhole there gave us water to camp. Fine evening, new moon, clouds to the S. and S.W. Grass plentiful.

Monday, 10th June. Heavy dew. Cold, clear evening. Travelled as far as Kelly's Creek. A fair supply of water in the well. Road through the swamp very rough. Splended grass, patches of porcupine. Fine day.

Tuesday, 11th June. Mt Samuel. Cold, clear morning. Had the buggy tank filled with the intention to camp under Mt Samuel at Mr Harvey's well. Started by 10 o.cl, the road was good the day cool. arr. by 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>pm. at the well. The latter has fallen in. Mr Musgrave with horses and cattle went on to reach Tennant's Creek. Mr Aldridge and the sheep camped with me. Each of the horses (5) had 2 buckets of water out of the tank. Cold evening, wind E. Young moon, very bright.

Wednesday, 12th June. Cold, clear night and cold morning. Cloudy day, wind S.E. and E. Early start. Reached camp on Tennant's Creek by 11 o.cl. Mr Clarke there with cook and 2 men. Plenty water and grass. Eng. news. Alabama claims not settled. News from Mr. Todd.

Thursday, 13th June. Clouds all disappeared, night very cold. Wind E. Messages from Barrow. Long chat with Harris.

28<sup>19</sup>

Friday, 14th June. Col night. Wind E. Bright day. Telegr. from Mr McKinn. Advise to patients at Barrow's Creek.

Saturday, 15th June. In camp. Wind S.E. Col night and morning. Cloudy day. Bullocks brought in. Letters to Mrs Ar. and Lizzie to go by Mr Todd. Telegr. to Mrs Ar. and Mr. Squires.

Sunday, 16th June. Started by 10 o.cl. Arr. by 4 o.cl. pm., at Phillip's Creek. Scrub, good country and porcupine country. Low land on Phillip's swamp. Hot day, cloudy, after sunset. Wind constantly changing.

Monday, 17th June. Warm night. Warm night. Mosquitoes very hungry. Clouds break towards morning. Plenty water in Phillip's. Plenty grass. Some bullocks lost. Late start. Very hot and close. Plenty tracks of natives on the road. Water in the Gibson, ranges all around. Camped on the Hayward, where road and line crosses, plenty water. Very cloudy after sunset.

Tuesday, 18th June. Cloudy morning. Soon after starting a gentle rain came on. Road very rough. Coming to Attack Creek met Mr Knuckey and Bagot on their way to Tennant's Creek, all appearances of a wet day, made a camp. Plenty news fr. North Territory. Rain continued all day and all the evening. Mr Knuckey's man very ill with ague.

Wednesday, 19th June. More rain during night. Warm. For 10 miles over a plain, sandy, sparsely timbered over grown with rank coarse long grass, then over a stoney porcupine rise down to the Morphett, crossing a smaller creek first and over another rise before we came to the main track. Plenty water in both. Followed the line over another stoney rise, over very rough road. Country better after this, having better grassed hills. We came to some small ponds in a creek. Camped here. Mr Harvey's camp here is 2 miles to the east.

Broke a bolt which prevented us to steer the buggy. Had one replaced in camp.

Thursday, 20th June. The name of the ponds is Ross's Ponds. Good country here. Followed the creek up for some distance. Came over the same scrubby country as the last few days before. After leaving the creek after 13 miles travelling, came over a stony porcupine rise, came to the lower Tomkinson. Mr Harvey encamped here with party. The long waterhole full. Day very hot. Heavy dew during last night. Day hot.

Friday, 21st June. Cold night, heavy dew. Cloudless sky, hot day. In camp.

Saturday, 22nd June. In camp. Hot day. Dew at night.

Sunday, 23rd June. In camp. (illegible, ? down?) arrived, 2 teams with wire 12 miles N. from here, wants assistance. Very hot.

Monday, 24th June. Started after breakfast, came across a flat, with good grass, soon came again in porcupine, sandy soil, stony rises, vegetation different, new trees and shrubs. Met Mr Johnston and the 2 teams with wire, likewise the party for wiring. The first party which has come down so far from the N. Territory. Arr. by 3 o.cl. on Upper Tomkinson. Camped. 2 waterholes. Dry, very hot.

Tuesday, 25th June. Warm night. Early start. Plenty scrub and porcupine. Very hot, had a rest at 12. o.cl., for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours. Road winding very much through thick scrub. Arr. on the Burke by 4 o.cl. Stony creek, plenty water. Wind N.

Wednesday, 26th June. Warm night, started by 8 o.cl. Scrub, porcupine as before. Arr. on Hunter by 12. o.cl. Fine, deep creek. Iron conglomerate, good soil on the banks. Wind N, very warm day.

Thursday, 27th June. Night has been very warm, only cool towards morning. Start by 9 o'clock. Road passes through good country, over grassed plain, only short distance, crossed Lewis Creek, the Gleeson and arr. at Powell's Cr. by 1 o'clock. Camped on s. side. Plenty water. On N. Side, Mr Burton has camped - Marked trees on all the creeks. Very warm day. Wind, N.E. New trees, leaves of shape of butterfly wings.

Friday, 28th June. Night warm. Plenty mosquitoes and ants. Crossed the Powell to N. Side, found notice on a tree, that Mr Burton's camp is 5 miles to the E. on same creek. Followed road on the creek, plenty porcupine with patches of good grasses. Met two men on horseback, one of them Hume, late out of Paramatta gaol, who made statements to N.S.W. Gov. of having knowledge of marked trees and a white man amongst natives in the far west. The men brought a letter from Mr Rix, (?Ricks), that I am wanted at Mr Mitchell's camp on N. castle waters. Reached soon after Mr Burton's camp. Mr B. on the line. Mr Stratton here very ill with bilious fever. - About 4 o'clock express, Boucaut and Lewis arr. Port Darwin cable broken, war expected between England and America. Boucaut started en route to Tennant's Creek.

Saturday, 29th June. Powell's Creek. Mr Burton's camp. Mosquitoes bad during night. In the morning found Mr Stratton very bad. Have to remain here. An emetic brought relief. At sunset Mr Knuckey and Mr Harvey arr., the first with express Despatches. Cool evening.

Sunday, 30th June. During night a messenger arr. from Mr St. King to see him. Started in the morning for his camp on the line. 20m. travelling through scrub brought me to the timber camp on some fine springs in the ranges. From camp I saw 2 natives on the plain, 4 m. further south I came to Mr King. Found Mr Burton and Ringwood there. Mr King suffers from gastric fever. It is on a turn for better.

22.

Give him a sacuration (allegible, ? record ? digit.) A letter brought by messenger from Mr Johnston requests my attendance on a man at Attack Creek. He suffers from a bullet wound which he received through an unfortunate accident.

Monday, 1st July. King better. Travel now towards Attack Creek. Follow Mr Giles tracks who came along here with (allegible ? his) teams. By 4 o.cl arr. at Upper Tomkinson. Mr Harvey's camp 5 miles from here on the E. side. Leave at one for Lower Tomkinson. Arr. there late. Found Mr Giles there with the teams.

Tuesday, 2nd July. Lost the bay mare. Mr Giles tells me he saw her  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from camp. Get the loan of another horse to take her place in the team. Arr. by 4 o.cl on the ponds, (Ross's Ponds). Wind S. All day very cold, wind causes plenty dust. Very cold evening. Round the ponds the country is very well grassed. We came across some country covered with good grasses, near the stony rises, the porcupine.

Wednesday, 3rd July. Attack of lumbago, very severe. Started at 8 o.cl. at Attack Creek 1 o.cl. Wounded man going on well. Bullet entered on right side close to armpit, ascending oblique direction, came out midway between shoulder point and spine without hurting shoulder joint, collar bone or artery. Swelling gone down. Wind S.E. In the morning, up to noon, bitterly cold.

Thursday, 4th July. Very cold night and morning. Patient doing well. At dinner time Mr Harvey arr. en route to Tennant's Creek. Shortly after Mr Giles with teams. Suffer very much from the acute pain in the back and feel very feverish.

23.

Friday, 5th July. Very restless during night. Cold morning. Mr Giles and Mr Johnston start for Tennant's Creek with wire teams and wiring party. Mr Harvey returns home. Late start reached (illegible S.A. Archives ? Kurschner's) party by 4 o.cl. Feel better during day, pains return after sunset.

Saturday, 6th July. Grassfire during night, through carelessness of attendant. Fire reached line also. Awakening, I found the grass burning all round me without any harm to my bed, my attendant soon got it out. Early start. Followed the old road which is much better than the road along the line, as it goes over loamy well grassed country. The line goes through strong and partly sandy country. Reached Tomkinson by 1 o.cl. Found the mare here all right.

Sunday, 7th July. Reached Mr Harvey's camp by 3 o.cl., 5 miles to the E of the crossing of Tomkinson. Scott still suffering from scurvy. Fine day, afternoon hot.

Monday, 8th July. Crossed the Tomkinson at the camp and made a road across to the springs where it falls in with Mr Giles' road. Hurst piloted me across. Found Mr Burton with three men at the northern springs named by Mr Burton after myself, Renner Springs. Camped. Good supply of water. Limestone bottom.

Tuesday, 9th July. Reached camp on Powell by 4 o.cl. pm. Mr King not well at all. Met the youngest Mr Giles with Harrison, Sandy McInnes (illegible ? etc. ? its) 3 miles from water in creek, 11 miles from camp.

Wednesday, 10th July. Mr King still suffering. Day very hot. Mr Todd and Mr Patterson arr. with party. King near died.



24.

Thursday, 11th July. Lewis arr. with express. Left for Daly Waters in afternoon. Mr Patterson had a long fainting fit. Letter to Mr Mitchell. Wind N.

Friday, 12th July. Mr Todd dep. south. Knuckey arr. from Daly Waters. Left again for south. Hot night.

Saturday, 13th July. Wind west, cloudy. Hainy day. Made a comfortable tent for King. Improving very slow. Afternoon wind S., cold. Mr Burton came to Depot.

Sunday, 14th July. Wells suffered very much from inflamed thumbnail. Mr Burton went to Ringwood's camp. Returned in the evening. Cold day, Cloudy.

Monday, 15th July. Teams (pole carters) arr. Mr Ringwood arr. Strong southerly gale during last night. Cold, cloudy day.

Tuesday, 16th July. Improvement in Mr King's state. Mr Burton left for south. Teams and Ringwood here. Cold, cloudy day. Last night strong gale.

Wednesday, 17th July. Cold night, sky clearing, calm day. Masson with 3 teams (bullocks) wire arr. Mr King not so well, fainted.

Thursday, 18th July. Warmer night. Sudden change to north wind at midday. Conversation with Hume. Ringwood left for line south. King very weak.

Friday, 19th July. Cold morning, hot afternoon. Another horse died. Mr King improving. Wind W., day clear.

Saturday, 20th July. Cold morning, hot day. Wind frequently changing. Cloudy evening. Mr Harvey's drays arr. for rations. (illegible, ? Rieschbeth), W. Luxon and Scotty, the latter very ill with scurvy. Mr King steadily improving. Masson who went out to search for his bullocks not returned to camp.

Sunday, 21st July. Strong gale from south during night. Cold morning, cloudless sky. Improvement still going on with King. Masson returned after sunset without cattle. Cold night.

Monday, 22nd July. Strong southerly gale during night. Rather cold in the morning. Mr King still improving. Scottie much worse.

Tuesday, 23rd July. Cold night, warm day. Scottie suffers much from the cold weather. Always better during noon. Harvey's dray returned.

Wednesday, 24th July. Cold night, warm day. Wind E and N.E. Masson's drays left to deliver wire on line. Boucaut and Hands arr. Mr Burton arr. Scottie well during day time. Oppression on chest and headache since sunset. Mr King progressing.

Thursday, 25th July. Cold night, hot day. Cloudless sky. Beautiful sunset. Wind variable going round from E to N., W., S., back to E. Pole cutters moved N. Boucaut returned from the Lawson. Cable not mended. Scottie slightly improving. Mr King much stronger. The petechiae on (illegible) legs disappear.

Friday, 26th July. Cold night, its like the day before. Patients improving. Letters to Todd, Harvey, Johnston, McMinn, Jarvis. Mr Giles in camp.

Saturday, 27th July. Strong gale from S. Morning very cold. Burton and Giles in camp. Poor Scottie, no improvement.

26.

Sunday, 28th July. Cold wind from S.E. Sunspot in the afternoon.  
Mr Burton here.

Monday, 29th July. Strong gale from S.E. Cold. Clear day.  
Killed a bullock for meat.

Tuesday, 30th July. The same cold weather. Ringwood camping here.  
Boucaut arr. no Adelaide news. A few scraps of English news by mail.  
Copper and wheat high. No news from McMinn. Letter from Harvey.  
McMinn was to leave for Adelaide yesterday. Any number of springs  
about this camp. Found plenty of mussel shells and other signs which  
indicate that the blacks frequent this spot. Mr Burton tells me that  
he found a number of them on his arr.

Wednesday, 31st July. Letters to Musgrave and Rix (? Ricks) by  
Boucaut. Cold S.E. wind blowing all day. In my rambles today fell  
in with a turkey.

Thursday, 1st August. Cold S.E. gales. Boucaut returns.  
No news from England, cable stopped. Letter fr. Mr Mitchell.

Friday, 2nd August. Cold, strong S.E. gale. Very unpleasant  
weather. No shelter in the tent, intensely cold affecting the digestive  
apparatus, it made me very uncomfortable. Great inclination to skin  
eruptions, irregularity of bowels, appetite disturbance, flatulence  
and slight pains in joints. Very calm evening from sunset to 9 o.cl  
when a breeze sprung up from E. Clouds at sunset towards N.E.

27.

Calculation of 110 men construct 600 miles of line in 42 weeks, how much 1 man in 1 week.

110	42	600
55	21	300
$27\frac{1}{2}$	$10\frac{1}{2}$	150
$13\frac{1}{4}$	$5\frac{1}{4}$	75
$6\frac{1}{8}$	$2\frac{7}{8}$	$37\frac{1}{2}$
$3\frac{1}{16}$	$1\frac{1}{8}$	$18\frac{1}{4}$

1 man          7miles      in 1 week.

110            770

1    man      1 mile      1 week

110            110          1 week.

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