NORTHERN TERRITORY SURVEY & EXPLORATION PARTY
1911-12

JOURNALS OF
Ronald H. MACPHERSON
AND
John Joseph WALDRON

Edited by
Bruce W. Strong
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1 Macpherson's journal originally consisted of two black notebooks. They were transcribed as a handwritten copy by Mrs. Una Boerner. They are printed here in Avangard typescript.

2 ©Copyright Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory. The original diary is held at the museum in Darwin. “Original spelling and grammar copied from the diary has been used to preserve authenticity in a lot of cases. There may be alterations needed where the handwritten copy was illegible or not understood by me.” Local knowledge would have helped resolve several questions of interpretation, as the transcriber acknowledges in this rider. Here the journal is printed in Times typescript.

3 Editing in this version is indicated by the use of square parentheses thus: [ ] or [ ].
Cover photograph: Officers of the Exploration Party

Left to right: (Standing) - Henry Vere Barclay, Gerald Freer Hill, Ronald H. Macpherson
(Squatting) - John Joseph Waldron
BEGINNING OF MACPHERSON JOURNAL

1911
10 JAN. TUE.

Arrived in Melbourne by Sydney Express. Introduce by Capt. Barclay to Mr. Atlee Hunt, Secretary for External Affairs, who offered me a position with Federal Northern Territory Expedition, now in course of formation.

11 JAN. WED.

Received appointment as second in command of Expedition, under the leadership of Capt. Barclay. At work in connection therewith in offices of Department of External Affairs, Spring St., Melbourne.

12 JAN. TH.

Employed in office routine & gathering together of necessary equipment for the Expedition.

13 JAN. FRI.

Continued preparation of equipment. Left for Sydney by express, having been granted 3 days leave by Secretary for External Affairs, for purpose of winding up necessary legal affairs.

14 JAN. SAT.

Arrived Sydney.

16 JAN. MON.

Left Sydney.

BEGINNING OF WALDRON JOURNAL

Meteorological terms:

stratus: a grey layer of cloud.
nimbus: dark rain bearing cloud
strato cumulus: a uniform stretch of cloud containing dark grey globular masses
cumulo-nimbus: in combination
cirrus: thin wispy fibrous cloud at high altitude composed of ice particles
cirro cumulus: high cloud of ice crystals grouped into small separate globular masses

cirro-stratus: uniform layer of cloud above 6,000 metres.

Written in the Australian 1911 Office Diary.

J.J. Waldron
Northern Territory Survey
1911/12.
Monday, 16th January 1911

9a.m. Commenced expedition work in C.A. Dept. and continued it during the day at Cwlth Offices, Masonic Hall Chambers and elsewhere.
4.30 Left Cwlth Offices.

17 JAN. TUE.

Arrived Melbourne. Engaged in packing equipment, and other preparations for departure. Interviewed the General Traffic Manager at Spencer St. Station, and received permission for all our equipment to accompany us on the Adelaide Express.

Tuesday, 17th January 1911

9a.m. Continued work of preparation at Commonwealth Offices, and other places.
5.30 Left Masonic Chambers.

18 JAN. WED.

Superintended transfer of all baggage from Masonic Chambers, Collins Street to Spencer Street Station, & completed arrangements for shipment of same per Adelaide Express.
Attended function in office of Senator Pearce, Minister for Defence, who in a few words wished farewell & God speed to the Expedition.
Left for Adelaide in company with Capt, Barclay, Mr. G. F. Hill, and Mr. Waldron.

Wednesday, 18th January 1911

9a.m. Commenced duties at Masonic Chambers, and continued preparatory work of various kinds there, and at Commonwealth Offices.
4.30pm Left Melbourne per Adelaide Express.

19 JAN. TH.

Arrived in Adelaide.
Accompanied Capt, Barclay for an interview with Mr. Thomas Gill, Under-Treasurer, and afterwards with Mr. Day, Secretary for Railways, who kindly made arrangements for us to travel by special train to Oodnadatta, it being impossible for us to complete preparations in time to get away by the ordinary fortnightly train leaving tomorrow morning.
Employed during afternoon ordering and inspecting stores and equipment.

Thursday, 19th January 1911

6am Passing through desert after leaving Serviceton; country very bleak looking, and with no sign of life. Mostly covered with mallee scrub, and a few small pines.
7.30 Murray Bridge:- Breakfast. Country around here much better especially in the alluvial flats. Lucerne and Maize, and all kinds of vegetables.

From the river up to the Eastern side of Mount Loft[y] ranges, land still barren-looking. Very rocky, and on railway line are surprising number of deserted stone cabins. A few gums and pines grow on the hills, but aspect becomes more pleasing as summit is approached.

On top and Western side, views are magnificent; every little niche and valley a garden. Fruit, vegetables; residences with fine 'landscape' gardens.
10am Adelaide. Arrived on time. Luggage stored and in the afternoon lists of stores made out, preparations began for completing outfit etc.

20 JAN. FRI.

Day employed with stores and equipment.

Friday, 20th January 1911

9.30am Introduced to Dr. Holtze at Botanical gardens, and inspected survey pegs put down in the vicinity by Capt. Barclay.

After lunch went with Mr Macpherson to inspect tents, gear etc., and arrange for further supply of cutlery, etc.

21 JAN. SAT.

Day employed with stores and equipment.
Chronometers timed at Adelaide Observatory.
A. 5.9 seconds fast 10 a.m.
B. 19.9 seconds fast 10 a.m.
C. 7.3 seconds fast 10 a.m.

Saturday, 21st January 1911

9am In morning, trial of camera and films at Botanics [sic]. Afterwards completed arrangements for supplies before shops closed.

22 JAN. SUN.

Took the three chronometer watches A.B.C. to the observatory 10 p.m. and had them rated by courtesy of the Govt. Astronomer, Mr. Dodwell.
Rates as follows:-
A. Gaining daily 8.7 seconds A. 19 seconds fast
B. Gaining daily 7.7 seconds B. 31.5 seconds fast
C. Losing daily 13.3 seconds C. 12.7 seconds slow

Sunday, 22nd January 1911 - 3rd after Epiphany - No entry.

23 JAN. MON.

Party left Adelaide for Oodnadatta accompanied by Mr. Thos. Gill, per ordinary passenger train, connecting with special stock train at Quorn.
Chronometers apparently thrown out of adjustment by shaking of train, C. stopping altogether and A. & B. behaving most erratically.

Monday, 23rd January 1911

6.5am Left for railway station to collect luggage and arrange for it to be put on board 7.10 train. Left Adelaide at 7.10; changed to narrow gauge at Terowie, arrived Quorn 5.30 p.m. Left Quorn 9.40 p.m. for Hergott.

Country from Adelaide to Quorn, one vast wheat-field. Yellow fields of stripped corn contrast with paddocks ploughed for the next harvest. The soil right through is of a deep red colour; in places, gravelly, but generally of fine tilth.
At every railway station there is a stack of wheat; at Quorn, we estimated it at 3,500 bags, and it was not of the biggest.

24 JAN. TUE.

Arrived Oodnadatta midnight.

Tuesday, 24th January 1911

6am Leigh's Creek; outside town coal mine has been abandoned, and town suffered accordingly. Through Farina, then Hergott\(^1\) at 8.28 p.m. Left Hergott about 9.40 for Oodnadatta.

Formation of country apparently still much the same, but aspect totally different. The plains are now covered with red stones, about the size of road-metal. Among the stones salt-bush seems to flourish, the average height being about 18 ins. [457 mm]. In places the feed is rather good, and includes dry grass, and weeds.

At Hergott we see for the first time camels, Afghans and collection of aborigines. The aspect of the place is not pleasing, and bore water is, to one who is tasting it for the first time really abominable.

25 JAN. WED.

Took up our quarters at Mrs. Williams' boarding house. Day employed engaging hands, transferring equipment from train to railway goods shed, & unpacking instruments, storing the latter in Capt. Barclay’s room at the boarding house. Mr. Gill returned to Adelaide by the train, finding the weather too hot for his projected journey to Dalhousie Springs.

Fixed up list of stores, named and handed same into Manfields’ - many lines having to be wired for to come up by next train (special), due here next Wed.

Names of men engaged:-

- Thomas Simpson
- Bruce Foulis
- Archie Gepp
- Edward Collins

Survey hand
Survey hand
Survey hand
Cook.

Wednesday, 25th January 1911

12.15am Arrived Oodnadatta.

6.30am Went to boarding house, and afterwards saw luggage transferred from truck into goods shed. Unpacking commenced, and continued during the day.

12am Thermometer 102 degrees f. [38.9° C]

The heat here is very oppressive, and to one coming from Southern Victoria for the first time, it is almost unbearable. The absence of any cool spot is felt very much, and bore water is repugnant to anybody accustomed to Yan Yan.

26 JAN. THUR.

Team of camels waiting here on approbation for our hire proved as a whole quite unsuited for the work in view. Several of the twenty still missing. Only about half a dozen of the remainder up to required standard. Hands employed shepherding the camels & preparing wooden ridge poles & uprights for the mosquito net tents. Also

\(^1\) Now known as Marree.
unpacking remainder of equipment for a distribution among the entire loading. Everything checked & found correct - nothing missing except eye piece for one of the theodolites. Barclay in communication with Gaunts, Melb. respecting it.

**Thursday, 26th January 1911 - Foundation Day.**

9am Took barometer reading 29.425 in.
Unpacking goods during the morning.
12.0 Thermometer 106 degrees far. [41.1° C]
3pm Barometer reading 29.32 in.
Cases divided and timber planed and sawn.
6pm Barometer Reading 29.28 in.
The heat was very much worse to-day, and for two or three hours I was utterly incapable of movement - quite prostrated.

27 JAN. FRI.

Hands employed preparing cases for loading tent fixings etc. Set up both theodolites in safer position for adjustment purposes.
Camels brought in - four still missing - black boys out in search for them.

**Friday, 27th January 1911**

9am Barometer reading 29.31 in.
Commenced setting out and ruling of Thermometer and Barometer Readings records.
12.0 noon. Thermometer 107 degrees f. [41.7° C].
3pm Barometer reading:- 29.24 in.
Continued writing up of the Thermometer and Barometer record columns.
6pm Barometer reading 29.2 in.
The heat was worse still, but getting accustomed to water, and able to endure it better. The nights are cool here, and as a good sleep is thus obtainable, you feel refreshed for the following day.

28 JAN. SAT.

Hands employed with camels & loading. Got entire team together during the afternoon - eight to ten good beasts altogether, the remainder below standard.

**Saturday, 28th January 1911**

9am Barometer reading 29.26.
Continued preparation of Barometrical and Thermometrical columns.
12.0 noon. Thermometer 106 degrees [41.1° C].
3pm Barometer reading 29.17.
6pm Barometer reading 29.13.
In the morning just before sunrise, a heavy fog settled over the horizon, and did not disappear until after 8 o'clock. The day was very hot, and at 9.30 p.m. a violent dust storm came up from the south. At Hergott there was heavy rain, resulting in a washaway on the railway line. Engine and eight trucks fell over embankment. Driver killed, fireman injured.

29 JAN. SUN.

No entry.
Sunday, 29th January 1911 - 4th after Epiphany

9am Barometer reading 29.29.
12noon Thermometer 107 degrees [41.7°C].
3pm Barometer reading 29.16.
6pm Barometer reading 29.11.

The day was very hot, and towards evening the sky became overcast with every appearance of rain. A very severe electric storm was seen in the South and East, but no thunder was heard. About 9.15 a dust storm came up from the south, and after midnight the temperature began to fall, but there was no rain.

30 JAN. MON. - PUBLIC HOLIDAY

No entry.

Monday, 30th January 1911 - Public Holiday

9am Barometer reading 29.3.
Assisted Captain Barclay with some carpentering - Theodolite stand.
12.0 noon Thermometer 96 degrees [35.5°C].
3pm Barometer reading 29.21.
Assisted Mr Hill with photographic plate development.
6pm Barometer reading 29.217.

It is much cooler to-day, a breeze from the South bringing some of the benefits of the changes experienced down there. Towards evening we have begun to feel it sultry again, as the wind dropped, and then veered North East.

31 JAN. TUE.

Hands employed sorting equipment and packing so far as can be done until balance of stores arrive tomorrow. Negotiating for purchase of camels in lieu of hire.

Tuesday, 31st January 1911

9am Assisted Mr. Hill with photographic work.
12.0 noon Thermometer 98 degrees [36.7°C].
3pm Barometer reading 29.215.
Developed some film negatives taken on the way up, and in Oodnadatta.
6pm Barometer reading 29.184.

The morning gave promise of a very hot day, and it was very warm until about 2.30 when Cumulus clouds reduced the heat, and with an intensely blue sky as a background, formed one of the most beautiful sky scenes imaginable. After sunset the wind, which had been S. all day, dropped, and the night was very still, and rather warm.

1 FEB. WED.

Hands employed roping tarpaulins, making wading ropes & strings for the few packboxes.
Train arrived midnight, bringing the cook, Edward Collins from Adelaide.

Wednesday, 1st February 1911

9am Barometer reading 29.29.
Printing some plates of Oodnadatta, etc.
12 noon Thermometer 98 degrees [36.7°C].
3pm Barometer reading 29.226.
Further photographic work and block for camera case.
6pm Barometer 29.185.
The morning was very hot; no wind, in evening dust storm, but no rain.

2 FEB. TH.

Discovered that the new riding saddles ordered in Adelaide together with majority of stores order had been put off the train somewhere en route and cannot arrive until Sunday night's train - packing operations much hampered in consequence.
Selected full team of camels - twelve from an Afghan's team, and eight from McLeod & Whitty's - all good powerful beasts. Hands employed roping & loading, and various other necessary jobs.
Attended during the evening a meeting of leading residents and station owners of the district convened by Capt. Barclay with a view to discussion upon conditions of the aboriginals and plans for betterment thereof - excessive railway rates etc. Mr. Hill taking shorthand notes of proceedings, for submission to the various speakers.

Thursday, 2nd February 1911

9am Barometer reading 29.255.
Making leather camera case.
12 noon Thermometer 98 degrees [36.7°C].
3pm Barometer reading 29.146.
Making leather camera case.
6pm Barometer reading 29.25.
There was a severe electric storm in the evening, and temperature dropped to 74 degrees [23.4°]. A cool wind sprang up from the South, and continued through the night.

3 FEB. FRI.

Hands employed packing the four pack boxes, fixing ropes on water kegs, canteens, etc. Camels feeding out from township in charge of 2 black boys.
Simpson overhauling pack saddles.

Friday, 3rd February 1911

9am Barometer 29.19 Thermometer 76 deg. [24.4°C].
3pm Barometer 29.14 Thermometer 83 deg. [28.3°C].
6pm Barometer 29.115 Thermometer 81 deg. [27.2°C].
Continued making of leather case. Assisted in packing of tucker boxes, and final arrangements for general packing. Rain fell in intermittent showers during the day, but it was at no time heavy; night was cool with slight South breeze.

4 FEB. SAT.

Simpson overhauling and repairing pack saddles, - remainder of hands bagging up & roping flour and packing cases of tinned provisions.

Saturday, 4th February 1911

9am Barometer 29.24 Thermometer 78.5 deg. [25.8°C].
3pm  Barometer 29.19  Thermometer 94 deg. [34.4°C].
6pm  Barometer 29.165  Thermometer 93 deg. [33.9°C].

Printing from various negatives to test viewfinder of Captain Barclay's camera. The wind coming from the South, where it had been raining fairly heavily, made the day cool and pleasant.

5 FEB. SUN.

Train arrived from Adelaide bringing our new riding saddles also balance of stores ordered from down country, the items missing being three pairs pack bags and a coil of 2 inch (51 mm) manilla rope.

Sunday, 5th February 1911

9am   Barometer 29.33  Thermometer 88.5 deg. [31.4°C].
3pm   Barometer 29.245  Thermometer 101 deg. [38.3°C].
6pm   Barometer 29.225  Thermometer 99.5 deg. [37.5°C].

The day was very hot and somewhat sultry owing to rain falling in places around. The wind blew in gusts from N. and NE. In evening train arrived with some of our equipment.

6 FEB. MON.

Making all necessary preparations for leaving Oodnadatta tomorrow - wiring all cases, weighing them and parcelling out for the different loads - arranging top loading etc. Two hands engaged making pack bags to take the place of those failing to arrive from Adelaide.

Monday, 6th February 1911

9am   Barometer 29.39  Thermometer 88 degrees [26.7°C].
3pm   Barometer 29.315  Thermometer 102 deg. [38.9°C].
6pm   Barometer 29.312  Thermometer 98 deg. [36.7°C].

Dividing and carving pine shelving into 2 ft [609 mm] lengths. Making Canvas saddle bags. The sun was hot, and the sky cloudless and a steady N. and N.E. wind made the day rather warm.

7 FEB. TUE.

Loaded up & left Oodnadatta getting clear of the township 5.20 p.m. Camped for the night at Angle Pole Waterhole 7.15 p.m. Distance 5 miles (8 km). Fine & clear throughout, southerly wind, moderate.

Tuesday, 7th February 1911

9am   Barometer 29.4  Thermometer 80 deg. [26.7°C].
3pm   Barometer 29.33  Thermometer 91 deg. [32.8°C].
6pm   Barometer 29.33  Thermometer 102 deg. [38.9°C].
Making Canvas Saddle bags and straps. Loading up Camels. The sun was warm with a clear sky, but a cool south breeze tempered the day. We were busy packing after dinner, but all went smoothly, and we left Oodnadatta at 5.25 p.m., and reached Anglepole about 7.30, and camped for the night.

Miles travelled: to Anglepole 4 [6.4 km].

8 FEB. WED.

Left camp 9.45 a.m. Camped 6.30 p.m.
Halted for an hour at mid-day on Swallow Creek.
Camped for the night Wire Creek Bore.
Angle Pole to Swallow 6’ (9.7 km). Swallow to Wire Ck. 12’ (19.3 km).

Wednesday, 8th February 1911

9am Barometer 29.39 Thermometer 83.5 deg. [28.6°C].
3pm Barometer 29.29 Thermometer 96 deg. [35.5°C].
6pm Barometer 29.305 Thermometer 102 deg. [38.9°C].

Left for Swallow Creek at 9.45. Arrived at Swallow Creek at 12.45 and had lunch. Travelled well towards Wise Creek Bore though track in parts very rocky. Reached Wire Creek Bore at 6.30 and camped.

The day was warm with a cool South Wind, and most of the country carried good feed. The mosquitoes at Wire Creek were very bad, and there is no firewood there. Temperature of bore 120 degrees [48.9°C].

Previous mill[e]age 4 [6.4 km]
to lunch time 7 [11.3 km]
to camp (Wire Crk) 10 [16.1 km] total 21 [33.8 km].

9 FEB. TH.

Left camp 9 a.m. Camped 3.40 p.m.
Wire Creek Bore to Macumba - 16’ (25.7 km).
Spelled for 1/2 hour midday on Box Flats. Found Macumba watethole in creek completely dried up. Opened up a small soakage in bed of creek, but found the water indifferent in quality & unpleasant to the taste. Fine & clear throughout, strong southerly & S.E’ly.

Thursday, 9th February 1911

9am Barometer 29.435 Thermometer 83.5 deg. [28.6°C].
3pm Barometer 29.305 Thermometer 90.5 deg. [32.5°C].
6pm Barometer 29.305 Thermometer 89.50 deg. [31.9°C].

Left Wire Creek at 9.2 and proceeded along a good level road to Box Flat. Stopped at 11.20, left at 12.15. No water here, country improves towards Alberga. Salt bush, mulga, cotton, blue bush, pundy [?] and herbage. Water courses dried up, but passed a few clay pans, an inch or two [25 or 51 mm] deep. Arrived Macumba 3.25 and camped. Obtained water by soaking Fine creek bed; bordered with box and gum. Ruins of an old station here.
The day was cool owing to a strong South Wind and a cloudy sky. The early morning was bitterly cold. After leaving Box Flat the country changes from Stony tableland to sand hills interspersed with clay pans, and growing more timber. In many of the clay pans there was a small supply of water.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Previous mileage</th>
<th>to Box Flat</th>
<th>to Macumba</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21 [33.8 km]</td>
<td>6 [9.6 km]</td>
<td>10 [16.1 km]</td>
<td>37 [59.5 km]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**10 FEB. FRI.**

Left camp 9.25 a.m. Camped 5.25 p.m.

From Macumba onwards - camping for the night between Willow Well and Three Forges Waterhole - branching off mail road on to Dalhousie Springs track at Willow Well.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Macumba to Stevenson Bore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stevenson Bore to Willow Well</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willow Well to evening camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total distance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Continuance of yesterday's conditions regarding wind & weather.

**Friday, 10th February 1911**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>29.45</td>
<td>83.5 deg. [28.6°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>29.3</td>
<td>89 deg. [31.7°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Left Macumba at 9.35 and passed through easy country to ten mile or Stevenson bore, which was reached at 1 p.m. There is a fine pool of water here, and after having a swim and lunch we left at 2.20. Temperature of bore 122 degrees [50°C].

From Macumba on to the Ten Mile bore the feed was good, and on the edges of water courses there were rows of gums and box. Onion lilies [probably *Crinum flaccidum*] grew here and there among the sand hills, and on the Stevenson we noticed a few water fowl.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Previous mileage</th>
<th>to Stevensons Bore</th>
<th>to camp</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>37 [59.5 km]</td>
<td>10 [16.1 km]</td>
<td>7 [11.3 km] Total 54 [86.9 km]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**11 FEB. SAT.**

Left camp 9 a.m. Camped 7.40 p.m.

Evening camp at Dalhousie Springs Station.

Passed Three Forges Waterhole 11.15 a.m. thence to Dalhousie. Country exceedingly dry, no water in Three Forges W.H.

Fine & clear generally, clouding over at times. Light northerly & N.E'ly winds.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morning camp to Three Forges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three Forges to Dalhousie</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cameleers travelling well, considering heavy loading and rough travelling over stony tablelands.

**Saturday, 11th February 1911**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>29.33</td>
<td>84 deg. [28.9°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>29.16</td>
<td>102 deg. [38.9°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>29.19</td>
<td>97 deg. [36.1°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Left camp at 9 o'clock and travelled to camp in sand hills for lunch. Arrived at 12.50 after 10 and a half miles [16.9 km] going; left at 1.45. Continued on towards Dalhousie. Arrived Dalhousie 7.40. From Stevensons to the Three Forges, which we passed 11.15., all is sandhills. From thence to Dalhousie, however, we travelled through stony tableland. The latter class of country really begins 3 miles [4.8 km] from Forges. The waterhole at Three Forges was almost dry, being only a bed of mud. Along the beds of watercourses were rows of Gums and box, and nearer to Dalhousie, rows of Gidya [sic]. Within 5 miles [8 km] of Dalhousie there is plenty of feed in way of salt bush and buck bush. Nearer the station, country is a waste of stony hills, and very desolate looking.

Previous mile[e]age  
54 [86.9 km]
to lunch  
10 and a half [16.9 km]
to Dalhousie  
14 and a half [23.3 km] Total 70 [sic, 127.1 km].

12 FEB. SUN.

Camped at Dalhousie.
Fine & clear generally, clouding over heavily at 9 p.m. with wind shifting from light N.W. to strong southerly. Barclay & Hill rode out to examine the Hot spring, distance 8' (12.9 km).

Sunday, 12th February 1911

9am  Barometer 29.24  Thermometer 84.5 deg. [29.2°C]
3pm  Barometer 29.115  Thermometer 102.5 deg. [39.2°C]
6pm  Barometer 29.065  Thermometer 99.5 deg. [37.5°C]

The day was very warm, the temperature being 104 degrees at 2 o'clock. In the evening there was a cool change with a few drops of rain, and during the night the S.E. wind continued to blow very strongly. The water at the station is obtained from a spring near by, and is very good. Mile[e]age to date 79 [127.1 km].

13 FEB. MON.

Camped at Dalhousie.
Hands employed on minor repairs to saddles, re-adjusting loading, cleaning out water kegs, etc.
Barclay & self with Hill & Waldron left for the Hot Spring at 10 a.m. to make a small survey of same, and leave Hill & Waldron in camp there for a couple of days to collect specimens and take photographs. Arrived back at the station 7 p.m.
Fine & clear throughout, strong southerly wind.

Monday, 13th February 1911

9am  Barometer 29.28  Thermometer 72 degrees [22.2°C].

At 10.45 Captain Barclay, Messrs. Macpherson and Hill and I left for Big Spring, and reached there about 1 pm. After lunch, the pool was surveyed, and temperatures taken at three points:

1. Head of Spring.
2. Centre of pool.
3. Outlet.

3pm  Barometer 29.24  Thermometer 91.5 degrees [33.1°C].
Tem. of Spring 110 degrees
2. 100.5 degrees
3. 98 degrees
6pm Barometer 29.255 Thermometer 81 degrees [27.2°C].
Temp of Spring 1. 109 degrees
  1. [42.8°C]
  2. 99 degrees  3. 96.5 degrees
  2. [37.2°C]  3. [35.8°C]

The country from the station to this spring is rather sandy and also clayey on the surface. The spring itself fills a large pool which is free from rushes, etc., but is too warm for a swim. Flies and mosquitoes are very troublesome here.

14 FEB. TUE.

Hands employed on saddles & loading and general preparations for taking the road again tomorrow. Foulis left 8 p.m. with four camels to bring Hill & Waldron with their equipment back from the Hot Spring - party returning at camp again 8.15 p.m. Fine & clear throughout, strong southerly wind.

Tuesday, 14th February 1911

9am Barometer 29.475 Temp. of Spring 1. 109.5 degrees
  1. [43.1°C]
  2. 97.5 degrees.  3. 96 degrees.
  2. [36.4°C]  3. [35.6°C]

3pm Barometer 29.402 Temp. of Spring 1. 110 degrees.
  1. 43.3°C]  2. 101 degrees.  3. 98 degrees.
  2. [38.3°C]  3. [36.7°C]

6pm Barometer 29.399 Temp. of Spring 1. 109 degrees.
  1. [42.8°C]
  2. 100 degrees.  3. 97 degrees.
  3. [37.8°C]  3. [36.1°C]

During this day we visited some of the swamps and the date plantation. There were a fair number of duck and teal on the swamps, but the dates though plentiful were not ripe. The day was warm, but made more bearable by a stiff S.E. breeze. The mosquitoes of the previous evening were the malaria carrying genus - anopheles.

16 FEB. WED.

Forenoon employed in making all preparations for the road. Party left camp 1.45 p.m. Self staying at Dalhousie to drive into Blood's Creek with the manager, Mr. Reid, tomorrow.

Fine & clear throughout, strong southerly wind.
The sum of £2.5.0 paid for 160 lbs (73 kg) of station beef at 3d. per lb. - 40 lbs. (18 kg) consumed on station, 120 lbs. (54.4 kg) for the road.

Wednesday, 15th February 1911

9am Barometer 29.475 Thermometer 72 degrees [22.2°C].
3pm Barometer 29.45 Thermometer 82.5 degrees [28.1°C].
6pm Barometer 29.3399 Thermometer 76 degrees [24.4°C].

Left Dalhousie station at 1.40 p.m. and passed through stony tableland, rather hilly. Good feed on plains, mostly salt bush. On hills especially, Mitchell grass. The day
was very pleasant with a strong South West wind. We halted for the night at 5.50 on a dry creek bed, bordered by red mulga or missericha [mineritchie] and gidya. Former small and stunted but very straight and hard. Has been known to last 40 years in fencing posts. Name of creek where we camped is Christmas Creek.

Previous mile[e]age 70 [112.6 km].
to camp 8 [12.9 km] Total 87 [sic] [actually 125.5 km].

16 FEB. TH.

Left Dalhousie 11 a.m. arriving Blood’s Ck. 7 p.m. an hour later than the camels. Fine & clear throughout. Light southerly wind.

Distance 28’ (45.1 km).

Thursday, 16th February 1911

9am Barometer 29.465 Thermometer 72.5 deg. [22.5°C]
3pm Barometer 29.272 Thermometer 72.5 deg. [22.5°C]
6pm Barometer 29.195 Thermometer 94 deg. [34.4°C]

Left camp at 8.55. Loading was troublesome owing to burs [sic] on the ground. The track was rough and hilly after leaving, and we camped on plain at 12.25. Started after lunch at 1.35. Possum waterhole passed before lunch. About 4 or 5 miles [6.4 to 8 km] from Blood’s Creek, we crossed a ridge of sandhills where feed was more plentiful, and saw a few duck on a pool in a large clay-pan. Duck Ponds. The country here is very bare and desolate, and with the exception of a ridge of sand hills, a couple of miles [3.2 km] wide, consists of stony plain and tableland. Timber is very scarce even in creek beds, and consists only of red mulga, gidya, and a few eucalyptus. Arrived Blood’s Creek 6.10.

Previous mile[e]age 87 [140.0 km]
to lunch 10 [16.1 km]
to Blood’s Cr. 12 [19.3] Total 99 [sic] [actually 175.4 km].

17 FEB. FRI.

Left camp 10.15 a.m. Camped 6.30 p.m. Late in starting owing to camels getting boxed up with an Afghan mob during the night.

Barclay went on ahead so as to make Charlotte Waters before nightfall. Camped for the night on Bullocky Flat, 9 miles (14.5 km) short of the Charlotte. Distance travelled 19’ (30.6 km).

Fine & clear throughout. Light S.E. and easterly wind.

Friday, 17th February 1911

9am Barometer 29.25 Thermometer 91.5 deg. [33.1°C]
3pm Barometer 29.022 Thermometer 97.5 deg. [36.4°C]
6pm Barometer 29.022 Thermometer 98.5 deg. [36.9°C]

Left Blood’s Creek at 10.10 am and after travelling for 4 miles [6.4 km] over a gravel plain with good feed we met some very rough hilly and rocky track for 1 and a half miles [2.4 km], then gravelly tableland with fair amount of salt bush and herbage. Stopped for lunch at 12.35. Commenced again at 1.25 and from then until evening very rough country was met with. Crossed the Adminga [Abminga] at 3.40.
The day was hot, but very clear and there was no wind only a very slight S.E. breeze first at sundown. The country about 4 or 5 miles [6.4 to 8 km] from Blood's Creek shows a formation very favourable to opals, and should contain some. The feed all the way along was good, but has been kept so by lack of water for stock to eat it down.

Previous mil[e]age to lunch to Bullochy Flat
99 [159.3 km] 5 [8 km] 14 [22.5 km] Total 118 [189.9 km].

18 FEB. SAT.
Left camp 9 a.m. Camped 1.30 p.m. Camped at Charlotte Waters and with prospects of remaining two or three days fixed up a comfortable camp in the afternoon on the bank of the creek, rigging up mosquito nets etc. Found the water hole completely dried up, the artesian bore being the sole supply for the station, no rain having fallen for a long period and the surrounding country being entirely parched up. Fine & clear throughout. Light to moderate southerly & S.E'ly wind.

Saturday, 18th February 1911

9am Barometer 29.15 Thermometer 81 deg. [27.2°C]
3pm Barometer 29.07 Thermometer 91.5 deg. [33.1°C]
5pm Barometer 29.06 Thermometer 91.5 deg. [33.1°C]

Left Bullochy Flat at 8.50 and travelled over some rough ground to border of Territory, which we crossed about 10.30 a.m. Shortly afterwards caught Capt. Parklands heliograph from Charlotte Waters. Arrived Charlotte Waters at 1 p.m., and went on to the creek where we camped. The country from Bullochy Flat to Charlotte Waters is Stony Tableland, and gravelly plain, with fairly good feed. The few sheep and goats kept at the station do very well; especially the former.

The day was warm with no wind, or at times a gentle S.E. breeze.

Previous mil[e]age to Chltte. Was 118 [189.9 km].

19 FEB. SUN.
In camp at Charlotte Waters, no unnecessary work done. Fine & clear throughout, wind fresh from S.S.E.

Sunday, 19th February 1911

9am Barometer 29.192 Thermometer 84.5 deg. [29.2°C]
3pm Barometer 29.1 Thermometer 93 deg. [33.9°C]
6pm Barometer 29.085 Thermometer 92.5 deg. [33.6°C]

On comparing Aeneroid [sic] Barometer with Standard Barometer at the Telegraph Station found that readings at 10.40 a.m. were:-
Aen. Bar 29.18
Stand. Bar 29.432.

Went down to the bore which rises to within 150 feet [45.7 m] of the surface and is pumped by means of an oil engine. The water is very good, and rather cool.
The day was warm with a clear sky and a S.E. wind. Several whirlwinds passed close to the station, and made the day more dusty than even the strong wind would have done.

20 FEB. MON.

Hands employed doctoring several camels with sore backs, altering padding in saddles, breaking in new riding camel etc. Both theodolites set up & numerous observations taken. Waiting reply from the Government regarding time signals from Adelaide observatory. Fine throughout, hot and hazy - strong S.E. and easterly wind.

Monday, 20th February 1911

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>3pm</td>
<td>29.125</td>
<td>99 deg. [37.2°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>29.103</td>
<td>95 deg. [35°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Making leather pouches. Overhauled medical chest with Mr. Hill - nothing broken. Until 3pm the sky was clear, with a steady S.E. wind. After that time the haze on the horizon developed into dense masses of cloud and the wind dropped. It was very close and sultry then during the evening.

21 FEB. TUE.

Hill left for Government Well, distance 10' (16.1 km), to collect specimens, accompanied by Waldron and Simpson - the latter riding my new riding camel, to accustom it to being away from remainder of mob. Gepp & Foulis employed sinking post to mount one of the theodolites on, putting iron straps on the pack boxes, sharpening axes, tomahawks etc. Dull & overcast throughout - wind generally light, & bearing round all points of the compass. Hill & Party returned to camp 6.15 p.m. Time signals exchanged with Adelaide 5 p.m.

Tuesday, 21st February 1911

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<tbody>
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<td>89.5 deg. [31.9°C]</td>
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<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>29.109</td>
<td>92 deg. [33.3°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>29.085</td>
<td>96 deg. [35.6°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Left at 9.10 for Government Well, 10 miles [16.1 km] distant. Mr. Hill and Mr Prizer [?] came as well. Arrived at Well at 11.50 a.m. Left well at 3.45, and arrived back at 6pm. The day was very sultry and the sky was covered with heavy strata clouds. Wind N.E. and N.N.E. The Well at the 10 mile [16.1 km] is on the Fink[e] and is about 30 ft. [9.1 m] deep. The water is very good, and is capable of watering many thousands of sheep and cattle.

22 FEB. WED.

Hands employed re-packing and re-arranging loading in readiness for the road tomorrow. Time signals exchanged with Adelaide at noon. Fine & clear throughout, wind generally light & variable. Sky clouding over somewhat after sundown.
Wednesday, 22nd February 1911

9am   Barometer 29.181   Thermometer 89 deg. [31.7°C]
3pm   Barometer 29.095   Thermometer 97 deg. [36.1°C]
6pm   Barometer 29.08    Thermometer 92 deg. [33.3°C]

The chan[?] thermometer now in use coincides with the Standard at the T.O. as seen this morning. Making camera case for Capt. Barclay. The day was warm with variable winds, mostly from the S.E. however. In the morning the sky was clear, but clouds came up several times during the day. The number of stock watering at the bore is increasing, and many of them are perishing from want of water.

23 FEB. TH.

Left camp 2.15 p.m. Camped 5.35 p.m.
Broke camp & got everything in readiness for loading up - waiting until noon for the post cart from the south to arrive.
Loaded up & pulled out 2.15 p.m. - camping for the night 7 miles (11.3 km) out from Charlotte Waters.
Fine & clear throughout - strong southerly & S.E'ly wind.

Thursday, 23rd February 1911

9am   Barometer 29.27    Thermometer 86.8 deg. [30.4°C]
3pm   Barometer 29.18    Thermometer 99 deg. [37.2°C]
6pm   Barometer 29.14    Thermometer 97 deg. [36.1°C]

Assisting in loading and packing up. Left Charlotte Waters at 2.15 after arrival of mail from South. Passed through sandy plain and sand hills to camp at 5.20 p.m. Some fair sized gums and box were noticed in one dry waterhole, but for most part only stunted gidya and purdy. The ground feed here is rather poor, and the effect of the long dry season is seen in the hundreds of rabbit carcases, and in the number of starving stock at the bore at Chrltte. Wtrs.

The track was made very unpleasant by the clouds of dust raised by the S.E. wind. The sun was warm and the sky clear.

Miles.
Oodnadatta to Chrltte. Wtrs. to camp total 8 and a half [13.6 km].

24 FEB. FRI.

Left camp 8.45 a.m. Camped 4.00 p.m.
Travelling northwards along Overland Telegraph line camping for the night at Junction Well, at the junction of Finke & Goyder Rivers.
Distance 15' (24.1 km). Fine and clear throughout - strong S.E. & Easterly wind.

Friday, 24th February 1911

9am   Barometer 29.19    Thermometer 90 deg. [32.2°C]
3pm   Barometer 29.13    Thermometer 102 deg. [38.9°C]
6pm   Barometer 29.079   Thermometer 99 deg. [37.2°C]
Left Camp at 8.50 passed through gully of fair timber, then sand hills and spinifex [sic]. A patch of stony tableland was then traversed, showing a few salt bush, and some fair sized Mulga. Stopped for lunch, 11.40 to 12.35. The number of dead rabbits is surprising and the few left are beginning to eat bark off trees. After lunch, level flats on to Boggy Flat, in parts, clear, other places mulga and gidya - feed rather good. On the wide bed of the Fink[e], near Junction Well, some good specimens of gum and box. Well reached at 3.40 p.m. Water very muddy, owing to collapse in well shaft, but is reported to be good at other times. Day clear, warm in afternoon, Wind steady from S.E. The water from the Goyder [Goyder] and the Fink[e] (now dry of course) supplies well which is sunk between the two.

Previous mil[e]age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>From</th>
<th>To</th>
<th>Distance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Camp</td>
<td>Junction Well</td>
<td>8 [12.9 km]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

25 FEB. SAT.

Left camp 10.40 a.m. Camped 6.45 p.m. Late start. Endeavoured to give the camels a drink before leaving, but the well had fallen in during the night, leaving only a small supply of thick muddy water - obtained sufficient to fill our kegs, but impossible to get enough for the camels traveling along O.T. line towards Old Crown Point. Distance 19' (30.6 km). Fine & clear throughout light S.W. and westerly wind - weather very hot.

Saturday, 25th February 1911

<table>
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<td>85.5 deg. [29.7°C]</td>
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<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>28.97</td>
<td>105.5 deg. [40.8°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>28.87</td>
<td>101.5 deg. [38.6°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Left Junction Well at 10.40. Water was still very bad, and so scanty that camels could not be all watered. On to telegraph line, which we reached at 1.15, country is sandy with a larger species of salt bush, purdy, and fair herbage. We then passed over a little stretch of harder ground. Lunch 1.25 to 2.15. After lunch we passed a belt of various timbers, all small specimens however, including, blood wood, a species of silver wattle, and mulga. The herbage from this on to Hell's Gate, a soft rugged-looking sandstone bluff and rise, was rather good, as stock were unable to eat it down owing to want of water. Some golden-web spiders were seen, and numerous kangaroo tracks. From Hell's Gate to the Fink[e], where we camped at 6.50, a soft sandy and then alluvial claye [sic] valley is seen. The day was clear but very hot owing to absence of a steady wind. Wind slight from N.E. and S.E.

Previous mil[e]age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>From</th>
<th>To</th>
<th>Distance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Fink[e]</td>
<td>7 and a half [12.1 km]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

26 FEB. SUN.

Left camp 3.15 p.m. Camped 6.45 p.m. The camels split up into two mobs during the night, half of them continuing along the track to the Old Crown Well - finally got them back to camp at 2.45 p.m. Loaded up and proceeded, camping for the night at Old Crown Point station on the Finke River, finding an excellent Government Well there. A large number of natives camped in and around the station, holding a coroboree (sic). Distance 8' (12.9 km). Fine & clear throughout, and very hot - wind light and variable.
Sunday, 26th February 1911 - Quinquagesima

9am  Barometer 28.989  Thermometer 95 deg. [35°C]
3pm  Barometer 2891  Thermometer 112.5 deg. [44.7°C]
6pm  Barometer 28.825  Thermometer 109 deg. [42.8°C]

The camels have been without water for 2 and a half days, and some of them went along to the Old Crown Point and were not brought back until after two o'clock. We did not leave camp until 3.15, and as there was practically no shade, loading up was very hot work.

Travelling was easy along the alluvial plain of the Fink[e], and good progress was made. The timber gums and box - was stunted and partly stripped by caterpillars. We crossed the bed of the Fink[e] again at 4.45 and met the downward mail. On both sides of the river bed there are belts of very fair timber, and the outlook is rather pleasing; it resembles in some places a Victorian river valley, excepting of course that there is no grass. Reached Old Crown at 6.45.

The day was exceedingly hot, the sky clear, and hardly any wind, except hot gusts from the N. and N.E.

Previous mile[e]age to Old Crown 8 [12.9 km].

27 FEB. MON.

Remained in camp at Old Crown Point all day for the purpose of making general enquiries into the conditions of the large mob of blacks present, take photographs of representative groups, issue out rations etc. Requiring another black boy for the party we sent out a message to bring in Whisky Tom a blackfellow who had accompanied us on a previous expedition he being somewhere out on the Lillah (sic) Creek rounding up some young boys for the initiation ceremonies.

Fine & clear throughout & extremely hot, the thermometer registering 115°F. (46.1°C). shade temperature at 3 p.m.

Wind strong N.W. & southerly until 6 p.m. then shifting southerly & blowing a hard gale all night. Clouds of dust flying, kits & blankets smothered inches thick and sleep impossible.

Hands employed during the day in cleaning out soakage well, cleaning & refilling water kegs, etc.

Monday, 27th February 1911

9am  Barometer 28.925  Thermometer 97 deg. [36.1°C]
3pm  Barometer 28.85  Thermometer 115 deg. [46.1°C]
6pm  Barometer 28.83  Thermometer 104.5 deg. [40.3°C]

The water from the well at the old Crown is very good, though not plentiful, but the bore water is brackish, and has to be brought up in buckets by a windlass worked by donkeys. There is a small store here, the keeper of which looks after the well, bore, and aborigines on the station.

The day was very hot, with a slight N. and N.E. breeze until about 5 o'clock when a terrific dust storm blew up from S.E. and made things very unpleasant; it was hardly possible to eat, and we were covered in dust when we went to bed. A corroboree on the previous evening was interesting. It was called a Running Water Corroboree.
In camp at Old Crown Point. Hands employed in doctoring several camels with sore backs. Repairing & lightening up all pack saddles, re-distributing loading, etc. Went round the natives' camps with Capt. Barclay, & gathered together as many old men & lubras as possible & issuing out to them the following rations:-

100lbs (45.4 kg) flour  
50 lbs (22.7 kg) sugar  
6 lbs (2.7 kg) tea  
5 lbs (2.3 kg) tobacco

A number of natives came in during the evening from the Lillah Ck. district, Whisky Tom being with them - he came over to our camp shortly afterwards & was taken on the strength as camel boy.

Star observations during the evening gave the latitude as...

Tuesday, 28th February 1911

9am Barometer 28.222 Thermometer 78 degrees. [25.6°C]
3pm Barometer 29.13 Thermometer 96.5 deg. [35.8°C]
6pm Barometer 29.11 Thermometer 81 deg. [27.2°C]

The S.E. wind had decreased in strength during the night, and late in the morning was gentle and cool. After lunch rations were served out to the natives, among whom were some very old blind men and women. Made out a graph of deviations of chronometers. Breaking and repacking loading. The day was very cool and pleasant with a clear sky and a steady S.E. wind. In the night it get bitterly cold. Blacks from the Musgrave Ranges met the local blacks, and the ceremony, which was rather interesting concluded in a corroboree at night.

1 MARCH WED.

Left camp 10.30 a.m. Camped 5.50 p.m.
On account of Whisky Tom leaving his lubra behind at Crown point he supplied her with 50lbs (22.7 kg) flour & a quantity of tea, sugar & tobacco, as temporary rations. Travelled along the Finke River for some distance, then over stony tablelands, well grassed, camping for the night in sand ridge country about 8’ (12.8 km) south of Horseshoe Bend.

General appearance of the surrounding country considerably better than that southwards of Charlotte Waters, owing to the heavy rain of March last year & a lighter fall later during the cold weather. Distance travelled about 15’ (24.1 km).

Fine & clear throughout - fresh southerly wind.

Ash Wednesday, 1st March 1911 - St David

9am Barometer 29.17 Thermometer 78.50 deg. [25.8°C]
3pm Barometer 28.12 Thermometer 87 deg. [30.6°C]
6pm Barometer 28.665 Thermometer 83 deg. [28.3°C]

Left Old Crown Point at 10.30.
Leaving the Crown, we passed through some fine gums and box on the banks of the Finke[e], and in one place the track of a recent "willy willy" was marked by numerous fallen trees and limbs.
After leaving Fink[e], some extensive alluvial flats were crossed, at first they were bare, but later on covered with good native grass (Spear grass) [probably Aristida sp.].

Lunch 12.50- 1.40.

From the flats up through stony rises and sandhills, and gravelly table tops the feed was splendid. Spinnifex [sic] was fairly thick on sand hills. There is no permanent waterhole near at hand, so stock are not able to take advantage of this good feed. Shrubs of acasia [sic] species numerous on route and dotted the surrounding hills. Day cool, sky clear, wind steady from S.E. Camped at 5.40. Previous mil[e]age , to lunch 6 [9.7 km], to camp 8 [12.9 km].

2 MAR. THUR.

Left camp 9.15 a.m. Camped 5.50 p.m.
Arrived Horseshoe Bend 12.40 p.m. leaving there again 2.15 p.m. Purchased 100 lbs (45.4 kg) salt beef (£1.14.0) 5 lbs (2.3 kg) nigger tobacco at 3/6 per lb. and some vinegar from Mr. Elliott the hotel & store-keeper, who in commenting upon the good appearance of the country informed us that the rainfall for 1910, eleven inches (275 mm) all told had been the best known in the district for years. Left the mail route and proceeded in a N/Westerly direction towards Idracowra enroute for Hermannsburg Mission station. Camped for the night on Finke River about 9' (14.5 km) from horseshoe Bend. Fine & clear throughout - light southerly & S.E. wind.

Thursday, 2nd March 1911

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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>28.72</td>
<td>76 deg. [24.4°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>28.825</td>
<td>92 deg. [33.3°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>28.76</td>
<td>88 deg. [31.1°C]</td>
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</table>

Left camp on sandhills at the Telegraph shackles at 9.18. From this spot, and for some distance onwards over the crest of the sandhills, and extensive view of the western sandhills and peaks is obtainable. From thence on to Horseshoe Bend the country is hilly, both sand hills and stony rises being met with.

In places the herbage is plentiful, and scant, mulga, purdy [?], and a few iron-wood give the landscape a pleasing aspect, dotted as it is with hills and table tops. We reached Horseshoe Bend at 12.35. Left 2.15.

The homestead at Horseshoe Bend is very well fitted out, and one of the best seen up to date. We followed the Fink[e] very closely until evening and its course here, as everywhere is lined with timber, around are sandhills with a few acasia [sic] shrubs. Some cattle passed on the way looked very well fed. The Flats near the river are eaten bare, but are very fertile.

The wind was variable, but generally cool, sky clear. Camped on Fink[e] 5.45. Previous mil[e]age ..., to H.B. 8 [12.9 km], to camp 9 [14.5 km], total ...
owing to mud and cattle refuse - sunk several soakages in various places but found little improvement.

Fine & clear throughout - light N.W. and westerly winds. Distance 23’ (37 km).

**Friday, 3rd March 1911**

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<td>3pm</td>
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<td>101.5 deg. [38.6°C]</td>
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<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>28.425</td>
<td>95 deg. [35°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Left camp at 9.25 and passed along some alluvial flats on the Fink[e]. The soil was 5 feet [1.5 m] and over in depth, and of a rich loamy texture. The herbage was very good where it had not been eaten down, and edible shrubs, including cotton bush and buck bush were plentiful. After passing over undulating sandy and stony country, we stopped for lunch on bed of Undunya Creek [Undunya Waterhole on Sullivan Creek] (12.30 - 1.30). The creek here was one of the many natural dam sites on these water courses, and would furnish a large waterhole at a small expense.

The country from here onward is more uneven, and from stony hills, and isolated stony table tops and chains of hills interspersed with level clayey and gravelly flats, it changes into red sand hills, monotonous in their regularity. The feed right along was good, both in native grasses and acasia shrubs, with spinnifex on sandhills, we reached Idracowra (old station) at 6.50.

The day was warm with variable winds, sky clear. Previous mil[e]age..., to lunch 9 [14.5 km], to Idracowra 13 [20.9 km].

**4 MAR. SAT.**

Party encamped at Idracowra. Left camp at 11 a.m. for Chambers Pillar with Hill, Waldron, Simpson & Collins. Travelled N X W over a succession of sandhills until reaching the pillar at 3.15 p.m. Estimated distance 8’ (12.9 km) but made considerably more of it winding in & out to avoid high ridges running mainly at right angles to our track. Obtained a series of angles with sextant & artificial horizon to determine the height of the Pillar - Hill taking several photographs of same from various points.

Fine & clear throughout - wind light & variable.

**Saturday, 4th March 1911**

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<td>93.5 deg. [34.2°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>28.241</td>
<td>106 deg. [41.1°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>28.175</td>
<td>99 deg. [37.2°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The waterhole at this place is only about 18 inches [457 mm] deep, and is quite undrinkable. A few duck and 2 pelicans were on the pool, which is about 100 yards [91.4 m] by 50 yards [45.7 m]. A large number of cattle and horses water here.

Left at 11.0 am for Chambers Pillar, about 9 or 10 miles [14.5 or 16.1 km] distant, and except when crossing the Fink[e] the track is one vast stretch of red sandhills. The herbage and shrub feed is good, and some non-wood cork-wood, willow-oak as well as mulga, purdy, etc. were noticed. Spinnifex is also very common.

The pillar is a landmark for miles around and is of yellow sandstone, overlaid with red sandstone. Some distance away there are isolated peaks and "castles" of rock which are evidently of the same formation. None, however, is so splendidly isolated, or so
impressive. The pillar itself is rapidly crumbling away as can be seen by the fragments of stone at the base, and the way in which names cut in the rock even in recent years are being erased.

The day was hot with a slight N.N.W. Westerly wind. Sky clear.

5 MAR. SUN.

Left Chambers Pillar 7.30 a.m. and rejoined the rest of the party in camp at Idracowra - 10.45 a.m. Remained at Idracowra for remainder of day - no unnecessary work done - camp duties only.

Fine & clear throughout - fresh N.E. & E'ly winds.

Lat by * observation - 25° 01' 12" S.

Height of Chambers Pillar & mound calculated from vertical, angles obtained by sextant & artificial horizon - mound 103.6 feet (31.6 m)

Pillar 97.2 feet (29.6 m)

Total Height 200.8 feet (61.2 m)

Sunday, 5th March 1911 - 1st in Lent. Quadragesima

9am Barometer 28.5 Thermometer 95 deg. [35°C]
3pm Barometer 28.53 Thermometer 102 deg. [38.9°C]
6pm Barometer 28.505 Thermometer 101.5 deg. [38.6°C]

The sunrise on Chambers Pillar was very fine, and although we took a photo of it, it would be impossible to reproduce the effects of the rays of morning Sun on the colonised [sic] sandstone.

Left the pillar at 7.45, and following on our tracks, reached the camp at 10.50.

There are two or three varieties of black cockatoos around the waterhole besides, hawks, duck, waxbills [Zebra Finches], swallows, and mud larks.

A soakage was dug near the waterhole, and from this better water was obtained, and all the kegs filled. The pool will only last a few weeks at the most, it has fallen 6 inches [152 mm] or more since we came. The stock watering here are in good condition, and as far as can be seen the feed is abundant both on the river flat and in the sandhills. In the morning sky clear, wind N.W. Afternoon a few clouds, wind variable.

6 MAR. MON.

Left camp 8.30 a.m. Camped 3.20 p.m.

Travelling along the Finke River towards Hermannsburg Mission station. Passed Idracowra new station shortly before 10 a.m. - no one on the station except blackfellows. Pulled down mid-day for usual halt - Barclay ill with Barcoo sickness - left him behind with Hill to follow us later in the afternoon. Camping early on a water hole in the river to enable them to catch up to us before nightfall. They joined us shortly after 6 p.m. Barclay still very seedy.

Scoured out the water kegs with strong permanganate of potash and refilled then at the water hole.

Fine & clear throughout - strong N.E. & E'ly wind. Distance 15' (24.1 km).

Monday, 6th March 1911

9am Barometer 28.619 Thermometer 94 deg. [34.4°C]
3pm Barometer 2g.519 Thermometer 107.5 deg. [41.9°C]
6pm Barometer 28.5 Thermometer 102 deg. [38.9°C]

We left Idracowra water hole at 8.35, and crossed from the billabong to soft sand hills. Cane grass was fairly plentiful here. After about 3 miles [4.8 km] we entered the station horse paddock, an extensive flat thickly covered with good timber, and showing nice grass. The station itself was passed at 10.10, and the well water there is excellent. After crossing sand-hills covered with buck bush, salt bush (longer variety) [probably northern bluebush], cane grass, acasia [sic] scrub and spinnifex [sic], we stopped for lunch on the Fink[e] at 12.30.

Left 1.30. Captain Barclay very ill, due to water at old station hole which we are carrying. It is most unwholesome. Hard loamy and sandy flats were crossed among the sand hills now, and the country was much the same, save for a larger species of spinnifex. Camped on Fink[e] 3.15 at a splendid little water hole, in which we had a swim.

Day warm, sky clear save for a few circa-cumulus clouds. Wind E. and N.E. Previous mil[e]age..., to lunch 9 [14.5 km], to camp 6 [9.7 km].

7 MAR. TUE.

Left camp 8.40 a.m. Camped 6.20 p.m.
Travelling in a N.W’ly direction through sandhill country, leaving the Finke during the forenoon & not striking it again until camping time. Barclay considerably better. Camped for the night on a large waterhole 15’ (24.1 km) south of Henbury Station in company with some of the Henbury stockmen who were mustering the station horses. Fine & clear throughout - fresh S/E & southerly wind. Distance 25’ (40.2 km).

Tuesday, 7th March 1911

9am Barometer 28.679 Thermometer 81 deg. [27.2°C]
3pm Barometer 28.495 Thermometer 100 deg. [37.8°C]
6pm Barometer 28.41 Thermometer 97 deg. [36.1°C]

After leaving the Fink[e] (8.35) we struck into the sand hills which were at first rather hard with good grass and few shrubs. The herbage became a little less plentiful and we descended into a good mulga flats bounded by stony rises and sandhills, and showing good native grasses.

Some stony track [sic] with salt bush and parakylia [parakeelya] was then passed, and we lunched on sandy flat 11.55 to 12.45. From lunch time until we reached the Fink[e] in the evening we traversed a broad stretch of sand hills. Between some of them were clay pans of a fair size, some with a glassy red surface, others stony, others again covered with acasia [sic] shrubs. Desert oak dotted the hills all along the route, and would furnish a fair supply of timber for fencing or other bush work. The herbage all through was rather good. Camped at a good waterhole on Fink[e] at 6.15.

Wind, S.E. sky clear in morning, cirrus clouds in afternoon. Previous mil[e]age..., to lunch..., to camp...

8 MAR. WED.

Left camp 8.50 a.m. Camped 4.50 p.m.
Travelling in a N.W'ly direction - met Mr. Alan Breadon (Breaden), the owner of Henbury Station during our mid-day halt, camping for the night in accordance with his request, on a water hole at the homestead being reserved for drinking purposes only. Light S.E. & Easterly wind - fine & clear generally, becoming overcast towards sundown, with every appearance of a change in the weather. 

Distance. 15' (24.1 km).

**Wednesday, 8th March 1911**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<th>Thermometer</th>
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<td>28.39</td>
<td>101 deg. [38.3°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>28.4</td>
<td>83 deg. [28.3°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We left the Fink[e] at 8.45, and for some distance, the track followed the loamy valley of the river. "Annual" salt bush with native grasses gave good grazing for stock, a few of which were seen, and appeared to be in good condition, especially one or two bullocks. Stony rises were then met with, and a large stony flat, some miles long was entered. It was bounded on one side by a chain of stony hills, and on the other by sand hills. The herbage and ground shrubs here provided excellent feed for stock, "sandfine" (?)samphire) and cotton bush being most common. Lunch 12.20 - 1.25 with Mr. A. Breadon and the mailman whom we met on the road. Loamy flats, sandhills, stony rises, and gravelly plains were passed on the track to Henbury Station, near which we camped at 4.30. The herbage was fair right through, with the usual acasia shrubs. Some of the sand hills were of a very bright red colour, especially near the waterhole at which we camped.

Wind steady from S.E. clouds strato-cirrus. Previous mil[e]age..., to lunch..., to camp...

**9 MAR. TH.**

Left camp 9.20 a.m. Camped 4.45 p.m.
Stopped at the station waterhole proper to fill up kegs, canteens, etc., also to take photographs of station buildings. Left there 10.10 a.m. travelling N.W'ly along the Finke River towards Hermannsburg. Camped for the night on a long chain of water holes - all salt - after camping took a gun & went after duck, following the creek down for some distance, but finding no fresh water anywhere. Rabbits innumerable, both banks of the creek honeycombed with their warrens. Fine & clear throughout moderate S.E. & Southerly wind.

**Thursday, 9th March 1911**

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<td>79 deg. [26.1°C]</td>
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<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
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<td>98 deg. [36.7°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>28.26</td>
<td>93.5 deg. [34.2°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We left camp at 9.17 and proceeded to Henbury Station where there is another splendid waterhole: we left there at 10a.m., and crossed the Fink[e] at a very stony spot where the river bed seemed to be divided into two separate courses. On the sand hills then met with cane grass was the sole herbage, while shrubs were scarce also. Some distance further on a species of silver water [sic] was seen, and then spinnifex with desert oaks purdy and "quisi" covered the sandhills. The red colour of the hills was again noticeable. Lunch on Fink[e] 12.35 to 1.30. The sandhills were not so steep from here, and were more bare. After a couple of miles [3.2 km] the ground became harder, and loamy and gravelly soil made travelling easier. We followed the Fink[e] very
closely all day, and camped at a chain of salt water holes at 4.35. From Idracowra onwards water is very plentiful along the Fink[e], and there are other good ponds besides the ones at which we camped. The day was cool, wind S.E. Strata-cirrus clouds. Previous mileage..., to lunch 7.5 [12.1 km], to camp 7.5 [12.1 km].

10 MAR. FRI.

Left camp 8.45 a.m. Camped 4.45 p.m. Travelling N.W'ly across sand ridges until reaching the foot of the James Range about noon, passing through a gap west of Mt. Holder. Thence through ranges until reaching evening camping ground at Running Waters on Finke River - Found waterhole commencing to turn brackish & comparatively shallow all water for a couple of miles (3.2 km) up river too brackish for drinking purposes. Fine & clear throughout - generally calm with occasional light gusts from S.E. Distance 18' (29 km).

Friday, 10th March 1911

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>28.02</td>
<td>102.5 deg. [39.2°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>28.05</td>
<td>100 deg. [37.8°C]</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Left camp at 8.40, and for some time followed a loam plain bordering on the Fink[e], the herbage here had evidently been eaten down by stock and was for a mile or two [1.6 or 3.2 km] rather scanty. On the sandhills there is nothing here but spinifex and desert oaks, until from the crest of one of them can be seen the green timber of the Fink[e] again, and the stony and gravelly approach to the Henry Range [sic]. Grass and shrubs are now plentiful, and in some places on the hard plain on the N.W. side of the Fink[e], the grass was 18 inches [457 mm] high. We stopped for lunch in a gap in the range near Mt. Holder, 12.20 to 1.10. The plain on the other side of the range showed very good herbage and a great variety of acasia shrubs. A sandy ridge was followed on to Running Waters, but it was surrounded on both sides by stony hills. The view over the green gums and eucalyptus in the valley was splendid, and suggested anything but aridity. Camped at 4.40.

In morning sky clear, no wind; later strato-cirrus clouds. S.E. wind. Previous mileage..., to lunch..., to Running Waters...

11 MAR. SAT.

Remained in camp at Running Waters not wishing to arrive at Hermannsburg Mission Stn. until Monday. Hands employed repairing pack saddles, cutting new poles for same, rigging up & overhauling tents, tarpaulins, etc. Caught a bucketful of fish resembling small trout in the water-holes, some providing an acceptable meal for all hands.

Fine & clear throughout - calm generally, with occasional light gusts of wind from the southward.

Saturday, 11th March 1911

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<td>110 deg. [43.3°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>28.08</td>
<td>103 deg. [39.4°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We stayed at Running Waters for the day, and in the morning put up one of the mosquito-proof working tents. We were camped in a gorge of the river, and the rocks on either side afforded some fairly cool spots for working. They are of ironstone formation, and their colour ranks from an orange yellow to a deep red. Gums, box and mountain ash [sic] grow all along the valley, and make it a very pretty spot indeed. At the southern end there is a spring of good fresh water, but at the northern end, where we camped, the pools are all brackish. They are full of fish and a bucketful were caught in a very short time. The largest one caught was about 8 inches [203 mm] in length. There were also a few duck and some teal on the pools further north.

The day was warm, sky clear, wind light from S.E.

12 MAR. SUN.

Left camp 9.40 a.m. Camped 4.40 p.m.
Rough travelling through the ranges frequently crossing & recrossing the Finke River - camels continually breaking their nose lines and shifting their loading, progress consequently slow - also large amount of distance covered for little made good, heading at various times on all bearings from S.W. around to N.E. by the westward. Camped for the night on Boggy Water Hole, Finke River - water slightly saline. Shot four brace of duck after camping, and caught half a bucket of fish at night. Fine & clear throughout - wind light and variable.
Distance made good, 10' (16.1 km).

Sunday, 12th March 1911 - 2nd in Lent

9am Barometer 28.165 Thermometer 88 deg. [31.1°C]
3pm Barometer 28.01 Thermometer 109 deg. [42.8°C]
6pm Barometer 27.945 Thermometer 105 deg. [40.6°C]

Left Running Water 9.33 and followed a sandy ridge running between two stony ridges of James Range. Mallee scrub, spinifex, iron-wood and desert oak mostly covered the sand hills, until the lower level of the Fink[e] Valley was reached. Here the loam was dusted with sand of the maroon colour of the surrounding hills. Grass of several varieties was abundant, and gums and box grew well on the banks of the river bed. An island surrounded by the Fink[e] and tributary was exceptionally well grassed.

Lunch 12.45 to 1.10. The bed of the river was very stony here, and a stony plain was followed for some distance down the gorge. Kangaroo and feather grass especially plentiful. Several fine bluffs of deep red ironstone line on the gorge, and the strata vary in depth from horizontal to perhaps 60 deg. One anticlinal bend was prominent on the Southern face. Camped at Boggy Waterhole at 4.30. The water is slightly brackish, but the pool is large and deep. Wind slight from S.E., clouds cirrus and cumulo-cirrus. Previous mile[e]age..., to lunch..., to camp...

13 MAR. MON.

Left camp 9 a.m. Camped 6.10 p.m.
Rough travelling till clearing the ranges at 3. p.m.
Left Finke River & turned N'ly up Ellery Ck. 1.35 p.m. thence after clearing ranges, across wide plain. Arriving at Hermannsburg Mission Stn. shortly after 6 p.m.
Fine & clear throughout. Wind light southerly.
Distance 20' (32.2 km).
Monday, 13th March 1911

9am  Barometer 28.11  Thermometer 85.5 deg. [29.7°C]
3pm  Barometer 27.945 Thermometer 99 deg. [37.2°C]
6pm  Barometer 27.885 Thermometer 85 deg. [29.4°C]

Left Boggy Waterhole 9.5, and continued our way through the Fink[e] Gorge. A well grassed plain with good timber formed the bottom for two or three miles [3.2 or 4.8 km]. Gums, box, iron-wood, white-wood, mulga and many varieties of acasia shrubs dotted the valley, and the grasses were luxuriant. Kangaroo grass grew three feet [0.9 m] high in the creek beds, and feather and other smaller native grasses grew thickly everywhere. Lunch 12.15 to 1.5. Shortly after lunch we left the Fink[e] at its junction with the Ellery, and followed the gorge of the latter creek. It was in most places first the width of the river bed, and the scenery was very bold and rugged. After leaving the river we passed over a stretch of red sandy plain right on to the mission station, which we reached at 6.15.

The sky was clear with a S.E. wind which increased during the day. Previous mile[age...], to lunch 8 [12.9 km], to Mission Station 14 [22.5 km].

14 MAR. TUE.

Camped at Hermannsburg. Saw mission children at school during the morning and sewing in the afternoon - men & children forming a large glee party in the evening singing various songs in English, German, and their own language Arunta. Noticeable that in rendering the British national anthem they still adhered to the 'God save our gracious Queen' of the Victorian era, having been so taught by the older natives and understanding no reason for alteration. Numbers of natives on station -

| Male adults | 64 |
| Female adults | 64 |
| Children - boys | 33 |
| Girls | 33 |

eating house & food inspected - numerous photographs taken.
Fine & clear throughout - fresh southerly wind.

Tuesday, 14th March 1911

9am  Barometer 27.905  Thermometer 71 deg. [21.7°C]
3pm  Barometer 27.825  Thermometer 94 deg. [34.4°C]
6pm  Barometer 27.8  Thermometer 96.5 deg. [35.8°C]

We stayed at Hermansburg [sic] all day, and were very hospitably treated by the people of the mission. There are about 18 stone buildings of various sizes in the grounds, all of them built by the blacks under white supervision, and another house is now being built. The blacks have neat "winlies" [wurleys] made of rushes, thatch etc., and built in the shape of roundas. They have a very neat appearance. There are pepper trees and gums trees planted about the grounds, and around the houses and in separate plots are palm plantations and gardens.

Water is obtained from a well, and they have a good many tanks for rainwater. Mr Lubler [Pastor O. Liebler] is in charge, under him are Messrs Johan[n]sen, Minchenburg and Crook. The regular schoolteacher Mr Hill[i]er is at present absent on leave, so that the white staff is composed of four men with their wives and families.

Day cool, sky clear, wind, S.E.
15 MAR. WED.

Hermannsburg, Hill & self, with Mr. Johannsen of the mission left camp 11.30 a.m. and rode down Finke River Gorge on photographic expedition. Reached large waterhole in the gorge 2.45 p.m. Made a camp there leaving Whisky Tom in charge & proceeded further down the river passing through mission boundary fence 4.45 p.m. Half a mile (800 m) below secured several photographs of palm groves mainly in a small side creek running into the Finke from the southward. Rode back to the waterhole and camped 7 p.m.

Fine throughout, sky slightly clouded over - fresh S.E'ly wind. Distance 24' (38.6 km).

Wednesday, 15th March 1911

<table>
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<th>Barometer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>27.88</td>
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<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>27.83</td>
<td>109 deg. 42.8°C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>27.775</td>
<td>97 deg. [36.1°C]</td>
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The occupations of the blacks on the station are so numerous, that there should be no expense whatever except rations. All materials for buildings, except of course the roofs, are to hand on the station, the fences even being put up with raw hide instead of nails. A great deal more attention might, however be given to the gardens and to the wells. The latter are in a very bad state of repair.

The wind was cool from the S.E. Clouds, cirrus and stratus.

16 MAR. TH.

Left camp shortly after sunrise & proceeded about four miles (6.4 km) up a creek running into the Finke above our camp from the S.W. - locally known as Palm Creek. Secured several photographs of magnificent palm groves, some of the fan palms in the centre of the creek reaching a height of from 90 to 100 feet (27.4 to 30.5 m) - paced a fallen one & found it to be over 90 feet (27.4 m) in length.

High & rugged cliffs of sandstone on either hand formed an imposing & beautiful picture - zamia (Macrozamia sp.) palms growing in every crevice for many feet up the sides of the walls of rock.

Obtained seeds from both the fan & zamia palms. Returned to camp 2.30 p.m. taking several photographs of rocks in the vicinity, leaving again for the Mission Station 4 p.m. arriving there 7 p.m.

Fine & clear throughout - fresh S.E. & easterly wind.

Thursday, 16th March 1911

<table>
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<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>27.79</td>
<td>111 deg. [43.9°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>27.741</td>
<td>108 deg. [42.2°C]</td>
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</table>

During the day Fowlis [Foulis] and I took the dimensions of all the buildings in the station, and found it a most unpleasant task on account of the want of any sanitary arrangements whatever for the blacks. There seems to be no attempt at cleanliness; bones strew the ground around the eating house, and on Saturdays the "clean up" seems to consist mainly in throwing these bones on the roofs.

The only thing that saves the station from a severe outbreak of typhoid, is, I think, the phenomenal dryness of the climate.
The sky was clear with a moderate breeze from the S.E.

17 MAR. FRI.

Hermannsburg. Decided to stay at Hermannsburg over Sunday at the urgent request of Herr Lubler (Liebler) the Chief Missionary in order that we may attend the Divine services & witness the manner in which they are conducted. Hands employed upon saddles & loading attending camels with sore backs & various camp duties. All mission residents attended a camp concert during the evening.

Fine & clear throughout, light N.W. & N'ly wind.

Friday, 17th March 1911 - St. Patrick

9am Barometer 27.775 Thermometer 68 deg. [20°C]
3pm Barometer 27.69 Thermometer 105.5 deg. [40.8°C]
6pm Barometer 27.68 Thermometer 104.5 deg. [40.3°C]

At the back of Mr. Lubler's [Liebler] house, by means of pegs driven in the ground, a North and South line was fixed correct to an eighth of an inch [3 mm].

During the school hours of the picaninnies [sic], I visited their classes, and found them in charge of one of the elder ones who was pointing out Arunta words written in roman characters on a chart. Most of the children could pronounce any word indicated, and could translate it into English. The girls had sewing to do afterwards, and on the whole they were fair. In both school work and sewing however, the half castes usually excelled the full blooded blacks.

The day was warm with a S.E. Breeze. Sky clear.

18 MAR. SAT.

Hermannsburg. Obtained supply of beef to carry us into Alice Springs - payment being refused we supplied the mission with 8lbs. (3.6 kg) of coffee, they being short of that commodity.

Hands employed salting the beef & various other camp duties also in getting all loading in readiness for departure on Monday morning.

Fine & clear generally, clouding over heavily shortly before sundown. Wind light N.W. and blowing a hard gale all night with clouds of dust flying.

Lat. by 6 and * observations - 23° 56' 28"S.

Saturday, 18th March 1911

9am Barometer 27.69 Thermometer 64 deg. [17.8°C]
3pm Barometer 27.67 Thermometer 99.5 deg. [37.5°C]
6pm Barometer 27.649 Thermometer 99 deg. [37.2°C]

The packboxes were re-filled, and all broken loading roped and made ready for the road. The bag loading had suffered in the trip from Charlotte Waters, and had to be re-bagged. Some of the saddles were repaired as well, but the main part of this work was allowed to stand over until our arrival at Alice Springs.

The day was unsettled, wind variable, clouds cumulus and cumulo-nimbus.
19 MAR. SUN.

Hermannsburg. No unnecessary work done in camp. Attended Divine service at the church during the morning with Capt. Barclay. All hands dined at the Missionary Mess & spent the afternoon there. Fine & clear throughout - strong S.E. and southerly wind.

**Sunday, 19th March 1911 - 3rd in Lent**

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<td>3pm</td>
<td>27.82</td>
<td>79 deg. [26.1°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>27.76</td>
<td>84 deg. [28.9°C]</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The service at the station was conducted by Mr. Lubler [Liebler] at 11 a.m.

The sermon was, as usual, in Arunta, and most of the hymns were sung in that language also.

The afternoon service was conducted in Arunta, and the blacks sing remarkably well.

The sky was overcast very early in the morning, but the day was clear and bright with a cool S. and S.W. wind.

20 MAR. MON.

Left camp 11 a.m. Camped 5.10 p.m.

Travelling from Hermannsburg towards Alice Springs, the Mission children accompanying the camels for several miles - excellent excuse for avoiding school.

Camped on the plain about five miles (8 km) further ahead. Distance 15’ (24.1 km). Fine & clear throughout - fresh S.E. wind.

**Monday, 20th March 1911**

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<td>3pm</td>
<td>27.8</td>
<td>80 deg. [26.7°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>27.76</td>
<td>78 deg. [25.6°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The casks and canteens were filled from the station well, and we left Hermansburg at 10.50. For about two miles [3.2 km] sand hills covered with spinifex were crossed, then some stony hills, and an extensive level plain was entered. Lunch 12.35 - 1.15. After lunch we continued travelling on a good track across the plain, and crossed Five Mile Creek shortly afterwards. The herbage here was fair to good, but near the well on the creek it was of course eaten down. Two or three varieties of salt bush were seen as we approached Ellery’s Creek, and mulga and other acasia shrubs gave way to good sound specimens of gum. A large soakage on the creek supplied very poor water. Undulating sandy country with good grass and acasia shrubs continued to camp 5 p.m.

Sky mostly clear, a few stratus clouds, wind cool and steady from S.E. Previous mile[e]age..., to lunch 5 [8 km], to camp..., total...

21 MAR. TUE.

Left camp 8.30 a.m. Camped 5.29 p.m.
Travelling easterly along the valley of the Hugh (Missionary Plain) towards Alice Springs. Country beautifully grassed and covered with acacias bushes & feed of all descriptions. Camped for the night with Mt. Conway bearing N. 31° E. & Paisleys Bluff N. 5° 30' E. Distance covered 22' (35.4 km). Fine & clear throughout - fresh S.Easterly wind.

**Tuesday, 21st March 1911**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer 68 deg. [20°C]</th>
<th>Thermometer 77 deg. [25°C]</th>
<th>Thermometer 82 deg. [27.8°C]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>27.805</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>27.601</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>27.68</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We left camp at 8.30 and after crossing a stony hillock, we entered on an extensive sandy plain which is over 300 miles [483 km] long from East to West and about 30 miles [48 km] broad. After a few mile of sandy soil now and again somewhat gravelly, we struck a belt of thick scrub, composed of iron wood, needlewood, purdy, and gidya. Here and there were patches of level plain almost free from scrub, but covered in some places with salt and cotton bush, in others with a luxuriant bed of native grasses. On the softer ground spinnifex and cane grass were noticed, but the former was scarce. Kangaroo grass grew very well in places, especially in the head creek beds leading into the Ellery and the Jay. The general course was Easterly, and we were steadily climbing the whole way. Lunch 11.57 - 12.30. Camp 5.10. Sky clear, cool S.E. wind all day. Previous mil[e]age..., to lunch 10 [16.1 km], to camp 12 [19.3 km].

**22 MAR. WED.**

Left camp 8.50 a.m. Camped 5.10 p.m. Travelling Easterly along the valley, passing well and stockyards (Pollian Diamond) (Poll and Diamond) about 10.45 a.m. sides of well partly caved in, windless & head gear wrecked, but water visible at the bottom about 40 feet (12.2 m) below ground level. Mt. Conway bearing N. 3° 30' E. at noon halt. Crossed the Hugh Creek at its junction with the Jay 2.45 p.m. - striking the Jay again further East at 3.30 p.m. - thence N.N.E. along its banks towards MacDonnell ranges, camping for the night on large water hole in Jay Gap - Alice Sp. distant 28' (45 km). Distance travelled 21' (33.8 km). Fine & clear throughout - light to moderate S.E. wind.

**Wednesday, 22nd March 1911**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer 27.72</th>
<th>Thermometer 79 deg. [26.1°C]</th>
<th>Thermometer 81 deg. [27.2°C]</th>
<th>Thermometer 82 deg. [27.8°C]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>27.67</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>27.65</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Left camp at 8.45, and continued travelling across the plain lying between the Waterhouse and James Chain and the McDonnell [sic] ranges. The grass is splendid all over the plain, and consists of small native grasses for the most part with Kangaroo grass in and near creek courses. For the first few mile the scrub was rather dense, but it thinned out towards Alice Creek [?] and the Jay. Needlewood, iron-wood, mulga, purdy, and other species of acasia with a few wild orange, and desert oak composed the scrub.

---

2 Alice Creek is located some distance to the south-east on Maryvale Station. Probably the Hugh River is the watercourse referred to in this instance.
At 10.30 Pollandiamond Well was passed, and after crossing one or two creek heads we camped for lunch 12.8 - 12.57. After 3 o'clock the beds of the Alice Creek and then the Jay were crossed and followed, showing some fine gums, and other smaller trees. We camped at 4.55 at a deep waterhole on the Jay, in a very pretty gorge, composed mainly of quartzite rocks. Day cool, sky clear, wind S.E. Previous mile[e]age..., to lunch 10.5 [16.9 km], to camp 11 [17.7 km].

23 MAR. TH.

Left camp 8.50 a.m. Camped 4.00 p.m. Travelling easterly along valley in MacDonnell Ranges from Jay Gap towards Temple Bar - arriving at latter place 4 p.m. and camping for the night. Water hole completely dried up and in conjunction with bed of creek littered with hundreds of dead rabbits, creating such an offensive odour on (sic) camp that all hands were employed collecting carcasses and digging holes to bury them. Fine & clear throughout - light to moderate S.E. wind. Distance 16' (25.7 km).

Thursday, 23rd March 1911

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>27.77</td>
<td>67 deg. [19.4°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>27.685</td>
<td>83 deg. [28.3°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>27.8</td>
<td>80 deg. [26.7°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A fine view of the surrounding country and especially the ranges and valleys was obtained from a hill near the waterhole, which we left at 9 a.m. The plain on the other side of the gap was level for the most part, though undulating in parts, and intersected here and there by creek beds.

The grass was splendid throughout, and consisted of large and small native grasses, with small herbs of many varieties. The scrub included needlewood, ironwood, purdy and other species of acacia, as well as "old man" salt bush, cotton bush, and small salt bush. The range to the south was of quartzite and sandstone formation, and mica schist outcropped frequently along the plain, a very likely formation for gold bearing stones. Lunch 12.0 - 12.45. We camped at Temple Bar at 3.45, but did not get any water, as a possible soakage was polluted by dead rabbits - sky clear, wind S.E. day cool. Previous mile[e]age..., to lunch 9 [14.5 km], to camp 7 [11.3 km].

24 MAR. FRI.

Left camp 9.15 a.m. Camped 2.35 p.m. Travelling from Temple Bar towards Alice Springs through MacDonnell Ranges. Passed the township away to the right of us at 2 p.m. camping shortly afterwards, at the Overland Telegraph Station, two miles (3.2 km) higher up the Todd River. Fine & clear throughout. Fresh S.E.'ly wind. Distance 12' (19.3 km).

Friday, 24th March 1911

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>27.79</td>
<td>69 deg. [20.6°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>27.77</td>
<td>90 deg. [32.2°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>27.77</td>
<td>90.5 deg. [32.5°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Left Temple Bar gap at 8.55 and passed over a broad valley between two chains running North and South. "Old man" salt bush was common at first with a good growth of small native grasses and gums in the creek bed. A belt of iron wood was then met with showing more of these trees than any place yet met with. The plain then
gradually narrowed to Mt. Gillen, and outcrops of quartz, and quartzite were frequent. The grass continued good to within a mile [1.6 km] or so of Alice Springs, where it had been eaten down by goats, sheep and cattle. Between the police station and Alice Springs, there is a good stretch of salt bush plain. Lunch 11.50 - 12.45. The telegraph station was reached at 2.30, and we camped outside under a few gums. The sky was clear, and the wind N.E. and S.E. Previous mile[age...], to lunch..., to Alice Springs...

25 MAR. SAT.

Alice Springs. Hands employed in rigging camp setting up post for theodolite etc. Broke all loading, compiling full list of stores consumed from leaving Oodnadatta to date, finding that estimate for mess account comfortably covered expenditure. Pack boxes turned out and thoroughly cleaned - water kegs at the same time being scoured out with permanganate of potash. Fine & clear throughout - moderate to fresh S.E. & southerly.

Saturday, 25th March 1911 - Annunciation. Lady Day

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>28.87</td>
<td>88 deg. [31.1°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>27.73</td>
<td>86 deg. [30°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>27.72</td>
<td>88 deg. [31.1°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the morning rations were served out as usual to the blacks by Mr. McKay. The allowance consists of a little tea, sugar, flour and tobacco, and is given weekly to about 100 natives. They are rather clean and well kept, and on the whole are in a very much better condition than those at Hermansburg.

In camp the tarpaulins were rigged and a post cut and fixed for the theodolite. After lunch the whole of the loading was broken, and quantity of rations consumed to date ascertained. The waterhole at the station has been almost filled with sand by two small floods, but a good soakage well is sunk on the north side of the hole, and it supplies the station with excellent water.

Wind variable but mostly S.E.

26 MAR. SUN.

Alice Springs. No unnecessary work done in camp. Drove down to Emily Gap, a pass on southern side of ranges, with Mrs. Allchurch of the Telegraph Staff. Fine & clear throughout. Light S.E. and easterly wind.

Sunday, 26th March 1911 4th in Lent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>27.8</td>
<td>74 deg. [23.3°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>27.69</td>
<td>91 deg. [32.8°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>27.679</td>
<td>90 deg. [32.2°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The wind was very slight and generally easterly. A few stratus clouds.

John McKay who relieved Thomas Bradshaw on 17 July 1908 and served as Postmaster until 1916.
27 MAR. MON.

Alice Springs. Survey hand, A. Gepp, this day discharged from the party as physically unfit. Remainder of hands employed in ordinary camp duties, attending to camels with sore backs, rigging screen around theodolite etc. - also stacking up all loading and saddlery. Covering same with tarpaulins in anticipation of rain - weather unsettled & threatening. Dull & overcast throughout, heavy bank of cloud slowly working up from the N'ward - wind light and unsteady from N.E. and Eastward.

Monday, 27th March 1911

9am Barometer 27.72 Thermometer 78.5 deg. [25.8°C]
3pm Barometer 27.66 Thermometer 94 deg. [34.4°C]
6pm Barometer 27.62 Thermometer 94 deg. [34.4°C]

Before sunrise a party of blacks visited the grave of one buck who had died a few days ago, and after listening to the wailing of the lubras for some time, I followed their tracks to the grave, but they broke up immediately I came in sight. The men were smeared with yellow powder, the women with flour. In the morning the thermometer was enclosed in a stout wooden case, with perforated sides. It is painted a light green, and should give an accurate shade reading. In the afternoon, the mess tent was shifted, a tarpaulin rigged as shelter for the theodolite, and Captain Barclay's mosquito tent erected near the instrument.

The day was warm, and rather oppressive, with an easterly wind. Clouds, at noon, stratus, later cumulo-nimbus and nimbus to the northward. Reports of rain at Newcastle Waters and Daly Waters, with a little at Barrow and Tennant Creeks.

28 MAR. TUE.

Alice Springs. Hands employed in saddler's and blacksmith's shops upon alterations and repairs to riding saddles etc. Drove down to the township with Capt. Barclay in order to arrange for further supply of necessary stores, additional water kegs & cases for loading. Saw fine display of fruit in storekeeper's garden, including oranges, lemons, and figs, trees all bearing heavily & ripening rapidly - fruit of excellent size and quality. Obtained supply of fresh vegetables, tomatoes & watermelons for camp use. Dull & overcast throughout, with few drops of rain occasionally - wind light Easterly.

Tuesday, 28th March 1911

9am Barometer 27.81 Thermometer 70 deg. [21.1°C]
3pm Barometer 27.749 Thermometer 81 deg. [27.2°C]
6pm Barometer 27.74 Thermometer 76 deg. [24.4°C]

In the morning a few drops of rain fell, and most of the packages were put under cover. The sky cleared a little, and the rain held off until evening, when a few more drops fell, but there was no shower of any consequence.

The drawing boards were mounted in the meat house, and paper stretched on one of them.

From this time onwards I was making a wooden case for camera films and diaries and note books.
An interesting example of the assimilating powers of the blacks was given when a bullock was killed this evening at the station. Very little indeed was wasted.

The sky was covered all day with nimbus and cumulo-nimbus clouds, the atmosphere was oppressive, and there was a slight Easterly wind.

29 MAR. WED.

Alice Springs. Hands employed upon repairs to riding & pack saddles - Foulis in saddler’s shop making leather cases for cameras. Barclay & self engaged upon sketch plan of Hermannsburg Mission Station & map of route from Horseshoe Bend to Alice Springs. Dull, overcast & threatening weather throughout - N.E. and Easterly wind light to moderate. Light shower of rain between 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. totalling 3 points (0.25 mm).

Wednesday, 29th March 1911

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer [°C]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>27.89</td>
<td>69 (20.6°C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>27.81</td>
<td>79.5 (26.4°C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>27.805</td>
<td>75 (23.9°C)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Before sunrise the meat for the camp was stored in the meat house and salted. As the sky was overcast and dull, with every appearance of heavy rain, the loading was further secured, but no rain fell until evening when there was a very slight shower. The wind was variable during the day, but generally Easterly. During the day continued making saddle case.

The mail arrived by camel team at about 6 o'clock, and the bags were packed to leave for A[r]ltunga next day.

30 MAR. TH.

Alice Springs. Hands employed as yesterday - Barclay & self likewise. Mr. Meyers, a small station holder out N.W. of the ranges came into Alice Springs for his mail & we had an interview with him regarding the waters in his vicinity - receiving assurance of good water supply at Haasts Bluff, & the probability of obtaining some further north in the Belt Range - country beyond that unknown to him. Generally cloudy but fine.

Thursday, 30th March 1911

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer [°C]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>27.875</td>
<td>65 (18.3°C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>27.79</td>
<td>77.5 (25.3°C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>27.805</td>
<td>74.5 (23.6°C)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the morning there were a few drops of rain, but the sky cleared before 9 o'clock.

During the morning and afternoon, I was making a small medicine box and a plate case for the big camera.

The weather was unsettled all day, with a cold wind blowing Easterly, but variable. The clouds were nimbus and cumulo-nimbus.
31 MAR. FRI.

Alice Springs. Hands employed upon usual camp duties - also saddles & leatherwork. Barclay, Hill & self went with the Superintendent Mr. Mackay & several others, over to Undoolya Station - obtained some excellent photographs of the gorge on the creek just above the station. Cloudy throughout the day but clearing up beautifully, fine after sundown - fresh S.E'ly wind.

Friday, 31st March 1911

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>27.81</td>
<td>66 deg. [18.9°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>27.69</td>
<td>79.5 deg. [26.4°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>27.70</td>
<td>79.5 deg. [26.4°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

After breakfast, Captain Barclay, Messrs Macpherson and Hill and I went out to Undoolya Station, about 11 miles [17.7 km] out East. The track lies to the north of the main chain of the range, and is on the whole very level. The herbage is good, and the scrub rather thin. A patch of "old man" salt bush leading down to Undoolya Creek supplies good feed for the station home cattle. We had lunch in a small but pretty gorge near the house, and obtained one or two good photos around a small waterhole at the head of the gap. The rocks are nearly all mica shist [sic] formation.

The day was cool with a steady S.E. wind. Clouds cirrus and cumulo-cirrus.

1 APRIL SAT.


Saturday, 1st April 1911

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>27.75</td>
<td>62.9 deg. [17.2°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>27.665</td>
<td>78 deg. [25.6°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>27.5</td>
<td>79 deg. [26.1°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rations consisting of a couple of pounds [0.9 kg] of flour were served out to the blacks this morning by Mr. McKay, and the well kept appearance of the natives was again noticeable.

During the morning I was helping to make a plate holder and case for the big camera, and in the afternoon went down to the garden in the township. The soil is no different from that of all the flats around, but the amount of vegetables it supplies is astonishing. It is irrigated by means of a small well, which is being continually drawn upon, but never seems to slacken its flow. The flavour of the produce is excellent, this being particularly true of the tomatoes.

The day was warm with a slight South breeze. Clouds, cirrus and a few cumulus in the West.
2 APRIL SUN.

Alice Springs. All spare hands from camp & Teleg. Stn. rode or drove down about 10 miles (16.1 km) through the ranges to Attack Gap for a picnic, arriving back again about 8 p.m. Fine & clear throughout moderate easterly wind.

Sunday, 2nd April 1911 - 5th in Lent

9am Barometer 27.726 Thermometer 71 deg. [21.7°C]
3pm Barometer 27.63 Thermometer 78.9 deg. [26.1°C]
6pm Barometer 27.67 Thermometer 78.2 deg. [25.7°C]

With a party from the station, we went out to Attack Gap, about 10 miles [16.1 km] to the South. We crossed the salt bush plain south of Stuart, and after passing through Heavytree [sic] Gap, entered on the fertile flat known as the police paddock. At the Western end of this lies Attack Gap. The grass and herbage was good on the south of Heavytree, while the salt bush between there and Stuart afforded excellent cattle and camel feed.

The day was sultry, wind light from S.S.E., clouds cirro-cumulus.

3 APRIL MON.

Alice Springs. Hands employed upon leatherwork and saddlery, also conveying stores, packing cases, etc. from the township to camp.

Dull & overcast throughout - calm generally with occasional light airs from north & N.W. - wind coming out fresh southerly shortly before midnight.

Monday, 3rd April 1911

9am Barometer 27.76 Thermometer 71 deg. [21.7°C]
3pm Barometer 27.642 Thermometer 78.5 deg. [25.8°C]
6pm Barometer 27.675 Thermometer 79.2 deg. [26.2°C]

The meteorological chart at the telegraph station was shown to me by Mr. McKay, and I took a copy of the notes attached to it, so as to ensure a proper description of clouds, and wind. The barometers and thermometers were hung near the standard, and in a few days they should be settled enough to be able to be compared with it.

The day was sultry with gentle breeze from E.N.E. clouds, cumulus.

4 APRIL TUE.

Alice Springs. Hands employed upon conveyance of stores from the township & general repairs to saddlery - also putting iron clamps on all packboxes to strengthen them. Fine & clear throughout - fresh S.E. and southerly wind.

Tuesday, 4th April 1911

9am Barometer 27.71 Thermometer 68 deg. [20°C]
3pm Barometer 27.65 Thermometer 79 deg. [26.1°C]
6pm Barometer 27.63 Thermometer 77.5 deg. [25.3°C]
All loading ropes were taken off the cases, and coiled and twisted before stacking. They were of very poor quality, and full of splinters. Manila rope is not obtainable here, but if possible some better ropes will be used in place of the old ones. The saddles are all being repaired and refilled, while the camels are being brought in daily and their backs attended to.

Clouds, stratus, wind S.E., sky clear.

5 APR. WED.

Alice Springs. Hands employed upon repairs to saddlery & preparations of loading - repacking stores, re-roping packboxes & cases also binding all the latter with green-hide thongs and making canvas covers for lids. Fine & clear throughout - fresh S.E. and S'ly wind.

Wednesday, 5th April 1911

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>27.679</td>
<td>70.5 deg. [21.4°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>27.69</td>
<td>77.5 deg. [25.3°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>27.72</td>
<td>77.5 deg. [25.3°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Although arrangements had been practically concluded with Marsh of Oodnadatta to bring our loading to Newcastle Waters, some difficulty was now experienced in getting him to contract for it, so our stores were taken out of their cases, and repacked to make room for additional loading from Alice Springs. The medicine chest was shortened and fitted into a zinc lined tucker box.

The day was cool, with a clear sky and a steady S.S.E. breeze.

6 APR. TH.

Hands at work as yesterday. Water kegs thoroughly cleansed and scoured out with condy’s fluid. Four kerosine (sic) oil drums fitted with screw tops obtained from the storekeeper & washed out with strong caustic soda to fit them for water carrying appliances. Continuance of fine weather & S.E’ly wind.

Thursday, 6th April 1911

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>27.8</td>
<td>74 deg. [23.3°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>27.73</td>
<td>86 deg. [30°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>27.72</td>
<td>88 deg. [31.1°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Captain Barclay obtained the stores from Wallis & Co., and they were brought in cases well suited for camels, as they were open at the top, and braced so as to require very little loading rope.

The loading was now nearly complete, and as much of it as possible was immediately packed. Lids were made for the new boxes, and it was decided to make some similar ones out of timber obtained from our own cases.

The day was pleasant; clouds cirrus and cirro-cumulus, wind S.E.
7 APR. FRI.

Alice Springs. Hands employed in making 3 pairs new lidded packboxes for the loading - find them infinitely handier than ordinary nailed up cases - packing stores, repairing tarpaulin, oiling & tarring all loading ropes. Fine & clear throughout - light & unsteady easterly wind. Mean Lat. obtained from numerous δ and • observations 23° 40' 47" S.

Observations taken daily for time to obtain if possible the chronometers rates - all three of them proving most erratic with apparently no regular daily rate whatsoever.

Friday, 7th April 1911

9am Barometer 27.94 Thermometer 68 deg. [20°C]
3pm Barometer 27.82 Thermometer 76 deg. [24.4°C]
6pm Barometer 27.81 Thermometer 76.5 deg. [24.7°C]

Four kerosene and gasolene [sic] drums were obtained from the store at Stuart, were first scalded with caustic and then soaked for some time to rid them of the oil. Some iron frames were made by the station blacksmith, and with these loads for two additional water camels were made up.

The sky was clear all day, and a steady S.S.E. and S.E. wind helped to make very pleasant weather.

8 APR. SAT.

Alice Springs. Hands employed upon packboxes as yesterday - also making pair of iron crates for new water drums, the latter holding 9 gallons (41 l) apiece, thus adding 36 gallons (163.6 l) to our water carrying capacity. Cloudy & dull generally - wind light & variable - chiefly from N.E. & eastward.

Saturday, 8th April 1911

9am Barometer 27.895 Thermometer 71.7 deg. [22.1°C]
3pm Barometer 27.78 Thermometer 83 deg. [28.3°C]
6pm Barometer 27.82 Thermometer 82 deg. [27.8°C]

The canvas pack bags made at Oodnadatta for the riding saddles were wearing through, and to prevent chafing, strips of raw hide were cut, halfdried between boards, and riveted on to the backs of the suspending leathers.

The bags themselves were divided into two parts by a strip of canvas sewn inside.

The day was rather cool and pleasant, thought sultry later on.

Clouds, cirrus and cirro-cumulus, wind steady and cool from S.E.

9 APR. SUN.

Alice Springs. Being Sunday, no unnecessary work done beyond indispensable camp duties. Generally dull & overcast - wind light and variable until 8 p.m. then strong from S.W. & gradually working southerly, bringing up a thunderstorm accompanied by vivid lightning but no rain.
Palm Sunday, 9th April 1911

9am  Barometer 27.8  Thermometer 76 deg. [24.4°C]
3pm  Barometer 27.72  Thermometer 87 deg. [30.6°C]
6pm  Barometer 27.73  Thermometer 79 deg. [26.1°C]

Cumulus clouds covered the sky for the most part of the day, later on they changed into cumulo nimbus, and finally, in the evening nimbus clouds banking up from the south seemed to predict rain. None fell, however, although the cool change and humid atmosphere was certainly due to rain further south.

10 APR. MON.

Alice Springs. Hands employed upon iron crates, third pair new pack boxes & repairs to canvas pack-bags. On completing the distribution of the various loads, found that still another camel could be spared for carrying water, making four in all. Obtained from the store two more 9 gallon (41 l) drums & 2 - 9 (41 l) gallon spirit kegs, thus bringing our water carrying capacity up to 180 gallons (818 l) for the probable dry stage through to Newcastle Waters - 18 days water at a gallon (4.5 l) per man per diem, allowing margin of one gallon (4.5 l) daily wastage owing to evaporation. Light to moderate S.E. & easterly wind - fine & clear during first half of day, but clouding over heavily from the eastward in the afternoon.

Monday, 10th April 1911

9am  Barometer 27.865  Thermometer 76.5 deg. [24.7°C]
3pm  Barometer 27.74  Thermometer 82.5 deg. [28.1°C]
6pm  Barometer 27.769  Thermometer 83 deg. [28.3°C]

The morning broke clear after the sultry conditions of the previous evening, no rain having fallen during the night.

To make the loading as uniform as possible and to simplify the work of loading and unloading pack boxes were made, and fitted with waterproof lids, bound by raw hide. The timber was obtained from our own cases, and from the station.

The reports from South of the ranges said that a fair drop of rain had fallen to within 12 miles [19.3 km] of the station. The storm travelled due north, but was evidently diverted North East by one or other of the mountain peaks. This would seem to account for the relatively high rainfall of Arltunga.

11 APR. TUE.

Alice Springs. Hands employed upon same work as yesterday - also cleaning out new water drums & kegs ready for use. Generally calm with dull and threatening weather throughout, but rain holding off - slight rains further north, ½ inch at Barrow Creek, and a few points at Newcastle Waters.

Tuesday, 11th April 1911

9am  Barometer 27.78  Thermometer 76 deg. [24.4°C]
3pm  Barometer 27.67  Thermometer 83 deg. [28.3°C]
6pm  Barometer 27.67  Thermometer 82.5 deg. [28.1°C]
When the loads were arranged and allotted it was found that there was still a spare camel, so some small barrels and oil drums were obtained, and cleaned to make loading for a water camel. The new pack-cases were finished and ropes canvassed and spliced on to them; this should make the packages easier to handle, and will do away with troublesome bag-loading.

The sky was slightly overcast in the morning, and the clouds became more dense as the day went on. Slight rains were reported from Barrow, Tennant and Powell, and there was every appearance of a fall here.

12 APR. WED.

Alice Springs. Hands employed finishing packboxes, crating up second pair of drums & kegs, branding all loading (also one camel left unbranded in Oodnadatta), sharpening & wedging up all axes, tomahawks, etc. Weather dull & threatening throughout - wind squally & variable, stacked up & covered all saddlery during the afternoon, rigging up tarpaulins & flys of tents for shelter in camp at the same time. Light rain totalling 3 points (0.75 mm) fell between 9 p.m. and midnight - wind then coming out fresh from the eastward.

Wednesday, 12th April 1911

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>27.77</td>
<td>78 deg. [25.6°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>27.675</td>
<td>80 deg. [26.7°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>27.68</td>
<td>78.5 deg. [25.8°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the morning the loading ropes were softened and coiled on the cases in readiness for loading up; the remaining unbranded camels were then branded, axes and tomahawks ground and packed, and the four additional water kegs twitched to form a load.

The sky was again very threatening, and as reports of rain up the line were being received all day, tarpaulins and flys were pitched to shelter the loading and mosquito nets. Up till a late hour no rain of any consequence fell, but the humidity of the atmosphere made the whole day very oppressive. The mail arrived from South at 12.45.

13 APR. THUR.

Alice Springs. Hands employed in Blacksmith’s and saddler’s shops. Sky heavily overcast throughout, light drizzly showers falling at intervals during the day - total fall up to 9 p.m. only 10 points (2.5 mm). Fresh S.E. and E’ly wind - bleak & cold.

Thursday, 13th April 1911

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>27.86</td>
<td>70 deg. [21.2°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>27.8</td>
<td>67 deg. [19.4°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>27.805</td>
<td>66 deg. [18.9°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the latter part of the previous evening rain had begun to fall, and it continued at intervals during the night, up till 9 a.m., however, only 3 points [0.75 mm] were recorded. After breakfast Captain Barclay and Mr. Macpherson ascended a hill near the station with a view to fixing a trig., but the squally and misty conditions that prevailed after about 10 a.m. made outdoor work impossible.
The temperature continued to fall all day, and this with a drizzling rain was the only feature of very wintry weather. The wind blew in gusts from S.E. and S.S.E.

14 APR. FRI.

Alice Springs. No work done beyond ordinary camp duties owing to this day being Good Friday. Overcast & cloudy throughout - moderate to fresh S.E. and Easterly wind.

**Good Friday, 14th April 1911**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>27.805</td>
<td>60.5 deg. [15.8°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>27.735</td>
<td>66 deg. [18.9°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>27.73</td>
<td>66.5 deg. [19.2°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The blacks on the station received their annual supply of blankets to-day, and besides the shirt and blanket, etc., they also received a piece of calico for shelter. The goods supplied were of a substantial and useful kind, and should be most useful to the natives during the winter. In the summer, of course, they need very little in the way of clothing, but the time for the annual supply seems well chosen.

The day was cold, wind slight from S.E., clouds, cumulo-nimbus and nimbus.

15 APR. SAT.

Alice Springs. Simpson employed in the blacksmith's shop - remainder of hands razing the old trig. on top of hill behind the Teieg Stn. & preparing a tripod one of poles & iron posts to erect in its place. Fine & clear during early part of day - clouding up heavily from the Eastward towards sundown - moderate breeze from S.E. and eastward.

**Saturday, 15th April 1911 - Easter Eve**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>27.785</td>
<td>62.5 deg. [16.9°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>27.71</td>
<td>71 deg. [21.7°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>27.74</td>
<td>68 deg. [20°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As the day was fine and dry, the trig. near the station was pulled down, and after the centre stone was laid bare, material for a new one to be constructed on a different principle was carried to the top of the hill. A stout tripod was rigged, and an old iron telegraph post was lashed temporarily in position.

The day was cool with a moderate breeze from the S.E. Clouds cumulo-nimbus and strato-cumulus.

16 APR. SUN.

Alice Springs. No unnecessary work done in camp. Generally fine & clear, clouding over occasionally - moderate S.E. wind.

**Sunday, 16th April 1911 - Easter Day**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>27.81</td>
<td>65 deg. [18.3°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>27.708</td>
<td>71 deg. [21.7°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>27.749</td>
<td>71 deg. [21.7°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cumulus clouds covered the sky during the most part of the day, and were but the remnants of the damp weather, which was evidently passing away completely - wind, steady breeze from S.E.

17 APR. MON.

Alice Springs. No work performed beyond ordinary camp duties, being Easter Monday. Fine & clear throughout - fresh S.E. wind.

Easter Monday, 17th April 1911

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>27.829</td>
<td>65.5° [18.6°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>27.756</td>
<td>71° [21.7°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>27.749</td>
<td>71° [21.7°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The day was observed as a holiday.

The sky was clear with a moderate breeze from the S.E.

18 APR. TUE.


Tuesday, 18th April 1911

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>27.851</td>
<td>62° [16.7°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>27.765</td>
<td>69° [20.6°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>27.752</td>
<td>69° [20.6°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As the mail left from the South at mid-day, everybody was busy with letters until then.

After lunch the poppet legs of the trig were permanently fixed and bound together, and a drill was sharpened with a view to "leading" an iron peg in the centre stone. This will make the fixture more durable, and more accurate.

The day was cool, with a clear sky, and a Fresh breeze from S.S.E.

19 APR. WED.

Alice Springs. All hands employed upon finishing trig. Boring hole in centre stone for setting up the theodolite on etc. Fine & clear throughout, fresh S.E'ly wind.

Wednesday, 19th April 1911

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>27.83</td>
<td>61° [16.1°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>27.76</td>
<td>70° [21.1°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>27.77</td>
<td>71° [21.7°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Before breakfast plotted a graph of comparative readings of Aincroid [?Aneroid] Bars, "A" and "b" and standard Bar at A.G.\(^4\) - variations were fairly constant. Thermometer case fixed to obtain comparison with time shade reading.

The trig was further secured to-day, and a block cut and sunk to fit over centre stone. The centre pole of the trig. was permanently fixed, and the whole is now complete except as to the leading of the ground plug.

Sky clear, moderate breeze from S.E.

**20 APR. THUR.**

Alice Springs. Hands employed variously - setting up and cementing in place post on trig. for mounting theodolite on - making tripod for small theodolite - repairing tarpaulin, tent flys etc. Fine & clear throughout - light to moderate S.E'ly wind.

**Thursday, 20th April 1911**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>27.89</td>
<td>66 deg. [18.9°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>27.79</td>
<td>85 deg. [29.4°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>27.8</td>
<td>74 deg. [23.3°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The trig. was finally adjusted. A plug was leaded into the centre stone, which was then levelled off and covered by a block on the top of which another iron plug was sunk. The bearings of the trig were burnt on one of the legs.

The Thermometer case was fixed on top of the observatory shade box, and comparative readings taken. After a few days a fair estimate can be made of the value of the readings for giving a shade temperature.

The sky was clear with a light breeze from the S.E.

**21 APR. FRI.**


**Friday, 21st April 1911 - Eight Hours Anniversary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>27.85</td>
<td>65 deg. [18.3°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>27.75</td>
<td>83.5 deg. [28.6°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>27.75</td>
<td>78 deg. [25.6°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As the 3 watches were not keeping regular rates, steps were taken to obtain the longitude by triangulation. Pegs were fixed on three hills nearby, a base line was measured out on the bed of the Todd, and the positions generally were fixed so as to be available for observations with the trigs on Mt. Johns and Mt. Gilten.

The day was warm, sky clear, light air from S.E. At times - calm.

\(^4\) A.G. = telegraphic identification for Alice Springs.
22 APR. SAT.

Alice Springs. Hands employed upon survey work. Fine & clear throughout - generally calm, occasional light airs from north and N.W.

Saturday, 22nd April 1911

9am  Barometer 27.75  Thermometer 75 deg. [23.9°C]
3pm  Barometer 27.71  Thermometer 87 deg. [30.6°C]
6pm  Barometer 27.61  Thermometer 79 deg. [26.1°C]

Observations of the angles from the bare line to the different hills were taken, and also the bearings from one hill to another.

Rations were served out by Mr. McKay to the blacks, and as usual, the continued cleanliness of the natives was noticeable.

The day was warm with a clear sky. Light air from N.W. at times, but mostly calm.

23 APR. SUN.

Alice Springs. No unnecessary work done in camp. Fine & clear throughout - light variable airs, chiefly from north and N.W.

Sunday, 23rd April 1911 - 1st after Easter. St. George

9am  Barometer 27.79  Thermometer 77.5 deg. [25.3°C]
3pm  Barometer 27.71  Thermometer 89 deg. [31.7°C]
6pm  Barometer 27.63  Thermometer 80 deg. [26.7°C]

Sky clear, day warm with light air from N.E.

24 APR. MON.


Monday, 24th April 1911

9am  Barometer 27.79  Thermometer 73 deg. [22.8°C]
3pm  Barometer 27.74  Thermometer 80 deg. [26.7°C]
6pm  Barometer 27.75  Thermometer 85 deg. [29.4°C]

Further observations of the bearing of different hills and base line were taken in the morning and afternoon.

The day was warm, with clear sky, and variable winds, light air, N.E. and S.E.

25 APR. TUE.

Alice Springs. Hands employed upon survey work. Fine & clear throughout - generally calm, occasional light northerly airs. Time signals telegraphed from Adelaide Observatory 8.20 p.m. Chronometer A. 25 M. 41.5 fast.
Tuesday, 25th April 1911

9am  Barometer 27.9  Thermometer 70 deg. [21.1°C]
3pm  Barometer 27.82  Thermometer 88 deg. [31.3°C]
6pm  Barometer 27.81  Thermometer 88 deg. [31.3°C]

Further bearings were taken from the trig near the telegraph station, the measurement of
the base line was checked, and the level posts removed from triangulation points.

In the evening ruled out a traverse book for Captain Barclay, and wrote up same.

The day was warm with a light breeze from N.E. to S.E., and a clear sky.

26 APR. WED.

Alice Springs. Hands employed upon finishing up trig work and making general
preparations for departure. Fine & clear throughout - light S.E. and easterly wind.

Wednesday, 26th April 1911

9am  Barometer 27.94  Thermometer 75 deg. [23.9°C]
3pm  Barometer 27.84  Thermometer 88 deg. [31.1°C]
6pm  Barometer 27.83  Thermometer 85 deg. [29.4°C]

Preparations were made for leaving on Thursday, the 27th. The theodolite was packed
away, and the screen taken down. The working tents and flies were bagged and sewn.

The mail arrived from the South about 3 o'clock, and by it came the box of
photographic material from Adelaide.

The day was warm and rather sultry with a clear sky and light breeze from N.E. to S.E.

27 APR. THUR.

Alice Springs. Hands employed in striking camp, straightening up saddles & loading &
otherwise getting everything in readiness for leaving. Fine & clear throughout - light S.E. and easterly wind.

Thursday, 27th April 1911

9am  Barometer 27.87  Thermometer 69 deg. [20.6°C]
3pm  Barometer 27.75  Thermometer 89 deg. [31.7°C]
6pm  Barometer 27.77  Thermometer 83 deg. [28.3°C]

The cases containing Mr. Hill's specimens etc. were addressed to E.A. Dept., and sent
to Wallis' Co's store. The mosquito tents were taken down and packed away and as
much of the small loading as possible was stowed.

The day warm with a clear sky. Wind, light breeze from N.E. to S.E.

5 External Affairs Department.
28 APR. FRI.

Left camp 130 p.m. Camped 4.45 p.m.
Loaded up & pulled out from Alice Springs after dinner enroute to Simpsons Gap.
Capt. Barclay suffering from sharp attack of dysintery (sic) & remaining at Alice Springs for a day or two for medical treatment.
Camped for the night at the foot of Mt. Gillen preparatory to ascending it on the morrow.
Fine & clear throughout - light easterly wind. Distance 8' (12.9 km).

Friday, 28th April 1911

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>27.84</td>
<td>70 deg. [21.1°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>27.75</td>
<td>93 deg. [33.9°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>27.64</td>
<td>85 deg. [29.4°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

After packing away all the light loading and casing up the instruments etc., we had lunch, and immediately after loaded up and left Alice Springs at 1.5 p.m.

We travelled down the Todd, passed the back of the township and then South West along the plain at the north side of the main range to the foot of Mt. Gillen where we camped at 4.15

The day was warm, with a clear sky. Light air from S. to N.E.

Miles 5 [8 km].

29 APR. SAT.

Left camp 9 a.m. Camped 5.50 p.m.
Taking Hill & Foulis to assist in carrying instruments, waterbags etc., - climbed to the trig on the summit of Mt. Gillen, and obtained series of bearings with the theodolite to all peaks of any prominence in the vicinity. Sent pack train, with Simpson in charge, to make camp at Simpson's gap, where they arrived 12.30 p.m. Reached our riding camels at foot of Mt. Gillen 3.40 p.m. and joined the remainder at Simpsons Gap 5.50 p.m. Fine & clear throughout - occasional strong gusts of wind from S.E. and E. on the summit of Mt. Gillen but dead calm on the plains below. Distance 7½' (12.1 km).

Principal bearings from Mt. Gillen -

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Bearing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alice Springs Trig.</td>
<td>56° 23' 00&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt. Johns</td>
<td>101° 13' 20&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt. Conway</td>
<td>259° 48' 00&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Saturday, 29th April 1911

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>27.68</td>
<td>66 deg. [18.9°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>27.7</td>
<td>89 deg. [31.7°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>27.63</td>
<td>84 deg. [28.9°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Messrs Macpherson, Hill and Foulis [Foulis] went up to Mt Gillen trig., and the rest of us loaded up and went along to Simpson's Gap. (9.45).

The plain at the foot of Mt. Gillen continued for about four miles [6.4 km], and consisted of reddish loam with gravelly patches, and one or two small creeks. About a mile and a half [2.4 km] from Temple Bar Creek, some rather stony hillocks were crossed. Then from a due West course, we struck North up the creek bed and reached
the Gap at 12.30. The strata in the main ranges are generally parallel to the line of the range. The isolated hills on the plain, however, show in some cases almost vertical strata.

The day was warm, sky clear, light air from N.E. to S.E. At times calm. Miles 7 [11.3 km].

30 APR. SUN.


Sunday, 30th April 1911 - 2nd after Easter

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>27.82</td>
<td>70 deg. [21.1°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>27.77</td>
<td>88 deg. [31.1°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>27.75</td>
<td>82 deg. [27.8°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The day was spent in camp at Simpson’s Gap. The gap itself narrows in from the south until it is only about 10 ft. [3 m] wide. The narrowest part of the north side contains the waterhole, which is apparently very deep and cold. The cliffs are composed of ironstone, sandstone quartzite and conglomerate, and the general dip of the strata is from South to North.

The formation of the gap seems to be due to a lateral cleft in the range, river action being consequent and evidently recent.

The day was fine with a few cirrus clouds. Moderate breeze from N.W.

1 MAY MON.

Camped at Simpson’s Gap. Hands employed upon saddles & loading, also digging large soak alongside the waterhole. The water in the waterhole being considerably fouled by the large number of stock using it. Fine & clear throughout - light to moderate N.W. and northerly wind.

Monday, 1st May 1911

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>27.82</td>
<td>73 deg. [22.8°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>27.75</td>
<td>88 deg. [31.1°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>27.76</td>
<td>83 deg. [28.3°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We reached the other side of the gap today, by swimming across parts of the waterhole, but the gap seen from the other side is not nearly as imposing as from the South. Some palms of zania [Macrozamia macdonnellii] species were noticed growing on the side of the range, and wallaby were seen among the rocks. A large mob of cattle water at the gap, and belong to Undoolya Station.

Some of the loads were broken and repacked, and a few of the loading ropes tarred and oiled.

The day was fine with stratus, cirrus, and cirro-stratus clouds. Wind variable, but mostly N.W.
2 MAY TUE.

Camped at Simpsons Gap. Capt. Barclay rejoined us from Alice Springs, unfortunately still far from well. Hands employed upon saddles & loading, refilling all water carrying appliances, & otherwise preparing for moving on. Fine & generally, clouding over heavily at times - light unsteady breeze, chiefly N.W. & N’ly.

Tuesday, 2nd May 1911

9am Barometer 27.79 Thermometer 67 deg. [19.4°C]
3pm Barometer 27.73 Thermometer 86 deg. [30°C]
6pm Barometer 27.74 Thermometer 82 deg. [27.8°C]

The remainder of the loading ropes were softened and some more stores repacked. A soak was dug at the edge of the waterhole, and the kegs filled with excellent water. A wallaby was shot in the gap, and many more as well as ura [euro] were seen on the side of the range.

Capt. Barclay with Mr and Mrs McKay came from Alice Springs at 1 p.m.

The day was warm, with a variable wind. Clouds, cirro-cumulus and fracto-cumulus.

3 MAY WED.

Left camp 10.20 a.m. Camped 6.55 p.m.

Wednesday, 3rd May 1911

9am Barometer 27.78 Thermometer 61 deg. [16.1°C]
3pm Barometer 27.72 Thermometer 92 deg. [33.3°C]
6pm Barometer 27.7 Thermometer 80 deg. [26.7°C]

Left Simpson’s Gap 9.55, and after passing over a stretch of ironstone and slatestone hills, down to level of Temple Bar Creek, crossed a level red loamy plain, and then over a few more hills before entering on the plain stretching to the North of the Main range. Lunch 12.05 to 12.55. After steering S. by W. during the morning, a more westerly course was taken along the plain to the Jay waterhole, which we reached at 6.25. The plain is for the most part well grassed, though much eaten by stock. Acasia shrubs, ironwood, needlewood, whitewood and mountain ash [sic] dot the plain at different places along.

The day was fine with a gentle breeze from N.E. to S.E. Clouds, cirro-cumulus and cirrus. In the evening the sky had become quite clear. Distance about 18 miles [29 km].

4 MAY THUR.

Left camp 10 a.m. Camped 4.30 p.m.
Travelling westerly along valley line in the MacDonnells. Country generally open, well grassed, & with frequent salt bush flats, broken by occasional spurs of hummocky hills crossing the valley line. Camped on waterhole in the Hugh River, known as "Stuarts Pass". Fine & clear throughout - light N.W. & N’ly wind. Distance 15’ (24.1 km).
Thursday, 4th May 1911

9am  Barometer 27.74  Thermometer 65 deg. [18.3°C]
3pm  Barometer 27.64  Thermometer 89 deg. [31.7°C]
6pm  Barometer 27.65  Thermometer 73 deg. [22.8°C]

Left Jay Waterhole at 9.35 and after a difficult passage through the gap went West by North over some rocky hills to the north of the southern line of range. The outcrops of mica shist, and quartzite were nearly vertical, and quartz and quartzite gravel formed rough patches on a red loamy soil. The colour of the loam became lighter after about 5 miles [8 km]. The grass throughout was splendid - long varieties in the gullies, shorter on the hills. A network of small tributaries of the Hugh River intersects the valley between the Jay and the South Western side of Mt. Conway. Needlewood, ironwood, whitewood, mulga, gum, box and mountain ash dotted the generally thick acasia scrub. Lunch 12.25 - 1.30. Arrived waterhole on Hugh 3.55.

The day was warm, sky clear. Light air from N.W. to N.E. Course westerly, about 12 miles [19.3 km].

5 MAY FRI.

Left camp 10.10 a.m. Camped 4.40 p.m.
Heading westerly through ranges - rough travelling, uneven & rugged country, heavily scrubbed, & intersected by numerous small creeks & watercourses. Hands employed after camping until sunset in repairing pack saddles, several having broken down badly - the whole outfit of them requiring continuous attention to avoid giving the camels sore backs.
Fine & clear throughout - moderate N.E. & N’ly wind. Distance 14' (22.5 km).

Friday, 5th May 1911

9am  Barometer 27.7  Thermometer 73 deg. [22.8°C]
3pm  Barometer 27.43  Thermometer 89 deg. [31.7°C]
6pm  Barometer 27.34  Thermometer 82 deg. [27.8°C]

Left camp on Hugh at 9.35 and passed over very rough rocky hills to creek bed, which we crossed again, and continued over a well grassed but elevated part of the valley about W. by S. The lower level of the plain was composed of light coloured loam, and until we camped at night, it was all splendidly grassed with Mitchell, kangaroo and smaller grasses; here and there were patches of salt bush, small and large varieties, while the scrub though thick in places, was generally sparse. Ironwood, needlewood, box and mountain ash were the most noticeable of the trees. Mica shist and quartzite outcrops were frequent. Lunch 12.35 to 1.35. Camped at an elevated gap in the range at 4.10. A bottle tree [?] was noticed nearby.

The day was warm with cirrus clouds. Gentle breeze from N.E.

6 MAY SAT.

Left camp 10 a.m. Camped 5.30 p.m.
Heading westerly through the ranges - conditions very similar to yesterday through country somewhat more open in places & travelling consequently freer - otherwise rough hummocky patches & numerous small watercourses necessitating slow progress. Passed Cummings Camp shortly after 4 p.m. when crossing Ellery's Ck., & camped on water hole in a gorge about two miles (3.2 km) higher up.
Distance covered 15' (24.1 km) - made good about 10' (16.1 km). Weather sultry, oppressive, & altogether unseasonable - mean daily temperatures for the past month having been 20° Fahr. (6.7°C) above the average for corresponding month in each year since records were first kept at Alice Springs. Moderate N.W. wind - sky clouding over heavily at times.

Saturday, 6th May 1911 - Accession King George V.

9am  
Barometer 27.34  
Thermometer 68 deg. [20°C]

3pm  
Barometer 27.43  
Thermometer 87 deg. [30.6°C]

6pm  
Barometer 27.38  
Thermometer 83 deg. [28.3°C]

Left camp at the gap in the range at 9.35, and after crossing a rough shelf at the foot of the range, we descended with the lower valley level, and took a general course N.W. across the valley until we struck Ellery's creek at 3pm. The track right through was very rough except for some level stretches of loam and gravel close to the northern main range. The grass was abundant throughout, shorter varieties being most common.

After crossing the Ellery a couple of times, Cummins [Cummings] camp was passed, and a very rough course steered to the head of the Orum [?Ellery] gorge, where we camped at 5p.m. The usual acasia shrubs were common to the valley and upper hills, and ironwood, mulga, mountain ash, and gums were the most noticeable of the trees.

Lunch 12.30 - 1.30. The day warm with a gentle breeze from N.W. Clouds, cirrus and stratus.

7 MAY SUN.

Remained camped for the day - no unnecessary work done - surrounding country extremely rough to north & N.W. & likely to be very difficult for camels to negotiate - reconnoitret stiff pinch close to camp that they have to get over when leaving, also further up creek for possible track running out north to clear the ranges.

Purchased supply of fresh meat (£1) from J. Cummings sheep & cattle owner in the neighbourhood.

Dull, overcast & sultry conditions generally, everything pointing to a fall of rain in the near future - light N.W. and N'ly wind.

Sunday, 7th May 1911 - 3rd after Easter

9am  
Barometer 27.38  
Thermometer 64 deg. [17.8°C]

3pm  
Barometer 27.38  
Thermometer 89 deg. [31.7°C]

6pm  
Barometer 27.34  
Thermometer 78 deg. [25.6°C]

The gorge was traversed for some distance today, and from the head of it, where the camp was pitched, the creek divides into two arms. One going N.W., the other N.E., and then round to meet the former at a big waterhole. Along both arms are several water-hole, and the scenery throughout is very fine. Gums, box and mountain ash grow in the creek beds, while spinnifex grass gives a light green tint to the sides of the gorges. The rocks are generally mica shiest [sic], quartz and quartzite, with some peculiar "flows" of limestone in the lower part of the Elder [?Ellery]. The elevated hills covered rich alluvial soil, which lie between the bends of the latter creek are some of the most fertile patches of country we have seen, and are overgrown with grass and scrub.

The day was warm with a gentle breeze from N.W.
8 MAY MON.

Left camp 9.50 a.m. Camped 3.55 p.m.
Started out from camp loading camels singly over stiff hill to the norard (north) of the Gap - the only alternative route to going some miles back on our tracks. Got the entire outfit over successfully, without mishap, by 12.15 p.m. Small hole of excellent water a few hundred yards further up creek - stopped there for an hour filling up all water carrying appliances. Proceeded 1.40 p.m. up creek in a N.E.'ly direction for about 1 mile (800 m), thence N.W.'ly across rough granite hills until striking another branch of the creek, camping on a fine waterhole at 3.55 p.m. Distance 3' (4.8 km). Small mob of blacks camped on the water - collected all the women together & issued rations among them, as follows:-

- 20 lbs. (9 kg) flour
- 10 lbs. (4.5 kg) sugar
- 2 lbs. (0.9 kg) tea
- 2 lbs. (0.9 kg) tobacco

Dull & cloudy weather throughout - light N.W. & N'ly wind.

Monday, 8th May 1911

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<tr>
<td>6pm.</td>
<td>27.26</td>
<td>81 °C</td>
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As the camp was pitched on the side of a rough hill, covered with boulders and spinifex, loading up was difficult. The riding camels were led off over the gorge hill at 10.35, and about 2 hours later the whole string had been taken safely across. We then filled all water kegs and canteens at a small hole in the gorge, and after lunch, at 1.10 we started up the creek arm turning N.E. After keeping on the rough side of the gorge for some time, the creek was crossed, and a course taken N.W. over gravelly and loamy hills, thickly covered with mulga, ironwood, and acasia shrubs, and generally showing good grass. The Junction of the two creek arms was met about 3p.m., and camp pitched on the western bank of the main creek at 3.10. At both ends of the camp were good water-hole containing a few fish.

The day was cool with variable winds, generally light air from N.W. Clouds, cirrus, cirro-cumulus, and cumulo-nimbus.

9 MAY TUE.

Left camp 10.30 a.m. Camped 6.30 p.m.
Travelling westerly through ranges - late in starting, one camel having separated from the mob during the night. Rough going over granite & quartzite hills until 2.50 p.m. culminating in a long steep slope covered with loose stones & boulders, from the top of which a wide plain could be seen stretching away to the N.W. Took camels down with greatest care the whole mob finally reaching the plain without mishap at 4.10 p.m. Thence N.W.'ly until camping at 6.30 p.m. over open plain, well grassed & covered with acaceous & other bush of all descriptions. Distance 10' (16.1 km). Dull & overcast throughout - moderate Westerly wind until 3 p.m. then shifting strong southerly & finally settling down in S.E., blowing hard gale all night. Heavy banks of black cloud to the south & at nightfall, with apparently a certainty of heavy rain, but nothing came of it.

Tuesday, 9th May 1911 - Proclamation Day

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<tr>
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<td>63 °C</td>
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</table>
3pm  Barometer 27.03  Thermometer 82 deg. [27.8°C]
6pm  Barometer 27.43  Thermometer 71 deg. [21.7°C]

Left waterhole on Ellery's Creek at 10.5, and crossing N.W. over hills of mica schist and spinnifex went along the loamy creek valley for some distance, and then N.E. through a small rocky creek gorge and on to an elevated quartzite and micashist [sic] plateau. Noticed a quartz ridge running E. and W. parallel to the main lines of range, and very prominent amongst the darker rocks. After passing through some thick scrub on the summit of the plateau, we descended into a vast plain stretching east and west between the hills we had just left, and a lower ridge to the north. The plain was very level, with ti-tree scrub close to the hills, and good grass and mulga, needlewood, pitosporum [sic], and ironwood on the plain proper. Small creeks run north across the plain from the hills, but have no well defined beds or direction. The earlier part of the day was sultry but a S.E. breeze came up at 3p.m. and made the evening very cold. Clouds cumulo-nimbus and nimbus.

10 MAY WED.

Left camp 10 a.m. Camped 4 p.m. Travelling westerly over wide plain well grassed and bushed with occasional belts of mulga scrub - high ranges on either hand gradually closing in during the afternoon. Distance 16° (25.7 km). Fine & clear throughout, all appearances of rain vanished. Strong S.E. wind with big drop in temperature - night exceedingly cold.

Wednesday, 10th May 1911

9am  Barometer 27.63  Thermometer 47 deg. [8.3°C]
3pm  Barometer 27.56  Thermometer 61 deg. [16.2°C]
6pm  Barometer 27.59  Thermometer 63 deg. [17.2°C]

Left camp on plain at 9.40, and for a mile or so the scrub was fairly thick and the surface of the plain clayey. As we went on the soil became more loamy, and the grass better. Clay and loams then alternated all the way to camp. On the loamy patches the grass was very good, and the scrub less dense, which a clay or harder surface produced more scrub, with a clear space of small salt bush at intervals. Pitosporum, ironwood, mulga, needlewood and blood wood are the most noticeable of the trees. Some currajong [sic] bean trees [?Batswing Coral Tree] were also seen. The grass was green in places, and this with the appearance of the surface indicated recent light rain. The plain was as level as could be right through and narrowed in towards the west. Lunch 12.25 to 1.15. Camped on plain 3.35. Morning bitterly cold, day cool with moderate breeze from S.E. Clouds, cirrus and fracto-cumulus.

11 MAY THUR.

Left camp 10 a.m. Camped 5.45 p.m. Travelling westerly over wide & open plain, well grassed & bushed, with occasional belts of mulga scrub. Capt, Barclay & self climbed high hill lying close to our line of march, at noon to take compass bearings of all prominent peaks in the vicinity. Camped for the night in mulga scrub, Mt Zeil bearing S.W. x W, distance about 5' (8 km). Distance 17° (27.4 km). Fine & clear throughout moderate to fresh S.E'ly wind.

Thursday, 11th May 1911

9am  Barometer 27.59  Thermometer 47 deg. [8.3°C]
3pm  Barometer 27.67  Thermometer 63 deg. [17.2°C]
A small rock hole was found in the range on the previous evening, but the water was not very good, and there was hardly enough of it to fill two loads of kegs. Left camp at 9.35, and took a westerly course over the plain, generally, W.N.W. during the morning. Mulga, ironwood and acasia scrub was most noticeable here, with little grass, and a rather hard surface. Stopped for lunch on the South of a butt of grey granite at 11.45 - Bearings of all the prominent peaks around were taken from this hill, and a course set towards a gap in the hills which narrowed in the plain to the N.W. After passing through this gap, a large sandy creek was crossed at 4p.m., and camp pitched in thick acasia scrub at 5.20. The scrub on the second plain to the West of the gap was generally thick mulga, with little grass and a good many patches of dry trees - evidently fired by blacks or perhaps by whites. Day cool, clouds cirrus, wind, moderate breeze from S.E.

12 MAY FRI.

Left camp 10.25 a.m. Camped 1 p.m. Travelling through thick mulga scrub round point of range to the southward, striking a creek running out from Mt. Zeil at 1 p.m. ran the creek up into the ranges in search of water, also sunk well in bed of it - no result - dry sand down to clay bottom. Made camp for the night 5.30 p.m. Generally fine, clouding over at times during the day - thick mist obscuring the sky at night with large halo round the moon. Moderate S.E. & E'ly wind. Distance 7' (11.3 km). lat. by * obs. - 23° 19' 31" S.

Friday, 12th May 1911

9am Barometer 27.79 Thermometer 57 deg. [13.9°C]
3pm Barometer 27.71 Thermometer 79 deg. [26.1°C]
6pm Barometer 27.72 Thermometer 69 deg. [20.6°C]

After leaving our camp in the scrub at 9.50, the acasia scrub gradually thinned out, and the grass improved. At 10.30 the end of the northern chain of hills was passed, and as far as could be seen, an unbroken line of scrub covered plain stretched to the North West. After crossing a rocky creek bed close to the Southern range, we passed to the south of a isolated granite butt, and stopped for lunch at 12.35 on the West of a low lying flat covered with long grass, similar to kangaroo grass. After lunch a soak was dug in a creek flowing down from the hills to the west of the camp, but no water was obtained. Capt. Barclay and Mr. Macpherson went out in different directions, but neither found any water, and as the course further to the West seemed uncertain, the string was led into the creek bed and camp pitched.

Day cool, clouds cirrus, cirro-cumulus, fracto-cumulus and stratus. Wind, moderate breeze from S.E.

13 MAY SAT.

Left camp 10.05 a.m. Camped 5.00 p.m. Following track back easterly along the range in search of water or an opening through on to the southern side. Followed outward pad back to night camp of the 11th, thence on to the creek crossed on afternoon of the 11th & travelling up it in a S.W. direction until camping time - no signs of water & ranges growing rougher & closing in. Sent a blackfellow ahead on a fast riding camel to search further for water, but he returned to camp 7 p.m. to report no traces of water, tracks, or an outlet to the southward. Dull & overcast throughout. Light S.E. & E'ly wind. Distance 15' (24.1 km).
Saturday, 13th May 1911

9am  Barometer 27.74  Thermometer 56 deg. [13.3°C]
3pm  Barometer 27.64  Thermometer 72 deg. [22.2°C]
6pm  Barometer 27.59  Thermometer 66 deg. [18.9°C]

We left Dashwood creek at 9.35, and travelled back on our tracks, E. and N.E. across the plain. Many old blacks camps were seen, and one of their stone landmarks was passed. The significance of this stone could not be ascertained from our own boys, but it seems to mark a meeting place.

We stopped for lunch from 12.20 to 1.20 on the site of our evening camp of the 11th, and after following the track until 2.32 p.m., we went S.E. until we struck a large creek, probably the Charlie at... This creek was then followed until it divided at 3.50 when the S.W. arm was followed until it turned into the hills, flowing there in a N.E. direction. It was found impossible to get over the ranges, and we camped on the creek at 4.40. The plain crossed to the West of the creek was covered with acasia, ironwood, needlewood, bloodwood and pitosporum. Sandalwood, gums, mountain ash and acasia were most noticeable along the creek bed. Grass and herbage was plentiful on the plain, and along the creek. The day was sultry with a light S.E. breeze. Clouds, stratus, nimbus and cumulo-nimbus.

14 MAY SUN.

Left camp 10.05 a.m. Camped 5.30 p.m.
Followed creek back on to the plain again & headed westerly along previous track camping for the night about a mile (1.6 km) N.W. of our camp on the 12th. Took several star observations for lat., the mean giving 23° 20' 00" S. - bad night for observing, sky overcast & hazy & stars frequently obscured altogether. Weather fine but cloudy throughout - light westerly wind. Distance 16' (25.7 km).

Sunday, 14th May 1911 - 4th after Easter

9am  Barometer 27.59  Thermometer 48 deg. [8.9°C]
3pm  Barometer 27.65  Thermometer 82 deg. [27.8°C]
6pm  Barometer 27.63  Thermometer 75 deg. [23.9°C]

Left camp at 9.35, and after following a N.N.E. bearing across the plain of the creek we passed along the open plain until 11 a.m. when we turned W.N.W., and struck the creek again at 11.15. The creek bed was followed north until 11.30, when we left the creek and bore N.W. across the plain until we crossed our pad going to and from the Dashwood. This pad was followed until lunch at Scrub Camp, 12.53 to 1.50. The pad was again followed, going West until 3.00, when we turned W.N.W. and passed to the north of the granite bluff, previously passed on the South side. After keeping on across the plain to the North of the Dashwood, we camped at 5.5 in the middle of a stretch of high grass. Marks of stone axes were noticed on the trees as we left camp in the morning, and an old stone for sharpening them was found near the track.

The day was warm with alto-stratus cirrus, and cirro-cumulus clouds - light air from N.E. to S.E. at times, calm.

15 MAY MON.

Left camp 11.00 a.m. Camped 6.00 p.m.
From the presence of a large number of black cockatoos felt assured there must be water in the vicinity, so sent out in search of it round foot of Mt. Zell at sunrise - a rockhole found containing a small quantity of water, but in a position wholly inaccessible for camels. Loaded up & proceeded upon search party’s return. Travelling westerly through thick mulga scrub, passing to the southward of Mt. Heughlin. Crossed Dashwood Ck. 2.45 p.m. and sighted Haast’s Bluff at 3.30 p.m. bearing 260°. Crossed fine gum flat 4.45 p.m. and camped for the night in a valley with Mt. Heughlin bearing 39° 40’ distant about 3’ (4.8 km). Distance 15’ (24.1 km). Fine & clear throughout - light N.E’ly wind. 

Latitude obs. 23° 23’ 14” S.

**Monday, 15th May 1911**

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<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
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One of the blacks was sent out at daybreak to look for water in the range South of the plain, it was late when he returned, and only found a small inaccessible rock hole. We left camp at 10.42 and steered W by N. over the plain until we reached the western end of the range, when a W.S.W. course was taken to cut if possible, the regular track to Haast’s Bluff. The plain to the north of the range was covered with fairly thick scrub, and good to fair grass. At the end of the hills it was more open with better grass. At 2.10 we crossed a red sandhill covered with spinifex, and then a gum creek. After leaving the creek a loamy but elevated flat covered with dense green timber and scrub was crossed on the S.S.W. course, and at 4.47 the regular track was struck. This was followed in a N.N.W. direction over a well grassed but slightly timbered plain until 5.30 when we camped. Lunch 12.40 - 1.40. The day was warm with no wind, clouds cirrus and cirro-cumulus. The creek crossed at 2.40 was the true Dashwood, three other creeks called by that name were misnamed by the Norne [Horn] Expedition - at least in one of their maps.

**16 MAY TUE.**

Left camp 8.45 a.m. Camped 3.25 p.m. Sent the boys out after the camels long before dawn, wishing to make an early start in order if possible to reach Mr. Myers (sic) camp at Haast’s Bluff before nightfall. Travelling westerly through low hills until reaching open plain 9.30 a.m. - thence through thick mulga scrub, crossing large gum creek running N.E. at 1.30 p.m. and reaching eastern end of Haast’s Bluff shortly afterwards. Thence along its northern face until camping on a small spring at 3 p.m. - no sign of Myer’s camp, probably on larger spring further west along the range nothing but old tracks on the vicinity of this one. Dammed up lower end of spring directly after camping & watered all the camels as insufficient water accumulated, they having been eight days without a drink & ourselves a like period without washing. Distance... Fine & clear throughout - light N/E & E’ly wind.

**Tuesday, 16th May 1911**

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<td>6pm</td>
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We left camp at 8.15, and after going along the track for about half a mile [800 m], we passed west through a gap in the granite hills, and Haast’s bluff came prominently into the vicinity.
view. We then went N. of W. over a level stretch of plain, which widened out as we went on. It was well grassed with creeper tree, needlewood and acasia formed a thin scrub. After about 3 miles [4.8 km] from the gap the scrub became denser with more mulga and acasia, and in parts was quite green looking. Lunch in scrub - 11.40 to 12.40. At 1.10 p.m., a large sandy creek flowing north, was crossed, and we passed on to the rising plain reaching to the foot of the spinifex hills around the bluff. After climbing the smaller hills, camp was pitched on the North Eastern side of the bluff. A small spring flowed down a gully from the bluff, but it hardly supplied enough water to give a third of the team a drink at one time, even when a soak had been dug. The day was warm with a northerly wind - light air - clouds, cirrus and cirro-cumulus.

17 MAY WED.

Remained in camp on the spring - hands employed upon loading & saddlery, also deepening & strengthening the dam where the camels watered. Capt. Barclay taking Whisky Tom with him, started westerly along the range at 11.15 a.m. in search of the larger spring & Myers' headquarters, returning to camp 6 p.m. having successfully found both. Fine & clear throughout - light northerly wind shifting to the southward after sundown and blowing hard all night.

Wednesday, 17th May 1911

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<td>27.36</td>
<td>85 deg. [29.4°C]</td>
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<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>27.36</td>
<td>89 deg. [31.7°C]</td>
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Captain Barclay went out to look for Mr Myers' camp in the morning, as though the spring at which we were had evidently been used by him as a camp, it was not his main depot. The soakages were cleaned out, and though the supply was only fair, from one of them excellent drinking water was obtained.

The loading which had been very unevenly distributed was then adjusted, and several new ropes attached. Captain Barclay returned at 5.30 p.m., and reported having seen Mr. Myers some distance from a big spring further along the range to the West, and as the mail had not been sent to him, one of the men was ordered to go to Glen Helen on the next day to get it. The view from the side of the bluff is a good one, and includes Mt. Zeal [Zeil], and the peaks around it, and the Burt Plain stretching as far as can be seen to the North and North East of the ranges. The Bluff itself and the razor back range leading to it from the West, is composed mainly of granite and quartzite. Day warm - clouds cirrus and cirro-cumulus, gentle breeze from S.E.

18 MAY THUR.

Left camp 12 noon. Camped 6 p.m. Foulis & black boy Dick despatched into Raggett's (sic) camp at Glen Helen to bring out our mail which Mr. McKay had by previous arrangement forwarded there from Alice Springs. Shifted camp 12' (19.3 km) westerly along the range to Myers' camp, the start being delayed for some while by several camels disarranging & throwing their loads coming down the steep incline of the gully from the spring. Myers met us soon after starting, and rode with us some distance in order to point out the best track into his camp, which is situated about two miles (3.2 km) below the water owing to the rough nature of the country. Cloudy & overcast at times, weather unseasonably hot - light N/W & W'ly wind, shifting S.E. and southerly again after sundown.
Thursday, 18th May 1911

9am  Barometer 27.39  Thermometer 64 deg. [17.8°C]
3pm  Barometer 27.48  Thermometer 89 deg. [31.7°C]
6pm  Barometer 27.53  Thermometer 77 deg. [25°C]

After Mr. Foulis and one of the blacks had gone to Glen Helen, the camels were loaded and we left camp at 11.30. The track was at first very rough and steep over the hills at the foot of the razorback which formed the Bluff. We travelled about W.N.W., parallel with the range, and followed a horse pad which led to the big spring further along the range. When the creek bed flowing from the spring was reached, a sharp turn to the north was taken, and the creek followed until Mr. Myers' camp was reached. Here we stopped at 4.45 - Lunch 12.45 - 1.30. The hills close to the range are covered in spinifex, but on a lower level at some distance from it, there is good grass, with mulga, acasia, needlewood and sandalwood scrub. Some bean trees and wattle trees were also seen. The plain on which we camped was fairly well grassed with a few gums, and the ordinary scrub trees. Day hot, clouds cirro-cumulus - light air from S.E. - Distance, about 12 miles [19.3 km].

19 MAY FRI.

Camp C/T No.1.

Formed camp on flat north of Myer's camp - hands employed during the forenoon in rigging up tarpaulin a(s) tent for writing, calculating, stowing maps, plans, etc. in, also putting up sleeping nets & making camp generally comfortable in anticipation of remaining here several days. Camp situated about 2 miles (3.2 km) from the water - the spring being away up at the foot of the range, ground rough, rocky & entirely inaccessible for camels - running water down the creek for some distance below the spring. Walked up to the nearest water in the afternoon, taking shovels etc., intending to construct a dam, to form a drinking pool for the camels - found a large rockhole quite adequate for the purpose, also smaller one above for our drinking supply. Set up both theodolites - one in camp, one on hill adjacent, henceforth to be referred to as Myers Hill.

Dull & cloudy throughout - light N.E. & northerly wind shifting southerly at sundown.

Friday, 19th May, 1911

9am  Barometer 27.64  Thermometer 65 deg. [18.3°C]
3pm  Barometer 27.37  Thermometer 88 deg. [31.1°C]
6pm  Barometer 27.58  Thermometer 77 deg. [25°C]

The smaller theodolite tripod was fixed on Myer's Hill, and an observation taken from the other one in the camp. A tarpaulin was then rigged and sheltered for a working tent, and cases fixed for the drawing boards and calculation books. The big theodolite was afterwards mounted on a block, and enclosed with a lockspit. After lunch Capt. Barclay, Mr. Macpherson and I went over to the creek gorge, and after following the creek bed for about a mile and a half [2.4 km], struck a running stream with several waterholes of various sizes. In the lower holes cattle and horses were watering, and though the stream as it is would water a thousand head of cattle, a dam could be easily built which would supply many thousands, and the water could be reticulated on the plain below at a very small cost. The rocks are mainly granite, micashist and quartzite. A few samples of rich looking quartz were also seen. Day hot, clouds cirro-cumulus and cumulo nimbus - light air from E. and S.E. In the evening the wind freshened considerably.
20 MAY SAT.

Camp No.1. Hands employed repairing saddlery, getting post ready for trig on Myers Hill etc. Self assisting Capt. Barclay in his observation work, computing traverses to date etc. Fine throughout but cloudy, sky partially obscured at night, interfering greatly with observations. Light easterly wind, veering southerly & freshening after sundown. Bullock purchased from Mr. Myers & slaughtered for camp use.

Saturday, 20th May 1911

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>27.71</td>
<td>70 deg. [21.1°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>27.61</td>
<td>88 deg. [31.1°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>27.6</td>
<td>88 deg. [31.1°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

After breakfast went with Mr. Hill to get some photographs of the gorge and of the springs. It was found impossible to get any pictures that would give a true idea of the main features of the gorge owing to the fact that the view was shut off in every case by trees or by rocks. The water from the springs flows intermittently for about half a mile [800 m] down the gorge, and then disappears into the rocks and shingle of the creek bed. The western head of the spring was passed, and we went further up the gorge in the hope of finding what should be the true head, but after following a rough and dry creek bed for about 2 miles [3.2 km], we saw no sign of water, not even in the clefts in the main range, from which the gorge opens. Two varieties of scented grass were formed, and some kangaroo were seen on the hills. Gums and good grass grow in the bed of the creek, and the hills on either side are covered with spinifex. The day was warm with fracto-cumulus, cumulus and cirro-cumulus clouds. Light air from S.E. Wind fresher at nightfall.

21 MAY SUN.

(Myers Hill Trig.)

| Lat. | 23°15' 36" S. |
| Long. | 131° 47' 00" E. |
| Variation | 2° 59' 56" E |
| Height above sea | 2578 ft. (786 m) (Trig.) |

Cut up & salted the beast killed last night, also rigged up wind screen round camp theodolite - no other work done beyond ordinary camp duties. Fine & clear throughout - light S.E'ly wind - sky hazy at night greatly hampering observation work.

Sunday 21st May 1911. Rogation Sunday

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>65 deg. [18.3°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>27.58</td>
<td>85 deg. [29.4°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>27.57</td>
<td>73 deg. [22.8°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

After the bullock killed on the previous evening had been cut up and salted, advantage was taken of the holiday to further explore the springs. The gorges leading from the two spring heads, one East the other West, were followed. They both run at right angles into the main range and narrow into very small clefts. The Eastern one is a succession of rocky terraces with evidences of water holes at the bottom of each, but after remaining in the rock holes for some time, the water evidently percolates through the layers of quartzite and granite, and entering an artesian basin under pressure it finds an outlet in the two spring heads. These features are also true of the Western gorge, except that the latter is not so regular as the Eastern one, but winds more in entering the
range. Some vegetable marrows [paddy melons] were noticed growing in the creek bed. The day was cool with a gentle breeze from S.E. and... Clouds cirrus.

22 MAY MON.

Camp No. 1.
Drove all camels up to water after breakfast, taking all kegs & canteens for filling at the same time. Met Foulis & Dick on their way to camp with the mail from Glen Helen. Hands employed during the afternoon upon saddlery & clearing base line for necessary trig work.
Light N/E'ly wind and calm - dull & overcast throughout - observations impossible at night all stars obscured.

Monday, 22nd May 1911

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<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>59 deg. [15°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>27.58</td>
<td>79 deg. [26.1°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>27.55</td>
<td>69 deg. [20.6°C]</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The camels were brought into camp in the morning, and then driven up to water at the spring. The water casks which had become tainted by the water obtained from the spring at the Bluff, were cleansed and refilled, and a kerosine drum was emptied to augment our water supply. The mail was brought in by Mr. Fowlis [Foulis] at 12.15. It had been sent to Glen Helen via Hermansburg, as the Alice Springs blacks would not venture out to the former place for fear of being killed by the natives there who are of a different tribe. Our own boys seemed to be afraid when we first came here, but they now seem to be on good terms with the natives about.

During the afternoon the scrub along the meridian from the theodolite was cleared, so as to leave an uninterrupted view of northern stars.

The day was sultry with a light breeze from E. and S.E. Clouds stratus and cirrostratus.

23 MAY TUE.

Camp No. 1. Hands employed upon saddlery & chaining base for trig work - also fitting new loading ropes for cases, setting up ranging poles on surrounding hills etc. - fine throughout but cloudy - light S.E. & easterly wind.

Tuesday, 23rd May 1911

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>27.57</td>
<td>61 deg. [16.1°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>27.53</td>
<td>79 deg. [26.1°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>27.53</td>
<td>67 deg. [19.4°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A ranging pole was fixed on the Western peak of a ridge of hills N.E. of the camp, and a base line of three chains [60.3 m] was measured out on the meridian from the theodolite.

After lunch, the ranging pole on the hill mentioned was taken down, and a longer one placed on an adjoining peak. After some of the loading had been re-packed the bearings of Mt. Zeal [Zeil], Mt. Chewings, Haasts Bluff, Mt. Wedge, and several peaks and ranges to the West and South West were taken from Myers' Hill. The smaller
theodolite which had been placed there was then taken down and a ranging pole put in its place.

The day was sultry; gentle breeze from S.E., clouds cirrus and stratus.

24 MAY WED.

Left camp 10.35 a.m. Camped 6.45 p.m.
Started out with Myers & 2 blacks in search of reputed water north of Central Mt. Wedge. Steered towards Mt. Wedge until 6.15 p.m. thence N.N.W. till camping, with Mt. Wedge bearing 351° distant about 15' (24.1 km). Rate of travelling 3.0 per hour (5 kph) till 1 p.m., 2.5 (4.3 kph) onwards - thick spinifex and dense mallee scrub greatly impeding progress.
Fine & clear throughout - light northerly wind. Distance 20' (32.2 km).

Wednesday, 24th May 1911

9am Barometer 27.58 Thermometer 60 deg. [15.6°C]
3pm Barometer 27.25 Thermometer 80 deg. [26.7°C]
6pm Barometer 27.37 Thermometer 69 deg. [20.6°C]

Work was started early this morning to enable Mr. Macpherson to go with Mr. Myers to central Mt. Wedge and search for a rock hole which the latter said was there. The party took four riding camels and two blacks, and expect to be away about 5 days.

A small dark tent was rigged for Mr. Hills photographic work, but it was difficult to build one of any size. In the afternoon the camels were taken up to water, and the kegs for camp were filled. Some very clean water was obtained high up in the spring gorge, it seems even more tasteless than rain water, and is evidently very pure. The camels were frightened and difficult to manage in the hills, and one of them bolted and broke the thermometer which was being strapped in the riding saddle.

The day was warm, with light, variable winds. Clouds, cirro-cumulus and stratus.

25 MAY THUR.

Left camp 8.50 a.m. Camped 6.35 p.m.
Heading N.W. through thick spinifex & dense mallee scrub. 9.30 a.m. Mt. Wedge 354° - gap at Haasts Bluff 158°. Across salt marsh 3 p.m., abreast S.E. point of range west of Mt. Wedge - Mt. Wedge 72°, Haasts Bluff 145° at 3.21 p.m., range running N.W. 'ly. Rate of travelling 2.5 (4.3 kph) till 1 p.m., 3.0 (5 kph) from 2 p.m. till 5 p.m., 2.5 (4.3 kph) from 5 p.m. till camping. Camped for the night in thick mulga scrub, no feed anywhere for the camels. Fine & clear throughout, clouding up heavily after sundown, moderate N.W. wind. Distance 23' (37 km).

Thursday, 25th May 1911 - Ascension - Holy Thursday

9am Barometer 27.49 Thermometer 65 deg. [18.3°C]
3pm Barometer 27.19 Thermometer 91 deg. [32.8°C]
6pm Barometer 27.38 Thermometer 71 deg. [21.7°C]

The post which had been cut and roughly squared for placing on Mt. Myers was brought into camp and the position and height of the hill above sea level burnt on it. After lunch it was taken up on the hill and built in with stones on the spot where the observations had been taken from.
The new loading ropes which had been put in the cases to replace those worn out on the rough trip from Alice Springs were softened and tarred, and such of the old ropes as needed it were also re treated.

The day was warm with a light breeze from N N.W. - Clouds, cirro-cumulus and fracto-cumulus.

26 MAY FRI.

Left camp 9.30 a.m. Camped 4.00 p.m.
Several heavy showers between 3 a.m. & sunrise, then clearing up fine and remaining so throughout with moderate S.E. and southerly wind.
Late in starting owing to packs & blankets being wet - travelling N.W'Iy along range.
11.45 a.m. end of range bearing 270°, distant 15-20 miles (24 - 32 km) - any water in this direction being too far west for our purposes, commenced retracing our steps - almost immediately running into some blackfellows who were evidently tracking us up through the scrub. They informed us of water on eastern side of range & proceeded to pilot us thither. Through gap in range, and a rockhole of good water up small rocky gorge at 3.30 p.m. - watered the camels & camped with Mt. Wedge bearing 95°. Distance 15' (24.1 km).

Friday, 26th May 1911

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>27.38</td>
<td>71 deg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>27.54</td>
<td>91 deg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>27.51</td>
<td>70 deg.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There was some thunder and lightning in the early hours of the morning, and a few drops of rain fell. A South East wind sprang up shortly after daylight however, and the sky cleared. The water camels were taken up to the spring and the casks refilled. The sun time was taken at mid-day. After lunch the working tent was further protected, and the theodolite shelter taken down on account of the wind.

The day was cool with a light breeze from S.E. and S.S.E. Clouds nimbus, cumulonimbus and cirro-cumulus.

27 MAY SAT.

Left camp 9.30 a.m. Camped 6.20 p.m.
Travelling S.E'Iy returning to base camp at Haasts Bluff. Abreast S.E. point of range 1.00 p.m. Mt. Wedge 72°, Haasts Bluff 147°. Camped in spinifex & mallee scrub after crossing large salt marsh and numerous sand hills off S.W. end of Mt. Wedge range.
Rate allowed throughout 2.7 (4.6 kph) - distance 21' (33.8 km). Fine & clear throughout - fresh S.E. wind.

Saturday, 27th May 1911

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>27.64</td>
<td>54 deg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>27.62</td>
<td>73 deg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>27.65</td>
<td>77 deg.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the morning the ranging pole was taken down from the hill to the North East of the camp, and the canvas shelter again rigged round the longer theodolite block. Sun time was taken again at midday. In the evening time was taken from two northern stars.
The day was cool with a moderate breeze from the South-East. Sky clear.

28 MAY SUN.

Left camp 9.00 a.m. Camped 5.15 p.m.
Travelling S.E'ly towards main camp - through spinifex & mallee scrub until 3 p.m., thence over plain till reaching camp. Distance 19' (30.6 km).
Fine & clear throughout - strong S.E. wind.

Sunday, 28th May, 1911. Sunday after Ascension

9am Barometer 27.71 Thermometer 55 deg. [12.8°C]
3pm Barometer 27.68 Thermometer 78 deg. [25.6°C]
6pm Barometer 27.67 Thermometer 70 deg. [21.1°C]

Mr. Macpherson and Mr. Myers returned to camp in the evening. They found water about 10 miles [16.2 km] West by South from central Mount Wedge, and met some blacks who spoke of water further north. The country passed through was, they said, very sandy with little camel feed, and in places consisted of salt lake beds.

The day was cool with a fresh breeze from S.E. Clouds, cirro-stratus, stratus, alto-stratus, and after dark, nimbus. There was every appearance of rain from the west.

Sun time was again taken at mid-day.

29 MAY MON.

No. 1 Camp. Hands employed finishing trig work, repairs to saddlery, slaughtering & cutting up bullock for camp usage, etc. - fetching water from spring during the afternoon. Fine & clear throughout, strong S.E. wind.

Monday, 29th May 1911

9am Barometer 27.67 Thermometer 65 deg. [18.3°C]
3pm Barometer 27.38 Thermometer 76 deg. [24.4°C]
6pm Barometer 27.61 Thermometer 70 deg. [21.1°C]

The smaller lots of top loading were packed and lashed during the morning, and one case broken for supplies. The time of the transit of the sun was taken about 1.10. After lunch 3 water camels were loaded and taken to the spring and the wooden casks again cleansed. In the evening a beast purchased from Mr. Myers was killed and dressed.

The day was cool with a moderate S.E. breeze. Clouds, cirrus, sky at times, clear.

30 MAY TUE.

No. 1 Camp. Hands employed readjusting loading in preparation for leaving camp tomorrow, salting meat, watering camels, filling up all water carrying appliances etc. - Memo posted on board in camp during the day, warning all hands of the conditions before them: the probability of over 400 miles (644 km) of waterless country ahead & the fact of having to travel at least 12 hours per diem to ensure getting through it. Also the likelihood of encountering troublesome natives, together with stringent orders against having relations of any description with the native women & any indiscriminate use of firearms, no one to fire upon them under any consideration unless under orders from
Capt. Barclay or in absolute self defence. Every one to use his utmost endeavours to avoid conflict. Any man not intending to comply with these orders, or not liking the prospects ahead could immediately obtain his discharge at his own request & proceed into Alice Springs with Mr. Myers tomorrow. Memo read by all hands - no applications for discharge. Fine & clear throughout - moderate to fresh S.E. wind.

**Tuesday, 30th May 1911**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<th>Thermometer</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>27.62</td>
<td>69 deg. [20.6°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>27.4</td>
<td>83 deg. [28.3°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>27.57</td>
<td>65 deg. [18.3°C]</td>
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</table>

After the meat had been salted and bagged, the nose lines and saddles were arranged, the water kegs, canteens and water bags were emptied to leave enough water for camp use, and to allow if everything available being filled for the journey. - Captain Barclay's memo re new camp regulations posted up and noted - The camels were then taken up to the spring and when we were assured that each of them had had a drink, the water camels were loaded and taken back to camp. Another bullock was killed and dressed this evening.

The day was cool with light air from S.E. Sky clear.

**31 MAY WED.**

Left camp 3.10 p.m. Camped 6 p.m.

Travelling northerly from No. 1 camp towards rockhole in range lying N.W. of Central Mt. Wedge. Late in starting owing to large amount of work entailed by breaking camp. Across well grassed plain, camping on the edge of it just prior to running into dense mallee scrub & spinifex - no feed for camels for miles further ahead after once leaving the plain. Distance 7" (11.3 km).

Fine & clear throughout - light S.E. & easterly wind.

**Wednesday, 31st May 1911**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<th>Thermometer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>27.66</td>
<td>64 deg. [17.8°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>27.6</td>
<td>77 deg. [25°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>27.71</td>
<td>77 deg. [25°C]</td>
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</table>

After the second beast had been salted, two pack cases were emptied, and a load made up of meat alone. This should keep the meat much better. The rest of the loading was then packed, tent and mosquito tents taken down, and we left Camp No. 1 at 3.10 p.m.

We steered over the level plain stretching out north from Haast’s Bluff Range, and passed through scrub of ranging thickness until we camped at 6 p.m. The soil was a red loam, with a firm surface. Scrub mostly ironwood, bloodwood, mulga and smaller acasia. Also a few whitewood and creeper trees. Kangaroo tracks were very plentiful, and grass of the smaller varieties fairly thick. A few ground larks were the only birds met with - Course N.W. by N.

The day was cool with light air from S.E. At times, calm. Sky clear. N.B. Telegraph time, kept until now, was altered to Standard Time.
1 JUNE THUR.

Left camp 9.40 a.m. Camped 5.50 p.m. Travelling N.W.'ly across low sand ridges - thick spinifex mallee scrub and large numbers of stunted desert oak. Fine & clear throughout - light N.E. & easterly wind. Distance 17' (27.4 km). Lat. * obsn. 22° 59' 30" S.

Thursday, 1st June 1911

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>42 deg. [5.6°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>27.78</td>
<td>68 deg. [20°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>27.83</td>
<td>69 deg. [20.6°C]</td>
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</table>

Barometer 27.7
Thermometer 42 deg. [5.6°C]

Left camp at 9.45, and passing out of thick mulga and acacia scrub, we entered on a belt of spinifex and thick mallee scrub which afterwards changed to spinifex and desert oak - gravillia [grevillea]- with less mallee. Soon there was no vegetation except the oaks and spinifex, with a firm red sandy soil. Sandhills running N.W. and S.E. were met with at intervals of about half a mile [0.8 km], until about 3.30 p.m. when they became less distinct, and surface was more generally undulating. About 4.55 the desert oaks which had been gradually getting less numerous gave way to more mallee and a few ironwoods and acasia in places. Right through the days track no herbage except spinifex was met with and the country though very poor had, at times, the appearance of a park.

Lunch 12.50 - 1.45. Camped in spinifex, about S.S.W. of Mt. Wedge at 5.45. Day cool, light air - Easterly - sky clear. In evening, cirro-stratus clouds in S.W.

2 JUNE FRI.

Left camp 10.20 a.m. Camped 6.15 p.m. Late start owing to couple light showers of rain causing delay at loading up time - dull & overcast throughout, light N.W. & northerly wind. Travelling N.W.'ly towards rockhole, passing west of Central Mt. Wedge & camping at the water 6.15 p.m. Distance 16' (25.7 km).

Friday, 2nd June 1911

<table>
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<td>47 deg. [8.3°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>27.75</td>
<td>71 deg. [21.7°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>27.73</td>
<td>71 deg. [21.7°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Barometer 27.8
Thermometer 47 deg. [8.3°C]

Left camp in spinifex at 10.20, and after going through another mile and three quarters [2.8 km] of mallee and spinifex entered a mulga and acasia scrub. Here, after a time, there was no spinifex, and as we continued over some rising ground, outcrops of limestone and magnesia were seen. We camped for lunch near one of the arms of a salt lake stretching out West of Mt. Wedge. Sampfire [sic], and several other small varieties of salt bush were plentiful here, and evidently all round the lake. Red sandhills with spinifex, tea-tree and mallee were passed over just afterwards, and we travelled along to the north of a range running about W.N.W. The sandhills close to this range were also covered with spinifex and some fine specimens of paper bark tea tree. Mallee, desert oak, gums and acasia were the most noticeable of the trees until we reached No. 2 camp at 6.5 p.m.
The day was cool with light, variable winds - clouds nimbus, cumulo-nimbus and cumulo-cirrus, a few drops of rain fell at 8.45 a.m.

3 JUNE SAT.

No. 2 CAMP. Camped on small flat at entrance to gorge in which the rockhole is situated - range not placed on the maps. Marked tree at entrance to gorge W.H.IX. Hands employed clearing track into the water for camels the approach being exceedingly steep & stony - Experienced great difficulty in watering our animals here on the previous occasion - job completed by noon - the afternoon devoted to repairs to pack saddles etc. Climbed to highest point of range to westward of the camp with Captn. Barclay, taking series of angles from the summit to surrounding peaks with prismatic compass. No signs of the blackfellows who showed us this rockhole on May 26 - lit big fire on hill top to attract their attention if in the vicinity, per medium of smoke signal. Generally dull & cloudy - light N/E & E'ly wind. Sky completely overcast after sundown - no night observations possible.

Lat. Mer. Alt ö — 22° 47' 46" S.

Saturday, 3rd June 1911. King's Birthday

9am Barometer 27.79
3pm Barometer 27.79
6pm Barometer 27.78

Thermometer 54 deg. [12.2°C]
Thermometer 73 deg. [22.8°C]
Thermometer 74 deg. [23.3°C]

In a rocky creek gorge in the hills at the foot of which we camped was a splendid waterhole. It was rather difficult to get to with camels, but the water was as good as any we had seen. The creek wound up into the hills in a gorge, and higher up there were several other good rock holes. Aboriginal drawings, mostly circles and emu tracks, were seen in four places on the rocks. From the top of the hill a splendid view of the country on all sides, can be obtained. The scrub seems to be patchy on the plains, and salt lakes can be seen stretching from Mt. Wedge, about W. X N., as far as the western side of the range of hills at the camp.

The height of the hill was estimated from barometer readings, and the loading was re-packed and ropes etc. renewed where necessary.

The day was cool with light air from S.E. Clouds, cirro-cumulus and cirro-stratus.

4 JUNE SUN.

Everything in readiness for a start, but camels wandered a long distance during the night & were not brought into camp by the blackfellows until shortly after noon - as they still had to be watered, a fairly lengthy job, starting was postponed until the morrow. Watered camels & filled up all water carrying appliances during the afternoon - camels not particularly thirsty & inclined to be somewhat timid of the steep approach to the water - vitally necessary that they should all drink & drink well, owing to the uncertainty regarding waters ahead. Four natives came into camp just before sundown, one being of the twain who originally piloted us to this water. This to be known as Camp No. 2 - branded tree C/T

Lat. - 22° 47' 43" S.
Long. - 131° 35' 35" S.
Height above sea level - 1990 ft. (606 m).
Variation 3° E.

Sunday, 4th June 1911. Whit Sunday

9am  Barometer 27.8  Thermometer 55 deg. [12.8°C]
3pm  Barometer 27.82 Thermometer 71 deg. [21.7°C]
6pm  Barometer 27.81 Thermometer 70 deg. [21.1°C]

In the morning a tree was blazed ready for the bearings of the camp, which it was proposed to burn on it. Canteens and waterbags were filled, and the camels then brought down to the water to drink. Great difficulty was experienced in getting them to the water, though they must have been very thirsty. In the evening 4 blacks were seen on the top of the rocks near the waterhole. Our own boys called them and one of them proved to be the one who had promised Messrs. Myers and Macpherson that he would take us on to a water about 90 miles [144.8 km] to the North - probably on the Lander - They were given some tobacco and some supper, and camped with the boys for the night.

The day was cool with light air from S.E., clouds, alto-stratus, cumulo-nimbus, and nimbus.

5 JUNE MON.

Left camp 2.50 p.m. Camped 7.00 p.m.
Watered all camels again during the forenoon, several having drunk indifferently yesterday owing to the rockhole being somewhat difficult of access for them. Hollowed out a trench at top of incline lining it with the tarpaulin & filling same by bucketing the water up, thus giving all the animals a satisfactory drink. Travelling N.E'.ly through spinifex, mulga scrub & desert oak, across plain towards the Lander Ck. where natives report water - one native accompanying us as a guide - camels travelling remarkably well, averaging full 3' per hour (5 kph). Distance 12' (19.3 km).

Monday, 5th June 1911

9am  Barometer 27.85  Thermometer 53 deg. [11.7°C]
3pm  Barometer 27.87  Thermometer 73 deg. [22.8°C]
6pm  Barometer 27.86  Thermometer 67 deg. [19.4°C]

The bearings of No. 2 camp and its height above sea level (1990 ft) [607 m] were burnt on the blazed tree, the camels were watered again from a tarpaulin, and the loading finally packed and adjusted. We left camp at 2.50 p.m. and following one of the blacks who was to show us the water to the north, we left the hills, steering N.E., and after crossing a stretch of spinifex and desert oaks, we travelled through thick mulga and acasia scrub for about a mile [1.6 km], and then on to a level red sandy plain, also covered with spinifex. Patches of small grasses and shrubs were met with once or twice, but spinifex of two varieties covered the ground throughout the rest of the track. Mallee and sandal wood scrub was crossed for a mile and a half [2.4 km] before camp. Two large kangaroos, wallaby and a possum were seen. The last was caught by the myall. Camp 6.50 - The day was cool - light air from S.E. - clouds, alto stratus, fracto-nimbus and nimbus.

6 JUNE TUE.

Left camp 10.10 a.m. Camped 7.00 p.m.
Few light showers just before daybreak & also during packing up - a late start in consequence. Dull and lowering throughout the day with occasional light sprinkling of rain - light easterly & N.E. wind. Travelling N.E'.ly - at first across plain covered with
mulga scrub & desert oak, passing eastern end of range of low ironstone hills shortly before noon. Thence onwards country more broken - found small quantity of water, a rockhole in some low hills at 4.30 p.m., with four blackfellows camped on it - Mt. Wedge bearing 187°. Distance 22' (35.4 km).

Tuesday, 6th June 1911

9am Barometer 27.9
3pm Barometer 27.78
6pm Barometer 27.7

We left camp at 10.5, and crossed belt of mallee for about a half a mile then through desert oaks and some smaller shrubs, and former being in some places the only growth except spinnifex, which was never totally absent during the day. After rounding a ridge of hills running E. and W., we took a more northerly course over a sandhill running about E. by S. Dense mulga scrub was seen on E. and W. of us. We struck a chain of hills about 4.30 in which we found a native soakage, and saw some blacks in camp. There was not a great supply of water, so went E. along the southern face of the hills, and after passing a stretch of small grasses, herbage, and several varieties of shrubs, we continued in the same direction through a fairly thick scrub of mulga, ironwood, and acasia shrubs to camp at 6.50 - lunch 1.0 to 1.55. The day was cold, light air, Easterly, clouds nimbus and fracto nimbus. Misty rain all day but did not amount to more than 1 or 2 points [0.25 to 0.5 mm].

7 JUNE WED.

Left camp 9.25 a.m. Camped 6.55 p.m.
Continuance of showery weather during the night, clearing up fine after sunrise, and remaining so throughout the day, with fresh S.E. & E’ly wind blowing. Travelling somewhat rough during the forenoon, low sandstone hills with thick scrub, mulga & spinnifex on the flats between. At 2 p.m. passed conspicuous white quartz hill - E.S.E. 1' (1.6 km). Thence onwards country showing a great improvement, well grassed, & carrying an abundance of all varieties of feed, salt bush, cotton bush, buck bush, etc. Crossed small creek running south at 4 p.m., thence through low granite hills covered with small pines & Stuart Bean trees. Camped for the night on white gum creek with high range ahead bearing E.N.E. Two natives, one of noticeably fine physique came into camp during the noonday halt, and accompanied us onwards. Distance 24' (38.6 km).

Lat. Mer Alt. 6- 22° 20' 32'' S.
Lat. * obs. 22° 14' 44'' S.

Wednesday, 7th June 1911

9am Barometer 27.7
3pm Barometer 27.54
6pm Barometer 27.52

Left camp at 9.20 and after passing through a gap in sandstone ridge, passed over a mile [1.6 km] of spinnifex plain then through about 2 miles [3.2 km] of thick mulga and acasia scrub. Spinnifex gradually became less plentiful, and as the soil changed from sand to loam and gravel, the herbage improved. Keeping about E.N.E. we passed along to the East of a ridge of granite hills covered with pines and mulga, and looking very pretty. Two small native wells were passed about 2.30 p.m. After leaving these hills we crossed more loamy flats covered with splendid grass and wild flowers, and then over stretches of low lying salt and cotton bush flats, crossed in
places by small sandy creeks. We camped near an island in the largest of these creeks, flowing about E. and N. at 6.40. Lunch 12.45 to 1.45. - Blacks carvings were seen in granite ridge before lunch - Day cool, gentle breeze from S.E. clouds, fracto-cumulus, cirro-cumulus. A few drops of rain about 12 midnight previous.

8 JUNE THUR.

Left camp 9.30 a.m. Camped 5.45 p.m. Travelling N.E'ly towards high range showing up ahead - open country, well grassed & bushed, with occasional narrow belts of mulga scrub. Struck large gum creek running N.W'ly at 5.30 p.m. and at 5.45 p.m. camped on a beautiful water hole about 200 yards (183 m) long & 50 yards (45.7 m) wide. Fine throughout but cloudy - light S.E. & easterly wind. Distance 22' (35.4 km).

Thursday, 8th June 1911

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<tr>
<td>9pm</td>
<td>27.79</td>
<td>68 deg. [20°C]</td>
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Left our camp on head of the Lander at 9.25, and after following the creek for a short time, we went N.E. over a scrub covered plain, crossed in places by gravel ridges, and dotted with granite outcrops and hillocks. The grass in the scrub was fair, and in the more open stretches very good. Salt bush covered some large patches in the lower levels of the plain. Dense mulga scrub was crossed for some seven miles [11.3 km] during the afternoon, and was succeeded by a lower-level plain, at first open, with some spinnifex, then with a moderately thick growth of ironwood. Much of this plain had been burnt recently by the blacks. A stretch of very high spinnifex was then crossed, as we reached the Lander at 5.40 some horse tracks were seen in the loamy soil near the river. Portulacca [sic] was common in the scrub, and emu tracks were again numerous. Some blacks' smokes were seen in the North Western ridges of hills. - Lunch 12.55 to 1.45 - Day cool, gentle breeze from S.E. Clouds, cirro-cumulus, fracto-cumulus, cumulo-nimbus and nimbus.

9 JUNE FRI.

Camped on the water hole in the Lander Ck. Hands employed on repairs to saddlery, setting up posts for theodolite, making canvas bag for carrying the drawing boards in, etc. Self with Capt. Barclay plotting up traverses fixing position of waterhole etc. Climbed highest hill in the vicinity during the forenoon to take bearings - found Central Mt. Wedge & all conspicuous landmarks to the southward completely shut in by the low ranges intervening. Found the waterhole to be of considerable depth, well over 20 feet (6.1 m) in the centre. Presented our aboriginal guide (Billy) with a tomahawk in recognition of his valuable services in showing us this excellent water. Fine & clear generally, clouding up heavily towards sundown light easterly wind - sky heavily obscured towards midnight ruining all chances of a possible observation for latitude. Remarkable that for past three weeks despite an almost unbroken continuance of easterly winds the scud has increasingly blown across from N.W. and westward with apparently half a gale of wind behind it.

Friday, 9th June 1911

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<td>27.75</td>
<td>82 deg. [27.8°C]</td>
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<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>27.8</td>
<td>69 deg. [20.6°C]</td>
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On the Lander, where we camped is a splendid waterhole about 150 yrd. x 30 yrd. [137 x 27.4 m]. It is very deep, and is evidently formed by the swirl of the creek round a granite point on the west side. There are two other waterholes on the east side of the creek, but neither is as large as the western one.

Before reaching the pass in the granite ridge, the main creek is joined by another from the East, and on the other side of the gap there is also a smaller eastern tributary. The creek is here about 200 yards [183 m] wide, and, though the banks are not at all deep, there are flood marks on the trees fully 20 ft. [6 m] above the sand. On the waterholes are grebe and teale [sic], Crested rock pigeons [spinifex pigeons], bronzewings and swallows are also numerous about here.

Some camel saddles and noselines were repaired during the day, and the necessary loading broken for stores.

Day cool, light air from S.E. Clouds, cirrus and cirro-cumulus.

10 JUNE SAT.

In camp on water hole. Hands employed building trig on hill adjacent, branding position pole, etc. - also making a couple of experimental halters for use on the camels who are continually breaking their nose lines whilst on the march, thus causing many small but nevertheless vexatious delays during the course of the day - the object of the halter being to remove the strain from the nose to the neck & back of head, whilst still apparently leaving it in the original position.

Gloomy & overcast throughout - with every appearance of rain, light S.E. and easterly wind.

Saturday, 10th June 1911

9am Barometer 27.89 Thermometer 55 deg. [12.8°C]
3pm Barometer 27.86 Thermometer 55 deg. [12.8°C]
6pm Barometer 27.85 Thermometer 66 deg. [18.9°C]

A post was cut and squared for the small trig to mark the camp, and after it had been partially branded, the mound of stones was built on the granite hill to the East of the creek. A small spinnifex snake was killed under some stones there. About a half a mile [800 m] down the creek to the North, many blacks' tracks, evidently quite fresh were seen, but although Capt. Barclay saw still more recent tracks to the South, none of the blacks themselves has been met with. The three blacks who came with us on the track are still in camp, and show no inclination to leave, even for a short time.

The weather conditions for the past three weeks have been very unseasonable. The prevailing winds have been from the Eastward, but there has been a constant Western current in the upper air strata, and from that direction clouds are always travelling, even during one or two comparatively clear days.

The day was cool, light air from S.E. Clouds, fracto-cumulus, fracto-stratus and nimbus.

11 JUNE SUN.

Finished erecting trig on hill adjacent to camp. This water hole to be known as No. 3 camp, branded the position pole on trig -

Lat. 22° 02' 01" S.
Long. 8° 49' 52" E (D.R.)
variation 3° E  
Height above sea level 2135 ft. (651 m).
This water hole is in the Lander Ck. on junction of that river with the Warburton & is regarded by the natives as permanent never having been dry within the memory of those at present in and around the camp. There are flood marks 15-20 ft. (4.6 - 6.1 m) high on the trees in the bed of the creek, probably from flood caused by the heavy rains in March 1910.
In addition to the blackfellows in our camp there were half a dozen natives with lubras & six picannies (sic) camped on the creek close to us - issued out rations to them as follows - 15 lbs. (6.8 kg) flour, Beef, tea, sugar, & small quantity of tobacco. Made all preparations during the afternoon for an early start northwards on the morrow. Fine throughout but cloudy - fresh S.E'lly wind.

**Sunday, 11th June 1911. Trinity Sunday**

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<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>27.88</td>
<td>70 deg. [21.1°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>27.84</td>
<td>65 deg. [18.3°C]</td>
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After breakfast the bearings of W.3 camp (GIII) were burnt on the trig pole, and the latter built in on the hill. All canteens and waterbags were then filled from the hole, and as much of the loading as possible was packed for the start next morning.

Just after lunch some blacks were seen down the south side of the camp and on being called by those in camp 2 blacks, followed by 5 lubras and 6 picanninnies came closer. The men came into camp, and according to our own boys, who could speak to them quite easily, they were Arundas. They were all thin and miserable looking, even the children. They were given some rations, and they and the two blacks who joined us on the road said that soakage water was obtainable for a good distance down the Lander to the North.

The day was cool with a moderate breeze from S.E. Clouds, stratus and fracto stratus.

**12 JUNE MON.**

Left camp 10.25 a.m. Camped 7.00 p.m.
Travelling N.W'Ily from No. 3 camp - thick spinifex with occasional patches of mulga scrub. Left our friend Billy behind giving him sufficient rations to carry him back to his own country again. Crossed Lander Ck. 2.30 p.m. some distance below the water hole it having taken a bend out to the westward - found it fully a mile (1.6 km) wide between flood marks at point of crossing. Abreast western end of Giles Range 4.45 p.m. - N.N.E. The Lander having again taken a northerly course we cut it at 6.30 p.m. & travelled along it northward until camping for the night. Mob of blacks camped on creek ½ mile (400 m) above us - several came into camp during the evening for a feed. Making rope halters for all the pack camels during the evening the experimental ones having proved a complete success.
Dull & overcast throughout - light easterly & N.E. wind. Distance 22' (35.4 km).

**Monday, 12th June 1911**

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<td>48 deg. [8.9°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>27.88</td>
<td>61 deg. [16.2°C]</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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*If this is long Waterhole then the creek is more likely the Crown Creek; the Warburton is located further south.*
We left camp on the Lander at 10.15, and after crossing the river, we went N.W. by N. over the plain at the foot of the Giles Range. Near the river it was loamy and well grassed, but further away from it, there was spinnifex and a few bloodwoods. At intervals from 11.50, till lunch, we passed through patches of scrub, generally showing better grass than the more open spaces which were covered with spinnifex. Lunch 1.00 to 1.50. After crossing another stretch of spinnifex about a mile and a half wide, we came down on to the Lander again. It was about half a mile [800 m] wide, and the sandy bed was covered with good grass and shrubs. We then kept along the foot of the rocky hills out from quartzite Ranges until 4.45, when we passed the Western end of the range, and kept still N.W. by N. along the plain, here covered with moderate scrub until we struck the Lander at 6.20. We followed the creek bed until camp, at 6.50. A blacks camp was passed half a mile before we stopped. About a dozen blacks were seen, and a man and a boy came up to camp. The day was cold. Moderate breeze, S.E. and E. Clouds, stratus and nimbus.

**13 JUNE TUE.**

Left camp 9.55 a.m. Camped 6.50 p.m. Travelling northerly along eastern bank of the Lander. Passed several small soakages in bed of creek - banks well covered with acaceous bushes & quantities of "parakylia" (parakeelya) in flower. Creek split up around a rocky island at 4.40 p.m. - found a waterhole shortly afterwards in the western branch and watered all camels. Proceeded at 5.15 p.m. along western bank of the westerly branch until camping time. The rope halters proved a complete success, reducing breakages and consequent loss of valuable time, to a minimum. Distance 22' (35.4 km). Fine & clear throughout - light to moderate N.E. & northerly wind.

Lat. Mer. Alt. 6 21° 37' 53" S.
Lat * 21° 26' 46" S.

**Tuesday, 13th June 1911**

9am Barometer 27.99 Thermometer 50 deg. [10°C]
3pm Barometer 28.04 Thermometer 61 deg. [16.1°C]
6pm Barometer 28.09 Thermometer 62 deg. [16.7°C]

Two lubras and two picanninnies came up to the camp in the morning, and tried to make us understand that we were leaving water without touching it. We left camp at 9.45, and after crossing over to the Eastern side of the creek, we followed it, going due North, all day. The soil on the banks themselves was generally loamy, with good grass, and a fair quantity of portulacca (parachillya) [parakeelya]. Out from the creek the plain was covered with high, dense spinnifex. Lunch 12.35 to 1.35. After lunch we continued along the creek until 4.40 when we stopped to water the camels at a shallow waterhole near a granite hill. A range of high hills (really a peak) was passed to the East during the day. Three soakages were passed, and a number of abandoned blacks' camps seen on the creek. Turkeys and emus were seen, and their tracks were very common. Camped on the creek at 6.40 - Day cool, light to moderate Northerly & Easterly wind. Clouds cirro-cumulus and fracto-cumulus.

**14 JUNE WED.**

Left camp 9.00 a.m. Camped 6.55 p.m. Travelled N.N.E. along the creek for an hour bearing away due north when creek took bend E.N.E. across open country covered with spinfex & an abundance of parakylia.
Crossed low quartz hill shortly after 3 p.m. - thence spinifex & patches of mulga scrub until camping. Fine & clear throughout - light northerly wind. Distance 27' (43.5 km). Lat. * - 21° 02' 26" S.

Wednesday, 14th June 1911

9am Barometer 28.11 Thermometer 58 deg. [14.4°C]
3pm Barometer 28.23 Thermometer 71 deg. [21.7°C]
6pm Barometer 28.3 Thermometer 71 deg. [21.7°C]

Left camp on the creek at 9.5, and going out on to Western bank, steered due North. The creek turned to the East, and we were soon out of sight of it. The country travelled over all day was a spinifex covered plain, broken only by patches of mulga scrub about lunch time, and though slightly undulating in the morning, the level was gradually falling all day especially in the afternoon. A quartzite ridge was crossed at 3.50, and from it a good view of the plain stretching almost unbroken to the North East and West, was obtained. The spinifex was dotted with gravillias [grevillea] and wattles for the most part, and there were also sandal wood, iron-wood, bloodwood small acasias [sic] and mallee. Portulacca was common during the morning. Desert roses, and smaller grasses and herbs were also growing among the spinifex at different places. The scrub of gravillias and wattles was slightly thicker towards evening and the soil was more sandy. Bloodwoods were also more common. Lunch 12.55 - 1.50. Camped 6.50 - Day warm light air from N. sky clear.

15 JUNE TH.

Travelling northerly through thick spinifex and mallee scrub. White gum flat at 3 p.m. spinifex giving place to grasses and an abundance of parakylia. Thence across several small water courses lined with ti-tree scrub carrying flood marks - probably the end of the Lander spreading out over the whole flat.

Saw quite fresh tracks of several blackfellows at 5 p.m. - camped and sent one of the boys to follow the tracks which were heading S.E'ly in hopes they might lead into water - desirous of obtaining water as far north in the Lander as possible - the boy returned to camp about 8 p.m. having followed the tracks till nightfall without success. Distance 20' (32.2 km). Fine & clear throughout - light N.N.E. wind.

Lat. * obs. - 20° 46' 03" S.

Thursday, 15th June 1911

9am Barometer 28.3 Thermometer 47 deg. [8.3°C]
3pm Barometer 28.41 Thermometer 72 deg. [22.2°C]
6pm Barometer 28.4 Thermometer 74 deg. [23.3°C]

Left camp 9.20 and continued over the spinifex covered plain. At first there was a scattered scrub of mallee, bloods woods] gravillia and smaller acasias, and the scrub then alternated between thick and scattered patches until lunch 1.25 - 2.15. As the level of the plain became lower, there were more gums noticed at about 3pm, they were quite thick and the plain here was evidently subject to inundation. At 3.5 we struck a small creek, bordered by tea-tree scrub, and after following it for a short time we went North over the plain again until 4.00 when we stopped to examine some very fresh horse tracks. A large snake about 6ft. 6 ins [2 m] was killed here. We then continued on our course until 5pm when we camped on the Northern side of a small limestone outcrop. One of the boys went out to look for water, but after following the creek for some distance to the South East he found none. Traces of horses and blacks were, however
seen on several places. Day warm light air from N.E. Sky clear except for a few cirro-stratus clouds in N.W.

16 JUNE FRI.

Left camp 9.25 a.m. Camped 4.45 p.m. Numerous fresh tracks in vicinity of camp, blackfellows, emus, etc. - mostly heading in S.E’ly direction - all general indications of water somewhere on box flat crossed yesterday - decided therefore to retrace our steps and investigate. Steered S.E. across it for some distance, then S.W. following some fresh tracks leading in that direction, at 1 p.m. finding deep water course with large waterhole in it just dried up - containing nothing at the moment but liquid mud. Party split up in the afternoon to follow three separate creeks - self with pack train taking the middle one. Passed several large water holes - all salt. At 3.30 p.m. having lost touch with Capt. Barclay, sent Hill with a blackboy out due west to cut his track - without success: thick ti-tree scrub, easy for anyone to become bushed. Halted the camels 4.45 p.m. sending up big smoke signal to indicate vicinity of camp, despatching Simpson & Foulis, each with a blackboy in opposite directions to cut Capt. Barclays tracks - the latter however saw camp smoke signal just before sundown & taking bearing by compass headed towards it - encountering the search party shortly after & all returning to the camp at 7.30 p.m. Fine & clear throughout - light N.E. wind.

Friday, 16th June 1911

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</tbody>
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Left camp at 9.15, and went S.E. over the plain to look for water. For a mile [1.6 km] or so the plain was splendidly grassed, and well covered with gums iron[woods]s and bushes. The gums gradually became fewer and more stunted until at 10.30 it was spinnifex and gravillias similar to the plain to the South. At 11.35 we turned S.W. in the direction of some blacks tracks, and at 12.40 we struck a small tea tree creek. After lunch 12.45 - 1.45 we followed the creek in a S.E. direction, passing several large salt waterholes, some with duck on them, and others bordered with native soaks. Captain Barclay and others went in different directions, but none found water, and as the Captain could not be located, though we heard him fire 3 shots, we camped at 4.35. Fires were then lit so as to mark the camp, but Messrs. Foulis and Simpson ran his tracks up and met him returning to camp at about 7.30. He said he had found no fresh water but had seen several other salt pools, and even a running salt stream, besides crossing seven small creeks. The day was warm. Light air from N.E. Sky clear.

17 JUNE SAT.

Left camp 9.55 a.m. Camped 6.55 p.m. Travelling southerly searching for water in delta of the Lander - quantities of water in very small creek, but all salt. At noon struck an ironstone & quartzite hill, after crossing a running stream - masses of saline rock on the sides of the hill & all water in the vicinity highly impregnated with it. Turned S.S.W. during the afternoon, having decided to make back to last known soakage in main branch of the Lander - compelled to water the camels again before proceeding further north, more especially as some of them had got onto the salt water during the night & were already showing signs of distress in consequence. Cut our outward track shortly after 5 p.m. Camping for the night about 3 miles (4.8 km) south of our night camp of the 14th. Fine & clear throughout - light N.E. & northerly wind.
Saturday, 17th June 1911

9am  Barometer 28.36  Thermometer 64 deg. [17.8°C]
3pm  Barometer 28.17  Thermometer 87 deg. [30.6°C]
6pm  Barometer 28.11  Thermometer 78 deg. [25.6°C]

Left camp at 9.45 and went S.E. over the loamy plain between the small creek. It was splendidly grassed, and except for the tea tree bordering the creeks, it was dotted with white gums, ironwoods and smaller acacias. At 10.50 we passed a camel pad made in the wet season, probably Ross's, and at 11.40 after passing over several dry creek beds we crossed a small running stream of salt water, and at 12.0 stopped for lunch near an ironstone hillock. There was some auriferous looking quartz found here also. After lunch we continued our S.E. course over a salt bush and tea tree plain, until 2.10 when we turned S.W., and continued so until 4.45, when we went due W., and at 5 p.m., found our pads going North, and went back over it, due South. At 5.45 we passed our evening camp of the 15th inst., and stopped for the night at 6.40. Day warm. Gentle northerly breeze. Sky clear except for fracto stratus clouds near horizon.

18 JUNE SUN.

Left camp 9.35 a.m. Camped 6.30 p.m.
Travelled southward along outward track. Struck the Lander again at 6.30 p.m. - sunk trial hole for water through 6 ft. (1.8 m) soft sand on to clay bottom - no luck.
Fine & clear generally - clouding up towards sunset - light to moderate southerly wind.

Sunday, 18th June 1911. 1st after Trinity

9am  Barometer 28.21  Thermometer 58 deg. [14.4°C]
3pm  Barometer 28.02  Thermometer 75 deg. [23.9°C]
6pm  Barometer 27.97  Thermometer 82 deg. [27.8°C]

Left camp at 9.25, and continued over our previous pad coming North, all day. The quartz ridge running East and West across the plain was crossed at 11.55, and we stopped for lunch in mulga scrub to the South 1.25 - 2.15. We then continued through the spinifex until 6.10, when we turned in East to the creek, and camped at 6.15. We burnt the spinifex behind us as we went along, so as to make the journey North a little easier. During the previous night two blacks' dogs were prowling round the camp, but no natives were seen. The bed of the creek in which we camped does not seem likely to give us a soakage except at some depth, though we are only a short distance below the spot where we camped on the evening of the 14th inst., and near which were several soakages.

The day was cool with a moderate breeze from S.E. & S.W. Sky clear in morning, afterwards clouds, cirro-cumulus and stratus.

19 JUNE MON.

Left camp 10.35 a.m. Camped 11.45 a.m.
Proceeded up creek to night camp of the 13th obtaining water there at a depth of four feet (1.2 m) by digging in bed of creek - opened up three soakages with a good supply in each. Very few of the camels required a drink owing to the weather having turned cold, also to a big feed of parakylia during the night - an abundance of it growing along the banks of the creek. Hands employed opening up the soakages, digging trough with tarpaulin, repairing saddlery, etc. Found the camp to be ornamented by the corpse of a blackfellow stuck up in a tree on the river bank - learnt
from our own boys that the natives of this locality bury their fighting men in this manner. The deceased had a hole in his ribs which left no room for doubt as to the cause of his death.

Fine & clear throughout - moderate to fresh S.E. wind.

Monday, 19th June 1911

9am Barometer 28.1 Thermometer 52 deg. [11.1°C]
3pm Barometer 28.07 Thermometer 67 deg. [19.4°C]
6pm Barometer 28.07 Thermometer 68 deg. [20°C]

Left camp at 10.20, and continued South over our tracks along the Lander. The bed of the creek was followed for a short time, but after crossing to the western bank, we arrived at our camp of the 13th instant, and at 11.30 stopped to try a soakage in the creek. We obtained water at a depth of 18 inches [457 mm], and though we were then on the clay bottom, we had a good trench of water in a short time. The loads were then taken off, and camp pitched for the day.

During the morning the soak was enlarged, the ranging poles fixed and placed on a North and South line, and some of the loading broken. New ropes were put on the cases and saddles which needed them.

A blackfellow's corpse was seen in a tree on the western side of the creek, but it was not examined very closely. The day was cool with a moderate breeze from S.E. Sky clear.

20 JUNE TUE.

Left camp 10.05 a.m. Camped 6.20 p.m.

Left the main camp for a few days journey to the westward in company with Hill - taking with us Whisky Tom, three riding camels & one pack camel for water - orders from Capt. Barclay to proceed fifty to sixty miles (80.5 to 96.6 km) due west, & report on the country traversed - native smokes continually seen in that direction leading us to believe that water might be found out there. Travelled on a due west bearing throughout the day, encountering nothing but thick spinifex, mulga & mallee scrub, except for an hour in the afternoon when crossing a small box flat & series of clay pans with a few white gums scattered about. Distance 23' (37 km).

Tuesday, 20th June 1911

9am Barometer 28.19 Thermometer 44 deg. [6.7°C]
3pm Barometer 28.1 Thermometer 78 deg. [25.6°C]
6pm Barometer 28.15 Thermometer 64 deg. [17.8°C]

Messrs Macpherson and Hill left on a 3 days trip to the Westward about 10 a.m. They took one of the boys, and a water camel. A tarpaulin was sunk in the sand, and some of the camels watered in it, but the soakage refilled very quickly. New noselines and halters were made for such of the camels as needed them, and some saddles repaired. The theodolite was shifted from the East side of the creek into camp, and a small shelter of cases and saddles rigged near it. The corpse of a blackfellow was examined to-day, and seemed to have been lying in the tree for about three or four months. It was that of a young man, for the hair and beard were quite black. The body was probably first placed in a sitting posture, but the trunk has fallen a good deal. Another small trunk was placed against the tree in which the body was so as to act as a ladder. The day was cool with a moderate breeze from S.E. Clouds, cirrus and cirro-cumulus.
21 JUNE WED.

Left camp 9.10 a.m. Camped 6.30 p.m.
Travelling due west all day, thick spinifex with sparse mallee & acacia scrub - no change of features throughout the day. Range of low lying hills visible to the northward during the forenoon, running east & west - distant 12-15 miles (19.3-24 km). Fresh native tracks - bucks & picannins (sic) going south across our route, seen just before sundown - yesterday's tracks according to our boy. Distance 25' (40.2 km).
Fine & clear throughout - fresh S.E'ly wind dropping calm at nightfall.

Wednesday, 21st June 1911

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<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>3 pm</td>
<td>28.25</td>
<td>69 deg. [20.6°C]</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 pm</td>
<td>28.22</td>
<td>63 deg. [17.2°C]</td>
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The smaller theodolite was fixed on three blocks in the sand this morning, and a ranging pole put in the north of it. At mid-day took time for Captain Barclay, and in the evening too the time for the stars also.

During the day the loading was all unpacked, and after all top loading had been cut down as much as possible, it was found that the average load for each camel would be between 4 and 5 cwt. [203 and 254 kg]. Some of the loads were then packed up to that weight, and after sufficient has been left out for use as far as Newcastle Waters, the rest of the loads will probably be finished to-morrow.

The day was cool with a moderate breeze from S.E. Sky clear.

22 JUNE THUR.

Left camp 9.30 a.m. Camped 5.30 p.m.
Travelling due west until noon through country similar in every respect to that of yesterday. Altered bearing at noon to WtN. towards centre of small isolated range showing up ahead - small hummocky peak in centre bearing 276° across a small flat at 2 p.m. with large white river gums growing on it, thence through spinifex & mallee scrub right up to foot of range - arriving there & pitching camp in a small gully 5.30 p.m.
Ascended highest point & from the summit saw small isolated hill away to the S.E. distant about 2' (3.2 km) nothing but spinifex plain visible away to the horizon in all other directions. Range all red sandstone with promising looking quartz outcrop on S.W. side of middle hummocky peak. Blackfellow smokes seen to north & N.E. also numerous recent tracks - no natives seen however. Distance 221' (36.2 km). Fine & clear throughout - light to moderate S.E. wind.

Thursday, 22nd June 1911

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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>43 deg. [6.1°C]</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 pm</td>
<td>28.27</td>
<td>66 deg. [18.9°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 pm</td>
<td>28.23</td>
<td>63 deg. [17.2°C]</td>
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The remainder of the loading was packed and all the top loads left over were bound up. As the wind made it difficult for Capt. Barclay to proceed with his work, another shelter of saddles and cases was put up. The water kegs were then filled up a solution of potassium permanganate, and all the iron drums and canteens filled ready for the road. As there is a pair of cases empty, an endeavour will be made to pack them with canteens, and so further reduce the top loading. The time of the sun's transit was taken
at three times during the day, and one star was taken in the evening. Another ranging pole was placed from the smaller theodolite during the afternoon.

The day was cool with a fresh breeze from the S.E. Sky clear.

23 JUNE FRI.

Left camp 9.20 a.m. Camped 5.50 p.m.
Heading back for Lander R. main camp again. Steering N.E. In direction of yesterday’s fires hoping to see some natives - found numerous tracks & fires still smouldering, but no blackfellows. Country identical with that of past three days, spinifex & sparse mallee scrub - crossed small limestone & quartz outcrop 12.40 p.m. on what appeared to be the bank of an old creek - long line of white river gums running north & south & well defined banks in places. Changed bearing to E. at 5 p.m. having by then travelled 20’ (32.2 km) on a N.E. bearing. Camped early on small patch of camel feed, buck bush - the first seen during the day - feared to pass it as little likelihood of coming on more before nightfall. Distance 22¹ (36.2 km). Fine & clear throughout- light to mod. S.E. wind.

Friday, 23rd June 1911

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<tbody>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>28.25</td>
<td>72 deg. [22.2°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>28.24</td>
<td>65 deg. [18.3°C]</td>
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The tool chest was packed and stowed away, the loading again broken for further stores, and the water load of canteens and drms made up and balanced. A temporary leather plate was made to replace one lost from the smaller theodolite. In the afternoon the camels were taken down to water from a tarpaulin filled with the soak, but, though they have not had a drink since the 13th inst., they would not take any water, and it was decided to take them back to the small waterhole seen on that date. All the waterbags in camp were also soaked and filled.

The day was cool with a fresh breeze from S.E. Sky clear.

24 JUNE SAT.

Left camp 9.10 a.m. Camped 6.30 p.m.
Steering easterly - continuance of spinifex & mallee scrub at 10 a.m. & again at 10:30 a.m. Crossed limestone outcrops honey combed with small caverns - line of white gums & well defined banks in each case giving the appearance of old creek beds. At 1 p.m. low lying range of hills away N.E. distant about 10’ (16.1 km). At 3.20 p.m. changed bearing to E.N.E. - giving wide berth to formidable looking bush fire sweeping up from S.E. also to have closer view of range to the northward. Into belt thick mulga scrub 4.15 p.m. - at 4.25 p.m. sighted remarkable white quartz formation to N.E. distance 1’ (1.6 km) - & altered bearing towards it. Examined it without finding any trace of mineral. Hill taking photograph of it before leaving at 5.10 p.m. Proceeding due east until 6 p.m. then E.S.E. until camping. Range to the N’ward running approx. W.N.W. & E.S.E. - gradually closing in on our track - about 1¹ (2.4 km) north of white quartz outcrop & finishing due east of it, 2¹ (3.2 km). Distance 24¹ (38.6 km). Fine & clear throughout - fresh S.E. wind.

Saturday, 24th June 1911

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>28.22</td>
<td>42 deg. [5.6°C]</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
3pm   Barometer 28.19  Thermometer 72 deg. [22.2°C]
6pm   Barometer 28.17  Thermometer 78 deg. [25.6°C]

The camels would not drink to-day, so instead of taking them six miles [9.6 km] to water, we will wait until Mr. Macpherson's camels come in, and the whole string will then probably drink with them. The loading was finally adjusted to-day, and the wooden casks placed ready for filling. Several blacks' smokes were seen up the creek to the South of camp, but though we went about 4 miles [6.4 km] up towards them no signs of natives were noticed. The fires seemed several miles apart, and were still smoking at nightfall. Turkey and emu tracks were seen in the creek, and we tried to raise some so as to get fresh meat for camp, but there did not seem to be any birds for some miles around.

The day was cool with a moderate breeze from S.E. Sky clear.

25 JUNE SUN.

Left camp 9 a.m. Camped 6.30 p.m.
Spinifex & mallee scrub throughout the day - Travelling S.E x E. towards end of small range in that direction - abreast of it at noon. From summit of small peak sighted Mt. Barkly bearing 137° - altered course to S.E. and continued on that bearing until camping. Abreast eastern extremity of another small range 3.10 p.m. - both ranges running approx. east & west - native smokes seen in all directions - no blackfellows sighted however. Distance 26' (41.8 km). Fine & clear throughout mod. to fresh S.E wind.

Sunday, 25th June 1911. 2nd after Trinity

9am   Barometer 28.15  Thermometer 45 deg. [7.2°C]
3pm   Barometer 28.2  Thermometer 80 deg. [26.7°C]
6pm   Barometer 28.11  Thermometer 78 deg. [25.6°C]

The larger theodolite was removed on to a tripod so as to ascertain the variation of the compass, and an observation of the sun taken at 10.14. The wooden kegs were then emptied and rinsed, and after the tarpaulin had been filled from the soakage, the latter was drained and enlarged so that the kegs could be refilled and the camels watered next morning. Messrs. Macpherson and Hill were expected to return this evening, but though fires were kept burning during the afternoon and evening, they did not make camp. The day was cool with a moderate breeze from S.E., sky clear.

26 JUNE MON.

Left camp 8.40 a.m. Camped 12.40 p.m.
Travelling E.S'ly until 11.20 a.m. thence easterly along our outward track until arrival at main camp. Afternoon employed in making all preparations for departure northwards tomorrow. Fine & clear throughout - light easterly wind. Distance 13½' (21.7 km). This to be known as No. 4 (Deadman) camp.

Lat. 21° 26' 33" S.  
Var. 3° 5" E  
Long. 8° 49' 52" E (D.R.)  
H.A.S.L. 1623 ft. (494.7 m)

Monday, 26th June 1911

9am   Barometer 28.12  Thermometer 41 deg. [5°C]
3pm   Barometer 28.12  Thermometer 83 deg. [28.3°C]
In the morning while looking over the western bank of the creek, a small corroboree ground was seen about 50 yards [46 m] from the tree in which the black's body lay, and about 200 yards [183 m] up the creek, near the old camp, two patches of congealed blood were found in the sand. Other signs of a native fight, and the fact that the deceased black seemed to have been speared, suggested that he had been killed at the camp mentioned. Messrs Macpherson and Hill returned at midday and reported that the country seen to the West was mostly open spinnifex, though varied at times by mulga scrub. A few small ranges were passed, but no water was seen, nor were any natives noticed though tracks and fires were numerous. The camels watered at the tarpaulin today, and the kegs and bags brought in were refilled. The day was warm with a gentle breeze from S.E. Sky clear.

27 JUNE MON.

Left camp 12.45 a.m. Camped 7.10 p.m.
Watered camels during the forenoon, soon as it got warm enough for them to drink. Even then they only drank indifferently owing to the large amount of parakylia in the vicinity. Loaded up at noon & proceeded along our previous track northwards, camping for the night on northern side of small range crossed on 14th. Distance 20' (32.2 km). Fine & clear throughout mod. S.E. wind.

Tuesday, 27th June 1911

9am Barometer 28.15 Thermometer 46 deg. [7.8°C]
3pm Barometer 28.16 Thermometer 77 deg. [25°C]
6pm Barometer 28.22 Thermometer 77 deg. [25°C]

Final preparations were made for leaving, the camels, to our surprise, took a good drink of water, and all was made ready before lunch. After lunch we loaded up and left No.4 camp at 12.40. We crossed over to the West side of the creek, and getting on to our previous track, we followed it due north all day. Several blacks' smokes were seen on and around Mount Barkly, and others were noticed to the North East of the creek. The quartz ridge passed previously was crossed at 6.45, and we camped on the plain to the north at 7 p.m. The track was very clear, and was crossed only by small rat tracks.

The day was cool with a moderate breeze from S.E. Sky clear.

28 JUNE WED.

Left camp 9.20 a.m. Camped 7.10 p.m.
Travelled northerly along previous track, camping for the night on site of evening camp on 15th. Distance 27' (43.5 km). Fine & clear throughout - light to moderate S.E. wind.

Wednesday, 28th June 1911

9am Barometer 28.31 Thermometer 58 deg. [14.4°C]
3pm Barometer 28.4 Thermometer 79 deg. [26.1°C]
6pm Barometer 28.42 Thermometer 65 deg. [18.3°C]

We left camp at 9.15, and continued due North over our previous tracks. Blacks' smokes were again seen in the East and North East and one in the South and on our track probably. The one's [sic] to the East were very close, and as we passed our previous evening and lunch camps, traces of blacks and even of picaninnies were
noticed. Lunch 1.10 to 2.5. We came down from the spinifex plain on to the delta flat of the Lander at 6.0., and about this time two turkeys and some pigeons were seen. We continued along the flat, crossing a small creek arm, and at 7.10 camped at the same spot as on the 14th inst.

The day was cool with a moderate breeze from S.E. Sky clear.

29 JUNE THUR.

Left camp 9.10 a.m. Camped 6.55 p.m.
Travelling northerly - during forenoon across open flat, well grassed in patches & with quantities of acacia bush in bloom. Country gradually becoming more sandy - sand ridges forming up ahead at 12.45 p.m. rapidly becoming more formidable & assuming the appearance of regular sandhill country - ridges running east & west & gradually increasing in height - the bearing having to be altered at 5 p.m. from N. to N.N.E. in order to avoid very high ridges right ahead, the continual climbing & loose nature of the sand trying the camels severely. Considerable quantities of gastrolobium (camel poison plant) growing on the flats between the ridges, but none seen for an hour or so prior to camping. Distance 24' (38.6 km). Fine & clear throughout - light N.E & E'ly wind.

Lat. * obsn. - 20° 25' 51" S.

Thursday, 29th June 1911

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<tr>
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<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer</th>
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<td>63 deg. [17.2°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>28.48</td>
<td>82 deg. [27.8°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>28.51</td>
<td>67 deg. [19.4°C]</td>
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Left camp at 9.3, and continued North over spinifex plain with a scattered scrub of gravillias and wattles until 11.0 when, after passing a few bloodwoods and some small whitewood, we crossed a patch of well grassed plain, covered in places with mulga and acasia scrub. Some blacks were seen and spoken to here - 2 bucks and 3 lubras - They were following on our tracks, but did not come up at lunch time - 1.5 to 1.55 -. From a half an hour previous to lunch until we camped at 6.50, we crossed nothing but sandhills and spinifex. They were broad and ran in ridges E. & W. at first, but later on they became steeper and more irregular. The vegetation changed very much during the day, small shrubs of many varieties, and some with very pretty flowers being noticeable - wattles were, however common throughout. The day was cool with a moderate breeze from S.E. Sky clear.

30 JUNE FRI.

Left camp 9.15 a.m. Camped 6.35 p.m.
Travelling northerly through sandhills until 4 p.m. ridges running approx. E. & W. gradually increasing in size & with smaller intervals between. During the early afternoon a mass of broken sandhills in all directions & of considerable height necessitating a large amount of winding about to avoid the worst of them. From 4 p.m. onwards the country gradually becoming more open. Camped on wide gum flat - slightly earlier than usual owing to striking good patch of camel feed. One camel had a mad fit during the midday spell - running round in circles & foaming at the mouth - probably due to sampling some of the gastrolobium noticed yesterday. Roped him down & bled him from the tail & ears, treatment successful as he carried his load all right for the remainder of the day. Distance 21' (34.6 km). Fine & clear throughout - light S.E. & easterly wind.

Lat. Mer. Alt. 6° 20' 16' 54" S.
Lat. * obsn. 20° 09' 21" S.
Friday, 30th June 1911

9am    Barometer 28.6    Thermometer 69 deg. [20.6°C]
3pm    Barometer 28.58   Thermometer 82 deg. [27.8°C]
6pm    Barometer 28.69   Thermometer 72 deg. [22.2°C]

Left camp 9.8, and continued N. & N. & E. over sandhills. The hollows were, for the most part, dotted with gums, and after passing a few outcrops of ironstone gravel, the sandhills became less soft, and signs of water after rain were noticed in the hollows. The tree scrub was common near most of the dry clay pan flats, and a few ant hills of blue clay were seen. After lunch - 12.55 - 1.55 the sandhills became very steep, high, and irregular.

Travelling was slow and difficult until about 4.45, when, after crossing a small table top of sandstone and hard clay gravel, the sandhills broadened out, and we descended on to a more level stretch of plain. Spinnifex was still very thick but gums and a few herbs were more numerous. Bandicoots and kangaroo rats were numerous all day, especially in the large sandhills. Camped on plain at 6.25. The day was warm with a fresh breeze from S.E. Sky clear.

1 JULY SAT.

Left camp 9.20 a.m. Camped 4.15 p.m. Travelling northerly - open country covered with spinifex & acacia scrub. At 12.15 p.m. struck Dr. Chewings line of wells from Barrow Ck. to Wave Hill only a few yards to the westward of one of the wells - Claypan Well. Found it containing large supply of excellent water. Filled up kegs etc. Watering all camels from trough fashioned by digging a trench & lining it with a tarpaulin. Proceeded again 3 p.m. on to a wide box flat at 4 p.m. with excellent camel feed everywhere - camped in order to give the camels a good spell on it after their drink. Distance 12½' (20.1 km).

Fine & clear throughout - mod. easterly wind.

Lat. Mer. Alt. 20° 01' 43" S.

Lat. * obsn. 19° 59' 10" S.

Saturday, 1st July 1911

9am    Barometer 28.78   Thermometer 69 deg. [20.6°C]
3pm    Barometer 28.89   Thermometer 81 deg. [27.2°C]
6pm    Barometer 28.86   Thermometer 76 deg. [24.4°C]

After leaving camp at 9.15 we went N.N.E. over the spinifex covered plain. It was slightly undulating, but was falling gradually to the North. For the first hour or so herbage was fairly plentiful, with a few gums and smaller wattles and gravillias; after ten o'clock we passed through about three miles [4.8 km] of dense but small wattle scrub, with herbs and emu berry bushes [Eremophila sp.]. The scrub then thinned out and at 12.0 we descended on to a clay pan stretch from the plain, and found one of Chewings' wells. The water was seven feet [2.1 m] deep, and though it did not "make" while we were there, we were able to water all the camels, fill up everything, and at 2.50 we left and continued our course over another stretch of elevated plain of harder sand, and previous to camp at 4.5, dotted with wattles, gums and bloodwoods - Day cool, fresh breeze from S.E., clouds cirro-cumulus and cirrus.

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8 Note that Chewings does not mention a 'Claypan Well' in his report.
2 JULY SUN.

Left camp 9.35 a.m. Camped 7.10 p.m.

On plotting up traverses yesterday’s well was identified as Claypan Well. This well is situated in the middle of a claypan, is about 14’ (4.3 m) in depth with 7’ (2.1 m) of water in it - water excellent, but makes slowly - formation is blue clay & limestone.

Travelling northerly - country open & generally level, a few scattered sand ridges occasionally - ti tree scrub & acacia, for miles during the afternoon the latter (three varieties all in bloom) was one dense thicket, rendering it difficult to get the loaded camels through in places. All the afternoon travelling across an extensive sandy tableland - thick spinifex everywhere. Camped on very poor feed for the camels - no signs of any for some distance ahead. Distance 25.5’ (41 km).

Fine throughout but cloudy - light N.E. and E’ly wind.

Lat. Mer. Alt. 6° 19’ 26” S.

Sunday, 2nd July 1911. 3rd after Trinity

9am Barometer 28.91 Thermometer 66 deg. [18.9°C]
3pm Barometer 28.86 Thermometer 83 deg. [28.3°C]
6pm Barometer 28.93 Thermometer 79 deg. [26.1°C]

Left camp at 9.30, and after crossing the small box flat we were soon climbing on to a higher level with thicker spinifex, mallee, wattle, and some herbage. The scrub of wattles became very thick and made travelling difficult. At 11.15 we descended into a tea tree flat with some outcrops of limestone; a succession of sloping terraces of sandhills with very dense scrub and thick spinifex led up to a sandy tableland where we stopped for lunch 12.45 - 1.50. Another clay bottom of tea tree was crossed at 3.20, and after crossing undulating spinifex rises, the level of country gradually fell, though smaller tabletops were again crossed, and at 5.15 we struck the northern arm of a box flat winding from the East, and South East. Thick scrub and spinifex followed, and we camped on the North of another patch of scattered gums with less spinifex at 7.0. Day warm, fresh breeze from S.E. Clouds cirro cumulus and cumulus. Course N. by E. and N.

3 JULY MON.

Left camp 9.25 a.m. Camped 7. p.m.

Trav. northerly - country as yesterday, spinifex occasionally very bad and acacia scrub dense. From 4 p.m. onwards country gradually falling towards the north - across well grassed claypan just at sundown & camped on patch of excellent camel feed.

Distance 25’ (40.2 km). Fine & clear throughout - light to moderate E.S.E. & E’ly wind.

Lat. Mer. Alt. 6° 19’ 27” 19° S.

Monday, 3rd July 1911

9am Barometer 28.97 Thermometer 69 deg. [20.6°C]
3pm Barometer 28.86 Thermometer 83 deg. [28.3°C]
6pm Barometer 28.91 Thermometer 81 deg. [27.2°C]

After leaving camp at 9.17 we went over a level sandy plain for about 3 miles [4.8 km], and then from rather open spinifex it changed into dense wattle scrub and thick spinifex, while the ground was strew [sic] with dry brambles. This made travelling difficult until 10.45 when we crossed a small tea tree flat, and a rise of spinifex and mallee then stretched between it and a limestone outcrop followed by a large tea tree
creek dotted with blue clay and hills. We camped for lunch on the north of this creek at 12.55 - 1.55. After lunch a tableland of open and small scrub with scanty herbage in places was crossed and as we descended from it at 5.15 - the country improved, except for a patch of thick wattle scrub again, until 6.35 when we descended into a well-grassed loamy flat, about half a mile [800 m] wide and extending East and West. We camped to the North of this at 6.50, where salt bush and herbage gave the camels good feed. Day warm, light air from S.E. clouds cirro-cumulus.

4 JULY TUE.

Left camp 9.05 a.m. Camped 6.40 p.m.
Got a good start off - the camels not wandering 100 yards (91.4 m) from camp all night but just stopping right on the patch of excellent feed the claypan provided for them, buck bush, salt bush, small samphire etc. The flat extended in an east & west direction as far as the eye could see, from 1 of a mile (1.2 km) to 1′ (1.6 km) in width - probably the end of one of the creeks running out westerly from the overland Telg. line.
Travelling northerly - country very similar to that of past two days, slightly better grassed & carrying rather more edible bush & less spinifex - progress generally slow owing to continual belts of fit tree & acacia scrub. Distance 231′ (37.8 km). Fine & clear throughout - clouding up towards sundown - light N.E. & N'ly wind.

Tuesday, 4th July 1911

9am Barometer 28.99  Thermometer 68 deg. [20°C]
3pm Barometer 28.89  Thermometer 87 deg. [30.6°C]
6pm Barometer 28.85  Thermometer 81 deg. [27.2°C]

Left camp 8.55, and after continuing over the tea tree flat for about 2 miles [3.2 km], we climbed gradually over spinifex with an ironstone gravel outcrop in one place and a scattered scrub of wattles and a few eucalyptus, on to a sandy table top. This was covered with similar vegetation, and at 12.20 we descended from it on to another tea tree flat on which we camped for lunch 12.30 - 1.20. After lunch the track was difficult though dense tea-tree, with a few open and well grassed patches until 2.0 when a small open stretch of spinifex was crossed, then more tea tree was met with until 4.35 after which it was generally spinifex and dense wattle scrub until just before camp at 6.30. The latter scrub was mostly dry, and at times mingled with tea tree, with good grass and some herbage mingled with the spinifex. Day warm, with gentle breeze from E. & S.E. clouds, cirro-cumulus and cumulus.

5 JULY WED.

Left camp 9.25 a.m. Camped 7.00 p.m.
This day opened with light showers of rain during the small hours, clearing up at sunrise with a strong easterly wind. Wind veering N. & N.W. towards noon, heavy squall working up from S.W. - thunderstorm south of us at 1 p.m. Wind veering southerly & bringing up a smart shower at 3 p.m. - dull & overcast for remainder of day. Trav. northerly spinifex very bad & allied with dense acacia scrub during the forenoon - more open country in the afternoon, with occasional gum flats. Native smokes in all directions. Came unexpectedly on a blackfellow’s camp on a gum flat at sundown, the natives all bolting into the scrub, leaving their food cooking on the fires & their spears & other weapons lying about in all directions. Found small native well about a hundred yards (91.4 m) away & camped there for the night, leaving the blackfellow’s camp & possessions undisturbed.
Distance 26½ (42.6 km). No noon or night obs. - sky completely overcast.
Wednesday, 5th July 1911

9am  Barometer 28.86  Thermometer 81 deg. [27.2°C]
3pm  Barometer 28.85  Thermometer 73 deg. [22.8°C]
6pm  Barometer 28.88  Thermometer 64 deg. [17.8°C]

After leaving camp at 9.20, we entered on spinnifex and thick wattle and tea-tree scrub, and though there was fair grass in places the scrub continued with few breaks until lunch 12.50 - 1.30. After lunch the scrub thinned out slightly, and soon the spinnifex plain was open save for a few stunted tea tree and scattered gums. Jasminum bushes with ripe edible berries were thick in places. The plain was very level until 4.45 when it became undulating with patches of wattle scrub in the hollows. At 5.20 we crossed to a rise on the plain, and this gradually sloped down to a gum flat where we struck a native camp and well at 6.40. The blacks fled precipitately, leaving the spears and even a snake cooking in the fire, behind. The well was in two stages, and the water good. A few drops of rain fell at dawn, and during the morning a thunder storm worked round from W. to E. with a N.E. wind. A few heavy showers fell after lunch, but we passed the rain belt at 4.5 p.m.

6 JULY THUR.

Left camp 9.45 a.m. Camped 6.55 p.m.
No sign of the blacks returning to their camp before our departure, though continued calls in the bush round the camp during the night testified to their proximity. Several of them seen at a distance following up our tracks even after leaving camp, but they invariably bolted into the scrub if any of the party rode towards them. Travelling northerly - country fairly open during the forenoon, mainly white gum flat, fairly well grassed - less spinnifex than usual on sandy country beyond the flat. Dense spinnifex again during the afternoon & much acacia scrub. No rain fell during the night, but very heavy dew - blankets & gear soaked through - dense fog over the whole flat from midnight to sunrise. Fine throughout but cloudy - light N.E. & E'ly wind. Distance 23½ (37.8 km).
Lat. Mer. Alt. 6 18° 26' 51" S.

Thursday, 6th July 1911

9am  Barometer 29.03  Thermometer 63 deg. [17.2°C]
3pm  Barometer 28.91  Thermometer 87 deg. [30.6°C]
6pm  Barometer 28.85  Thermometer 84 deg. [28.9°C]

Left camp at 9.33, and when passing over the open stretch of spinnifex leading down to the clay pan, the natives who had fled from their camp on the previous evening were seen, but they were too frightened to come near. The lower level here was covered with a scattered scrub of wattles, jasminum and whitewoods. A stretch of tableland with ironstone gravel was then crossed, and the spinnifex was thicker with some patches of wattle scrub. Lunch 12.50 - 1.50. After lunch a small belt of wattle and mallee scrub was crossed, and on a lower level, patches of scrub and good Mitchell grass preceded some open spinnifex followed by very dense wattle scrub which lasted from 5.0 until 6.10, and made travelling difficult. Another higher tableland was then mounted, and we continued through less scrub and some burnt wattle with better grass and some gums, bloods and mallee - There was a very heavy dew during the night. Day hot, light air from E. and S.E. Clouds cumulus and fracto-cumulus. Camped 6.45.
7 JULY FRI.

Left camp 9.10 a.m. Camped 6.20 p.m.
Travelled northerly forenoon - N.N.E. during afternoon occasionally small gum flats but country principally spinifex & dense acacia scrub - almost impossible in places. Four blackfellows came into camp during the midday halt, disappearing again afterwards - several more came in after sundown & camped with our own boys all night. Fine throughout but cloudy - light N.E. & N'ly wind. Distance 211' (34.6 km).

Friday, 7th July 1911

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<tr>
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<td>83 deg. [28.3°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>28.95</td>
<td>80 deg. [26.7°C]</td>
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After leaving camp at 9.5, we passed from the gum flat into very high and dense spinifex, dotted with guns and mallee, and mixed in places with other grasses. Several gum flats with good Mitchell and smaller grasses, dotted with bloodwoods and gums, and varying in width were crossed until 12.10, when after a stretch of high spinifex, we entered some thick wattle scrub which made travelling slow until lunch 12.50 - 1.45. Four blacks, one of whom could speak a few words of English came up to camp at lunch. Soon after lunch thick wattle scrub was entered again, and with the exception of one or two small gum flats the scrub continued until we camped at 6.15. In places there were patches of tea tree and mallee, and generally there was more of a light-coloured acasia to be seen, while though spinifex was common throughout, small grasses, herbage, and later on, sandal-wood were noticed - Day warm clouds, cumulus and cumulo nimbus, gentle breeze from N.E. & E.

8 JULY SAT.

Left camp 9 a.m. Camped 6.50 p.m.
Trav. N.E'ly - continuance of acacia scrub & spinifex during early part of the day, but country gradually improving - between 3 p.m. & 4 p.m. came on large flat, grass & mallee scrub, very little spinifex. Camels travelling slowly - very footsore & sulky - showing all signs of weariness & thirst. Distance 231' (37.8 km).

Saturday, 8th July 1911

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<td>3pm</td>
<td>28.99</td>
<td>98 deg. [36.7°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>28.99</td>
<td>97 deg. [36.1°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Left camp 8.55 and after crossing a moderately dense acasia scrub with a few bloodwoods and mallee and generally showing good grass, we passed out on to more open spinifex. Some burnt and dry acasia was crossed until 12.0 when very thick spinifex with patches of acasia continued until lunch 12.45 - 1.40. Some good grass was then met with for about three miles [4.8 km] when we entered a thicker scrub of whitewood, creeper tree (?) supplejack), jasminum and a few mallee.

The plain here changed into sandhills, still with a fair scrub, and it then sloped down to a level flat extending away to the East and North. The flat, though covered with patches of spinifex at first, was well grassed, and dotted with mallee, bluegum, creeper tree, and smaller bushes. About 5.0 more large, small leaved trees with a dark
bark were seen, and a level surface with good grass, mallee and gums continued till camp at 6.40. Day hot, clouds, in morning, fracto-cumulus, afterwards, clear. Light air from N. & N.E.

9 JULY SUN.

Left camp 12.05 p.m.
Camels wandered a long distance during the night - causing a very late departure from camp - slow travelling afterwards. Camels much distressed, want of water & the heavy work through thick scrub & spinifex having knocked them out completely - two or three terribly footsore, scarcely able to hobble, even with lightest loads possible. Travelling N.E.'ly country well grassed, occasional small patches of spinifex. Across large dry swamp 5.30 p.m. - numerous old cattle tracks everywhere. Came on large mob of cattle feeding at 6.30 p.m. & a few minutes later on a creek with large water hole - gave all camels a moderate drink deciding to push on to Newcastle Waters, Head Station instead of camping for the night on the creek, owing to the presence of a large amount of gutta percha tree (Excoecaria parvifolia), deadly poison for any camel tackling it. Slipped off all the heaviest loads & camped for a couple of hours, proceeding again 9 p.m. Struck Overland Teleg. line 10.50 p.m. Thence northerly along main track. Distance 29° (46.7 km) to camping at station. Fine & clear throughout - light N.W'ly wind.

Lat. Mer. Alt. 6 17° 41' 14" S.

Sunday, 9th July 1911 - 4th after Trinity

9am Barometer 29.14 Thermometer 75 deg. [23.9°C]
3pm Barometer 29.02 Thermometer 97 deg. [36.1°C]
6pm Barometer 28.99 Thermometer 96 deg. [35.6°C]

The camels went away looking for water during the night and it was 11.15 before the boys returned with them. We left camp at 11.55, and continued over the plain, N.E. until lunch 12.50 - 1.45. After lunch the plain crossed was still well grassed and covered with a moderate scrub of gums, bloodwoods, mallee, and smaller bushes, Jasminum being particularly plentiful. After 2.40 a few patches of spinifex were met with, and the scrub changed to gums, grey box and hakeas. Acacias were then met with in patches and shortly after 6 o'clock we descended to a flat bordered by a creek, and reached a splendid waterhole at 6.30. The camels were all watered and we stopped for tea on the East of the water. A start was made again at 8.45, the creek was crossed several times, the main cattle track struck, and this was followed until we reached Newcastle Waters head station at 1.45 a.m. The day was warm, gentle breeze from N.E. Sky clear.

10 JULY MON.

Camped 2.10 a.m.
Arrived Newcastle Waters Head Station just after 2 a.m. and camped, yarding up the camels for remainder of night on account of poison tree in the vicinity. Turned them out to water & feed at 9 a.m. shepherded by the hands & both black boys to keep them away from the gutta percha. Several of the camels exceedingly footsore, hardly able to move. Had them brought in again at sundown & yarded up for the night. Fine & clear throughout - light N.E. wind.

Monday, 10th July 1911

9am Barometer 29.03 Thermometer 75 deg. [23.9°C]
After our arrival the camels were kept in the stockyard on account of the poisonous gutta-percha tree growing around here. After breakfast, they were taken out into the scrub, and fed for a few hours on whitewoods and jasminum before being again yarded up for the day. Water is plentiful here, as there are many large pools from the station down to the point where we struck the creek.

The day was warm with a gentle breeze from N.E. Clouds cirrus and cirro-cumulus.

11 JULY TUE.

Shifted from station compound down to the bank of the creek making a permanent camp there - rigging tarpaulin for mess tent, mosquito net tents etc. Barclay, Hill & self taking up our quarters at the homestead as Mr. Grainger’s guests. Doctored all camels with sore feet & backs - only 2 with really bad backs, but all more or less tender footed, 5 really bad - pads punctured & holes in the feet from which pebbles & pieces of twigs & burnt spinifex were extracted. Afterwards turned them out to feed all day, with the blackboys shepherding them, having found patches of excellent feed about 2 miles (3.2 km) distant & practically clear of the gutta percha - brought them in again in the evening & yarded up for the night - same method to be adopted every day during our stay here. Fine & clear throughout, light E’ly wind.

Tuesday, 11th July 1911

9am Barometer 29.05 Thermometer 72 deg. [22.2°C]
3pm Barometer 29.00 Thermometer 100 deg. [37.8°C]
6pm Barometer 29.01 Thermometer 99 deg. [37.2°C]

The camels were loaded up during the morning, and the loading moved down near the waterhole, where it was decided to fix camp, and to pitch the mess tent. The theodolite tripod was sunk near the station in the afternoon.

The flats around the station were covered with a scattered scrub of lance wood - similar to red mulga - gutta percha and jasminum, this makes camel feed scarce, so that the boys are now sent out each day to watch the camels and to yard them at night.

The day was hot and calm. Clouds cirrus and cirro-cumulus.

12 JULY WED.

Hands employed setting up post for theodolite, also commencing repairs on saddlery, loading cases, etc. - pack saddles all in very dilapidated condition requiring much attention to fit them for lengthened usage again. Doctored all camels with sore backs & feet - the latter not until the evening so they were able to lie down & rest afterwards, thus keeping the tar & tallow dressing on during the night.

Fine & clear throughout - wind light & variable.

Wednesday, 12th July 1911

9am Barometer 29.03 Thermometer 67 deg. [19.4°C]
3pm Barometer 29.02 Thermometer 104 deg. [40°C]
6pm Barometer 29.01 Thermometer 96 deg. [35.6°C]
As the tripod was inconveniently fixed for observations, it was taken out and a log substituted. Some stores were obtained from the station and taken down to camp, and mosquito nets rigged near the mess tent.

The natives about the station seem to compare favourably with any yet met with, but they differ both in appearance and in weapons they use than those seen at Alice Springs and the stations to the South. Their woomeras are narrower, their boomerangs are generally even in both arms, and their spears made partly of bamboo. These differences would appear to indicate the intercourse which is said to exist between them and the coast blacks.

The day was hot with a light breeze from S.E. - at times variable - clouds, cumulus.

13 July Thur.

Hands employed attending camels & repairing saddlery - camels already benefiting from their rest, picking up condition rapidly. Self assisting Capt. Barclay with plotting up traverses & office routine generally. Fine & clear throughout - light southerly wind.

Thursday, 13th July 1911

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>29.01</td>
<td>81 deg. [27.2°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>29.01</td>
<td>78 deg. [25.5°C]</td>
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The compiling of the levels of all camps from Alice Springs to Newcastle Waters was commenced this morning, and most of it was completed before evening.

The day was warm with a moderate breeze from S.E. Clouds, fracto-cumulus.

14 July Fri.

Hands employed in attending camels, repairing saddlery etc. - Fine & clear throughout - light to mod. S.E. wind.

Friday, 14th July 1911.

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<td>67 deg. [19.4°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>29.06</td>
<td>79 deg. [26.1°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>29.05</td>
<td>81 deg. [27.2°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The camels were brought down to camp in the morning and their sores and feet attended to. The repairing of saddles and cases was then commenced and continued during the day.

The day was cool with a moderate breeze from S.E. Sky clear. A good shade was obtained for the instruments, so that the temperatures are, if anything slightly lower than a true shade reading.

15 July Sat.

Camels all attended to in the morning & turned out to feed afterwards as usual. Hands employed on saddlery & loading. Fine & clear throughout - fresh to mod. S.E. wind.
Saturday, 15th July 1911

9am   Barometer 29.11   Thermometer 60 deg. [15.6°C]
3pm   Barometer 29.01   Thermometer 62 deg. [16.7°C]
6pm   Barometer 29.01   Thermometer 76 deg. [24.4°C]

The camels were roped down in the morning, and their chafes and feet attended to. The loading ropes and cases were also partly repaired.

The day was cool with a gentle breeze from E. and S.E. Sky clear.

16 JULY SUN.

Sick camels attended to as usual. No other unnecessary work done in camp. Fine & clear throughout - light S.E. & E’ly wind.

Sunday, 16th July 1911 - 5th after Trinity

9am   Barometer 29.94   Thermometer 60 deg. [15.6°C]
3pm   Barometer 28.98   Thermometer 78 deg. [25.6°C]
6pm   Barometer 28.97   Thermometer 80 deg. [26.7°C]

The day was warm with a light breeze from S.E. and E. Sky clear.

17 JULY MON.

Hands employed attending to camels, saddlery & loading - sick camels all showing considerable improvement, backs & feet already on the mend. Fine & clear throughout - wind light & variable.

Monday, 17th July 1911

9am   Barometer 29.98   Thermometer 56 deg. [13.3°C]
3pm   Barometer 29.97   Thermometer 80 deg. [26.7°C]
6pm   Barometer 29.93   Thermometer 83 deg. [28.3°C]

After the camels had been attended to the repairing of cases and ropes was proceeded with. In the afternoon made a tracing of our route from Alice Springs to Newcastle Waters, for Capt. Barclay.

The day was warm with light air from S.E. At times, calm. Sky clear.

18 JULY TUE.

Hands employed attending to sick camels, repairing saddlery & making new loading ropes for all cases - those in use up to date being all worn out and stranded. Most of the cripples decidedly better - three however, still fearfully sore footed - not likely to be fit for travelling for some days yet. Fine & clear throughout - light S.E’ly wind.

Tuesday, 18th July 1911

9am   Barometer 29.60   Thermometer 64 deg. [17.8°C]
3pm   Barometer 28.97   Thermometer 84 deg. [28.9°C]
6pm  Barometer 28.97  Thermometer 84 deg. [28.9°C]

The camels were again attended to immediately after breakfast, and the repairing of ropes and cases proceeded with. The theodolite stand was bored again and leaded for the tangent screws.

The day was warm with light air from E. & S.E. Sky clear. Air at times calm.

19 JULY WED.

Hands employed on saddlery & loading ropes. Camels doctored as usual - sick camels still continuing to improve - the two boys shepherding them daily on good patch of edible bush, with very little gutta percha in the vicinity. Getting all mail matter in readiness for the outgoing mail tomorrow - the mailman with packhorses, arrived from Powell’s Ck late in the afternoon, leaving again for the north early again tomorrow morning.

Fine & clear throughout - light S.E. & southerly wind.

Wednesday, 19th July 1911

9am  Barometer 29.07  Thermometer 63 deg. [17.2°C]
3pm  Barometer 28.99  Thermometer 82 deg. [27.8°C]
6pm  Barometer 28.97  Thermometer 80 deg. [26.7°C]

After the camels had been sent out the loading ropes and saddles were further repaired. The mail left for Daly Waters immediately after breakfast.

The day was cool with a gentle breeze from S. and S.E. Sky clear.

20 JULY THUR.

Hands still employed upon saddlery & roping - all sick camels attended to as usual. Mailman left for The Katherine at 9 a.m. Fine & clear throughout - light S.E. & southerly wind.

Thursday, 20th July 1911

9am  Barometer 29.03  Thermometer 61 deg. [16.1°C]
3pm  Barometer 28.99  Thermometer 82 deg. [27.8°C]
6pm  Barometer 28.99  Thermometer 83 deg. [28.3°C]

After the camels had been sent out the loading ropes and saddles were further repaired. The mail left for Daly Waters immediately after breakfast.

The day was cool with a gentle breeze from S. & S.E. Sky clear.

21 JULY FRI.

Hands employed during the afternoon in carting wood for camp use, also transferring fresh supply of stores from station store room to the camp. All axes & tomahawks ground & fresh handles fitted where necessary. Making all necessary preparations for some of the party leaving tomorrow to inspect the Stock Route westwards to Wave Hill. One hand working on saddlery during the afternoon. Fine & clear throughout - light S.E and E’ly wind.
Friday, 21st July 1911

9am   Barometer 29.03
3pm   Barometer 29.00
6pm   Barometer 29.0

Thermometer 65 deg. [18.3°C]
Thermometer 82 deg. [27.8°C]
Thermometer 80 deg. [26.7°C]

After the camels had been attended to, supplies were taken from the station and carted down to camp. The axes were then ground, and new handles fitted where necessary.

The day was cool with a gentle breeze from S.E. Sky clear.

22 JULY SAT.

Capt. Barclay pulled out on the Wave Hill track immediately after breakfast, taking with him, Foulis, the boy Dick, & four sound camels - three riding & one pack for water, provisions, tools, etc. Engaged another boy temporarily in Dick’s place to assist Whisky Tom in shepherding the camels remaining in camp. Sick camels attended to as usual. Simpson afterwards employed upon the saddlery until noon.

Received a belated mail from Alice Springs - Mr. Kennedy at Powell’s Ck. having kindly sent down to Tennant’s Ck. for it & despatched it through to here by one of his blackboys. Fine & clear throughout - a cold change in the weather, with strong S.E. & southerly wind blowing.

Saturday, 22nd July 1911

9am   Barometer 29.17
3pm   Barometer 29.1
6pm   Barometer 29.1

Thermometer 60 deg. [15.6°C]
Thermometer 69 deg. [20.6°C]
Thermometer 69 deg. [20.6°C]

Immediately after breakfast Capt. Barclay with Mr. Foulis and one of the boys left on a trip to the West, taking one water camel besides their riding camels. The camels were then sent out and work proceeded as usual. A mail from Alice Springs arrived via "Powells" Creek in the afternoon.

The day was cool with a fresh breeze from S.E. Sky clear.

23 JULY SUN.

Camels attended to as usual - no other unnecessary work done.
Fine & clear throughout - fresh S.E. & S’ly wind.

Sunday, 23rd July 1911. 6th after Trinity

9am   Barometer 29.19
3pm   Barometer 29.12
6pm   Barometer 29.11

Thermometer 54 deg. [12.2°C]
Thermometer 64 deg. [17.8°C]
Thermometer 65 deg. [18.3°C]

The day was cool with a fresh breeze from S.E. Sky clear except for cirro-stratus clouds in North.

No unnecessary work was done in camp.
24 JULY MON.

Camels attended to as usual - Simpson afterwards lending a hand in station smithy, Mr. Grainger left for the south yards to attend the calf cutting. Hill accompanied him, & also our newly engaged camel shepherd - managed to get another substitute for him from the black's camp. Fine & clear throughout, continuance of cold weather, with fresh S.E. & S'ly wind blowing.

Monday, 24th July 1911

9am Barometer 29.17 Thermometer 47 deg. [8.3°C]
3pm Barometer 29.1 Thermometer 64 deg. [17.8°C]
6pm Barometer 29.1 Thermometer 65 deg. [18.3°C]

The camels were attended to as usual, and as the station had some big smithy work in hand, assistance was lent them during the day.

The day was cool with a fresh breeze from S.E. Sky clear.
Mr Hill went with Mr. Grainger and all the station boys and horses down to South Newcastle.

25 JULY TUE.

Camels attended to as usual - one additional patient - badly bitten on the shoulder by another during a fight. Simpson employed assisting station blacksmith. Fine & clear throughout - light to mod. S.E. wind.

Tuesday, 25th July 1911

9am Barometer 29.12 Thermometer 48 deg. [8.9°C]
3pm Barometer 29.03 Thermometer 66 deg. [18.9°C]
6pm Barometer 29.03 Thermometer 67 deg. [19.4°C]

Wood was carted for the camp, and the camels attended to and sent out. Some more welding was done at the station and in the afternoon the small theodolite was taken from the camp and set up in the station yard.

The day was cool with a gentle breeze from S.E. Sky clear.

26 JULY WED.

All sick camels attended to as usual, afterwards going out to feed in charge of Whisky Tom & his temporary assistant from the black's camp. Bush Ball by name. Hands employed in smithy repairing the water drum crates (both of them being cracked) - also repairing several broken panels in fence around the camel compound. Fine & clear throughout - light S.E. wind.

Wednesday, 26th July 1911

9am Barometer 29.03 Thermometer 49 deg. [9.4°C]
3pm Barometer 29.01 Thermometer 73 deg. [22.8°C]
6pm Barometer 29.02 Thermometer 73 deg. [22.8°C]
The camels were attended to and sent away as usual, and as they had damaged some of the fencing in the station paddock, the necessary repairs were made - new rails being put in where required.

The day was cool with a gentle breeze from S.E. Sky clear.

27 JULY THUR.

Simpson employed in blacksmiths shop on repairs to iron crates, & other small jobs. Camels doctored as usual - all sore backs healing up satisfactorily & most of the sore footed ones practically well - only one walking at all lame. Fine & clear throughout, mod. to fresh S.E. wind.

Thursday, 27th July 1911

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>29.08</td>
<td>53 deg. [11.7°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>29.04</td>
<td>73 deg. [22.8°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>29.04</td>
<td>75 deg. [23.9°C]</td>
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</table>

After the camels had been sent out, the frames were taken off the water drums and the broken parts repaired and riveted.

The day was cool with a gentle breeze from S.E. Sky clear.

28 JULY FRI.

Hands employed working on saddlery, also covering with greenhide the trunk utilised for carrying all computation books, papers, stationery, etc. Camels attended to as usual. Fine & clear throughout, weather considerably hotter - light to moderate N.E. wind.

Friday, 28th July 1911

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>29.06</td>
<td>53 deg. [11.7°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>29.02</td>
<td>77 deg. [25°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>29.01</td>
<td>78 deg. [25.6°C]</td>
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The camels were sent away as usual, and the repacking of loading commenced and continued during the day.

The day was warm with a gentle breeze from E. and N.E. Sky clear.

29 JULY SAT.

Hands employed carting wood for camp use, & afterwards, until 1 p.m., upon further repairs to saddlery. Camels attended to as usual. Fine & clear throughout - light N.E. wind.

Saturday, 29th July 1911

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>29.02</td>
<td>53 deg. [11.7°C]</td>
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<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>29.00</td>
<td>79 deg. [26.1°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>28.98</td>
<td>80 deg. [26.7°C]</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The camels were attended to and sent out as usual, and re-packing of stores and general loading continued.

The day was warm with a light air from S.E. at times, calm. Sky clear.

Wood for the camp was carted in the afternoon.

**30 JULY SUN.**

Camels attended to as usual - beyond that no unnecessary work done in camp. Fine & clear throughout - light E. & S.E. wind.

**Sunday, 30th July 1911. 7th after Trinity**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>29.05</td>
<td>60 deg. [15.6°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>29.01</td>
<td>79 deg. [26.1°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>29.02</td>
<td>80 deg. [26.7°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The day was warm with a gentle breeze from S.E. Sky clear.

No unnecessary work was done in camp.

**31 JULY MON.**

Camels attended to as usual - hands employed finishing repairs to saddlery, & straightening out the loading in preparation for departure upon Capt. Barclay's return from the westward. Fine & clear throughout - light to moderate easterly wind.

**Monday, 31st July 1911**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>29.1</td>
<td>60 deg. [15.6°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>29.04</td>
<td>81 deg. [27.2°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>29.04</td>
<td>79 deg. [26.1°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The camels were attended to and sent out as usual, and repacking and repairing of cases continued.

The day was warm with a gentle breeze from S. & S.E. Sky clear.

**1 AUG. TUE.**

Camels attended to & turned out to feed as usual. Capt. Barclay arrived at the station from Yellow W.H. (water hole on stock route to Wave Hill) shortly after noon. Had experienced trouble with his camels during the trip - two of them having been sick probably from eating some species of poison bush, both recovering to a large extent before arrival here. Attended to them down at the camp, afterwards sending them out in charge of the boy Dick to join the remainder of the mob. Hands employed upon saddlery & loading. Fine & clear throughout, moderate to fresh S.E. & E'ly wind.

**Tuesday, 1st August 1911**

*Australian Diaries for 1912 Published This Day.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>29.06</td>
<td>63 deg. [17.2°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>29.01</td>
<td>79 deg. [26.1°C]</td>
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</table>
The camels were sent out, and during the day hide bands to prevent wearing of ropes at corners of cases were made and attached.

Capt. Barclay and Mr Foulis returned during the morning from their trip out West on the stock route.

The day was warm with a gentle breeze from S.E. Sky clear.

2 AUG. WED.

Camels yarded up as usual during the night, two more of them found to be suffering from poison in the morning. Dosed them with hot scouring mixture (four pounds (1.8 kg) fat rendered down with 2 bottles castor oil) & kept them in the yard for remainder of day, feeding them with fresh green stuff from station garden. Remainder of camels attended to as usual & sent out to feed in a different direction with three blackboys shepherding them. Hands employed in getting all loading in readiness for departure, & attending to the sore-backed camel’s saddles - arranging padding to take all weight off the sore parts of backs or shoulders as much as possible. Fine & clear throughout - fresh S.E. & E’ly wind.

Wednesday, 2nd August 1911

9am Barometer 29.07 Thermometer 68 deg. [20°C]
3pm Barometer 29.03 Thermometer 81 deg. [27.2°C]
6pm Barometer 29.03 Thermometer 81 deg. [27.2°C]

As the camels were being sent out two of them were noticed to be showing signs of poisoning. They were drenched, kept in the paddock all day, and after some portulacca had been given them in the afternoon, they seemed to have improved. The repacking of loading and repairs to saddles and cases was continued during the day.

The day was warm with a gentle breeze from E. & S.E. Sky clear.

3 AUG. TH.

Another camel down with poison - same treatment pursued as with those of yesterday. One of the latter found to be very bad when brought in from the feeding ground in the evening - administered bucket of mustard & water to induce vomiting - with success. Hands employed on pack saddles & loading, also tightening up leather seats of several of the riding saddles. Fine & clear throughout - fresh easterly wind. Departure postponed for a day or so, until sick camels able to travel - had hoped to leave tomorrow, but delay unavoidable.

Thursday, 3rd August 1911

9am Barometer 29.07 Thermometer 58 deg. [14.4°C]
3pm Barometer 29.00 Thermometer 82 deg. [27.8°C]
6pm Barometer 29.00 Thermometer 83 deg. [28.3°C]

Another camel seemed to be suffering from poison this morning, but all of them were sent out as usual.
The repacking of loading was continued, and the making of new noselines and halters commenced.

The day was warm with light air from E. & S.E. Sky clear.

4 AUG. FRI.

One camel recovering - 2 still very bad - but no fresh victims. One of the sick animals left behind at the feeding ground in the evening, unable to travel when the remainder of the mob were brought into yard up for night. Went out later with one of the hands and a blackboy, & brought him in by easy stages - on getting him into the yard, administered a dope consisting of six packs Epsom Salts & handful of magnesia to one bucket warm water, inducing almost immediate vomiting & Scouring. Hope to leave on Monday, if poisoned camels strong enough, all sore backed & sore footed camels practically well - pack saddles all shaped to keep weight off the healing sores as far as possible. Fine & clear throughout - fresh S.E. & E'ly wind.

Friday, 4th August 1911

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>28.08</td>
<td>59 deg. [15°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>28.02</td>
<td>83 deg. [28.3°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>28.02</td>
<td>83 deg. [28.3°C]</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The camels affected with poison were not much better this morning, but all were sent out. One of the riding camels was so bad that he could not be driven back at night, but the others had improved slightly.

The water-kegs were cleaned and soaked, and repairs continued during the day.

The day was warm with a gentle breeze from S.E. Sky clear.

5 AUG. SAT.

Sick camels all recovering. Hands employed in straightening out all loading - readjusting weights in order to provide light burdens for the weak animals, & generally squaring up things in camp preparatory to leaving on Monday - if no other camels take poison in the meantime. Fine & clear throughout - light S.E. & E'ly wind.

Saturday, 5th August 1911

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>29.1 deg.</td>
<td>62 deg. [16.7°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>29.02</td>
<td>83 deg. [28.3°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>29.02</td>
<td>82 deg. [27.8°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The camels were sent out as usual though two of them were still suffering from poisoning. Mr. Hill returned from South Newcastle with Mr. Grainger, and as they brought cattle up, a bullock was killed and part of it salted for the party to take away.

The day was warm with a gentle to fresh breeze from S.E. Sky clear.

6 AUG. SUN.

No unnecessary work done in camp. Fine & clear throughout - fresh S.E. wind.
Sunday, 6th August 1911. 8th after Trinity

9am  Barometer 29.14  Thermometer 62 deg. [16.7°C]
3pm  Barometer 29.02  Thermometer 84 deg. [28.9°C]
6pm  Barometer 29.01  Thermometer 83 deg. [28.3°C]

In the afternoon another bullock was killed and salted for the camp.

The day was warm with a gentle breeze from E. & S.E. Sky clear.

7 AUG. MON.

Hands employed during the forenoon in breaking camp. Camels backs thoroughly washed to cleanse any matted hair round the healing sores - animals then sent out to feed, the boys instructed to bring them back to camp again during the early afternoon. Nearly 4 p.m. when they returned - loaded up immediately and left Newcastle Waters at 5 p.m. Camped about 5 miles (8 km) out on edge of wide plain at 7 p.m. - excellent camel feed everywhere, and no poison bush. Fine & clear throughout - moderate to fresh S.E. wind.

Monday, 7th August 1911

9am  Barometer 29.09  Thermometer 70 deg. [21.1°C]
3pm  Barometer 29.03  Thermometer 81 deg. [27.2°C]
6pm  Barometer 29.01  Thermometer 80 deg. [26.7°C]

The remainder of the loading was packed, the mess tent taken down, and all top loading was lashed after breakfast. The meat was then loaded at the station and after lunch the camels were brought in and when they had been watered we loaded up and left the station at 4.40. After rounding the station waterhole the fence was crossed and followed Easterly until we mounted the tableland at 5.25. We then continued on the cattle track until camp at 6.10. After leaving the gutta percha of the waterholes, a fair scrub of gums, hakea and other large trees with good grass and jasminum was passed through. Good specimens of Mitchell grass were seen and a well grassed open plain stretched away to the north of us. The day was warm with a gentle breeze from S.E. Sky clear.

8 AUG. TUE.

Left camp 9.50 a.m. Camped 6.15 p.m. The camels scattered somewhat during the night and were brought into camp late, thus delaying the start. Travelling S.E'ly along stock route, keeping just on the edge of scrub with wide open plain stretching away to Nor'ard and East'ard of us. Another camel scouring heavily and otherwise showing signs of the gutta percha poisoning. Camped for the night on patch of good feed. Fine & clear throughout - light N.E. and easterly wind. Distance 18' (29 km).

Tuesday, 8th August 1911

9am  Barometer 29.00  Thermometer 60 deg. [15.6°C]
3pm  Barometer 28.97  Thermometer 98 deg. [36.7°C]
6pm  Barometer 28.96  Thermometer 85 deg. [29.4°C]
We left camp at 9.5, and continued on the stock route, going south over the tableland. There was an open grass plain to the East of us and we travelled on the edge of the scrub extending West over a rocky ridge covered with spinifex. Lunch 12.10 - 1.0. The scrub was a scattered one of whitewood, a species of gums locally called coolibah, bean trees and hedge-wood. Shortly after 3 o'clock we left the stock route and going S.W. passed through a varied scrub of acacia bushes and gums with creeper tree, whitewood, and jasminum. In both clay pans and on the ridges tea-tree were noticed while spinifex was common until we reached the stock route again at 5.15. We continued along the route until camp at 5.30. Another camel showed signs of poisoning during the afternoon. The day was warm with a gentle breeze from N.E. to S.E. Sky clear.

9 AUG. WED.

Left camp 10.10 a.m. Camped 6.05 p.m.
The sick camel of yesterday found to be suffering badly from poison - dosed him with buckets of hot scouring mixture containing ten packets Epsom Salts, producing almost instantaneous vomiting and purging. He was too weak to travel however, completely gone in the loins - hitched him up under a shady tree with a long rope passed through his hobble chains, with saddle and loading (empty water drums only) close handy - anticipate that he will be well enough in a couple of days when we send back for him from Tundieja (Tandyidgee) Water Hole.
Actual start from camp delayed until 10.35 a.m. in trying to get the sick animal along. Travelling S.E.'ly along the edge of the plain, heading Easterly across plain later in the afternoon - plain splendidly grassed with Mitchell and Flinders grasses. Camped for the night on patch of young green acacia which the camels attacked greedily - three more of them lying down after nightfall, showing decided symptoms of poisoning. Fine & clear throughout - wind light and variable, principally from east and N.E. Distance 18' (29.8 km).

Wednesday, 9th August 1911

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>28.97</td>
<td>63 deg. [17.2°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>28.9</td>
<td>92 deg. [33.3°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>28.9</td>
<td>92 deg. [33.3°C]</td>
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Another of the camels was poisoned this morning, and after drenching him we tried to force him along but had to tie him up and leave him on the track. The plain and the edge of the scrub on which the stock route lay did not vary until after lunch - well grassed plain to E. Scrub, whitewood, gums and jasminum. Lunch 12.15 - 1.15. At 2.45 we descended into a hollow and left the route from a buggy track turning more to Southward. The plain was quite open with Flinders and Mitchell grass growing well until 4.25 when there were a few box and bushes. The dark coloured loam also became more of a Bay of Biscay Nature. The buggy track was left for some time but we struck it at camp at 5.30. Our course varied from East in the morning to South at camp. The day was warm with light to gentle breeze from N.E. to S.E. Sky hazy especially at horizon.

10 AUG. THUR.

Left camp 9.45 a.m. Camped 11.15 a.m.
Travelling E.N.E. across the plain, which stretched away to the horizon almost on all sides - just a fringe of scrub and small timber showing up ahead from E. to S.E. Three camels sick, but just able to come along with the team, not having gone in the loins or shown the preliminary symptoms of violent scouring as in all the previous cases. Doctored them all up on arrival at Tundieja Waterhole 11.15 a.m. - two of them
apparently only having a very light touch of the poison - but one, my riding camel, being exceedingly bad - apparently completely choked up with the gutta percha, a bucket of hot water containing twelve packets Epsom Salts producing no effect either as regards vomiting or scouring.
Fine & clear throughout - light N.E. wind.

**Thursday, 10th August 1911**

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<th>Time</th>
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<th>Thermometer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>28.92</td>
<td>67 deg. [19.4°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>28.89</td>
<td>89 deg. [31.7°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>28.89</td>
<td>88 deg. [31.1°C]</td>
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</table>

Three more camels were affected with poison in the morning but they were able to follow the string. We left camp at 9.10 and continued over the plain, taking an Easterly course. After about 2 miles [3.2 km] the ground became slightly harder with more spear grass, and shortly afterwards we struck the stock route again and followed it into water on which we camped at 10.45. The water is very muddy and consists of a chain of holes in a small creek; none of them is very deep, so that it could hardly be called permanent. The bottom is a good one of hard red clay. The sick camels were attended to, the theodolite stand set up, and the creek inspected for some two miles [3.2 km] to the South. There are large flocks of small green parrots [parrakeets- budgerigar] besides white cockatoos and galahs on the water.

The day was warm with a gentle breeze from N.E. and E. Light cirro-stratus clouds and haze.

**11 AUG. FRI.**

Camped at Tundieja W.H. - a small watercourse, with a series of waterholes in the bed of it, running for a distance of about two miles [3.2 km] - quality of water akin to that of Newcastle Waters, very sweet drinking but highly impregnated with clay. Excellent camel feed in the vicinity - young box trees and quantities of various acaceous bush - no gutta percha visible anywhere. First thing in the morning despatched Simpson, with blackboy & 2 riding camels to bring in the sick camel left behind on the track. Two of the sick animals in camp considerably better, but my riding camel fearfully bad - dosed him with buckets of warm fat and castor oil, afterwards racing him up and down to try and shake matters up inside, but with little result - he gradually grew worse, and died during the afternoon. A post-mortem revealed the stomach full of wholesome feed, but all the intestines clogged up with a liquid rubber substance - he must have either had a bigger gorge on the gutta percha than any of the others, or being a very old camel it produced a greater effect on him. Fine throughout but clouding up heavily towards sundown. Light N.E. wind & calm.

Lat. Mer. Alt. δ - 17° 47' 34" S.

No night observations possible - sky heavily clouded over.

**Friday, 11th August 1911**

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<thead>
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<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>29.03</td>
<td>69 deg. [20.6°C]</td>
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<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>28.98</td>
<td>91 deg. [32.8°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>28.96</td>
<td>90 deg. [32.2°C]</td>
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</table>

After breakfast I went up the creek for about two miles [3.2 km] where it seemed to rise, and as no signs of a watercourse could be seen for a mile or so on either side, I commenced a sketch of the creek, using the prismatic compass for bearings. This was continued all day.
Mr. Macpherson's riding camel died this afternoon, and Mr. Simpson went back for the camel left on the road.

The day was sultry with a light breeze from E. and S.E. Clouds cirrus and fracto-cumulus.

12 AUG. SAT.

Sick camels attended to as usual. Hands employed making survey of water course with the prismatic compass, cutting and branding pole for marking site of projected well, etc. - Simpson returned shortly before sundown with the sick camel - still exceedingly bad, just able to drag himself along without any load, one of the riding camels bringing in his saddle and pack. Fine throughout but cloudy - calm generally with occasional heavy gusts from the eastward.

Lat. Mer. Alt. 6° 17' 47' 10" S.
Mean Lat. 6° & * obsns. 17° 47' 32" S.

Saturday, 12th August 1911

9am Barometer 29.11 Thermometer 74 deg. [23.3°C]
3pm Barometer 29.02 Thermometer 92 deg. [33.3°C]
6pm Barometer 28.98 Thermometer 88 deg. [31.1°C]

The sketch survey of the creek was continued during the day. I reached the camp at lunch and as the creek ran out about a mile and a half [2.4 km] below, the work was concluded at sunset. A native grave was noticed in a tree down the creek; the bones were those of a child.

The day was warm with a gentle breeze from N.E. Clouds fracto-cumulus and cirro-cumulus.

13 AUG. SUN.

Sick camels attended to - all rapidly mending with exception of the one brought into camp yesterday, he being apparently no better. No unnecessary work done in camp. Fine and clear throughout - fresh N.E. and Easterly wind.

Sunday, 13th August 1911. 9th after Trinity

9am Barometer 29.18 Thermometer 76 deg. [24.4°C]
3pm Barometer 28.97 Thermometer 91 deg. [32.8°C]
6pm Barometer 28.88 Thermometer 89 deg. [31.7°C]

No unnecessary work was done in camp to-day.

The day was warm with a fresh to light breeze from E. & N.E., clouds, cirrus.

14 AUG. MON.

Sick camel still unable to travel, thus preventing us from making a start today. Animals attended to as usual. Hands employed in overhauling saddlery and filling up kegs & other water carrying appliances - everything thoroughly scoured out with permanganate of potash before filling and the water cleared of clay as much as
possible. During afternoon set up post for well site marked C Well IV 1' (400 m) N.W. of camp. Fine & clear throughout - fresh S.E. and easterly wind.

Monday, 14th August 1911

9am Barometer 29.09 Thermometer 74 deg. [23.3°C]
3pm Barometer 28.97 Thermometer 91 deg. [32.8°C]
6pm Barometer 28.97 Thermometer 88 deg. [31.1°C]

Sufficient water was obtained and cleared to fill two loads of kegs and one of drums. The post for Powell Creek was branded and sunk to the West of the camp. Loading and stores were then repacked and got in readiness to leave to-morrow.

The day was warm with an easterly wind - light air - clouds, cirro-stratus.

15 AUG. TUE.

Left camp 2 p.m. Camped 6.55 p.m. Travelling S.E'ly along stock route - sick camel still badly gone in loins and coming along slowly with empty back. One load discarded at Tundieji, the small water barrels being left there together with an old and very worn pack saddle - also my riding saddle and kit distributed on other camels as top loading - allowance thus being made for shortage of two animals. Fine & clear throughout - light Easterly wind. Distance 12' (19.3 km).

Tuesday, 15th August 1911

9am Barometer 29.11 Thermometer 73 deg. [22.8°C]
3pm Barometer 29.02 Thermometer 101 deg. [38.3°C]
6pm Barometer 29.01 Thermometer 95 deg. [35°C]

The remainder of the loading was stowed in the morning, and the two sick camels attended to. We left camp at 1.20 and after crossing the creek struck the stock route and followed it in a S.E. direction though a moderate scrub of box, jasminum and bean trees. The soil was sandy, and the plain very even. After about 2 miles [3.2 km] had been done, a patch of white gums and creeper trees was crossed, and the soil became more loamy and then gradually stony. At 3.20 we came out on to the open plain and continued along on it until camp at 6.10. The scrub on the edge of the plain was mostly creeper tree, bean tree and hedge-wood.

The day was warm with a gentle breeze from N.E. Clouds, cirrus.

16 AUG. WED.

Left camp 9.35 a.m. Camped 4.45 p.m. Travelling S.E'ly along stock route towards Eve Downs Station - open plain, well grassed, with occasional patches of box and acaceous scrub. Turned due east 4.10 p.m. and crossed a creek a few minutes later - several good water holes but all dry. Sick camel completely knocked out and lagging behind over a mile (1.6 km), so camped early on patch of good feed. Distance 15' (24.1 km). Fine & clear throughout - light to moderate East and N.E wind. Latitude obsn. - 18° 02' 30" S.
**Wednesday, 16th August 1911**

9am  Barometer 29.03  Thermometer 63 deg. [17.2°C]
3pm  Barometer 29.00  Thermometer 97 deg. [36.1°C]
6pm  Barometer 29.01  Thermometer 91 deg. [32.8°C]

We left camp at 8.53 and after crossing the patch of jasminum and small gums, we came out on to the open plain again at 9.40. A small ironstone ridge covered in places with spinifex was crossed at 10.15 and the open downs with small patches of creeper tree and whitewood scrub continued till lunch - 12.0 - 12.45. We continued over the grey soil plain, well grassed, and still dotted with patches of scrub until 3.35 when we struck a small creek flowing in a southerly direction, but though the cattle had evidently watered there, and there were large clay holes in the bed there was no water. We camped on the plain to the East of the creek at 4.15 as the sick camel was some 2 miles [3.2 km] behind the rest of the string.

The day was warm with a gentle breeze from N.E. & E. Sky clear. The name of this water is "Monmoona".

**17 AUG. THUR.**

Left camp 9.50 a.m. Camped 5.20 p.m.
Travelling Easterly along stock route, across splendidly grassed plain stretching away to the horizon, on all sides. At 10.20 a.m. crossed small watercourse containing several good holes - now dry. At 12.25 p.m. another watercourse with deep hole (probably Bundara W.H.) - also dry. Sick camel unable to follow the string - lagging behind miles in the rear. Camped on little feed & no firewood, but no signs of any break for miles ahead. Simpson & Whisky Tom arrived in camp shortly after sundown reporting the death of sick camel on the road.
Fine & clear throughout - fresh S.E. and Easterly wind. Distance 18' (29 km).

**Thursday, 17th August 1911**

9am  Barometer 29.11  Thermometer 70 deg. [21.1°C]
3pm  Barometer 28.99  Thermometer 97 deg. [36.1°C]
6pm  Barometer 28.91  Thermometer 89 deg. [31.7°C]

We left camp at 9.7 and after mounting on to a gravelly rise dotted with small creeper tree, whitewood and jasminum, we continued over it until 9.40 when we crossed another creek composed of good deep holes but containing no water.

The plain was then quite open and clear with a light grey soil until we camped for lunch on another dry creek - 11.50 - 12.45. After lunch the plain continued unchanged except by small depressions at 2.50 and 3.50. It was splendidly grassed with flinders, kangaroo and other grasses, and the soil was the common light grey soil of a peaty texture, covered with flint and jasper [sic] gravel. The sick camel was left about a mile and a half from camp and it does not seem likely that he will recover - Camped 4.40.

The day was warm with a moderate breeze from E. & S.E. Sky clear.

**18 AUG. FRI.**

Left camp 9.50 a.m. Camped 6.50 p.m.
Travelling easterly across splendidly grassed plain stretching away to the horizon on all sides - the only breaks being a small water-course shortly before noon and a narrow belt of scrub & light timber at 1.30 p.m.
Camped on patch of scrub & Coolibah trees - very indifferent feed for the camels but afraid to proceed further - big patch of scrub ahead probably denoting the line of Broad Creek with every likelihood of gutta percha in the vicinity.
Fine and clear throughout - fresh easterly wind. Distance - (not recorded).

Friday, 18th August 1911

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<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>28.94</td>
<td>97 deg. [36.1°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>28.94</td>
<td>92 deg. [33.3°C]</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

We left camp at 9.7 and continued along the stock route over the open plain until 10.40 when we crossed a small creek, and after mounting a slight rise we did not pass even a single bush until lunch when we stopped on a ridge covered with creeper trees, jasminum, whitewood and desert roses (12.40 - 1.40). The ridge extended North and South and the stock route passed through a wide gap in the scrub.

After lunch the plain was still a wide open expanse of grass, in places slightly undulating but stretching away on all sides like a sea. About 6.15 we descended to flat showing more Flinders grass, a small patches of wattle bushes, and we camped at 6.40 where a few isolated gums gave a scanty supply of firewood.

The day was warm with a gentle breeze from E. & N.E. Clouds, cirrus.

19 AUG. SAT.

Left camp 9.40 a.m. Camped 1.05 p.m.
Continuation of undulating plain, with belts of scrub more numerous than before.
Crossed dry water course (Broad Creek) 10.15 a.m. and camped at Eva Downs Stn. finding it deserted.
Watered camels at the waterhole, and turned them out to feed on patch of excellent bush inside fenced paddock.
Station well about 100 ft. (30.5 m) in depth, water clear but tasting and smelling badly - baled it out during the afternoon but found no improvement.
Fine and clear throughout - light to moderate East and S.E. wind. Distance - (not recorded).

Lat. * obsn. - 17° 59' 48" S.

Saturday, 19th August, 1911

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<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
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<td>92 deg. [33.3°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>28.96</td>
<td>90 deg. [32.2°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We left camp at 8.53 and at 9.30 crossed a small depression which from its position should be Broad Creek, but which would only hold water for a few months. At 10.50 we passed a patch of scrub to the North of the track and extending along a low ridge running N.W. At 11.25 an ironstone knob covered with spinnifex and a few bushes was passed, with a small waterhole recently dried up, to the left of the track. At 12 noon another gravelly ridge was crossed and we travelled to the North of a fenced paddock. Turning in through a gap in the fence we camped at Eva Downs old station at 12.20.
Flinders Grass was the most noticeable of the grasses in the open plain; mitchell and kangaroo grasses were also plentiful - The day was warm with a gentle easterly breeze. Sky hazy.

20 AUG. SUN.

Camped at Eva Downs Stn. No unnecessary work done in camp. Camels backs washed, and all water carrying appliances filled in readiness for a start again on the morrow.
Camels thoroughly enjoying the spell on good feed all the poisoned ones picking up condition again, with one exception - sparing him as much as possible with light load consisting of four empty water drums - no necessity to keep the latter filled for these short stages, but retaining them in case they may be required later.
Fine generally, clouding up towards sundown - moderate to fresh easterly wind.
Lat. + obsn. - 17º 59' 32" S.

Sunday, 20th August 1911. 10th after Trinity

9am Barometer 29.09 Thermometer 75 deg. [23.9°C]
3pm Barometer 29.01 Thermometer 92 deg. [33.3°C]
6pm Barometer 28.9 Thermometer 89 deg. [31.7°C]

Eva Downs Station is situated on an ironstone gravelly rise dotted with gidyea. The well is about 90 ft. [27.4 m] deep but besides being brackish the water is now tainted with animal decomposition. A fair sized waterhole however gives permanent water to travelling stock, but as it was not sufficient for the station stock, the place has been abandoned. There is good feed on the plain around, and with a little attention there should be no trouble in retaining enough water to enable the station to be stocked.

The day was warm with a gentle breeze from N.E. Clouds cumulus and cumulonimbus.

21 AUG. MON.

Left camp 10.20 a.m. Camped 6.55 p.m.
Late start - packs considerably disarranged after the day in camp. Travelling easterly across open downs, splendidly grassed with occasional low rises slightly timbered.
Camped with practically no camel feed or firewood - country level and unbroken right away to the horizon on all sides, not a tree or patch of scrub in sight anywhere. Fine generally, clouding up heavily towards sundown - N.E. & northerly wind unsteady in force and direction.
Distance - (not recorded).

Monday, 21st August 1911

9am Barometer 29.05 Thermometer 67 deg. [19.4°C]
3pm Barometer 28.9 Thermometer 100 deg. [37.8°C]
6pm Barometer 28.92 Thermometer 92 deg. [33.3°C]

We left Eva Downs at 9.30 and continued easterly along the stock route. There were ridges of scrub on both sides of the track and the station creek flowing from East round to North was crossed at 10.30. We stopped for lunch (11.45 - 12.35) in a thin scrub of small gums, creeper tree and other bushes. The plain was well grassed with Mitchell and Flinders grasses, and the soil grey and peaty with very little gravel. At 2.30 we crossed a small creek and for the next few miles the plain was dotted with a few
bushes, but for a good distance previous to camp at 5.40 there was nothing to break the monotonous expanse of grass, and we had some trouble in getting a few sticks for tea.

The day was warm with a gentle breeze from N.E. Clouds, cirro-cumulus and cumulus.

**22 AUG. TUE.**

Left camp 9.30 a.m. Camped 5.50 p.m. Travelling easterly across open downs, well grassed, hardly a vestige of scrub or timber anywhere until the late afternoon. Struck corner of fence 4.45 p.m. and followed it round until camping at Anthony’s Lagoon. Camels yarded up for the night in yards at cattle dip - unable to turn them loose, gutta percha everywhere along the creek, also ironwood (a deadly poison) in the immediate vicinity. Missed the mail south via Camooweal by one day - none other for a month. Overcast and sultry throughout, with a few spots of rain at sundown - fresh N.W’ly wind. Distance - (not recorded).

**Tuesday, 22nd August 1911**

9am  Barometer 28.9  Thermometer 78 deg. [25.6°C]
3pm  Barometer 28.8  Thermometer 92 deg. [33.3°C]
6pm  Barometer 28.85 Thermometer 86 deg. [30°C]

We left camp at 8.17 and after crossing over to the stock route we followed it over the open plain. A small billabong was passed at 8.50 and at 9.30 we crossed another small creek with a small salt bush flat on either side. A ridge of scrub ran parallel to the track for some miles, but firewood was again very difficult to find at lunch 11.40 - 12.25. Limestone had been noticed on the surface during the morning and it was common all day. Jasper and flint were again plentiful after 2.15 when we crossed a small ridge of scrub on the edge of a creek. Gutta percha trees were growing in the creek bed and creeper tree, jasminum, whitewood and gums lined the banks. At 3.45 the track turned N. along the bank of Anthony’s Lagoon, and after following the paddock fence we reached the police station at 4.35 and camped in a flat at 4.55. The day was warm with a gentle breeze from N.W. Clouds cirro-cumulus, cumulus and nimbus.

**23 AUG. WED.**

Camped at Anthony’s Lagoon. Sky clearing during the night with strong southerly wind - same continuing throughout the day accompanied by fine & clear weather. Camels watered at the creek and turned out to feed, with all hands shepherding them - each camel roped by the hobble chains to an edible bush and shifted on to another from time to time - these precautions necessary with young gutta percha growing in profusion everywhere, which they greedily snap at if unguarded - yarded them up again at sundown. Find it impossible to send a messenger into Powell’s Ck. with telegrams as contemplated - stock route to the westward too dry for horses to get through.

**Wednesday, 23rd August 1911**

9am  Barometer 29.02  Thermometer 74 deg. [23.3°C]
3pm  Barometer 28.92  Thermometer 96 deg. [35.6°C]
6pm  Barometer 28.9  Thermometer 91 deg. [32.8°C]

In the morning the camels were taken out of the yard and each of them tied to a bush to feed, but though they were watched all day and led from bush to bush they did not...
seem to eat, and it was decided to turn them loose next day in a small corner of Brunette Downs' horse paddock which was free from gutta percha. Stores were carted down to the camp during the afternoon.

The police station and the store obtain their water from a lagoon about 30 yards wide and a quarter of a mile long. This water is not permanent though it generally lasts from rain to rain.

The day was warm with a gentle breeze from S.E. Sky clear.

24 AUG. THUR.

Camped at Anthony's Lagoon. Sick and sore backed camels attended to, mob then turned out to feed with the blackboys and two of the hands shepherding them - a small patch of feed having been found some distance from the creek and practically free from poison. One hand engaged in running compass survey of creek. Fine and clear throughout - strong southerly wind.

Lat. ± obsn. 17° 59' 33" S.

Thursday, 24th August 1911

9am   Barometer 29.07   Thermometer 73 deg. [22.8°C]
3pm   Barometer 29.02   Thermometer 89 deg. [31.7°C]
6pm   Barometer 28.92   Thermometer 73 deg. [22.8°C]

Under instructions from Capt. Barclay I observed with the prismatic compass triangle within Police Station, Cattle Yards and Store; and when this had been completed, made a prismatic survey of the lagoon and the creek forming it for a mile on either side of the station.

The day was cooler with a fresh breeze from S.E. Sky clear.

25 AUG. FRI.

Anthony's Lagoon. The first motor car to pass through Anthony's Lagoon came into camp at breakfast time, having on board Mr. F. B. Powell, Mining Engineer, and party, on route to the McArther River silver and lead mines to examine and report - they breakfasted with us and then proceeded - reported an excellent journey and no difficulties with the car since leaving Camooweal. Hands employed shepherding camels, repairing saddlery, packing stores and generally straightening out loading in readiness for departure tomorrow. Fine & clear throughout - strong southerly wind.

Friday, 25th August 1911

9am   Barometer 29.18   Thermometer 65 deg. [18.3°C]
3pm   Barometer 29.04   Thermometer 82 deg. [27.8°C]
6pm   Barometer 29.02   Thermometer 76 deg. [24.4°C]

In the morning Messrs. Power Bros accompanied by Messrs Carr and Macpherson arrived by motor car from Winton, and remained for breakfast. The car was an ordinary "runabout" and had a load of one ton. No difficulty was experienced in getting over the tracks, and 25 miles [40.2 km] had been done before the party stopped for breakfast. They left for McArther [sic] river station at 9.30.
The readings of the barometer at the police station, the camp, the lagoon and the store were taken several times during the day, and the differences in level ascertained.

The day was cool with a fresh breeze from S.E. Sky clear.

26 AUG. SAT.

Left camp 5.20 p.m. Camped 7.00 p.m.
Turned camels out to feed until late in the afternoon, in anticipation of them having to spend a hungry night - gutta percha along the track for many miles out from Anthony's Lagoon towards Borroloola.
Loaded up and proceeded immediately on camels being brought into camp - travelling N.E.'ly over open and well grassed plain. camped on the track - nothing but gutta percha in the vicinity, so tied the camels down all night. Fine and clear throughout - moderate to fresh southerly wind. Distance - (not recorded).

Saturday, 26th August 1911

<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>29.11</td>
<td>67 deg. [19.4°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>29.02</td>
<td>89 deg. [31.7°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>28.99</td>
<td>89 deg. [31.7°C]</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

A further supply of provisions was taken down from the store in the morning and loading packed and arranged for leaving. Two goats were lashed on as top loading for no beef could be obtained. At 3.55 we left Anthony's Lagoon going out about N.E. from the police station, and continuing in that direction over the plain until we camped at 5.30 on the edge of a strip of gutta percha and box scrub. The camels were put out on the open plain but before we went to bed they were tied down again in camp, and it was decided to give them another feed at daylight.

The day was warm with a gentle breeze from S.E. to S. W. Sky clear.

27 AUG. SUN.

Left camp 10.30 a.m. Camped 5 - p.m.
Camels let loose at daybreak to feed for a few hours - heading them out on to the open plain to get what picking they could amongst the grass - some of them taking very kindly to the grass already owing to absence of other varieties of food.
Proceeded N.E.'ly along Borroloola track, at 11.15 a.m. meeting Dr. Woolnough, the geologist of Professor Spencer's party en route to Camooweal, with mounted trooper from Borroloola as escort. Pulled up at noon and halted for a couple of hours on patch of white wood giving the camels a good feed to make up for their hungry night - hobbling out the riding and lightly loaded beasts, ad cutting down the bush for the more heavily burdened ones. Camped for the night on good patch of feed, but also a considerable amount of gutta percha and ironwood about. Camels therefore brought into camp when it became too dark to shepherd them, and tied up to individual bushes for the night. Fine and clear throughout - light E. and N.E. wind.
Lat. * obsn. 17° 46' 47" S. Distance - (not recorded).

Sunday, 27th August 1911. 11th after Trinity

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<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>28.99</td>
<td>94 deg. [34.4°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>29.00</td>
<td>83 deg. [28.3°C]</td>
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</table>
After the camels had been let out again we left camp at 9.30 and crossing the belt of gutta percha we followed the track running about N.W. with the scrub half a mile to W. of us. Shortly after 10 a.m. we met Dr. Woolnough and his escort on their way to Anthony's Lagoon, and at 11.5 we camped for lunch in a small cluster of whitewoods so as to give the camels a feed - Lunch 11.5 - 12.5 - We continued over the open well grassed plain until 2.30 when we mounted a gravely rise covered with gidyea, gums, box, bean, and jasminum. A waterhole lies about half a mile [800 m] to W. of the track here. At 3.5 spinnifex was seen on the ironstone gravel ridges, with quinine bushes and gums. After descending the northern slope of the ridge we crossed two small creeks and proceeded along the level plain again. Some iron wood was passed at 3.30 but there was good camel feed where we camped at 3.55. The day was warm with a gentle breeze from S.E. Sky clear.

28 AUG. MON.

Left camp 10 a.m. Camped 5 p.m.
Camels let loose to feed at daybreak - bringing them into camp latest moment possible to load up. Travelling N.E'ly along Borroloola track - gravelly soil - splendid grass. Coolibahs and various shrubs - one being a deadly camel poison we have been given to understand, but Mr. Hill, upon examination, pronounced it harmless. Left track 4.25 p.m. and headed due East, camping on water (Colarbirlian W.H.) [Colarbirlian] at 5 p.m. - only a few days water remaining in the hole, it being extremely shallow everywhere.
Camels hobbled out for the night - plenty of feed along line of creek, with no signs of poison being present. Stretch of open plain on either hand for them to cross before encountering any more scrub.
Fine and clear throughout - light to moderate S.E. wind. Distance - (not recorded).
Lat. + obsn. - 17° 36' 37" S.

Monday, 28th August 1911

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>28.95</td>
<td>79 deg. [26.1°C]</td>
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</table>

We left camp at 8.50 and for about three quarters of a mile [1.6 km] the gravelly soil with some spinnifex and box continued unaltered. A few whitewoods and some "fruit bush", supposed to be a camel poison, were also noticed. At 10.20 a gravelly ridge with more spinnifex, creeper tree and gidyea was crossed and a mile further on the soil became loamy as the plain was reached while the grass changed to Mitchell and Kangaroo. Lunch 11.45 - 12.40. The track then kept on the edge of the scrub crossing the open plain in places. About 2.30 a scrub of grevillias, bean trees and box grew on a slight rise of harder soil, and shortly afterwards the track which had been varying from N.W. to N. turned to N.W. At 3.15 we turned back S.E. along a wagon track with a small creek to the N. and at 4 p.m. we stopped on a small waterhole, very shallow and with only fair water. The day was warm with a gentle breeze from S.E. Sky clear except for cirrus and cirro-strato clouds in afternoon.

29 AUG. TUE.

Left camp 10.05 a.m. Camped 4.55 p.m.
Travelling northerly along track after getting on to it again at 10.50 a.m. Passed a deserted station on east side of creek about noon.
Camped on patch of good camel feed - low range visible ahead, running from N.W. to N.E. distance about 10' (16 km). Ironwood dotted about through scrub in the vicinity, so camels tied up to trees at sundown in consequence.
Distance - (not recorded). Fine and clear throughout - light to moderate Easterly wind.

Tuesday, 29th August 1911

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<tr>
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<td>[25°C]</td>
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<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
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<td>88 deg.</td>
<td>[31.1°C]</td>
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<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>28.79</td>
<td>81 deg.</td>
<td>[27.2°C]</td>
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</table>

After leaving the waterhole (Collabearan) at 8.55 we went back on to the track and followed it in a N.W. direction with the creek running S.S.E. to the right, and the edge of the scrub to the left of us. Several small branches of the creek were also crossed here. At 11 a.m. we passed a deserted station on the bank; of the creek - good mitchell grass grew on the edge of track and we turned E. into a small billabong for lunch 11.45 - 12.36. After lunch the level of the country rose, the surface became more gravelly and many more small creek heads were crossed as the track led through a moderate scrub of creeper tree and gum. At 2 p.m. the surface was still undulating and gravelly with box, creeper tree, jasminum and white wood scrub, but shortly afterwards we descended into a loamy flat with open grass and small whitewoods and jasminum. At 3 p.m. we entered the scrub again and continued through it until camp at 3.50. The scrub here provided good camel feed in walindah gum, whitewood, jasminum and sandalwood. Some ironwood was seen on the creek in the morning and also shortly before camp - The day was warm with moderate to gentle breeze from S.E. & E. Clouds, cirrus.

30 AUG. WED.

Left camp 10.05 a.m. Camped 5.25 p.m.
Camels let loose at dawn. Travelling northerly along track. Coming down over the divide from the tableland at 10.30 a.m. - thence passing through low ranges with wide and richly grassed plains in between. Crossed the head of the Kilgour Creek at 2.30 p.m., surrounding country well timbered with white gum, and quantities of white wood, later in the afternoon crossing a wide and open plain, richly grassed, extending fifteen or twenty miles (24 or 32 km) away over to the foot of a range visible to the Westward and N.W.
Camped on patch of good feed for the camels, feeding them out until after sundown, then tying up to trees for the night. Distance - (not recorded).
Fine and clear throughout - light to moderate N.E. and Easterly wind.

Wednesday, 30th August 1911

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<td>97 deg.</td>
<td>[36.1°C]</td>
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<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>28.99</td>
<td>77 deg.</td>
<td>[25°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We left camp at 8.40 and were soon out of the good scrub into one of walindah gums and whitewood, with an undulating gravelly surface. After about 3 miles [4.8 km] we descended a steep bank into a valley between the hills of the divide and continued across a well grassed flat dotted with small wattles and gums. The soil was more loamy and there were a few white gums with creeper trees and gums on the banks of the small creek heads flowing across the flats. After crossing some hills of peaty soil with good flinders grass we stopped for lunch on an ironstone ridge 11.45 - 12.40.
Continuing on our course about North and N. x E., we crossed what was probably the head of the Kilgar [Kilgour] at 2 miles [3.2 km] from lunch and another small feeding at 2.20; both these flowed N. The intervening country was gravelly rises with fair
grass and a moderate scrub of box, bloodwood and walindah gum. The hills were then more open until 3.15 when after crossing another small creek we passed through a quarter of a mile of scattered gums, jasminum and spinifex before descending on to an extensive flat of peaty soil, well grassed, and rich looking. This flat was followed by several smaller ones separated from one another by ironstone ridges. We camped on a broad ridge covered with a kind of mallee, whitewood, jasminum and spinifex at 4 p.m. Day warm, gentle breeze from N.E. Cirro-cumulus clouds in N.

31 AUG. THUR.

Left camp 9.50 a.m. Camped 1.00 p.m. Arrived at Top Spring in time for mid-day halt. After locating the water, off loaded camels and pitched camp close to the spring - watered camels and turned them out to feed, carefully shepherded, until sundown - tying them up, then owing to there being quantities of ironwood everywhere in the vicinity - very indifferent camel feed anywhere around. Mr. Holt (Holt & B?altse) of Eva Downs camped 1' (1.6 km) back from spring with horses - obtained a supply of fresh meat from him. Fine and clear throughout - light Easterly wind. Distance - (not recorded). Lat. + obsn. - 17° 02' 37" S.

Top Spring situated in bed of creek - limestone formation apparently overlying desert sandstone - numerous similar springs in the vicinity, notably Wenga (?) Spring, 1'2' (?) below Top Spring, which runs the creek into the McArthur River.

Thursday, 31st August 1911

9am Barometer 29.15 Thermometer 86 deg. [30°C]
3pm Barometer 29.1 Thermometer 95 deg. [35°C]
6pm Barometer 29.08 Thermometer 83 deg. [28.3°C]

After leaving camp at 8.40 we descended out of the scrub on the ridge into another open flat. Some stony ridges with sandy approaches within crossed before we met a small creek flowing North. At 9.15 we entered on the large flat bordering the creek; the soil was generally a light-coloured loam, well grassed, and dotted with bean trees, gums, and jasminum. After about 5 miles [8 km] of open plain the scrub which had been noticed on both sides closed in; it was a scattered scrub of walindah gums, gravillias and whitewood with good grass of the larger varieties. At 11.20 we passed a newly built yard and a small camp belonging to Mr Holt. The track then turned about N.W. over a limestone rise, with rough boulders, spinifex and a scrub of bloodwood, gums and bean trees. We camped for lunch in a small creek bed under a fine fresh-water mangrove, and after lunch we went on to the Top Spring where we stopped at 2.15. The scrub here is a dense one of mangroves, ironwood, bean, gravillias and large mellaluka [melaleuca]. There is a splendid waterhole of good water, dotted with water lilies, and surrounded by pandamus [pandanus] palms and other green scrub, the hills and the spring itself form some of the prettiest scenery yet met with, and the vegetation has a decided tropical appearance - Day warm, gentle breeze from N.E. Sky clear.

1 SEPT. FRI.

Left camp 11.10 a.m. Camped 12.05 p.m. Miserable camel feed round Top Spring, and quantities of ironwood, so we were glad to get away from it. Shortly after leaving, at a distance of about 3' (4.8 km), came on an open flat bearing splendid feed, acacia, white wood, etc. - with no poison bush handy, so camped for the remainder of day to give the camels a good feed - all hands shepherding them until sundown, then tying up to individual bushes to prevent them from wandering into ironwood scrub during the night. Fine and clear throughout - light Easterly wind.
Friday, 1st September 1911

9am Barometer 29.24 Thermometer 81 deg. [27.2°C]
3pm Barometer 29.02 Thermometer 97 deg. [36.1°C]
6pm Barometer 29.00 Thermometer 83 deg. [28.3°C]

The camels were watered, casks filled and some meat obtained from Mr. Holt before we left camp at 10 a.m. and proceeded N.E. along a track from the spring until we struck the main road, which led about North. Around the water were limestone rises covered with spinifex and other grasses, bloodwood, grevillia, hakia [hakea], quinnine [sic] bush and gums. When the rough hillocks had been crossed ironwood was very plentiful, but a mile further on we passed over an ironstone rise into a more loamy flat of several varieties of gums, whitewood, jasminum, and good grass.

We camped here to enable the camels to get some feed, but we had to shepherd them closely all day, as only a spinifex ridge to the S.W. of the track separated the good timber from the ironwood. There is a camp of about twelve blacks at the spring, and they seem to be more accustomed to swimming and fishing than any yet met with. - The day was warm with a light breeze from N.E. & N. Sky hazy.

2 SEPT. SAT.

Left camp 10.20 a.m. Camped 5.45 p.m.
Camels let loose to feed at dawn. Travelling along track from Top Spring towards Borroloola, winding about to all points of the compass from east round to W.S.W. by the Nor’ard - low and broken ranges, the going fairly rough in places. Camped for the night at Top Crossing of the McArthur River - good camel feed but also quantities of ironwood - camels tied up in consequence when too dark to shepherd them.
Fine and clear throughout - wind variable, light airs from all quarters. Distance - (not recorded).

Saturday, 2nd September, 1911

9am Barometer 29.12 Thermometer 87 deg. [30.6°C]
3pm Barometer 29.31 Thermometer 106 deg. [41.4°C]
6pm Barometer 29.31 Thermometer 84 deg. [28.9°C]

After leaving camp at 9.5 the track led about N.E. for half a mile [800 km] when it turned W. over a quartzite spinifex ridge running in a semicircle from E. to N. and W., and dotted with mountain ash, gums and box. Several other ridges were then crossed with ironwood, gums, beantrees, and good grass between them, followed by quartzite and limestone outcrops with a scrub of bloodwood, gums, ironwood, quinnine bush and jasminum and fair grass. At 11.15 we descended a steep incline on to a flat between the hills, and camped for lunch at 11.35 on the slope of a quartzite hill. The view N. from a know (knoll?) near camp was pretty; it looked over very green gums, and a succession of hills and valleys for some miles around; birds were also more numerous than usual. We continued to descend among limestone hills dotted with gravillias, bean trees, ironwood, box, and gums, and at one and a half miles [2.4 km] from lunch crossed a small creek flowing E. & N. At 2.15 a tree was marked C (Arrow underneath pointing upwards) and readings taken. At 2.50 we descended into the main river valley covered with coarse and smaller grasses, dotted with box and white gums, and with the red face of the cliffs to the E. of the river formed some fine scenery. At 3.10 we turned E. out of the broad valley and N. along a smaller one parallel to the river until we passed through a fence across it. The scenery here also was very fine, and the timber of gums and beans still good. We continued along this valley, across the
McArthur and camped at a very small and shallow waterhole at 4.45 - The day was hot with light, variable winds. Clouds, cirrus and cumulus.

3 SEPT. SUN.

Left camp 10.40 a.m. Camped 6.15 p.m.
Camels turned loose to feed at dawn. Travelling northerly along valley of the McArthur, with ranges on either hand; that to the eastward being unbroken for miles. Quantities of ironwood and gutta percha everywhere rendering useless to us the track - cut some large bundles of acacia during the mid-day halt and fed them whilst lying down. Camped on patch of prickly acacia, tying each beast up to a separate bush - gutta percha growing everywhere necessitating this. Fine and clear throughout - light to moderate S.E. and Easterly wind. Distance - (not recorded).

Sunday, 3rd September - 12th after Trinity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>29.57</td>
<td>82 deg. [27.8°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>29.5</td>
<td>102 deg. [38.9°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>29.48</td>
<td>83 deg. [28.3°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We filled up the water kegs and left camp at 9.25. Along the creek there are chains of waterholes with large timber in melaleuca, casuarina, gums, and bean trees. Cane grass also grows very high in places. We crossed the river again after leaving camp and went out N.W. over a well-grassed loamy flat, with bean trees, ironwood, and gums. There were several billabong waterholes along the track. At 10.35 the flat narrowed in between the steep cliffs on the right bank of the river and a ridge of quartzite hills to the left of us. At 11.40 - 12.40 we camped for lunch in a small creek flowing in from the S., with gutta perch, bean and gums on the banks. After lunch we left the main river valley and went W. along the S. side of a quartzite ridge through a scrub of beans and gums; at 1.40 we turned E. round the end of the ridge into walindah gums, most of which were dry. Turning N. again we went down on to a broad flat extending E. to the river and covered with a moderate scrub of gums, beans, and Gutta percha - the latter was thickest on gravelly rises - At 2.45 we passed the point of the cliffs on the E. of the river, the flat here is loamy and the scrub mostly wattles, gravillias and whitewood. At 3 p.m. we crossed a patch of yellow soil before entering a pretty scrub of flowering wattle, gravillias and Jasminum. At 3.5 we crossed another gutta percha gully, and went further W. from river over limestone rises and gravelly soil with a thin scent of gums and whitewood. There was a quartzite range between us and the river before we entered on another flat of big timber, mainly coolebah, bloodwood gums. At 4.20 we passed 2 wagons camped on the river and after crossing it, we stopped in a scrub of wattles, whitewoods and gums at 4.45. Day hot, light breeze from N.E. Sky clear.

4 SEPT. MON.

Left camp 9.50 a.m. Camped 3.50 p.m.
Travelling N.E.'ly along track towards McArthur River Station - excellent camel feed everywhere, white wood and several varieties of acacia, but gutta percha and ironwood also much in evidence.
Camped early and shepherded camels on splendid feed until sundown, then tying them up for the night. Distance - (not recorded). Fine and clear throughout - light Easterly wind.

Lat. * obsn. - 16° 31' 25" S.
Monday, 4th September 1911

9am   Barometer 29.6   Thermometer 73 deg. [22.8°C]
3pm   Barometer 29.6   Thermometer 97 deg. [36.1°C]
6pm   Barometer 29.55  Thermometer 82 deg. [27.8°C]

We left camp at 8.35 and after going about half a mile [800 m] we passed through a gap in some high red sandstone hills and continued N.E. along a valley of gums, box and ironwood. After a mile and a half [2.4 km] the track turned N. over hill slopes with spinnifex, quinine bush and gums; in a small flat there were large dome-shaped ant hills about 10 ft [3 m] in height and 6 ft [1.8 m] in diameter. At 9.30 we descended into a valley of good grass and a dense scrub of beans, gums, gravillias and emu berry; then over slopes of hills again with less timber but ironwood, gums and jasminum in the flats. At 10.55 some rugged limestone rises were seen on the N. of the track, and after the barren gravelly surface of the hills, a more loamy flat gave some camel feed at lunch 11.40 - 12.40. A few more hills were crossed after lunch and at 1.15 we entered on a flat thickly covered with whitewood, gums, jasminum and beans, some gutta percha were noticed at 1.45, but as the camel feed was good we camped at 2.35. There was a small pool of water in a billabong S.E. of the camp, but in the river about half a mile [800 m] distance there were better waterholes. The scenery on the river was pretty, as the timber of mellaluka, gums and casuarina was large and green. There are fair sized fish in the pools and birds are varied and numerous. - Day warm, gentle breeze from S.E. Sky hazy.

5 SEPT. TUE.

Left camp 10. - a.m. Camped 2. - p.m.
Travelling N.E'ly towards McArthur River Station. At 11.20 a.m. met motor car returning with Mr. Powell's party to Camooweal, after inspecting the silver and lead shows in the neighbourhood - Mr. Powell spoke hopefully of their future prospects. Shortly afterwards passed a waggon (sic) outspanned on the track - teamster suffering with badly bruised and crushed foot - supplied him with bottle (4 oz. (114 ml)) Arnica⁹ for use as a lotion. Left main track 1.15 p.m. and crossed McArthur - found it a running stream here, with flood marks fully 60 ft. (18.3 m) above creek bed. Watered camels and filled kegs, camping close to station shortly afterwards. The owner, Mr. Amos, having kindly supplied us with horses, Capt. Barclay and self rode over later to inspect one of the mining shows, 2° (3.2 km) from the station - on arrival there being taken around by the manager Mr. King - large quantities of ore in sight but no assay returns available. Mr. King very sanguine however that the district has a big future - a potential rival to Broken Hill in fact. Fine and clear throughout - light Easterly wind. Distance - (not recorded).

Tuesday, 5th September 1911

9am   Barometer 29.62  Thermometer 85 deg. [29.4°C]
3pm   Barometer 29.56  Thermometer 99 deg. [37.2°C]
6pm   Barometer 29.52  Thermometer 77 deg. [25°C]

After leaving camp at 8.40, we continued along the river flat. The scrub was still good, mostly whitewood, with wattles, jasminum and gums. At 9.10 we passed a waterhole in a billabong to the E. of the track, and shortly afterwards met Messrs. Powell Bros. with their motor car; they were on the return trip and had until then met with no accident. The flat was unaltered until 10.45 when we crossed a small stony creek flowing into the river, and we again stopped to give some Arnica to a teamster whose

⁹ Tincture of the flowers of plants of the genus Arnica, esp. A. montana.
foot had been hurt a day or so before. We then entered McArthur River 
station paddock, turned E. down to the river and filled the casks and watered 
the camels at a running stream. The trees bordering the river were high here also 
and showed flood marks 60 ft. [18.3 m] above the riverbed. Casuarina, mellaluka, 
and leichardt [sic] pine were the most noticeable of the trees. After leaving the 
river we proceeded towards the station near which we camped at 12.30. There are 
two silver lead mines here, and from samples of the ore and naturally from 
the manager's report they are very promising. Copper has also been found to 
the East of the Station. There are seven men working at present, but only on 
surface deposits. There are good gardens both at the mining camp and at the 
station. - The day was warm with a light easterly breeze. Sky hazy.

6 SEPT. WED.

Left camp 1.40 p.m. Camped 6.50 p.m.
Turned camels out to feed during the forenoon carefully shepherded. Travelling 
northerly along the track towards Borroloola - country generally fairly rough, 
heavy scrub with quantities of ironwood everywhere - right on the edge of the track in 
many places, giving us much difficulty in preventing the camels from getting to it. Camped 
for the night close to a water-hole on right hand side of road - sparse camel feed and much 
poison - tied each beast up to an edible bush for the night. Capt. Barclay came into camp shortly 
after 7 p.m. having followed us from the station with two horses kindly loaned to the Expedition by Mr. Amos.
Fine & clear throughout - light N.E. wind. Distance - (not recorded).

Wednesday, 6th September 1911

9am   Barometer 29.68            Thermometer 77 deg. [25°C]
3pm   Barometer 29.52            Thermometer 103 deg. [39.4°C]
6pm   Barometer 29.45.           Thermometer 89 deg. [31.7°C]

After the camels had been set loose to feed some meat was obtained from the station and 
we left at 12.35. After crossing the river we went across to the main track and at 1.5 
passed the mines and the miners' camp. A small creek was then crossed and we 
entered a thick scrub of wattles, beans, ironwood and gums for half a mile after which a 
slightly elevated open flat with some gutta percha in the middle was passed over. At 
2.20 we crossed a small creek with gutta percha on the banks, and then mounted a 
gravelly rise covered with spinifex and a moderate scrub of quinine bush, grey box 
and ironwood. Continuing over the harder ground, we passed the end of the station 
paddock at 2.35, and at 3.5 we mounted a red soil rise with slate outcrops before 
entering the scrub again leading down to a flat on the river. There was no water here, 
but large timber in gums, grey box and leichardt pines, while the valley narrowed 
between quartzite hills on the West and red sandstone cliffs on the East. Another creek 
with high cane grass on the banks was crossed at 4.5; a box flat crossed by two creeks 
and dotted with emu berry trees as well as box widened out between the hills of the 
river valley until 4.40 when we turned N.W. under a quartzite hill on the E. side of 
which the river flowed. After crossing the quartzite hill on a more gentle slope, we 
descended again across a box flat into tea tree scrub bordering on the river. The track 
than turned E.N.E. past a waterhole in the river, we camped on the further side of this 
at 5.50. Day hot, light air from N.E. and S.E. Gentle breeze from N.East 5 p.m. Sky 
clear.

7 SEPT. THUR.

Left camp 9.50 a.m. Camped 5.45 p.m.
Travelling Northerly towards Borroloola - leaving main wagon track at 11 a.m. to follow a rather longer track through the bush, reputed to be comparatively free from ironwood. Heading along valleys between rough and broken ranges - numerous dry swamps and small watercourses, all lined with the pandanus palm - elsewhere thick scrub, tf-free, box and grevillea. On main track again at 3 p.m. - followed pad out to Day’s Lagoon (Day Lagoon), but found ironwood there in quantities, so proceeded ahead again. Camped on track 5.45 p.m. on the first patch of camel feed seen for miles - tied each beast up to a bush at sundown on account of the gutta percha around. Fine and clear throughout - strong northerly wind at sundown, practically calm until then. Distance - (not recorded).

Thursday, 7th September 1911. Agricultural Show Day

9am Barometer 29.57 Thermometer 88 deg. [31.1°C]
3pm Barometer 29.51 Thermometer 104 deg. [40°C]
6pm Barometer 29.6 Thermometer 85 deg. [29.4°C]

We left camp at 8.50 and continued along the main track with the sandstone ridge to the W. of us. The scrub of wattles, tea tree (mellaluka) and wattles became more dense as we descended to a rocky gully where at 9.50 we turned to the left on a dray track. The main road mounted the slate and sandstone ridge locally called the "jump up", but the dray track followed the lower country below it through tea tree, sandalwood and spinnifex. We kept on the W. slope of the gully until 10.10 when we crossed over it under the ridge, and followed the flat in a Northerly direction through tea tree, gravillia, and gums until 11.30 when some pitosprum [sic] and whitewood were met with.

Lunch 11.40 - 12.45. After leaving the small scrub near the ridge we crossed a half a mile [800 m] of gum flat before descending into a pandamus palm gully and crossing a creek on the further side of which was another flat of large gums and teatree. At 1.30 we entered the thick low scrub again and at 1.50 passed a crown shaped knob in the sandstone ridge; to the north of the knob we crossed a gully of large missmato (?mimosa) and teatree with ironwood, pandamus palms and high cane grass underneath. At 2.5 we struck the main road again and followed it over a more open stony rise of teatree until 2.30 when we turned W. and went in half a mile to Day's Lagoon, a good water, but surrounded with ironwood and gutta percha. After going back to the road we went E.N.E. at 3.25 passed a gap in the ridge and obtained a good view to E. and N. when crossing. We then continued N.E. over a level loamy flat of walindah gums, tea tree and some white wood, with another high ridge of hills on our left until we camped at 4.30.

8 SEPT. FRI.

Left camp 9.35 a.m. Camped 12.45 p.m.
Arrived Borroloola shortly before 1 p.m. and camped at the courthouse. Our camels the first seen here for twenty-four years - tremendous amount of poison in the vicinity, ironwood and gutta percha. Watered camels at the spring salt water in the river abreast of township, and for six miles (9.5 km) above - tied them up afterwards and fed them on young gum branches, cutting and stacking a pile in front of each animal - no other feed available near the township. Inspected provisions sent from Darwin for the Expedition, at present in the store here - to be transferred to courthouse and checked at first opportunity. Made arrangements for supply of fresh meat and vegetables. Fine and clear throughout - calm during forenoon, usual northerly sea breeze later.

Distance - (not recorded).

Friday, 8th September 1911

9am Barometer 29.73 Thermometer 89 deg. [31.7°C]
We left camp at 8.30 and continued about N.E. along the flat through tea tree and a little whitewood for a mile [1.6 km] when the timber became larger, and changed to gums, ironwood, and gutta percha. At 9.10 after the flat had been more open with large box, some clear stretches were crossed, and where the country had not been burnt off, there was good grass on a loamy soil. At 9.50 the soil changed to a light sand with more tea tree and ironwood. At 10.00 we crossed a slight depression showing blue bush and large ironwoods, and we then continued along a box, tea tree and ironwood flat until we reached Borroloola at 1 1.10. The camels were unloaded at the court house, and green boughs cut from some gums to feed them, as there is ironwood everywhere around. The river is about a quarter of a mile [400 m] from the line of the township, and forms a pleasing contrast to the dry creek beds which we have become accustomed to. The day was hot with a gentle breeze from N.E. Sky hazy.

9 SEPT. SAT.

Borroloola. Located a patch of blue bush and wild mint (both good feed for camels) about three miles (4.8 km) from the township, fairly free of poison - sent camels out there to feed shepherded by both blackboys, with one white man in charge. Engaged another blackfellow (Muldoon) to look after the horses loaned to the Expedition by Mr. Amos. Overhauled an old steam launch lying up a small creek, with a view to making her fit for service in surveying the river between the township and the ocean - boat belongs to Jolly & Co. Darwin - hull apparently in excellent condition. Engines mostly scrap iron.

Fixed up our quarters, with one of the courthouse rooms as an office - camping either under verandah or in compound outside. Camels brought in from the feeding ground at sundown, and tied up for the night. Fine & clear throughout - calm during forenoon, fresh northerly wind (daily sea breeze) later.

Saturday, 9th September 1911

9am Barometer 29.7 Thermometer 75 deg. [23.9°C]
3pm Barometer 29.69 Thermometer 97 deg. [36.1°C]
6pm Barometer 29.61 Thermometer 84 deg. [28.9°C]

There are very heavy dews here and a fog continued to make the air damp until nearly nine o'clock this morning.

After breakfast, the camels were sent out to be fed, the instruments and other loading put under shelter, and some rain water filled into our drums for photographic work. Captain Barclay's mosquito net and fly were rigged a short distance from the court house.

The day was hot with a light breeze from N.E. Clouds, cirrus.

10 SEPT. SUN.

Camels feeding out with blackboys shepherding and white man in charge. No unnecessary work done in camp. Fine & clear throughout - light S.E. wind during forenoon, strong northerly later.
Sunday, 10th September 1911. 13th after Trinity

9am Barometer 29.75 Thermometer 82 deg. [27.8°C]
3pm Barometer 29.65 Thermometer 97 deg. [36.1°C]
6pm Barometer 29.67 Thermometer 84 deg. [28.9°C]

After some water had been carted for the use of the camp, no further work was done during the day.

The day was hot with a gentle breeze from N.E. Sky clear.

11 SEPT. MON.

Brought up several loads of water from spring for camp use - transferred all Darwin stores from store to courthouse - afterwards sending the camels out to the feeding ground with usual escort. Darwin stores unpacked and checked - all opening up well. Mail from Camooweal arrived in the evening. Floated launch from creek into main stream on top of high spring tide at mid-night - moored her close to the bank in deep water. Fine & clear throughout the day.

Monday, 11th September 1911

9am Barometer 29.79 Thermometer 81 deg. [27.2°C]
3pm Barometer 29.68 Thermometer 97 deg. [36.1°C]
6pm Barometer 29.69 Thermometer 82 deg. [27.8°C]

After breakfast the camels were saddled up and taken up to the store. The loading was then lashed together and put up when it was taken down to camp. After lunch all the loading was broken and when it had been checked with the waybill, it was re-packed.

The day was hot with a light breeze from N.E. Sky clear.

12 SEPT. TUE.

Despatched mail for the south via Camooweal. All loading brought in from compound and stacked under the courthouse verandah - sugar, flour, rice and all other bag stuff placed in cases - all saddlery, tents, tarpaulins etc. well dunnaged to lift them off the ground clear of white ants. Camels feeding out, carefully shepherded as usual. Fine and clear throughout - light southerly wind during forenoon, northerly later.

Tuesday, 12th September 1911

9am Barometer 29.77 Thermometer 82 deg. [27.8°C]
3pm Barometer 29.68 Thermometer 86 deg. [30°C]
6pm Barometer 29.67 Thermometer 83 deg. [28.3°C]

The camels saddles were stowed away, all ropes and cases detached and packed, and all the perishable stores put under cover. Water was then carted from a waterhole to the north of the court house, and the tank.

The day was warm with a gentle breeze from N.E. Sky clear.
13 SEPT. WED.

Hands employed overhauling and repairing saddlery, unpacking and sorting out all old loading etc. - Fine and clear throughout - moderate to fresh Northerly wind.

Wednesday, 13th September 1911

9am Barometer 29.76 Thermometer 84 deg. [28.9°C]
3pm Barometer 29.64 Thermometer 97 deg. [36.1°C]
6pm Barometer 29.64 Thermometer 85 deg. [29.4°C]

After breakfast some of the mosquito nets were repaired. The remainder of the loading was then unpacked and stowed away, so as to have all stores under cover.

The day was warm with light to moderate breeze from N.E. Sky clear.

14 SEPT. THURS.

Barclay took all hands excepting Collins to fix site for camp, pitch tents etc. at position selected for camel feeding ground about 21' (4 km) from the township. The best spot available for the purpose in the vicinity - ample feed, blue bush in abundance, and comparatively free of poison - no water supply unfortunately, but camels to be brought in to the township every second day to be watered, and take out sufficient in the kegs and other carrying appliances for camp usage. Collins and self overhauling the steam launch engines during the forenoon. Trial trip down river in the afternoon - Barclay and Mr. McLeod (the owner of the boat) with us. Stuck on Rocky Bar 5' (8 km) below the township, on the last of the ebb tide, and compelled to wait until 10 p.m. for the flood tide to float us off - difficulties with the machinery afterwards delaying our arrival back at camp until 1.30 a.m. Fine and clear throughout - moderate to fresh Northerly wind.

Thursday, 14th September 1911

9am Barometer 29.74 Thermometer 81 deg. [27.2°C]
3pm Barometer 29.65 Thermometer 89 deg. [31.7°C]
6pm Barometer 29.64 Thermometer 85 deg. [29.4°C]

When some water had been carted for the camp, the camels were taken out as usual to the feeding ground. On a slight rise near by two tents and a tarpaulin were rigged to serve for a camel camp, but we returned to the court house in the evening.

The day was warm with a light to gentle breeze from N.E. Clouds, cirro-cumulus and cumulus.

15 SEPT. FRI.

Simpson, Foulis and both black boys sent out to camp with the camels - Waldron in charge. Clearing & overhauling launch & engines - laying in a supply of wood fuel. Provisioning and watering, in readiness for an extended trip down to the mouth of the river. Fine and clear throughout - moderate fresh N.E. and Northerly wind.

Dimensions of launch - Length o.a. - 32 feet (9.7 m) - Beam - 7 feet (2.1 m)

Friday, 15th September 1911

9am Barometer 29.72 Thermometer 81 deg. [27.2°C]
I received instructions from Capt. Barclay to form a camp on the ridge about two and a half miles [4 km] South of the town, and in accordance with these the necessary stores were packed and loaded, and conveyed to the tents. Messrs Simpson and Foulis and the two blacks formed the party. The camels were shepherded in a flat to the West of the camp, and every care taken to prevent their getting any poison.

The day was hot with a light to moderate breeze from N.E. Sky clear.

16 SEPT. SAT.

Barclay, Hill, Collins and self started down river in launch at 2 p.m. on first of ebb tide - just touched on the 5' (8 km) bar at 3.40 p.m. but came over clear. River widening considerably at 5 p.m. but only a narrow channel along western bank, elsewhere large rocky shoals - stuck on small flat rock at 5.20 p.m., close under west bank, only a couple of feet (0.6 m) of her stern resting on the rock, so shifted all heavy loading forward to tip her slightly and floated off again 5.30 p.m. Generally high banks along both sides of the river with heavy growth of mangrove at waters edge and white gums, casuarina and H-tree (paper bark) in the background.

Moored alongside eastern bank 6.15 p.m. Inside three small rocky islands (Duck Islands) - camped ashore, finding good supply of fresh water close handy.

Fine and clear throughout - light Southerly wind during forenoon, fresh N.E. later.

Estimated distance 13½ (21.7 km) - speed 3'-4' per hour (5-7 kph). All camp equipment and loading at Borroloola left in charge of a capable lubra, the boy Muldoon looking after Mr. Amos’ horses during our absence.

Saturday, 16th September 1911

9am Barometer 29.79 Thermometer 83 deg. [28.3°C]
3pm Barometer 29.68 Thermometer 97 deg. [36.1°C]
6pm Barometer 29.67 Thermometer 82 deg. [27.8°C]

The camels were sent out at sunrise and closely shepherded all day; the work of putting up the camp was completed.

The day was warm with a gentle breeze from S.E. during the morning and light air from N.E. in the afternoon. Sky clear.

17 SEPT. SUN.

Held up all day with boiler tubes leaking - repairs effected by 3 p.m. but too late then to think of getting up stream. Several alligators (sic) seen - one shot.

Fine and clear throughout - wind light and variable.

Sunday, 17th September 1911. 14th after Trinity

9am Barometer 29.72 Thermometer 81 deg. [27.2
3pm Barometer 29.65 Thermometer 97 deg. [36.1°C]
6pm Barometer no reading Thermometer no reading.

The camels were put into a string at sunrise and taken into the spring to water. A load of kegs was also filled. Vegetables and meat together with some camp utensils were
loaded up at the court-house and taken back to camp. The camels were then taken down to the flat and shepherded all day.

The day was warm with a gentle breeze from S.E. and S.W. Sky clear.

18 SEPT. MON.

Further defects disclosed in boiler tubes when an attempt was made to get up steam in the morning, and again at noon - drew fires, and made a thorough job of the repairs during the afternoon, tightening up each individual boiler tube with the expander - Collins fortunately being a perfectly competent engineer, and making the most of the limited means at hand for carrying out any repairs. Two kangaroos shot - also brace of duck. Fine and clear throughout - wind light and variable.

Monday, 18th September 1911

9am Barometer 29.69
3pm Barometer 29.60
6pm Barometer 29.59

Thermometer 81 deg. [27.2°C]
Thermometer 99 deg. [37.2°C]
Thermometer 85 deg. [29.4°C]

After the camels had been taken on to the flat I went into the court house for stores, and returned before lunch. The camels were shepherded all day and tied up as usual at night.

The day was hot with light air from S.E. during morning, gentle breeze from N.E. during afternoon. Sky clear.

19 SEPT. TUES.

Steaming down river at 10.50 a.m. - stream winding about considerably but generally trending towards N.E. Passed Blackfellow's Crossing 11.40 a.m. a sandy spit stretching right across the river, with a narrow channel between a small island and the Eastern bank - river here about 1/4 wide (800 m). Rocky Bar 2.10 p.m. - known as Black Rocks - extending across the river from the Western side - deepest water close in to eastern bank. Passed a big island 2.30 p.m. - river splitting up into two branches one going away to the westward of the island, but the main channel to the Eastward. Large salt water arms on East side of river at 4.15 p.m. and 4.30 p.m. - old landing stage and shed - about 8' (12.9 km) from river mouth the Darwin steamer SS "Nelson" comes up to this point before transhipping her cargo. Fine & clear throughout - fresh northerly and N.E. wind.

Speed throughout the day varying from 3½' - 4' per hour (6 - 7 kph) according to strength of tide. Estimated distance 21½' (34.6 km).

Tuesday, 19th September 1911

9am Barometer 29.68
3pm Barometer 29.58
6pm Barometer 29.58

Thermometer 84 deg. [28.9°C]
Thermometer 93 deg. [33.9°C]
Thermometer 83 deg. [28.3°C]

The camels were taken in to water to-day and a load of kegs filled. I issued one bag of flour to the lubra left at the court house as she said she had been told by Capt. Barclay to apply for some when she needed it. The camels were taken back and shepherded all day.
The day was warm with a light to gentle breeze from N.E. Clouds cumulus and cirro-cumulus.

20 SEPT. WED.

Started down river towards the mouth at 10.25 a.m. Stopped 11.50 a.m. to cut wood (dry and green mangrove) for fuel - proceeded again 1.20 p.m. Sighted the ocean 2.20 p.m. - lumpy sea on bar so decided not to venture over and turned back 2.50 p.m. when about 1' (1.6 km) inside the bar beacon: launch in bad trim and towing dinghy - the latter nearly swamping herself continually, necessitating frequent bailing. Back at Carrington's Landing 6.50 p.m. - mosquitoes and sandflies very numerous - and hungry. Fine throughout but clouding up heavily at times - fresh to strong N.E. and Northerly wind.

Wednesday, 20th September 1911

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer 83 deg. [28.3°C]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>29.66</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>29.6</td>
<td>93 deg. [33.9°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>29.63</td>
<td>81 deg. [27.2°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The camels were taken to a patch of blue bush in a swamp to the West of the road, and shepherded there all day.

The day was warm with a gentle breeze from N.E. Clouds - cumulus.

21 SEPT. THUR.

Put launch in good trim as far as possible by shifting anchor, cable, tins of fresh water and all other movable weight right aft in the stern sheets and as much in the bottom as possible, to counteract the effect of the wood fuel stacked forward which was keeping her well down by the head - also dispensed with the dinghy. Hill stayed in camp to do some botanising, so the camera, with all his gear was passed ashore. Started down river for a run over the bar 10.40 a.m. - insufficient steam to make headway, the last of the flood tide carrying us up over sandy shoal above the landing - tied up to beacon on shoal and waited for more steam proceeding again 11.10 a.m. Out over bar 1. p.m. travelling for some distance along Eastern channel out into the open - the behaviour of the launch convincing us of the foolhardiness of attempting to take her over to the Sir Edward Pellew Islands, her big boiler and long funnel making her exceedingly top heavy and tender. Headed back for the mainland 2.15 p.m. - arriving at Carrington's Crossing shortly after 6 p.m. Fine & clear throughout - light to moderate Northerly wind.

Thursday, 21st September 1911

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer 29.71</th>
<th>Thermometer 81 deg. [27.2°C]</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>29.71</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>29.59</td>
<td>95 deg. [35°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>29.61</td>
<td>80 deg. [26.7°C]</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The camels taken into water at Boroloola [sic] and some stores brought out. They were then shepherded on the flat close to camp.

The day was warm with a gentle breeze from N.E. Sky clear. Dense fog in the morning up till 9.30 a.m.
22 SEPT. FRI.

Owing to a phenomenally low tide the launch capsized at her moorings on the last of the ebb at 1 a.m. - turned over on a steep muddy slope and filled with water. Ran anchor and cable ashore abreast of her after, and coil of new manila forard. Bedded anchor ashore - made end of line fast to strong post - bore tight on cable and line to prevent her going further over. All gear had been washed out of her - much floating stuff picked up with the dinghy, including drawing boards and map. Field glasses, prismatic compass, Kodaks, and all other gear suspended from the awning poles passed ashore safe and dry. Theodolite and tiller head missing, but recovered from the bottom of the river at daylight by the blackboy Harry diving - also computation and traverse books found stranded on a snag a few hundred yards down stream. Black leather bag irretrievably lost, containing diagonal eyepieces for the theodolite, several books & instruments and other items - also much personal gear. Have tight again our cable and lines again bringing boat to an even keel - hull completely submerged at high water. Tide low enough to commence baling at 8 p.m. - all hands on the job - having her free of water, and all lines tightened up and secured by 10 p.m. Engines partially dismantled at time of accident, but all loose parts found in bottom of boat. Fine and clear throughout - moderate to fresh N.E. & E.N.E. wind.

Friday, 22nd September 1911

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>29.75</td>
<td>82 deg. [27.8°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>29.63</td>
<td>93 deg. [33.9°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>29.62</td>
<td>81 deg. [27.2°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As the feed to the West of the road seemed better for the camels, they were shepherded there to-day.

The day was warm with a gentle breeze from N.E. Clouds cumulo-nimbus in morning, fracto-cumulus later.

23 SEPT. SAT.

Forenoon employed repairing damages and generally squaring up matters aboard the launch, cutting wood fuel and shipping all the gear again. Flood tide making at 10 a.m. - boat floating about noon. Found boiler tubes leaking badly after getting up steam - got under way however and drifted up stream on the tide, just holding sufficient steam to keep steerage way on her. Anchored at slack water under western bank about 4' (6.4 km) below Blackfellow's Crossing - camping for the night aboard the launch.

Fine and clear throughout - fresh to strong E.N.E. wind.

Saturday, 23rd September 1911

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>29.68</td>
<td>85 deg. [29.4°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>29.58</td>
<td>98 deg. [36.7°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>29.61</td>
<td>83 deg. [28.3°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The camels were sent in to water to-day, and water and stores carted back to camp. They were then fed on the flat near-by.

The day was warm with a fresh breeze from E. & E.N.E. Clouds, cirro-stratus in morning and then the sky gradually cleared.
24 SEPT. SUN.

Forenoon employed repairing boiler tubes - cutting, shipping and stowing wood fuel. 
Got under way on first of flood tide - passed Duck Islands 4.15 p.m. and Rocky Bar 6 
p.m. - anchored off Borroloola at sundown (7 p.m.). Fine and clear throughout - strong 
N.E. and E.N.E. wind.

Sunday, 24th September 1911. 15th after Trinity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>29.67</td>
<td>91 deg. [32.8°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>29.57</td>
<td>98 deg. [36.7°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>29.57</td>
<td>83 deg. [28.3°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The camels were taken out and shepherded in the flat near the camp.

The day was warm with a moderate breeze from N.E. Sky clear.

25 SEPT. MON.

All stores and gear transferred from launch to Courthouse - boat overhauled and 
temporarily laid up pending repairs to boiler tubes and engines. 
Camels came in from the feeding ground for water during the forenoon - several 
looking fairly well, but the majority in low condition - Capt. Barclay has decided to shift 
them from their present position directly another suitable camp can be found - not an 
easy matter with gutta percha growing in abundance everywhere throughout the 
district. Fine and clear throughout. Light to moderate N.E. wind.

Monday, 25th September 1911

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>29.73</td>
<td>85 deg. [29.4°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>29.58</td>
<td>98 deg. [36.7°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>29.58</td>
<td>85 deg. [29.4°C]</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Capt. Barclay and the other members of the party returned from the trip down the river 
last night. The camels were taken into water this morning and water carted for both the 
court house and camp.

The day was warm with a gentle breeze from N.E. Sky clear.

26 SEPT. TUE.

Employed upon computation of traverses from Tundieji W.H. towards Anthony’s 
Lagoon, and Anthony’s Lagoon towards Borroloola. Arrangements made for a 
number of blackfellows to go down river and dive in the vicinity of the accident to the 
launch, with the possibility of recovering the black bag or other missing articles - a 
substantial reward promised for their recovery. Harry presented with a bag of sugar, 5 
lbs. (2.3 kg) tobacco, pipe, etc. - for his success as a diver and general behaviour, 
after the capsize.
Fine & clear throughout - light N.E. and Northerly wind.

Tuesday, 26th September 1911

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>29.62</td>
<td>81 deg. [27.2°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>29.53</td>
<td>93 deg. [33.9°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6pm  Barometer 29.55  Thermometer 84 deg. [28.9°C]

The camels were sent over to the blue bush feeding ground to-day. A billabong of good water was struck about two miles [3.2 km] South East of the camp, but owing to our having to go to the court house for supplies, it seems as convenient to take the camels there to water.

The day was warm with a fresh breeze from S.E. Clouds, cumulus. Dense fog in morning.

27 SEPT. WED.

Employed throughout the day computing land and river traverses to date. Camels came on from the feeding ground for water.
Fine & clear throughout - light to moderate N.E. and Northerly wind.

Wednesday, 27th September 1911

9am  Barometer 29.67  Thermometer 86 deg. [30°C]
3pm  Barometer 29.56  Thermometer 91 deg. [32.8°C]
6pm  Barometer 29.52  Thermometer 84 deg. [28.9°C]

Water was carted for the camp and for the Court House this morning and some stores taken out before the camels were turned loose.

The day was warm and sultry with a gentle breeze from N.E.
Clouds, cumulus. Dense fog in the morning.

28 SEPT. THUR.

Employed all day in office routine assisting Capt. Barclay with traverses and plotting up field plan of track from Newcastle Waters to Borroloola and mouth of McArthur River.
Majority of the natives in and around township cleared out to attend a big coroboree (sic) further down river near Blackfellow Crossing.

Thursday, 28th September 1911

9am  Barometer 29.52  Thermometer 85 deg. [29.4°C]
3pm  Barometer 29.49  Thermometer 93 deg. [33.9°C]
6pm  Barometer 29.54  Thermometer 84 deg. [28.9°C]

The camels were taken over to the Western side of the road and shepherded there all day.

The day was warm with a gentle breeze from N.E. Clouds, cumulus.

29 SEPT. FRI.

Still employed upon traverses and plotting up. The lugger "Pearl" came up the river with a cargo of salt - went with Capt. Barclay to inspect her with a view to chartering for a trip across to the islands. Approached Mr. McLeod in reference to the matter, and arrangements are to be made to let us have her if possible meanwhile we have been given the use of a large four oared rowing boat, placed at our disposal by Mr. McLeod.
Dimensions of boat 20 ft. (6 m) in length o.a. -
greatest beam 5 ft. 10 inches (1.8 m).
Camels in for water as usual. Friction from the police in reference to one of the camp
dogs being unregistered - Capt. Barclay served with a summons to appear at court
tomorrow over the matter. Dull & overcast throughout - several showers during the day -
wind light and variable. Heavy showers at night with vivid lightning.

Friday, 29th September 1911. Michaelmas Day

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer (inches)</th>
<th>Thermometer (°C)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>29.59</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>29.50</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>29.52</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The camels were taken into the court house for water, and a fresh supply of stores
brought back to camp. The constable in-charge, Millar, seized the camp dog to-day on
the ground that he was not registered.

The day was sultry with a gentle breeze from N.E. in the morning and a change to
S.W. at 4 p.m. Twelve points [3 mm] of rain fell in a shower at 10.30 a.m. and it
continued showery till after dark.

30 SEPT. SAT.

Capt. Barclay fined £2 in court over the dispute regarding non-registration of dog - fine
paid under protest, the dog having been registered at Alice Springs prior to purchase,
and receipt endorsed to that effect. We were unable to produce the receipt however -
ot being able to find it for the moment amongst a large accumulation of papers and
 correspondence. Overhauled the rowing boat and her equipment with a view to
fitting her up with spars and sails - brought her round from the jetty into Stony Creek just
below the courthouse.
Several showers during the night and a heavy one in the forenoon - weather remaining
fine but cloudy later with light to moderate S.W. and S'ly wind.

Saturday, 30th September 1911

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer (inches)</th>
<th>Thermometer (°C)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>29.66</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>29.6</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>29.6</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The camels were shepherded near the camp all day, as the wet ground made it unsafe to
drive them along to the swamp on the further side of the road. M.C. Millar proceeded
against Capt. Barclay for failing to register the camp dog.

The day was cool with light variable winds. Clouds, nimbus. Showery all day.

1 OCT. SUN.

No unnecessary work done - day employed in private correspondence.
Camels in for water.
Fine throughout the day but cloudy with heavy lowering appearance and lightning all
round the horizon at sundown - wind blowing in gusts from north and N.E. at 8 p.m. -
gradually working up overhead and giving us a sharp shower at 9 p.m.
Sunday, 1st October 1911. 16th after Trinity

9am    Barometer 29.65       Thermometer 78 deg. [25.6°C]
3pm    Barometer 29.60       Thermometer 88 deg. [31.1°C]
6pm    Barometer 29.62       Thermometer 84 deg. [28.9°C]

Another trip into the court house was done to-day, and the camels sent out to the Western side of the road.

There were a few light showers during the day, and heavy fall after dark. Light breeze from South till 4.30, then change to N.E. Clouds, nimbus and cumulo-nimbus.

2 OCT. MON.

Employed during the day entering up traverses in Traverse Book, and other office routine.
Fine throughout, but cloudy and overcast - clearing up after sunset with a strong northerly wind.

Monday, 2nd October 1911

9am    Barometer 29.73       Thermometer 84 deg. [28.9°C]
3pm    Barometer 29.63       Thermometer 85 deg. [29.4°C]
6pm    Barometer 29.63       Thermometer 83 deg. [28.3°C]

The camels were shepherded on the blue bush swamp to-day, but they do not seem to be recovering as well as they have been, the rain and sultry weather is evidently against them.

The day was close and camp, with little wind. In the afternoon there was a light northerly breeze. Clouds, cumulus and cumulo-nimbus.

3 OCT. MON.

Camels came in for water as usual - three or four looking fairly well, but the remainder in poor condition - arrangements in hand for shifting them to another camp shortly. Waldron brought news of the death of the camp dog Rover, he having taken a poison bait presumably whilst in the township with the camels on Sunday. Received a communication from Mr. McLeod J.P. asking Capt. Barclay to name a time when it would be convenient to convene a meeting of the leading residents of Borroloola and neighbourhood at the store, to give them an opportunity of placing the requirements of the district before him - replied accepting the invitation for 8 p.m. tomorrow.

Day employed in office routine. Fine throughout but cloudy - calm during forenoon - moderate N.E. and Northerly wind later.

Tuesday, 3rd October 1911

9am    Barometer 29.76       Thermometer 92 deg. [33.3°C]
3pm    Barometer 29.62       Thermometer 95 deg. [35°C]
6pm    Barometer 29.68       Thermometer 90 deg. [32.2°C]

The camels were taken in to the court house, and water carted for both camps. Capt. Barclay has decided to shift camp on the 5th inst. as the camels do not appear to be doing very well out here.
The day was hot; light, variable winds, and calm. Clouds, cirrus and cirro-cumulus.

4 OCT. WED.

Finished up traverse work during the forenoon - commenced work on the boat in the afternoon, fitting her bottom boards, masts, spars, etc. Waldron and Foulis from camel camp - Waldron employed on tracing a sketch of route from Newcastle Waters onward. Foulis with Capt. Barclay out to site of intended camel camp down river. Meeting held at the store in the evening as arranged - Hill shorthanding the proceedings, a copy of same to be submitted to each speaker for approval and to be forwarded to the Minister of External Affairs by mail. Fine but cloudy - hot and sultry throughout the day: dead calm mostly, the sea breeze only blowing up for about an hour at 5 p.m.

Wednesday, 4th October 1911

9am Barometer 29.68 Thermometer 87 deg. [30.6°C]
3pm Barometer 29.59 Thermometer 97 deg. [36.1°C]
6pm Barometer 29.61 Thermometer 99 deg. [37.2°C]

Foulis and I went into the courthouse early in the morning. Foulis went down to see the track to the proposed camp, and I commenced the filling-in of a sketch map of the route from Newcastle Waters to Borroloola. We both returned to camp in the evening.

The camels were shepherded on the further side of the swamp near camp, and seem to be improving again.

The day was hot and calm until 5 p.m. when there was a light breeze from N.E. Clouds, fracto cumulus and cirrus.

5 OCT. THURS.

Employed all day rigging up the boat - handy man Collins making necessary repairs to same, fitting new tiller etc. camels in for water.
Weather fine, but overcast and cloudy sky - heavy appearance at sundown, with vivid lightning to S. - little or no wind throughout the day.

Thursday, 5th October 1911

9am Barometer 29 67 Thermometer 84 deg. [28.9°C]
3pm Barometer 29.55 Thermometer 97 deg. [36.1°C]
6pm Barometer 29.55 Thermometer 98 deg. [36.7°C]

The camels were taken in to water to-day, and stores carted back to camp.

As the sketch map had not been quite completed from the traverse book, I was unable to proceed with the original or with the tracing.

The day was hot and calm except for light breeze from N.E. at 4.30. Clouds, cumulus and cumulo nimbus.

6 OCT. FRI.

Employed all day on the boat - rigging up bowsprit, hobstay, splicing new wire forestay, etc. - Dull overcast and sultry throughout - practically calm excepting light
southerly airs during forenoon. Heavy thunderstorm away to the north and N.E. at 4 p.m. only light shower locally.

Friday, 6th October 1911

9am  Barometer 29.71  Thermometer 86 deg. [30°C]
3pm  Barometer 29.63  Thermometer 92 deg. [33.3°C]
6pm  Barometer 29.62  Thermometer 84 deg. [28.9°C]

I went into the court house in the morning, and was engaged all day in filling in the sketch map and completing the tracing - The blacks brought in news of a heavy fall of rain up at the head of the river near McArther [sic] station.

The day was warm with a light breeze from S.E. in the morning, but calm afterwards. There was some heavy thunder with a few drops of rain at 4.15 p.m.

7 OCT. SAT.

Employed throughout the day upon finishing up rigging and repairing boat - also thoroughly cleaning same. Camels in for water - 2 or 3 in very poor condition. Fine throughout but cloudy - wind light and variable.

Saturday, 7th October 1911

9am  Barometer 29.73  Thermometer 86 deg. [30°C]
3pm  Barometer 29.63  Thermometer 99 deg. [37.2°C]
6pm  Barometer 29.65  Thermometer 96 deg. [35.6°C]

The camels were taken in to the court house to-day and supplies brought out to camp.

I completed filling in of map and the tracing thereof to-day.

The day was hot with light variable winds. Clouds, strato-cumulus and cirro-cumulus.

8 OCT. SUN.

No unnecessary work done - day devoted to private correspondence and general preparations for the mail. Fine but cloudy - strong northerly wind during the afternoon.

Sunday, 8th October 1911. 17th after Trinity

9am  Barometer 29.72  Thermometer 87 deg. [30.5°C]
3pm  Barometer 29.63  Thermometer 97 deg. [36.1°C]
6pm  Barometer 29.63  Thermometer 85 deg. [29.4°C]

At sunrise the camels were sent out to the blue bush swamp and shepherded there all day. I went in to the court house again and did some clerical work during the morning.

The day was hot with a light breeze from N.E. Clouds cirro-cumulus and cumulus.
9 OCT. MON.

Employed all day upon alterations and repairs - boat’s mainsail and jib. Camels in for water - men in from camp in the evening for their mail - , mailman late, however, not having arrived by 10 p.m. all hopes of mail were abandoned till the morrow. Dull and threatening throughout the day - much distant thunder : strong S.E. wind after sundown.

Monday, 9th October 1911

9am Barometer 29.69 Thermometer 85 deg. [29.4°C]
3pm Barometer 29.60 Thermometer 95 deg. [35°C]
6pm Barometer 29.65 Thermometer 81 deg. [27.2°C]

The camels were taken in for water to-day and after water had been carted for the court house, I was instructed by Capt. Barclay to bring them in on the 11th inst. prepared to cart salt for the storekeeper. The mail did not arrive this evening, possibly it was delayed by rain on the divide.

Day was hot with light, variable winds till afternoon when there was a thunderstorm in S. and E. and a fresh breeze from S.E.

10 OCT. TUE.

Employed finishing boat’s sails and rigging them up. The lugger returned from the Wearan (Wearyan) river with another cargo of salt. Mailman arrived 7 p.m. - delayed by rain inland. Fine and clear throughout - fresh Northerly and N.E. wind during the afternoon.

Tuesday, 10th October 1911

9am Barometer 29.73 Thermometer 84 deg. [28.9°C]
3pm Barometer 29.62 Thermometer 96 deg. [35.5°C]
6pm Barometer 29.60 Thermometer 87 deg. [30.5°C]

The camels were sent out to the blue bush swamp at sunrise and shepherded there all day. The mail arrived after sundown; it was delayed by rains from Anthony’s Lagoon to McArthur. After the arrival of the mail it was decided that Capt. Barclay would go into Camoweal [sic] with the mailman and that Simpson would follow with five camels to bring him back after he had received instructions from the Dept. The day was hot with light variable winds, sky clear.

11 OCT. WED.

Capt. Barclay decided to proceed to Camooweal to get in touch with the Govt. by wire from there. Left at 11 a.m. for McArthur River Station, giving me parting instructions to shift the camels into a fresh camp without delay - afterwards to proceed over to the Sir Edward Pellew Group, inspect Cabbage Tree Cove on North Island, and obtain series of soundings on all principal bars and obstructions in the river upon my return. Camooweal mail pulled out at 1 p.m. Camels in for water - utilised them to shift a few tons of salt from river bank to store, in return for many courtesies extended to us by Mr. McLeod.
Fine & clear throughout - S.E. wind during forenoon, northerly later.
Wednesday, 11th October 1911

9am  Barometer 29.73  Thermometer 84 deg. [28.9°C]
3pm  Barometer 29.55  Thermometer 95 deg. [35°C]
6pm  Barometer 29.62  Thermometer 85 deg. [29.4°C]

After the camels had been taken in and watered about five tons of salt was taken from the river up to the store. As it was late in the afternoon when this work was completed, the camels were tied up as soon as they were brought back to camp. Simpson had gone in to the court house prepared to leave but a letter was received from Capt. Barclay in the evening stating that McArthur Station would supply him with horses to Camoweal.

Day warm, gentle breeze from S.E. in the morning. Change to N E. at 1 p.m. Sky clear.

12 OCT. THUR.

Engaged F. Blitner as temporary survey hand until return from trip over to the islands - started him on ballasting the lugger, cleaning out her fresh water tanks, etc. Left Borroloola in the launch for Duck Is. 1.30 p.m. - passed Rocky Bar 2.40 p.m. Arrived Duck Is. 4.45 p.m. Hill & self went ashore immediately upon arrival & thoroughly examined the locality around proposed camel camp - found very little poison about, a small quantity of gutta percha but no ironwood - two fine lagoons, clear and fresh. Returned to the boat and camped 6.25 p.m. Fine and clear throughout - moderate to N.E. and N'ly wind.

Thursday, 12th October 1911

9am  Barometer 29.67  Thermometer 83 deg. [28.3°C]
3pm  Barometer 29.57  Thermometer 99 deg. [37.2°C]
6pm  Barometer 29.58  Thermometer 86 deg. [30°C]

The camels were fed close to the camp all day, and as they did not seem to leave the grass and small gums no attempt was made to drive them on to the flat. Messrs Macpherson, Hill, Simpson and Collins went down the river in the launch to inspect a proposed site for a camel camp.

The day was warm with a light breeze from N.E. Clouds, cumulus.

13 OCT. FRI.

Had another tour around in the early morning - very sparse camel feed on the country back from the river but any amount along the bank and on the rising ground immediately behind it - several different species of bush and herbage - altogether the locality seemed well adapted for a camel camp. Left Duck Is. 8.15 a.m. - arrived Borroloola at noon. Camels in for water - Waldron reports one sick with poison but recovering. Making all necessary preparations for shifting them down river tomorrow - also getting things in readiness for the trip to the islands, measuring and marking lead line for taking soundings etc. Fine & clear throughout - moderate to fresh N.E'ly wind.

Friday, 13th October 1911

9am  Barometer 29.66  Thermometer 84 deg. [28.9°C]
3pm       Barometer 29.60       Thermometer 97 deg. [36.1°C]
6pm       Barometer 29.59       Thermometer 84 deg. [28.9°C]

The camels were taken in and watered and water carted for the court house tank. Collins riding camel which during the past week has not been too well, to-day developed symptoms similar to those shown by the camels poisoned at Newcastle Waters. The remainder of the party returned from the river, and it was decided to shift camp there to-morrow.

The day was warm with a gentle breeze from N.E. Clouds cumulus until afternoon, then sky clear.

14 OCT. SAT.

Packing up everything at courthouse preparatory to being absent for some days. Camels in from the old camp 2 p.m. - sick one much better : shifted all necessary stores down to the lugger, watered the camels and took them across the river at Burketown Crossing 4 p.m. - water up to their bellies but they faced it well. Sent all packsaddles down to the new camp for over haul and repairs - camels carrying saddles and light equipment, all heavy stores for Duck Island going down with us on the lugger. Large case of specimens belonging to Hill, also case photo plates taken across to store and left in Mr. McLeod's care for shipment to Darwin by the S.S. "Nelson" - due here Nov. 2. Lubra Judy and one other, left in charge of stores and quarters at courthouse - Muldoon sent down to camel camp, Harry accompanying us in the lugger. Left Borroloola 5 p.m. Hill, Collins, Blitner, and self : launch towing lugger and dinghy. Anchored for the night at 7.5. p.m just above Rocky Bar - tide too low to cross over - one boiler tube in launch leaking - same plugged directly boiler cool enough to work on. Fine and clear throughout - moderate to fresh N.N.E. wind. Running second traverse of river on trip down.

Saturday, 14th October 1911

9am       Barometer 29.72       Thermometer 93 deg. [33.9°C]
3pm       Barometer 29.70       Thermometer 98 deg. [36.7°C]
6pm       Barometer 29.64       Thermometer 83 deg. [28.3°C]

The camels were sent out to feed at dawn, and after breakfast the tents, tarpaulin, and other gear taken down and packed. We left camp at 12 noon, took the loading into the courthouse, loaded the lugger, and crossed the river with the camels at 3.10 pm. We followed a track going about N.E. over rough sandstone hills until we neared the police horse paddock when we turned of N. over undulating grass country with a moderate scrub of box and whitewood. Just after dark we struck a shallow, muddy lagoon, and we camped at 6.10 p.m. The direction followed by the tracker sent to shew [sic] us the way does not seem to be direct as we have already done seven and a half miles [12.6 km], while the distance by river to the new camp is only 11 miles [17.7 km].

The day was hot with a gentle breeze from N.E. In morning clouds, cumulus afterwards sky clear.

15 OCT. SUN.

Got up steam at day break - underway 6.15 and across Rocky Bar 6.30 a.m. - arriving Duck Is. camp 9.35 a.m. camels had arrived safely and were already out feeding. Put all stores for the camp on shore, including quantity of stockholm tar and tallow to be used as a dressing for the camels to try and eradicate the mange and cattle tick from
which all are suffering. Took aboard quantity of stone ballast for lugger, and proceeded 10.25 a.m. - Blackfellow's Crossing 11.10 a.m. - Black Rocks 1.30 p.m. anchored a few minutes later, the launch with her tow hardly making headway against a strong N.N.E. wind.

All hands cutting, shipping and stowing wood fuel for the launch during the afternoon. Fine & clear throughout - fresh to strong N.N.E. wind.

Sunday, 15 October, 1911

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<td>29.75</td>
<td>89 deg. [31.7°C]</td>
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<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>29.69</td>
<td>99 deg. [37.2°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>29.64</td>
<td>87 deg. [30.5°C]</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

We left camp at 5.40 and continued over undulating grass country until 7.45, when, bearing more Northerly, we approached the river and crossed some samphire [sic] flats dotted with gutta percha and and crossed by a small creek. A small billabong was passed at 7.30. At 8.20 we camped on the site selected and the lugger with the launch and dinghy arrived at 9.10. Stores were taken off, Foulis joined the lugger and with the remainder of the party except Simpson, went down the river to take soundings and go over to North Island. Simpson remained at camp, and the remainder of the day was spent in rigging the tarpaulin and mosquito nets.

The day was hot with a gentle breeze from N.E. Sky clear.

16 OCT. MON.

Proceeding down river 6.35 a.m. - tide running strong flood at starting. Passed the Snags at 8.10 a.m. Tide on the ebb 8.40 a.m. Carrington's Landing abeam 10.55 a.m. Anchored 12.35 p.m. - river mouth beacon bearing N. 60° E. 1 1/2° (2.4 km). Moored launch head and stern in small creek, and proceeded under sail 1.40 p.m. making use of the ebb tide to get clear of the river. Anchored for the night 5 p.m. ½° (800 m) inside Fairway Beacon - wind falling away and the flood tide making. Fine and clear throughout - light to moderate N.E. and N.N.E. wind.

Monday, 16 October 1911

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<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>29.55</td>
<td>98 deg. [36.7°C]</td>
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<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>29.56</td>
<td>87 deg. [30.5°C]</td>
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The feed about the camp consists of good grass, wild passion fruit creeper, and some whitewood. The camels appear to be eating well, but Mr. Hill's riding camel was taken sick today, while Collins' camel seems to have improved.

The country East of the camp is mainly well grassed with a few billabongs and a moderate scrub of box, while, South, along the river banks there are cane grass flats running into the river and also containing some billabongs. The place at which we are camped seems to be the most suitable spot as regards camel feed.

The day was warm with a gentle breeze from N.E. Some cumulus clouds in afternoon.
17 OCT. TUE.

Wind came out from the Southward 2 a.m. - up anchor and under weigh 5.10 a.m. heading for the islands. Wind falling calm 9.20 a.m., and coming out from the Nor’ard 11 a.m. Tacked up for the entrance to Cabbage Tree Cove and anchored there 12.15 p.m. - 14 fathoms (2.7 m) at dead low water - Cape Vanderlin N. 71° E. Canoe came alongside shortly afterwards with three blackfellows, over from Vanderlin Is. hunting for turtle eggs. Proceeded ashore on the northern side of the cove - good landing, small bay with flat sandy beach: found excellent supply of fresh water large pandanus and paper bark swamp in a hollow fully a mile (1.6 km) square with a ring of hills round it, the main creek draining it running in a southerly direction and emptying into the cove - water holes at intervals all along it - also several small subsiding creeks, all containing water. Water close to the surface in many other parts of the swamp oozing out under foot whilst walking over it. Swamp situated about 1' (1.6 km) N.W. of bay at entrance of the cove. Returned aboard the lugger 6 p.m.

Fine and clear generally, but clouding over heavily from S.W. at sundown and the N.E'ly wind falling away early.

Tuesday, 17th October 1911

9am Barometer 29.63 Therometer 89 deg. [31.7°C]
3pm Barometer 29.51 Therometer 99 deg. [37.2°C]
6pm Barometer 29.60 Therometer 89 deg. [31.7°C]

During a trip down the river as far as Blackfellows Crossing I found that the camel feed was good the whole way, with no poison. Mr Hill's riding camel is still shewing signs of poisoning, but Collins' camel seems to have recovered.

The day was hot with a light breeze from N.E. Clouds, cumulus.

18 OCT. WED.

Forenoon employed sailing about the cove in the dinghy, taking numerous soundings in all directions. Found from a fathom to a fathom and a half (1.8 to 2.7 m) (dead low water) right along the main channel - range of tide about 6 feet (1.8 m). Hill and self went ashore in the afternoon and walked over the dividing range of the island, viewing the ocean and several smaller islands on the western side. Followed the fresh water creek up from where it ran into the bay to part visited yesterday - found water the whole length. Fine & clear throughout - strong E.S.E. wind during forenoon veering N.E'ly later.

Wednesday, 18th October 1911

9am Barometer 29.70 Therometer 70 deg. [21.1°C]
3pm Barometer 29.63 Therometer 99 deg. [37.2°C]
6pm Barometer 29.61 Therometer 83 deg. [28.3°C]

This morning another camel (No. I tucker box carrier) shewed signs of poisoning, but the symptoms were not very bad. I left camp at 6.30 a.m. and after giving my two camels a rest to feed on the way, reached Borroloola at 12.30. Lynott, the hotelkeeper had no meat, so I left the camels on the further side of the river where there was good feed in wild passionfruit creeper, and camped at the court house. I went off the direct course from camp, and keeping to the Eastward crossed well grassed undulating plain country with a moderate scrub of grey box and a few hedgewood and gravillias. The soil is a light-coloured loam.
The day was hot with a gentle breeze from N.E. till 1 p.m., then S.E. A few cumulus clouds.

19 OCT. THUR.

Morning employed getting wood and water supplies for the lugger. Got under way 11.40 a.m. - wind strong E/ly - beat out from the anchorage and down south channel, making across to Vanderlin Is. on the port tack - tack & tack from there up to Observation Is. where we anchored 2.15 p.m. Ashore on the island during afternoon, returning aboard 6 p.m. Anchored in 3 fathoms (5.5 m) - Cape Vanderlin bearing N. 77° E. - Cape Pellew N. 50° W. Fine & clear throughout - strong E'ly and N.E'ly wind.

Thursday, 19th October 1911

9am Barometer 29.73 Thermometer 85 deg. [29.4°C]
3pm Barometer 29.65 Thermometer 98 deg. [36.7°C]
6pm Barometer 29.60 Thermometer 89 deg. [31.7°C]

The camels were given a chance to feed after breakfast and I took the stores and vegetables etc. across the river in a canoe. I left the court house at 10.45, and after telling the tracker to go as direct as possible to the camp, arrived there at 2.30 p.m.

It would seem that 14 miles [22.5 km] is the distance to the camp, as one has to go a good way East of the river to avoid some rough creeks and gullies. About 60 blacks came up the river last night, and camped near our tents. They are, on the whole, well built natives, two of them being at least 6ft 6 in [1.65 m]. These two men, the natives say, are half-castes, but they appear to be too dark for that. Many of the blacks knock two front teeth out of the upper jaw - just as a custom - , and there is not a boomerang in the whole camp. Nulla-Nulla's are more common here than they are among the inland tribes.

The day was hot with a gentle breeze from N.E. Clouds, cirrus.

20 OCT. FRI.

Ashore on the island during the forenoon taking observations for time and latitude. Got underway 2.40 p.m. having waited for a couple of hours ebb tide in order to closer examine some rocks seen yesterday, apparently uncharted. Found rocks to be the outer extremity of a small reef running about a quarter of a mile (400 m) from the unnamed island on Eastern side of main channel between Vanderlin and North Islands, almost abreast of Cabbage Tree Cove. Outer rock bearing from Observation Is. 218° - from the point on island abreast 295° - submerged at H.W. Anchored for the night in bay on S.E. end of Centre Island - snug anchorage in 1½ fathoms (2.7 m), low water - well sheltered from all but Southerly and S.E. winds.

Fine & clear throughout - fresh to strong N.E. and E.N.E. wind.

Friday, 20th October 1911

9am Barometer 29.63 Thermometer 91 deg. [32.8°C]
3pm Barometer 29.61 Thermometer 96 deg. [35.5°C]
6pm Barometer 29.58 Thermometer 84 deg. [28.9°C]

The three camels attacked with poison seem to be no worse and all of the camels were washed this morning to rid them of cattle tick and mange which seem to have spread among them very quickly in this damp climate.
Simpson went in to Borroloola in a native canoe this morning as Lynott will probably have some meat to send down.

The day was warm with a light breeze from N.E. Sky clear.

21 OCT. SAT.

Under way 8.30 a.m. - light E.S.E. wind, tide half flood. Fairway Beacon abeam 11.05 a.m. - entered river at noon and anchored 12.30 p.m. abreast of small creek where launch was moored. Afternoon employed cutting and storing wood fuel for the launch, attending to engines, boiler, etc. - Got up steam and brought her out into the stream alongside the lugger at 6 p.m. - Lugger anchored in the fairway - 6 fms (11 m) on the top of flood tide dead low water 10 p.m., a sounding giving 5 fms. (9.1 m) - range of tide 6 ft. (1.8 m). Fine and clear throughout - light E.S.E. wind during forenoon, fresh N.E. later.

Saturday, 21st October 1911

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<td>3pm</td>
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<td>97 deg. [36.1°C]</td>
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<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>29.70</td>
<td>87 deg. [30.5°C]</td>
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I went over to the opposite (W.) side of the river to-day, and for over a mile [>1.6 km] from the bank down as far as Blackfellows Crossing there is a gum flat with good grass and several small varieties of shrubs which should be even better for the camels than the herbage on this side. The soil is a light coloured loam, very rich looking, and the scrub is only moderately thick.

The day was warm with a gentle breeze from N.E. A few fracto-cumulus clouds in afternoon.

22 OCT. SUN.

Under way 8 a.m. - launch towing lugger alongside. Passed Carrington's Landing 10.20 a.m. - 1 fms. (3.2 m) along the channel, shoaling to 1 fms. (2.3 m) at top end. Reached the Snags Shoal 12.50 p.m. - soundings taken along channel and across shoal. Proceeded again 1.30 p.m. Anchored Black Rocks 2.10 p.m. Soundings at H.W. (6 p.m) gave 1 fms. (3.2 m) - at L.W. (2 a.m.) 1 fms. (1.8 m). Ranging pole on the bank gave rise and fall of 5 ft. (1.5 m). Fine & clear throughout - calm during forenoon, light to moderate N.E. wind later.

Sunday, 22nd October 1911. 19th after Trinity

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<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>29.68</td>
<td>92 deg. [33.3°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>29.72</td>
<td>87 deg. [30.5°C]</td>
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</table>

The camels were shepherded on the high ground to the East of the camp. Those which had been poisoned, with the exception of Collins', have now recovered.

The day was warm with a gentle breeze from N.E. Sky hazy.

There was a partial eclipse of the sun from about 1.40 till 2.30.
23 OCT. MON.

Forenoon employed chaining length of Black Rocks Shoal obtaining series of soundings along main channel and across shoal etc. Strong breeze springing up from N.E. at noon, lugger dragging her anchor. Hove up anchor, and proceeded up river under the jib, anchoring again 12.30 p.m. to await steam on the launch. Under way again 12.50 p.m. but delayed from 1.10 p.m. - 2 p.m. with engine broken down. Anchored above Blackfellow's Crossing 4.20 p.m. - got news from some blacks there that the camels were all well in their new camp. Fine & clear throughout - fresh to strong N.E. and E.N.E. wind.

Monday, 23rd October 1911

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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>98°C [36.6°C]</td>
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<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>29.72</td>
<td>89°C [31.6°C]</td>
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As the tide came in about 11 a.m. I left for Borroloola in a native canoe, and reached there at 7 p.m.

The day was warm with a light to moderate breeze from N.E. Clouds, cumulus and cirro-cumulus.

24 OCT. TUE.

Day employed upon rough survey of Blackfellow's Crossing Shoal - taking numerous soundings along main channel and across shoal etc. - Under way proceeding up river 4 p.m. - stuck on the rocks below Duck Is. at 4.35 p.m. but came off again shortly on the rising tide, anchoring inside the islands 5 p.m. Found everything going on satisfactorily at the camp ashore - the camels appearing much better for the change, all putting on condition. Three were slightly poisoned by nibbling at the ironwood passed en route here from the former camp, but all now recovered. Mange & tick still prevalent amongst them but the tar and tallow dressing seems to be gradually getting the upper hand of it - the fact of them all shedding their winter coats makes them appear worse than they really are.

Fine & clear throughout - light to moderate N.E. wind.

Tuesday, 24th October 1911

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<tr>
<td>9am</td>
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<td>89°C [31.6°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>29.69</td>
<td>99°C [37.2°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>29.71</td>
<td>91°C [32.7°C]</td>
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After obtaining some meat and stores I tried to return in the canoe, but a fresh breeze and the fact that the tide was against us made it impossible to go in the canoe. The wind dropped at sundown, and taking two boys from the camp, I left at 8 p.m. and reached camp at 2 a.m. next morning.

The day was hot with a fresh breeze from N.E. A few fracto-cumulus clouds.

25 OCT. WED.

Started up stream for Reid's Rocks Shoal 7.40 a.m. - launch towing dinghy, lugger left anchored at Duck Is. anchored at the shoal 8.30 a.m. made rough survey and took series of soundings in all directions. Started back 1 p.m., anchoring at Duck Island 1.40
p.m. Afternoon employed shifting all gear from lugger to launch and dinghy, in preparation for making towards Borroloola tomorrow. A mob of blacks camped hereover fifty in all, counting women and children - then men mostly employed in constructing bark canoes; Hill secured numerous interesting photographs. Fine & clear throughout - light to moderate N.E. wind.

**Wednesday, 25th October 1911**

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<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>29.64</td>
<td>98 deg. [36.6°C]</td>
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<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>29.75</td>
<td>91 deg. [32.7°C]</td>
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The remainder of the party returned on board the lugger yesterday afternoon, and remained alongside the camp all day. The repairing of camel saddles was begun this morning.

The day was hot with light air from N.E. Sky clear.

**26 OCT. THUR.**

Proceeded up river with launch and dinghy 8 a.m., leaving the lugger anchored at Duck Islands. Left Bruce Foulis at the camp to assist Simpson in repairing the pack saddles. Arrived Rocky Bar (The Five Mile) at 10.50 a.m. and anchored. Took series of soundings and made rough survey, proceeding again 3 p.m. Arrived Borroloola 4.10 p.m. Light southerly wind throughout, fine and clear - weather warming up considerably.

**Thursday, 26th October 1911**

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<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>29.65</td>
<td>102 deg. [38.9°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>29.70</td>
<td>92 deg. [33.3°C]</td>
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All of the camels seem to have recovered from poisoning. Messrs Macpherson and Hill with Collins returned to the Court House to-day. Foulis remained at the camp.

The day was hot with a slight haze in morning. Sky afterwards clear. Wind - light air from N.E.

**27 OCT. FRI.**

Blitner left with the launch at noon, taking load of stores down river to Duck Island Camp - sent down good supply stockholm tar and tallow so that the treatment for mange may be persevered with in the hopes of eradicating it before the camels are required to work again. Afternoon employed in office routine - observations taken for latitude at night - the mean of four giving Latitude, 16° 04' 45" S. Fine and clear throughout - fresh breeze from N.E. : vivid lightning all round the horizon after sundown.

**Friday, 27th October 1911**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>29.77</td>
<td>94 deg. [34.4°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>29.69</td>
<td>98 deg. [36.6°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>29.70</td>
<td>93 deg. [33.9°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The launch came back this morning with stores for the camp. Most of the blacks around left for the "jump up" on the edge of the tableland, to engage in a tribal fight. The weapons carried were spears with woomeras, and nulla-nulla's. It seems evident that boomerangs are not used by them.

The day was hot with light air from N.E. Clouds, cumulus. Thunderstorm in E. and S.E. after sundown.

28 OCT. SAT.

Day employed in office routine - also generally tidying up after the sea trip, oiling and cleaning instruments, chains, etc. Clouding up heavily during the afternoon, with a few drops of rain - clearing up fine at nightfall - moderate to fresh N.E. and Northerly wind.

Lat. = obsn. 16° 04' 46" S.

Saturday, 28th October 1911

9am Barometer 29.78 Thermometer 87 deg. [30.5°C]
3pm Barometer 29.67 Thermometer 94 deg. [34.4°C]
6pm Barometer 29.70 Thermometer 88 deg. [31.1°C]

The camels were washed with a mixture of stockholm tar and fat this morning to rid them of mange and cattle tick. Two of them were treated with another wash recommended by Mr Lynott of Borroloola. The repairing of saddles was continued during the day.

The day was warm with a moderate breeze from N.E. and N. Clouds, cumulus.

29 OCT. MON.

F. Blitner off the strength of the expedition - pay ceasing as from last night. No unnecessary work done - day devoted to private correspondence. Waldron in from camel camp - reporting all well. Fine generally but clouding up heavily towards sundown, with thunder away to S.E. - clearing up again later in the night - wind moderate to fresh N.E.

Sunday, 29th October 1911. 20th after Trinity

9am Barometer 29.80 Thermometer 94 deg. [34.4°C]
3pm Barometer 29.66 Thermometer 99 deg. [37.2°C]
6pm Barometer 29.67 Thermometer 89 deg. [31.6°C]

Two of the camels were again washed with the dip suggested by Lynott.

As the supply of tobacco and meat was exhausted I went in to the court house at daylight, and taking a tracker, brought back the stores in the evening.

The day was warm with a light to moderate breeze from N.E. Clouds, cumulus.

30 OCT. MON.

Day employed in office routine, making rough plans of principal bars and observations in the river etc. Fine generally, clouding up heavily during afternoon, with distant thunder to S.E. clearing up fine again towards sundown with fresh N.N.E. wind.
Lat. * obsn. 16° 04' 46" S.

Monday, 30th October 1911

9am Barometer 29.76 Thermometer 92 deg. [33.3°C]
3pm Barometer 29.65 Thermometer 95 deg. [35°C]
6pm Barometer 29.66 Thermometer 86 deg. [30°C]

The camels are now being shepherded near Blackfellows' Crossing and their condition has improved considerably during the day.

The day was warm with a moderate breeze from N.E. and N. Clouds cumulus.

31 OCT. TUE.

Day mostly employed in office routine. Dinghy's mast rigged and brought up to the courthouse for repairs, having carried away just above collars of the stays - spliced the break and fished (sic) it with broad band of muntz metal. Waldron in for meat and rations - all well at the camel camp. Dull and overcast throughout - heavy shower of rain at noon and another at 10 p.m. - light southerly wind during early part of day - light N.E. later.

Tuesday, 31st October 1911

9am Barometer 29.71 Thermometer 89 deg. [31.6°C]
3pm Barometer 29.66 Thermometer 99 deg. [37.2°C]
6pm Barometer 29.69 Thermometer 89 deg. [31.6°C]

I left camp at 6.45 and taking two camels and two boys, reached Borroloola at 10.30. A shower of rain delayed me for a couple of hours, and after leaving again with some stores I reached camp shortly after sundown. By keeping as close to the river as was possible without striking the steep creeks flowing into it, the distance to the camp was reduced to 12 miles [19.3 km].

The day was hot with light breeze from S. E. in morning. At 12.30 change to N.E. There was a shower of rain at Borroloola at midday, but none fell at the camp.

1 NOV. WED.

Day employed in rigging up the dinghy afresh. Shifted her from Stony Ck. up to jetty to take in some iron ballast, and back to Stony Ck. again afterward. Propose slipping down to Duck Island camp in her tomorrow if the southerly wind continues. Fine and clear throughout - light to moderate S.E. and E.S.E. wind.

Wednesday, 1st November 1911

9am Barometer 29.79 Thermometer 83 deg. [28.3°C]
3pm Barometer 29.67 Thermometer 98 deg. [36.6°C]
6pm Barometer 29.70 Thermometer 88 deg. [31.1°C]

The camels were again shepherded at Blackfellows' Crossing.

The repairing of saddles was continued during the day.
The day was warm with a gentle breeze from S.E. to N.E. Sky clear.

2 NOV. THUR.

Day opened with light S.E'ly wind blowing - packed swags and theodolite into dinghy and started down river for Duck ls. taking Collins and Saltwater Harry along. Wind fell away when below 5 Mile Bar, shortly afterwards coming out hard from N.E. - had to out oars and pull remainder of distance, arriving Duck ls. 6.10 p.m. Set up the theodolite and took observations for latitude, the mean of four giving 15° 58’ 20” S. Fine & clear throughout.

Thursday, 2nd November 1911

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<th>Thermometer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>29.81</td>
<td>93 deg. [33.9°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>29.67</td>
<td>98 deg. [36.6°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>29.71</td>
<td>86 deg. [30°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The camels were again washed this morning before being sent out.

The repairing of saddles was continued during the day. Mr Macpherson and Collins came down in the dinghy about 5 p.m., and I assisted the former in his observations during the evening.

The day was warm with a gentle to moderate breeze from N.E. to S.E. Clouds, fracto-cumulus.

3 NOV. FRI.

Had a look round the camels and camp in the morning - camels commencing to put on a little condition again, though tick and mange unfortunately still very prevalent among them - the fact of shedding their winter coats makes them look extra ragged and scraggy.

Left Duck Island 7.40 a.m. - light to moderate E.S.E. wind.: across 5' Bar 11.15 a.m. - anchored just above until 2 p.m. waiting for the sea breeze to come up arrived Borroloola 3.30 p.m. Fine & clear throughout.

Friday, 3rd November 1911

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>29.77</td>
<td>90 deg. [32.2°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>29.64</td>
<td>99 deg. [37.2°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>27.69</td>
<td>90 deg. [32.2°C]</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Mr Macpherson left this morning for Borroloola.

The camels were attended to after breakfast, and the repairing of saddles was continued during the day.

The day was warm with a moderate breeze from N.E., varying to E. and S.E. at times. Sky clear.

4 NOV. SAT.

Employed on office routine and correspondence. A fracas occurred towards sundown between the trooper Miller and one of his black trackers, both being considerably damaged - the boy came over to the courthouse and Mr. Hill dressed his head which
was badly cut, afterwards dismissing him with orders to return tomorrow for further treatment. This the patient was unable to do however, being eventually arrested and locked up in the police station. The launch arrived about 7 p.m. from Carrington's Landing, the steamer "Nelson" being in from Darwin. Received a mail consisting of several papers and parcels, including Code Book for Capt. Barclay from the Government - all letters failed to eventuate, having been left behind in Darwin by accident. Fine and clear throughout - S.E. wind during forenoon - fresh N.N.E. later.

Saturday, 4th November 1911

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>29.70</td>
<td>90 deg. [32.2°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>29.59</td>
<td>97 deg. [36.1°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>29.61</td>
<td>87 deg. [30.5°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Taking two camels and two boys I left camp at 5.50 and reached Borroloola at 9.20; after getting a supply of meat and stores I returned and reached camp after sundown. The lugger came up the river during the afternoon and reported the arrival of the "Nelson" from Darwin.

The day was warm with a moderate breeze from N.E. Clouds, cumulus fracto-cumulus.

5 NOV. SUN.

No unnecessary work done - day given to private correspondence. Fine and clear throughout - moderate to fresh N.E’ly wind.

Sunday, 5th November 1911. 21st after Trinity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>29.71</td>
<td>84 deg. [28.9°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>29.62</td>
<td>95 deg. [35°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>29.66</td>
<td>87 deg. [30.5°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No work of any kind was done in camp to-day

The day was warm with a moderate breeze from N. and N.N.E. Clouds, fracto-cumulus.

6 NOV. MON.

Day employed in office routine and correspondence. Capt. Barclay arrived by the mail from Camooweal at 7 p.m. bringing news that he remains here as Engineer in Charge of Works whilst I retain command of the party and start back immediately across continent for Oodnadatta via Eastern Tablelands, Marshall River, Arltunga Goldfields and Alice Springs.

Fine & clear throughout - moderate to fresh N.N.E. wind.

Monday, 6th November 1911

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>29.79</td>
<td>85 deg. [29.4°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>29.65</td>
<td>98 deg. [36.6°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>29.67</td>
<td>91 deg. [32.8°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
After attending to the camels I left camp for the court house, and reached there at noon. The lugger was going down to the landing so I sent stores back to camp. Shortly after sundown the mail arrived, Capt Barclay returned also, and intimated that instructions had been received for the return of the party under Mr Macpherson. The route to be via Brunette, Rankine and Arltinga [sic]. Mr Hill will remain with Capt Barclay.

Day hot, light breeze from N.E., clouds, cumulus and cumulo-nimbus.

7 NOV. TUE.

Sent orders down to the camel camp for them to have everything in readiness for a move - to send all heavy loading up to Borroloola by the lugger on her next trip, and shift the camels up to the courthouse directly afterwards. Employed in general preparations for departure. Fine & clear throughout - E.S.E. wind during forenoon, N.E'ly later.

Tuesday, 7th November 1911. Cup Day

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>29.73</td>
<td>91 deg. [32.8°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>29.66</td>
<td>99 deg. [37.2°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>29.65</td>
<td>93 deg. [33.9°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

After I finished my mail I made a mail bag for the party's private mail.

As Mr. Hill is not returning I received Capt. Barclay's permission to get some plant presses for the purpose of collecting some specimens on the return journey.

Day hot, light northerly breeze, clouds, cirro-cumulus.

8 NOV. WED.

Sorting out stores and equipment and otherwise making general preparations for the split up of the party and our journey southwards. Fine and clear generally clouding over at times - moderate N.E. and Northerly wind.

Wednesday, 8th November 1911

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Thermometer</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>29.74</td>
<td>89 deg. [31.6°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>29.66</td>
<td>97 deg. [36.1°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>29.66</td>
<td>91 deg. [32.8°C]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The lugger was expected to return to-day, but as she did not arrive and as I had some heavy stores to take to camp I was unable to return, but I sent word of the instructions received and intimated that it was Mr Macpherson's desire that all the camel saddles and ropes should be ready for an immediate departure.

Day warm, light northerly breeze. Sky clear.

9 NOV. THUR.

Continuing preparations for starting south. The lugger arrived with store from Carrington's Landing - Blitner is to drop his dinghy at Duck Island on his way down river tomorrow to pick up all camp loading - lugger late this trip owing to adverse tides and grounding - waiting for her to bring up camp loading would entail another three days

Thursday, 9th November 1911

9am Barometer 29.71 Thermometer 85 deg. [29.4°C]
3pm Barometer 29.64 Thermometer 98 deg. [36.6°C]
6pm Barometer 29.66 Thermometer 90 deg. [32.2°C]

Two boys came up from camp with a couple of camels and I returned with them and took some stores.

The remaining saddles and ropes were repaired during the afternoon. One of the best pack camels ("Smut") has worn his pad, and is very lame.

Day hot, light to moderate breeze from N.E., clouds, fracto cumulus.

10 NOV. FRI.

Cutting and splicing new loading ropes, roping cases, fixing compass on riding saddle, and making other numerous preparations for departure. Camels arrived from the down river camp 5 p.m. - dinghy with the camp loading shortly afterwards. Cloudy & overcast forenoon, fine & clear later - strong N.E. wind throughout.

Friday, 10th November 1911

9am Barometer 29.73 Thermometer 88 deg. [31.1°C]
3pm Barometer 29.68 Thermometer 97 deg. [36.1°C]
6pm Barometer 29.67 Thermometer 90 deg. [32.2°C]

The camels were sent out to feed before daylight, tents and nets taken down, and the heavier case loading and camp gear put on board the dinghy which had been obtained from Blitner as he passed down the river. The light loading was put on the camels and we left camp at 11 a.m. Simpson took the dinghy upstream.

We were able to cross the river at Leichhardt's [sic] Bar, and reached the court house at 5 p.m.

Day warm, gentle breeze from N.E., S.E. for short time in morning. Clouds cumulus.

11 NOV. SAT.

All hands employed packing and checking stores for return trip - camels feeding out on blue bush swamp carefully shepherded - most of them looking better for their spell at Duck Island, but two or three still very poor - not a decent hump on the whole crowd of them. Fine and clear generally - calm during forenoon, fresh N.E. wind later.

Saturday, 11th November 1911

9am Barometer 29.70 Thermometer 91 deg. [32.7°C]
3pm Barometer 29.69 Thermometer 98 deg. [36.6°C]
6pm Barometer 29.71 Thermometer 83 deg. [28.3°C]
The camels were sent out to the blue bush flat South of the town. All the cases were emptied, a list of stores on hand compiled, and after the goods had been divided for the use of both sections of the party, our portion was taken out and stowed in the packs.

Day hot light to fresh breeze from N.E. - fresh from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. clouds cirrus.

12 NOV. SUN.

Camel Barney found to be suffering from poison at daybreak - dosed him but he died almost immediately. Hitched up about 30 blackfellows to drag the corpse down towards the creek and burn him. No unnecessary work done in camp. Fine and clear throughout - moderate to fresh N.E. wind.

Sunday, 12th November 1911. 22nd after Trinity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>29.68</td>
<td>84 deg. [28.9°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>29.58</td>
<td>99 deg. [37.2°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>29.57</td>
<td>89 deg. [31.6°C]</td>
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</table>

The lugger returned with more stores, and these were taken to camp, but the remainder of the packing was left until next day.

Day hot; light, variable winds - at times calm. Clouds, cumulus and cumulo-nimbus.

13 NOV. MON.

Left camp 2.45 p.m. Camped 5.45 p.m.
Forenoon employed in straightening out loading - loads averaging 4½ cwt. (229 kg) - quite heavy enough for our camels in the condition they are in. Broke camp and left Borroloola bound south. Party consisting of Mr. Waldron as second in command, Thomas Simpson, Edward Collins, the two black trackers, and eighteen camels. Camped for the night at Goose Lagoon, distance 8' (12.9 km). Camels feeding out until dark, then tied up for the night. Fine and clear throughout - light N.E'ly wind.

Monday, 13th November 1911

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Barometer</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>29.71</td>
<td>91 deg. [32.8°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>29.56</td>
<td>99 deg. [37.2°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>29.52</td>
<td>94 deg. [34.4°C]</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The remaining stores were packed during the morning, some new cases made, and we left Borroloola at 3 p.m. We went over the gum flats to Goose Lagoon, and camped at 5.50: whitewood, ironwood and box as well as several varieties of herbage were also seen.

Capt. Barclay appointed me Second in Command of the Expedition to return to Arltunga under Mr Macpherson.

The day was hot with a light breeze from N.E during the afternoon. Sky clear.

14 NOV. TUE.

Left camp 8.30 a.m. Camped 5.15 p.m.
Travelling S.W'ly towards McArthur River Station. Over high stony tableland during the afternoon, camping directly after dropping down off it on to a patch of good feed.
Camels turned out immediately on camping until dark then brought in and tied up for the night. Fine generally - clouding over heavily at times - very hot, no wind, stirring until the seabreeze came up about 5 p.m. Distance 20' (32.2 km).

**Tuesday, 14th November 1911**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>29.57</td>
<td>93 deg. [33.9°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>29.41</td>
<td>103 deg. [39.4°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>29.23</td>
<td>97 deg. [36.1°C]</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

We left camp at 8.30 and continued over a well grassed gum flat until 9.15 when we crossed a creek along the banks of which was a moderate scrub of grevillia, casuarina and fresh water mangroves. The flat on the other side was open for a mile [1.6 km], then covered with a scrub of box, gums, and currajong. Owing to the intense heat we stopped from 11.15 till 12.30 for lunch. A mile and a half [2.4 km] of gum flat was crossed before we descended into a narrow flat of melaleuca, ironwood and gums. Here we passed a small waterhole known as Frog Lagoon, and passing through a small dense scrub we crossed the dry bed of Western Cr. and mounted the "jump up" of the first ledge of the tableland. There were some tall melaleuca and a smaller but densely foliaged scrub of grevillias and other shrubs bordering on the creek, but from there until we reached camp at 5.15 we crossed rough ironstone and sandstone country covered with spinifex and gums. At 2.20 the track took a more Westerly direction, but when we camped in a patch of small acasia it was going southerly again.

**15 NOV. WED.**

Camels turned loose to feed at first peep of day. Left camp 8.15 a.m. Camped 1 p.m. Loaded up and proceeded towards McArthur River Stn., striking main wagon track 9.19 a.m. - through the Borroloola gate 11 a.m. - passed Cook's mine 12.20 p.m. - crossed McArthur River 12.40 p.m. - watered camels and filled kegs, camping on Eastern side of river for remainder of day. Fine and clear generally, clouding up heavily after sundown with vivid lightning and distant thunder - strong N.E. and Northerly wind blowing.

**Wednesday, 15th November 1911**

<table>
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<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>29.41</td>
<td>91 deg. [32.7°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>29.43</td>
<td>105 deg. [40.5°C]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>29.40</td>
<td>99 deg. [37.2°C]</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The camels were turned out before daylight and they were able to get a good feed before we left at 8.15. A quarter of a mile [400 m] from camp we descended from the plateau on to the lower level of the main river valley. After going S.W. through a scrub of small melaleuca and gums we struck the main wagon track into McArthur Station, and followed it until we reached the river at 12.40. Here we filled up the water kegs and gave the camels a drink. We camped below the station at 1 p.m. The camels were shepherded close to camp, and arrangements made for obtaining some hide and some meat from the station next day.

The day was hot with a light breeze from N.E. Clouds, cumulus and cumulo-nimbus.

**16 NOV. THUR.**

Left camp 12.30 p.m. Camped 5 p.m.
Day opened dull and threatening. Let camels loose at daybreak, feeding them on patch of prickly acacea (sic) until noon. Heavy thunderstorm commenced almost immediately after leaving the station, continuing with solid rain until 4 p.m. ground heavy and greasy, travelling very slow in consequence - all kits and impedimenta soaking wet through. Camped for the night on patch of high and fairly high ground - rigged up the tarpaulin between two trees as a tent, stowing all saddlery and gear under cover in anticipation of a wet night - only a few light showers fell however. Wind light and variable. Distance 10' (16.1 km). Camels out on splendid feed, whitewood and acacia until dark.

Thursday, 16th November 1911

(No recordings of Barometer or Thermometer readings in the following entries which are packed on the page).

After obtaining beef from the station we loaded up and were ready to leave at 12.30. Mr Hill and Capt Barclay remained at the station. The boy, Leo, who was to have come on with the party refused to go any further and was left to return to Borroloola with Capt. Barclay.

We crossed the River at a wash-away opposite the camp and turned South along the track. From the time we struck the main wagon track until we camped at 5 p.m. the country was undulating loamy plain covered with a good green scrub of bean (bohenia) [bauhinia], whitewood, jasminum, gums and a species of small, prickly acasia. The grass was also green and plentiful.

We crossed the river at a wash-away opposite the camp and turned South along the track. From the time we struck the main wagon track until we camped at 5 p.m. the country was undulating loamy plain covered with a good green scrub of bean (bohenia), whitewood, jasminum, gums and a species of small, prickly acasia. The grass was also green and plentiful.

A thunderstorm which had been working up during the morning broke at 2.20 and it rained heavily for half an hour, and then intermittently until after dark. The camels were able to go but very slowly. The scrub mentioned above provided good feed for the animals before they were tied up for the night.

17 NOV. FRI.

Left camp 9.30 a.m. Camped 5.00 p.m.
Camels let loose at dawn - made a late start waiting for the ground to dry up somewhat.
Heavy thunderstorm from 1-2 p.m. - not much rain with it. Camel Jumper showing symptoms of sickness during the afternoon - removed his load and drove him along behind the string - bled him at the tail and administered bucket of lukewarm salt and water on arrival in camp. Evening camp abreast of Cape Crawford - camels out feeding until after sundown. Wind strong N.W. during thunderstorm otherwise light and variable. Distance 18' (29 km).

Friday, 17th November 1911

Saddles and some of the stores had been put under cover so that it took us some time to break camp. We left at 9.30 and for three quarters of a mile [1.2 km] the scrub of whitewood etc continued, while there was a long stretch of shallow waterholes to the W. of the track. As we mounted a slight gravelly rise the scrub changed to eucalyptus (grey box, and coolibah) jasminum and good grass. Spinnifex was thick on the top of the ridge. We then descended into a gravelly flat extending East from the track but bounded near the western side of the road by low sandstone hills. The scrub here
consisted at first of gums with fair grass; later there were a few ironwood trees and some desert rose and at 11.25 a dense scrub of ironwood and jasminum was passed through before the valley narrowed in with poor soil and a growth of walindah gum, quinine bush and spinifex. We continued over undulating gravelly country between hills until 12.55 when we descended into a loamy flat of ironwood and grey box, rounded a high sandstone hill on our right, and camped for lunch near a chain of lagoons 1.15 - 2.10. A half a mile [800 m] of small prickly acacia was followed by a flat of white gums, bean (bohenia) and good grass, through which Lila [Leila] Creek flows into the river. We crossed the Creek at 2.40 and at 3.45 struck a patch of yellow soil flat with walindah gum and large anthills. We then wound about from W. to S. over some limestone ridges until 4.20 when we crossed a small creek and entered on a dark loamy flat of bean, jasminum, and whitewood. We passed Cape Crawford, a prominent point in the hills to the E. at 4.40 and camped at 5 p.m.

18 NOV. SAT.

Remained in camp all day - sick camel unfit to travel. Appeared to be suffering from giddiness, straining heavily when passing urine, the latter almost blood colour - entirely different symptoms to any seen previously. Sent all camels down to water at a water hole under Cape Crawford at 2 p.m. Heavy thunderstorm swept over the camp at 4 p.m., rain falling in torrents, everything drenched as the storm broke without any warning. Camels returned 4.30 p.m. Sick camel rapidly growing worse, in extremis at sundown. Fine during forenoon, dull and overcast later - wind from all points of the compass.

Saturday, 18th November 1911

One of the camels took some ironwood on the road yesterday and was treated immediately we camped. His tail was cut and several drenches of salt and water were given to him. He seemed to improve slightly this morning so we remained in camp and gave him another drench of permanganate of potash. During the day he continued to improve, but towards evening he became very much worse.

I left camp at 11 a.m. and going in an Easterly direction crossed two parallel lines of billabongs before reaching the McArthur. The hills forming Cape Crawford rise from the right bank of the river, and a good view of the country is obtainable from this headland of light coloured sandstone. There are some old blacks camps at the edge of the point. Spinifex, currajong and a small acacia grow on top, while acacia, currajong, ironwood, gums and red mulga (acacia) also grow on the sides. Gutta percha, casuarina, melaleuca and eucalyptus were most noticeable on the river and the billabongs. I found a good waterhole about two miles [3.2 km] N.W. of the Cape so I returned to camp and brought the camels and a load of kegs to it.

There was a heavy shower of rain at 4.15 and a few light showers afterwards. The wind was light and variable.

19 NOV. SUN.

Left camp 9.15 a.m. Camped 4.30 p.m. Sick camel died just after sunrise - burnt the carcase before leaving camp. Discarded the most worn of the pack saddles, and distributed his loading among the remainder. Arrived at Top Crossing, McArthur River, at 2.30 p.m. to find the river running strongly in flood, sent Waldron down to the junction to ascertain whether the other branch was also running whilst I rode a couple of miles (3.2 km) along the creek in search of an opportunity to cross - no luck. Commenced raining heavily 3 p.m. continuing without a break until midnight accompanied by thunder and vivid lightning. Fixed up camp on rising ground about 1 mile (400 m) back from crossing, erecting the tarpaulin and placing all gear under shelter. Camel Midget sick - similar symptoms to Jumper, veins
in head and neck greatly swollen - bled and dosed him but working entirely in the dark as regards the complaint, appears more like red water than anything else, cannot be ironwood poisoning, as they are carefully shepherded on camp, and then mouths lashed up on the track where ironwood is thick. Distance 12’ (19.3 km).

Sunday, 19th November 1911. 23rd after Trinity

The sick camel died shortly after day light this morning. As it seemed probable that he had taken a piece of ironwood on the road, we tied the mouths of the other camels before leaving camp at 9.15. A quarter of a mile [400 m] from camp the bohenia country was succeeded by gravely ridges with a scrub of box and gutta-percha, which as the soil became poorer changed into eucalyptus (walindah, gum and mallee) jasminum and spinnifex. We continued to wind over gravely hills, with the river some miles to E. of us until 10.50 when we turned E. on to a well grassed box flat, and a mile [1.6 km] further on we entered the valley of the river proper; the soil here was darker and the scrub consisted of bean (bohenia) jasminum and whitewood at first, and eucalyptus (bloodwood and coolebah) later on. At 12.50 we passed to the West of a low ridge of sandstone running down the valley, with a creek between us and the ridge. Leichhardt pine and gums grew on the creek, ironwood and quinine bush on the hills. We stopped for lunch (1.5- 1.55) at a small waterhole in the last mentioned creek, and after going along the valley in a S.E direction, we struck the river at 2.30, and found it running. We were unable to cross, and while Mr Macpherson tried to find a track round to the S.W., I followed the stream E. to its junction with another creek, but as the latter was flowing as well there was no hope of crossing further down. Mr Macpherson could not find a track round to the W., so we camped on a ridge of higher ground at 4.30. At 3 o’clock it commenced to rain heavily and continued until 5.30. It then rained intermittently all night.

20 NOV. MON.

Left camp 11.00 a.m. Camped 6.30 p.m. Camels let loose at day break - sick one apparently better. Going down for a swim at 6 a.m. we found the river had fallen considerably. Loaded up and left camp 11 a.m. - cut branches of scrub to make causeway over the mud on each bank, and had all camels safely across by 11.30 a.m. - water still nearly up to their bellies and running strongly, but they faced it well. Across second branch and clear of the McArthur by noon. Thence travelling S.W’ly towards Top Spring - ironwood growing in abundance on both sides of track, every camel with mouths lashed up to prevent him from snapping at it in passing - kept travelling late in order to find a camp clear of the ironwood. Wind light and variable - occasional heavy squalls from N.E.: rain commenced at 3 p.m. with thunder and lightning, and fell with hardly a moment’s cessation until midnight - rigged up tarpaulin and put all saddlery and gear under cover immediately on camping - camels tied up for the night at dark. Distance 17’ (27.3 km).

Monday, 20th November 1911

"Midget", Capt. Barclay’s riding camel, shewed signs of poisoning or perhaps cramp, but his head was most affected as was the case with the last camel that died. He was given a mustard drench last night and seemed better this morning. We had decided to remain in camp and wait for the river to fall until next morning, but at 8.30, after seeing that it had then dropped quickly, we decided to load up and get across. We left camp at 11 a.m., crossed the river without accident, and after passing over the box flat in the bend of the river we crossed again at Top Crossing at 11.40. We then went S. along the Western side of the river valley for half a mile [800 m] when we turned S.W. among gravelly hills covered with spinnifex and mallee. At 12.10 we descended into a dark soil flat of good grass covered with a moderate scrub of grey box for the first mile [1.6 km], but afterwards with white gums and scattered clumps of whitewood and bean.
(bohenia). Lunch on a flat 12.40 - 1.35. After lunch we continued for another mile [1.6 km] across the flat before mounting on to the ridges of gravelly soil covered with ironwood, box and bean; good grass in the hollows, spinnifex on the hills. Outcrops of limestone ran in ridges parallel to the track for the first mile [1.6 km], and the gravel was limestone and sandstone afterwards. We continued over these gravelly hills dotted with mallee, bean, grevillia, ironwood and quinine bush, until 4.30 when we mounted on to a broad flat plain of old sandstone covered with mallee, box, ironwood, jasminum and spinnifex; this high flat country, with a few limestone ridges continued till camp at 6.30.

21 NOV. TUE.

Left camp 11 a.m. Camped 5.30 p.m.
Camels let loose at dawn on excellent patch of feed - camel Midget still very sick.
Made a late start giving camels an extra hour or so on the good feed, also endeavouring to get some of our gear dried, it having rained well into the small hours of the morning - the fifth night of wet camps. Arrived Top Spring at noon - filled up kegs - proceeded 1 p.m to Holt's camp 1' (1.6 km) south of the spring and thence along track towards Collarbaril Waterhole. Camped on good camel feed - thunderstorms with sharp shower of rain just at camping time - heavy rain throughout the night - light to moderate N.E. and northerly wind. Distance 13' (20.9 km).

Tuesday, 21st November 1911

There was a heavy shower yesterday at 2.45 and it rained heavily from 6.30 until nearly midnight. It was then showery until sunrise. "Midget" seemed unwell again last night, but was able to go out with the other camels this morning - We left camp at 11 a.m. and passed our camp of Sept. 1st a few hundred yards from camp. The country from here into the waterhole at Top Spring is undulating limestone, and rocky for the most part. Ironwood, quinine bush, grevillia, and eucalyptus (coolibah and gums) dotted the surface from camp to the creek, while nearer the water there are pendamus palms, large melaleuca and fresh water mangroves. We filled up kegs and drums at the waterhole, which is much lower than when we last saw it. After leaving there at 1 p.m., we went up to Mr Holt's camp where we stopped for lunch, and left again at 2.30. We went out on to a stretch of well grassed "downs" dotted with bean, whitewood, jasminum and eucalyptus (gums and box), and shewing a thicker scrub at some distance from each side of the track. The soil was grey clay. At 3.10 and at 4.30 we crossed outcrops of ironstone gravel, the last one being broad and covered with spinnifex, casuarina, eucalyptus and grevillia. At 4.50 we crossed a small creek which formed the edge of "downs" stretch; on the South side of the creek, with the exception of an open and bare swamp, the ground rose slightly on to ironstone gravel covered with spinnifex, mallee, and a few jasminum. We camped on this ridge near our camp of Aug 30th at 5.30.

22 NOV. WED.

Left camp 10 a.m. Camped 2.40 p.m.
Rain until 6 a.m. then clearing. Very wet under foot at starting - travelling slow in consequence, camels slipping about in all directions. Surrounding country like a picture - green grass in abundance everywhere, and every little watercourse and hole full. Refilled kegs at small creek 3' (4.8 km) north of the Kilgour. Camped early on the Kilgour - magnificent feed - camel Midget still very sick, several others vomiting heavily - impossible for poison to be responsible for it, no ironwood or gutta percha near the camps for several nights past, and their mouths lashed up during the day whenever poison bush thick near the track. Surmise that the continued wet weather is playing up with them, more especially as they are all more or less weak as a result of past sickness, tick, etc. Clouding up heavily towards sundown, with every appearance of a dirty night - built bush break around Midget before dark - animal rapidly growing worse -
wind light north and N.W. Heavy thunderstorm 8 p.m. vivid lightning and torrents of rain, same conditions prevailing throughout the night. Distance 9' (14.5 km).

**Wednesday, 22nd November 1911**

Heavy rain commenced to fall at 6.30 last evening, and showers fell all night. "Midget" was given a drench of Epsom salts last night but his condition is no better -. We left camp at 10 a.m., and continued across the gravely ridge until 10.30 when we descended on to an open black soil flat extending several miles to the West, and moderately well grassed. It was three quarters of a mile [1200 m] wide where we crossed it, and on the South side the ground rises again in gravely ridges covered with fair grass, jasminum and walindah gum. At 11.20 we descended into another large flat extending to the hills forming the Northern edge of the tableland. This flat was undulating and better grassed than the other one. Some small eucalyptus (white gums) grew on the banks of a small creek to the West of the track, and where this creek turned to the E. and crossed the road we stopped, filled two loads of kegs with good water, and had lunch 12.0 - 1.30. These were small waterholes on this creek as far as we had followed it. We then continued over the gravely surface of the flat, and crossed two other creeks flowing E. (probably into the Kilgour). The undulating gravely surface was covered with a good scrub of eucalyptus (walinda gum), whitewood, jasminum and a small acacia. At 2.40 we camped on the open flat to the South of this scrub. There was good green grass and munyeroo (portulacca) here, but for some reason the camels did not feed after we had unloaded. Another camel took bad and was vomiting freely. A ration of salt was given to them at dusk and they ate it freely. All the camels shewed signs of weakness and in order to give them - "Midget" especially - a rest we stopped the night on this low flat.

23 NOV. THUR.

Left camp 6.30 a.m. Camped 3.30 p.m.
Heavy thunderstorm and rain 5 a.m. - every appearance of a dirty day - ground very boggy and likely to become worse with more rain and stick us up altogether - broke camp and saddled up immediately. Slow travelling, ground very heavy, and every small watercourse full. Camped for breakfast 10.30 a.m. Midget completely knocked up and unable to proceed further - waited until noon but could get no more out of him - temporarily abandoned him and pushed ahead to get on to higher and drier ground. All remaining camels daily getting poorer and weaker owing to the incessant rain and mud - the only thing being to get them clear of the rain and mud - the only thing being to get them clear of the rain belt as soon as possible. Proceeded at noon towards Collarbirian Creek over the jump-up 1.30 p.m. on to hard red soil and drier conditions - camped early on patch of good camel feed. Distance 16' (25.7 km).
Generally dull and overcast, clearing up slightly at mid-day, but coming up heavy again at sundown with distant thunder - strong S.W. wind early - light northerly later. Thunderstorm with heavy rain 7 p.m. lighter rain afterwards, clearing up fine towards midnight. Fixed up tarpaulin tent - all saddlery and gear stowed under cover.

**Thursday, 23rd November 1911**

It commenced to rain at dusk last night, and a heavy thunderstorm succeeded from 9 till 11 p.m. It rained intermittently until 6.30 a.m. The flat was getting very wet so we loaded up and left camp at 6.30. We went along with great difficulty though all the camels managed to keep their feet. After crossing a small creek, half a mile [800 m] from camp, a stretch of gravel made travelling a little easier before we descended to the flat again and crossed another creek at 8.50. A mile [1.6 km] to the South of this creek we mounted low gravely ridges covered with walindah gums, and at 10.15 as "Midget" was unable to walk we stopped for breakfast. This camel then became worse, and as he seemed to suffer from cold a drench of mustard was given to him. He became worse again however, and at 12 noon we left him. There was no hope of his recovery,
and it is our opinion that he and the camel which died at Cape Crawford were victims to the incessant wet weather. We continued over the gravel ridges for a mile [1.6 km] before descending into a lower flat between the hills on the edge of the tableland. The grass here was scarce, the soil gravelly and the scrub a scattered one of eucalyptus (box and white gum). At 12.50 we mounted the "jump up" on to the tableland. Soil at first gravelly and showing moderately dense scrub of walindah gum, jasminum and whitewood. For 3 miles [4.8 km] then the scrub was a more open one of jasminum, whitewood and a small acacia. We then went out on to the open downs and continued over the well grassed clayey soil until 2.40 when we mounted a slight gravelly rise of walindah gum, bean (bohemia), jasminum, whitewood and acacia. We camped on this rise at 3.30.

24 NOV. FRI.

Remained in camp all day. Day brake (sic) fine & clear - camp on hard and comparatively dry ground - excellent camel feed practically free from poison - decided therefore to send back and ascertain how Midget fared. Waldron and Simpson started back 8 a.m. - Midget still alive on their arrival, but died shortly after. They opened him up finding stomach perfectly healthy, kidneys fearfully swollen and discoloured - disease evidently nothing to do with poison, but red water or 'tick fever' as a result of the tick in Borroloola and aggravated by exposure to the continual rain: Waldron and Simpson burnt the carcase and returned to camp 4 p.m. The weather soon broke again - heavy thunderstorm sweeping over the camp at noon and lasting till 2 p.m., accompanied by terrific rain - the whole place flooded - thus making the ninth successive day of rain. Light showers till 8 p.m. - rain holding off after that.

Observations taken for Time and azimuthe - watch 6' 3" 00 fast on local time. Compass Error 4° E.

Friday, 24th November 1911

It rained again last night, but the sky cleared early and this morning was the least cloudy of any seen since we left Borroloola. The camp was dry, and the feed being good and the weather evidently broken, it was decided to give the camels a rest and to go back and see whether Midget was alive or not. I left camp at 8.20 and taking Simpson reached the spot where we left the camel at 11 a.m. He was alive when we stopped, but shortly after our arrival he died. We opened him and found all his organs healthy except the kidneys. These were greatly enlarged and discoloured. Some of the lower intestines were also inflamed, but the stomach was quite healthy, and contained a fair quantity of wholesome looking food. This food was most carefully examined, but no trace of ironwood or gutta percha could be seen; it consisted of eucalyptus, whitewood, and bean (bohemia). I am of the opinion therefore, that the camel and "Jumper" whose symptoms were similar, died from a severe chill contracted after the warm saddle had been taken off his back at night, and when he was turned loose in the rain.

That it has not happened to many of the other beasts is merely a matter of good fortune, and should similar weather continue, it will be difficult to take any preventive [sic] measures.

I returned to camp at 4.25. It rained heavily at 3 p.m. and there were a few light showers after dark.

25 NOV. SAT.

Left camp 8.40 a.m. Camped 7.05 p.m.
Day broke fine and clear and remained so during forenoon. Passed Walhalla (sic) Station 10.30 a.m. - Collarbirian Creek full. Abreast Collarbirian W.H. (on track) at noon. Had drink of tea and a swim in the creek - pulled out again 1.15 p.m., a terrific thunderstorm commencing almost immediately afterwards with torrents of rain. Bad
country to be caught in - open plain, and crab holes everywhere - track completely submerged in less than a quarter of an hour - camels continually bogged, necessitating shifting loads on and off time after time - travelled about four miles (6.4 km) between 1.15 p.m. and 4.15 p.m. Slightly drier and better travelling from then on - endeavoured to make ridge of hard country 12' (19.3 km) from Collarbilan before camping, but darkness overtook us on the flat and boggy country - camped, tying the camels up to edible bushes for the night. Distance 18' (29 km). Fine and clear after sundown, but heavy thunderstorms to S. and S.E. gradually working up towards us - rigged up the tarpaulin 10 p.m. - heavy rain at midnight. Shifted kits, saddlery, etc., under cover.

Saturday, 25th November 1911

We left camp at 8.40 and continued over gravelly soil for three quarters of a mile [1.2 km] when we crossed a small creek on the south of which there was less gravel and a few whitewood, jasminum, creeper tree and small acacia. The track, after about a mile [1.6 km] of this scattered growth of scrub, led out on to the open downs again, and became more boggy. At 10.00 we passed Walhalla (old station) and kept on the Western side of the creek, bordered here by eucalyptus (walinda and whitegums). The creek was full of water and we stopped for lunch near a good waterhole at 12.0 - 1.20. Just as we started after lunch a thunderstorm came up from the South, and it rained (judging by the depth of water on the track) nearly two inches [50 mm] in a half an hour. We pulled the camels along with great difficulty, and as the ground was full of crab holes hidden by the water they bogged frequently. One camel had to be unloaded four times. At 4.15 we reached the edge of where the storm had fallen, and travelling though still wet, was better. The Western side of the open downs is bordered by a scrub of coolibah and we travelled through this scrub until 7.5 without being able to reach any ridge of higher ground for camp. There was some blue bush a short distance back from camp, and as whitewood was also plentiful, the camels should get a good feed in the morning. Another heavy thunderstorm was seen in the S.W. during the evening, and at midnight we had a shower in camp, and heavy rain some hours afterwards.

26 NOV. SUN.

Left camp 10.00 a.m. Camped 5.20 p.m. Late start giving the camels a chance to feed, and the track time to dry up somewhat, a heavy thunderstorm from 2-3 a.m. with solid rain having made it exceedingly boggy. Camels bogged up to their bellies several times during the forenoon, necessitating much shifting off and on of loading. Heavy thunderstorm away to the southeast at 3 p.m., luckily however it did not cross our track. Camped for the night on patch of whitewood about 8' (12.9 km) from Anthony’s Lagoon - the only camel feed for miles. Finer appearance at sundown, but coming up very heavy later, with lightning all round the horizon - rigged the tent as a precautionary measure. Wind from all points of the compass. Distance 20' (32.2 km).

Sunday, 26th November 1911. 24th after Trinity

We turned the camels loose at dawn and they were able to feed well before we left camp at 10 a.m. The ground was soft though slightly gravelly until 10.45 when we reached a slight rise with more creeper tree, whitewood and "wild orange" bushes. The ridge however was very narrow and as the track wound through the coolebah scrub again we had great difficulty in getting the camels along. At 12 o'clock two of them became bogged and had to be unloaded. Soon afterwards we mounted another hard ridge of spinifex and gravel, and travelling was easier. We stopped for lunch on our camp of August 27th, 12.30 - 1.20. After lunch we kept along the ridge to the West of the track through a scattered scrub of coolebah, creeper tree and whitewood until 2.5 when we
left it, and going S.E. we crossed a small sandy creek, bordered by gutta percha and coolibah at 2.20. This creek was flowing. We then came out on the track again and crossed a higher ridge of gravel and spinnifex. At 3 p.m. we crossed another small creek and a belt of gutta percha. The soil was then hard and gravelly with a scattered scrub of creeper tree, jasminum and whitewood until 3.45 when we came out on to the open downs well grassed, and comparatively dry. We continued over open country until 5.15 when we camped on a small isolated patch of whitewood. There were several heavy thunderstorms in the South during the afternoon, but no rain fell where we were.

27 NOV. MON.

Left camp 8 a.m. Camped 1 p.m. Kept fine during the night despite the threatening appearance of the weather. Travelling towards Anthony's lagoon - heavy going in many places, but ground much drier than yesterday. Arrived Anthony's Lagoon Police Stn. 11.15 a.m. 1 inches (37.5 mm) of rain there yesterday, but less than an inch (25 mm) at store across the creek - ground harder and drier. Camels feeding out in paddock belonging to Brunette Downs Station - yarded in the dip yards for the night - several of them badly strained and suffering from swollen legs owing to their experiences during the past few days. Dull and overcast throughout - Northerly and N.E. wind, light.

Monday, 27th November 1911

We left camp at 8 a.m. and after leaving the patch of whitewood we travelled over open downs until 8.40 when we entered a scattered scrub of coolibah and gutta-percha. In a lower level in this scrub there is a good growth of "blue bush", and the camels ate it greedily as we passed through. After three miles [4.8 km] of this scrub we came out on to the open downs again, and arrives at Anthony's Lagoon Police Station at 11.10 a.m. We then crossed the creek above the lagoon and camped on the gravelly rise to the sough of it shortly afterwards. There was an inch and a half [37.5 mm] of rain at the police station yesterday in half an hour. The camels were turned out on some good feed in Brunette Station paddock during the afternoon, and yarded in the dip yards at night.

28 NOV. TUE.

Anthony's Lagoon. Giving camels a badly needed rest and awaiting arrival of south mail. Spent most of the day at Police Quarters deriving much useful information regarding the track ahead from M.C.'s Holland and Kerin - they having just returned from a patrol south. Waldron fixing up our traverse book - Simpson employed upon saddlery and a new set of halters for the pack train. Weather generally dull and unsettled in appearance - rain holding off however, but no possibility of observations at night. Wind light and variable. Camels carefully shepherded by day and yarded up at night.

Tuesday, 28th November 1911

Several of the camels had strained their legs when pulling through the boggy portions of the track, and their joints are much swollen. It was decided to given them a couple of days' rest here on the good feed in the paddock.

I commenced to write up a traverse book this morning and continued it during the day. Some useful information about the distances of the various stages, prospects of camel feed etc., was obtained from M.C. Holland.
29 NOV. WED.

Anthony’s Lagoon. Camels already showing some improvement from the rest and being out on good feed. Hands employed on saddlery, also obtaining and packing necessary stores. Mailman due today but failed to put in an appearance - probably stuck up by the rain. Dull and unsettled weather - several light showers during the afternoon and a sharp one at midnight.

Wednesday, 29th November 1911

The camels were again inspected this morning, and they seem to have recovered greatly, but they are by no means sound. They were again shepherded in Brunette Downs paddock.

I completed the traverse book and obtained a supply of stores for the camp from Mr. Biondi.

There were several light showers during the afternoon and a heavier one about midnight.

30 NOV. THUR.

Anthony’s Lagoon. Still no sign of the mail - heavy rains on the tablelands south the probable cause of delay. Heavy rain storm during the afternoon, totalling 86 points (21.5 mm). Simpson employed upon saddlery and loading - Waldron assisting me with Govt. lithos - joining up into one sheet and pasting on calico, the paper tearing with the least handling, having perished to the consistency of tinder. Dirty and unsettled weather throughout - wind variable in force and direction.

Thursday, 30th November 1911. St. Andrew

The camels were shepherded in the paddock to-day and are still improving.

The Government litho map, which has been torn through the deteriorating of the paper was joined up and pasted on calico so as to preserve it.

The stores obtained were packed and loading adjusted.

Eighty-six points [21.5 mm] of rain fell in the afternoon and the country for some distance around is very boggy in consequence.

The mail which was due at midday on the 29th inst., had not arrived at sundown, and it is probably delayed by heavy falls of rain on the tablelands.

1 DEC. FRI.

Anthony’s Lagoon. Mailman Fuller pulled in at 11 a.m. with packhorses only - buggy left at Brunette Downs with all parcel post, only letters and papers brought through. He reports a rough experience on downs south of here, hard job to get through even with horses - tells me quite impossible to travel camels for at least another three or four days even if no more rain falls. Station buggy and transport wagons stranded on track, the heavy rains having produced boggy conditions everywhere. Shall remain here for a couple of days anyhow giving country time to dry up. Considerably finer appearance locally since yesterdays rain - obtained observations for Time and Azimuth - tried for Latitude in the evening, but sky became overcast with the required stars obscured.
Friday, 1st December 1911

The mailman arrived at 11 a.m. after a very rough trip through the downs. He said that heavy rain had fallen along the track, that several buggies and wagons were held up and that the ground would not be dry enough for travelling for three or four days. It was therefore decided to remain in camp where we have a comparatively dry spot, and where the camels can be safely fed.

2 DEC. SAT.

Anthony's Lagoon. Return of generally unsettled weather conditions - dull and overcast throughout the day - am hoping rain holds off so that we may make a start tomorrow to get over the heavy black soil country this side of Brunette before any further heavy falls come along - otherwise may be stuck up here indefinitely. Hands employed straightening up saddlery and packs in readiness for a possible start tomorrow. Lat. obsns. again impossible - sky completely overclouded at night - unable to get the meridian altitude of the sun at noon having no diagonal eye piece for my theodolite so unable to get any altitudes over 55°.

Saturday, 2nd December 1911

The camels were shepherded in Brunette Downs paddock, and as it seemed as if rain could be expected every afternoon, the loading was adjusted and we decided to leave next day.

3 DEC. SUN.

Left camp 1.30 p.m. Camped 4.30 p.m. Weather still very threatening in appearance, thought it advisable to make a start however for fear of getting stuck up altogether. Sub- manager of Brunette Downs arrived en route to Borroloola for stores - reports both Corella and Brunette Creeks in flood, had big difficulty crossing Corella himself coming in. Loaded up and left immediately after midday meal - allowing the camels all forenoon for a feed. Good travelling over hard red soil for the first 9' (14.5 km) from Anthony's - heading southerly towards Brunette Station. Came on the edge of black soil plain 4.30 p.m. which on investigation proved extremely boggy - weather looking very threatening with heavy thunderstorms S.W. and S.E. - made camp on the red soil accordingly. Splendid camel feed and complete absence of poison bush, both iron wood and gutta percha - camels left loose all night for the first time in over 3 months - closely hobbled to prevent them wandering too far. Dirty night - thunderstorms in all directions but only a couple of light showers over camp - flies and mosquitoes an abomination, no sleep in camp. Distance 9' (14.5 km).

Sunday, 3rd December 1911 - Advent Sunday

The remaining stores were packed, accounts with Mr. Biondi closed, and we left Anthony's Lagoon at 1.30. The track led S.E. over an open grey soil plain for a mile [1.6 km], when we crossed on to the belt of limestone and ironstone gravel locally called "desert". It is dotted with jasminum, whitewood, and gums (walindah), and the grass is good though spinnifex grows on the ridges. At 3.25 we passed a belt of bohena, sandalwood and jasminum and these belts of better scrub alternated with walindah gum and spinnifex until 4.30 when we camped on the Southern edge of the scrub. There was a low-lying flat of black soil ahead of us and it was then too boggy to cross.
4 DEC. MON.

Left camp 8 a.m. Camped 5 p.m. Camel brought in early after feeding out all night - early start in consequence. Weather dull and threatening culminating in heavy thunderstorms to east and west of us in the afternoon - only light rain came our way however. Travelling S.S.E'ly towards Brunette Stn. - alternate black soil plains and red soil ridges - the black soil plain fearfully boggy. Passed teamster Murray at 8.40 a.m. with his wagon bogged up to the axles alongside the road - he left Borroloola for Brunette at the end of August and had not arrived at his destination yet. Camped at 5 p.m. on good camel feed - a thunderstorm ahead of us during the afternoon having rendered the ground too boggy for us to travel further - considerable difficulty in negotiating the last miles necessary to place us on rising ground. Strong S.W. winds blowing at sundown but weather dull and threatening in appearance. Distance 20' (32.2 km).

Monday, 4th December 1911

We left camp at 8 a.m. and went out on to the open plain. There had been no rain for two days at least and the surface, except at the further side was hard enough for us to cross without much difficulty. This open plain was well grassed and a mile [1.6 km] wide; on the further side the hard red soil was covered with a scattered scrub of coolibah. We passed a wagoner here: he was held up with a load of wire etc. for Brunette. After one and a half miles [2.4 km] of scrub we went out on to the open plain, well grassed, and for two and a half miles [4 km] the soil was red and travelling good. Grey soil then made it a little slower. The surface of the plain was then broken at intervals by stretches of scrub = mostly jasminum, whitewood and bohenia bean with a few walindah gums - until we camped at 5 p.m. Lunch 1.0 - 1.50. At 3.30 it rained heavily and we were forced to remain on one of the red soil ridges mentioned above as the flat to the South of it was practically flooded. These patches of hard, gravelly soil are locally termed "deserts".

5 DEC. TUE.

Left camp 7.10 a.m. Camped 5.10 p.m. Another good start camels being brought into camp early. On to black soil plain 7.45 a.m. fearfully boggy, water lying about everywhere - camel bogged 8.55 a.m., ten minutes delay shifting load and hauling him out. Reached Corella Creek 11.20 a.m., lagoon full but creek gone down considerably, hardly running at the crossing - got camels across easily. Heavy rain squall for ½ hour at 3 p.m., all equipment soaked through, and travelling very heavy afterwards through sticky mud. Camped in clump of gidgea close to track - good camel feed - camels feeding out all night. Dull and overcast throughout - wind light and variable - every appearance of heavy general rain to the N'ard, we had light rain from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and then seemed to run out of it. Distance 23' (37 km).

Tuesday, 5th December 1911

After leaving camp at 7.10 we wound about over dry patches of soil to avoid the lower levels which were under water. We were soon able to follow the track through a sparse scrub of walindah gum and jasminum until 7.50 when we came out on to more open country, and for a few hundred yards ploughed through a sticky bog of black soil. We continued over a well grassed grey soil plain, passed a belt of scattered gutta percha at 8.45, and then descended into a slightly lower flat dotted with blue bush. At 9.45 we passed a corner of a paddock to the West of the track and shortly afterwards mounted a gravelly ridge of gidyea and jasminum. At 11 a.m. we turned Westerly along the Southern side of the paddock and at 11.20 we reached Corella Creek. We were able to cross it at a narrow portion above the road and we stopped for lunch on the South Bank (11.35 - 12.15). The creek was bordered with gidyea and gutta-percha, and a dense
scrub of gidyea extended to the West of the track on the South of the creek. The track led S.E. over an open stretch of grey soil, with some scrub on either side until 2.5 when we passed the Southern edge of the gidyea. There was a little gravel on the surface of the open plain, and another gravelly ridge, bare of scrub was crossed at 3.25. We then continued over the plain, here as elsewhere, covered with a good growth of green grass and herbage, until 5.15 when we camped on a clump of gidyea a half a mile [800 m] to the East of the track. A heavy shower of rain at 3 p.m. made travelling very heavy for about three miles [4.8 km].

6 DEC. WED.

Left camp 8.15 a.m. Camped 10.05 a.m.
Making for Brunette Downs Stn. arriving there 10 a.m. Camped about a mile (1.6 km) back along the track to keep the camels away from the gutta percha on the creek. Thundery conditions during the afternoon - light shower over the camp but more rain threatening - rigged tarpaulin and stowed all saddlery and gear under cover. Camels brought in from feeding and tied up at sundown. Observations taken for time, azimuth and latitude.
Latitude 18° 38' 41" S.
Watch 6' 3M 42.5 fast on local time.
Compass error 3° 58' E.

Wednesday, 6th December 1911

After leaving camp at 8.15 we continued over open plain until we struck a small creek flowing into Brunette Creek, and bordered with gidyea and gutta percha. About 2 miles [3.2 km] from the creek we crossed a belt of gutta percha, with a dense scrub of gidyea to the E. of us, and at 9.55 we stopped on a gravelly ridge half a mile [800 m] from Brunette Station. Camp was pitched under a few gidyea and the camels were shepherded near by. Some useful information about the country S.W. of the Rankine was obtained from Mr. Duncan McKay, Head Stockman on Brunette. He is of the opinion that water could be obtained in a large creek to-the S.W. of the waterhole at the Rankine Store. This creek is probably the Sandover.

7 DEC. THUR.

Left camp 8.30 a.m. Camped 6 p.m.
Went up past the station to fill our water bags with rain water - no beef obtainable, delay in fetching in a killer overnight. Left the station 9.30 a.m. Heading for Alexandria. Along river bank until 11.45 a.m. - then across to South side. Heavy thunderstorm ahead at noon passing over us with torrents of rain at 1 p.m. - progress slow afterwards ground exceedingly boggy, stopped at 4 p.m. to fill water kegs at waterhole alongside track. Thence proceeded S.E'ly across the open downs, camping on small patch of camel feed at 6 p.m. Weather dull and unsettled throughout, but clearing off fine at sundown. Distance 19½' (31.4 km).

Thursday, 7th December 1911

We left camp at 8.30 and went up to Brunette Station. After leaving there at 9.30 we crossed a small creek on the S.E. of the Station and continued over low-undulating gravelly ground covered with a moderate scrub of gidyea and gutta percha until 11.45 when we crossed Brunette Creek and took a more southerly course. After crossing another small creek bordered by gidyea and gutta-percha we went out on to the open plain. The soil was still gravelly with numerous outcrops of limestone. At 3.5 we stopped for lunch in a small clump of whitewood and a very heavy shower of rain fell and made travelling difficult. Several other patches of small scrub were passed but the plain altered but little for three miles [4.8 km] when we descended into Arm Chair Creek, and filled all the water loads for the dry stage to Alexandria. The creek was
bordered by some whitewoods, gidyea and eucalyptus (bloodwood). The plain was open and gravelly for about four miles [6.4 km] but we passed some boggy patches just before camp at 6 p.m.

8 DEC. FRI.

Left camp 7.30 a.m. Camped 6.45 p.m.
Broke camp in drizzling rain lasting till 9 a.m. Track very boggy in places - heavy travelling for the camels. Open country wonderfully grassed - nothing but undulating downs visible away to the horizon on all sides. At 11.25 a.m. found our path barred by a large morass stretching across the track and for miles on either side of it - no chance of going around so had to cross it. Led the camels across singly, well over their knees in water and soft mud - all safely over by noon without accident. Heavy thunderstorm with torrential rain 3.30 p.m. - hard task to make the camels face it - track mostly under water afterwards - very heavy travelling. Camped for the night at Conleys (Connells) Lagoon - excellent camel feed, but hardly a stick of wood anywhere for cooking purposes. Distance 25' (40.2 km).

Friday, 8th December 1911

Light rain fell from 5.30 a.m. until about 9 a.m. We left camp at 7.30 and owing to the rain travelling over the open plain was very slow and heavy. At 11.30 we crossed a depression in the grey soil which was one of the worst places of road yet seen. The plain was still open without even wood enough for a fire when we stopped for lunch 1.50 - 2.40. At 3.15 it rained heavily and continued for half an hour. We camped at 6.45 on a small stretch of gravel dotted with a few small whitewoods, and bordering a depression known as Connolly's [sic] Lagoon. There was no water in the latter hole, which is on the East of the track, but after it has been filled it is said to last 8 months.

9 DEC. SAT.

Left camp 7.25 a.m. Camped 2.50 p.m.
Camels feeding out regularly at night time now that gutta percha and ironwood are things of the past. Early starts off camp of a morning in consequence. Track boggy at starting but rapidly drying up with the morning sun. Off black soil plain on to red sandy country at 11.25 a.m. - thunderstorms away to south and S.W. Black soil plain again 1.15 p.m. - until crossing the Playford Creek (River) 2.10 p.m. Camping at Alexandria Stn. shortly after. Met with the greatest hospitality from Mr. Baynes the sub. manager in charge during the absence of Mr. Holt. Dull & overcast generally clearing up fine at sunset - wind light and variable. Distance 191' (31.4 km).

Saturday, 9th December 1911

We left camp at Connolly's Lagoon at 7.25 and continued across the open downs. The surface was slightly gravelly, but the soil throughout was grey clay. At 9.30 we were within five miles [8 km] of a spur of the Robinson [?Mittiebah] Ranges, running S.W. into the plains, and after passing a few scattered box three miles [4.8 km] further on, we reached the ridge of hard red soil forming the end of the spur mentioned. It is covered with a moderate scrub of jasminum, whitewood, gidyea, and walindah gum, and white gums and spinnifex on the higher ridges. Lunch 12.10 - 12.55. A mile [1.6 km] from lunch camp we came out on to the plain again and at 2.5 we crossed a small creek and stopped outside Alexandria Station at 2.45.

Camp was pitched near the creek below the Station, and the camels turned on to the further (North) side.
10 DEC. SUN.

Camped at Alexandria Stn. Enjoying the hospitality of Mr. Baynes. Day employed in office writing bringing traverses to date - observations taken for Latitude, Time and Azimuth (sic). Simpson suffering badly from sores eyes and in great pain - bathed them with boracic acid lotion, put bandage on and kept him out of the glare of the sun. Flies very bad and troubling the camels greatly - using carbolic oil daily for their eyes, nose peg holes and all chafed and sore backs - beasts enjoying their spell on good feed - running them north side of creek on currant bush, acacia, etc. - Dull & threatening weather from noon onwards, culminating in heavy thunderstorms 5 p.m. - not much rain but blowing a howling gale from S.E. and East - weather fining down again at sundown.

Lat. * obsn. 19° 04' 15" S.
Watch 6' 5" 11' fast on local time.
Compass error - 4° 03' E.

Sunday, 10th December 1911. 2nd in Advent

The flies are now becoming troublesome and during the last few days they have ginictated (ginictated, irritated?) the camels very much. This morning, then, the camels were brought in to camp and their eyes and backs dressed with carbolic oil. There was a heavy storm during the afternoon and a little rain.

Observations for latitude were taken in the evening.

11 DEC. MON.

Alexandra (sic) Station. Simpson's eyes improving somewhat - hope to get on the road again tomorrow. Camels benefiting greatly from their spell - eyes and backs dressed daily with carbolic oil. Water kegs filled and other general preparations made for proceeding. Self engaged in office routine, plotting up position for traverses etc. Fine and clear generally - clouding up heavily towards sundown moderate to northerly wind.

Monday, 11th December 1911

The camels were again attended to this morning. A reflector was made for the theodolite, the loading overhauled and some repairs done to saddles. Observations for latitude were again taken in the evening.

12 DEC. TUE.

Left camp 9.00 a.m. Camped 6.30 p.m.
Broke camp 9.00 a.m. - up to station for supply of beef etc. leaving there 9.40 a.m.
Heading S.E.'ly for the Rankine (sic) (Ranken) - crossed the Buchanan Ck. (12' (19.3 km)) 1.40 p.m. - stopped for billy of tea. On again 2.40 p.m. on to Rankine plain - open rolling downs away to the horizon on all sides. camped on good patch of camel feed - grass and small herbage. Fine and clear generally - clouding up heavily towards sundown - thunderstorms south and S.W., light shower over camp after camping - wind northerly, light to moderate. Distance 231' (37.8 km).

Tuesday, 12th December 1911

We left Alexandria at 9.45 and went S.E. out into the open plain of grey soil. The grass was fair but not so good as in places further North on account of the little rain which has fallen here. Six miles [9.6 km] from the station there was a gravelly ridge covered with jasminum, whitewood, grevillia and stunted eucalyptus. This harder soil
continued for about 5 miles [8 km]. Stretches of plain crossed it in places, and on the higher portions near the southern side of it the scrub was a scattered one of walindah gum. A mile [1.6 km] of flat dotted with eucalyptus (coolibah) was crossed before we stopped for lunch on Buchanan Creek 1.50 - 2.40. Here we loaded up wood to take us to the Rankine Store. We went out on to the open plain again from the creek; for 2 and a half miles [4 km] the soil was hard and gravelly, but it then became softer and changed to grey clay, with patches of gravel at intervals. At 5.5 we passed a belt of small blue bush and at 6.35 camped on the plain. From where we were camped, and for some distance previous to our stopping there was not a bush in sight - all was open plain, covered with mitchell and flinders grass and herbage.

**13 DEC. WED.**

Left camp 7.50 a.m. Camped 1.50 p.m.  
Steering S.S.E'ly across open downs for the Rankine - rainfall here evidently been very patchy - good grass in places, others quite bare. Light showers 1 p.m. - across the Rankine Creek (River) 1.40 p.m. - large supply of water, the creek having recently run. Camped 1.50 p.m. - good camel feed, gidgea, whitewood, etc. - Dull and overcast throughout - light to moderate northerly wind - sky heavily overcast after sundown, no night observations possible. Distance 17’ (27.3 km).

**Wednesday, 13th December 1911**

We left camp at 7.55 and it was one vast stretch of open plain until we reached the Rankine Creek at 1.40. The surface was mostly grey soil, though there were scattered patches of gravel. There was a fair growth of flinders and mitchell grasses, and herbs, including portulacca (called here fig [?pig]-weed). We camped on the southern side of the Rankine, which was running, at 2.5. There was a slight shower of rain at 1 p.m.

**14 DEC. THUR.**

Rankine River. Several camels with badly chafed backs - some unavailable now owing to the pack saddles being very ancient and worn. Camels brought in from feeding ground during the morning - all backs washed and dressed, also eyes and nose peg holes dressed with mixture carbolic oil and stockholm tar to save them from the myriads of flies. Hands employed repairing saddlery, also unpacking all remaining stores to obtain an estimate as to our further requirements for carrying things. Generally dull and overcast - several scattered showers during the afternoon totalling 23 points (5.75 mm) wind squally and variable.

**Thursday, 14th December 1911**

The camels were brought into camp this morning and their backs attended to. All stores were unpacked and an estimate of supplies required for the trip to Arltunga was completed. Some of the saddles were also repaired. Twenty three points [5.75 mm] of rain fell during the afternoon.

**15 DEC. FRI.**

Rankine River. Ordered all necessary stores from Watson the local storekeeper and had some taken down to the camp for packing. Hands employed upon saddlery and loading. Weather dull and lowering - slight intermittent showers at intervals throughout the day - wind gusty and variable, principally north and N.W. Camels attended to as usual. Sky clearing up after sundown - obtained star observations for latitude. 

Latitude - 19° 36' 36" S.
Friday, 15th December 1911

The greater portion of the stores was taken down to camp and stowed away. Loading ropes and saddles were repaired.

Two observations for latitude were taken in the evening.

Slight showers fell several times during the day.

16 DEC. SAT.

Rankine River. Have decided to stay here for a couple of days yet; partly to spell the camels, but principally to have an interview with Mr. Holt, Manager of Alexandria Station, the oldest resident in the district, his knowledge of the locality extending over a period of 22 years. Am hopeful of getting some useful information from him regarding the country south of the Rankine - position of likely waters if any - possibility of obtaining native guides etc. Mr. Holt is at present with his mustering party at their out-station, Soudan - expected in here at any moment, according to Perry his head stockman - by putting out now I should probably miss him. Balance of stores taken down to camp and packed - work on saddlery and loading continued. Borroloola - Camooweal mailman passed through en route south - Duncan Cowie, a South Australian anxious to get back to his own country - gave him use of spare camel, and rations to Alice Springs, he in return to work his passage. Weather still gloomy and unsettled - wind strong Southerly and S.E.

Saturday, 16th December 1911

The remaining stores were taken down to camp and the repairing of saddles and ropes continued.

The mailman passed through today on his way to Camooweal.

Mr Holt, Manager of Alexandria, is expected here now, and as he is said to know something of the country West of the Rankine, we are waiting to see him.

17 DEC. SUN.

Rankine River. No unnecessary work done in camp - camels brought in and backs attended to - several pretty bad yet. Mr. Holt failed to put in an appearance before sundown - useless to wait longer as no dependable information can be obtained as to his movements. Weather fining down considerably with generally more settled appearance - wind light and variable.

Sunday, 17th December 1911. 3rd in Advent

The few days rest has done the camels a great deal of good, and except for some sore backs they are in splendid condition.

Mr Holt did not arrive today and it was decided to go tomorrow as no information could be obtained regarding his position.

18 DEC. MON.

Left camp 10.30 a.m. Camped 6.30 p.m. Travelling S.E'ly towards Avon Downs Station. Across open and richly grasses plain only broken by occasional small gravelly ridges. On to red soil 5.30 p.m. plentifully bushed -
gidgea, currant bush, white wood, and acacia - camped close to stockyards on Lorne Creek, Avon Downs Station - creek full of magnificent water holes, having recently run. Fine and clear generally, clouding over at times - northerly and N.W‘ly wind, light. Distance 20‘ (32.2 km).

Monday, 18th December 1911

We left the Rankine Store at 11.10 a.m. and went S.S.E. over the open plain of grey soil with patches of gravel and well-grassed. The plain continued with no noticeable difference of level until 5.25 when we entered a patch of red soil dotted with a scrub of gidyea, jasminum and a few stunted gums for one and a half miles [2.4 km] when the soil though gravelly became more loamy, and there was a splendid scrub of jasminum, whitewood, black wattles, mulga and other acacia until we camped at 6.35 near Lorne Creek yards (Avon Downs Station). The creek was full of water and contained some good deep waterholes.

19 DEC. TUE.

Left camp 9.50 a.m. Camped 5.40 p.m. Travelling S.E‘ly towards Avon Downs. Crossed Lorne Ck. 10.30 a.m. - stopped to fill water kegs, proceeding again 10.45 a.m. Splendid country in the vicinity of Lorne Creek - red sandy loam, plentifully bushed and splendidly grassed with Mitchell and Flinders grasses. Open plain and gidgea scrub at 4.35 p.m. - camping for the night on red gravelly ridge good camel feed and an abundance of grass on plain at Southern edge of ridge, close handy to the camp. Fine & clear throughout - light South and S.E. wind. Distance 19‘ (30.6 km).

Tuesday, 19th December 1911

We left Lorne Creek at 9.55 and continued about S.S.E. through a scrub of eucalyptus (coolibah and gums) jasminum and whitewood. The soil except for some patches of high gravel is a sandy loam with a splendid growth of Mitchell, Flinders and other grasses. We crossed the creek a mile [1.6 km] from camp, took on some water and left at 10.50. A half a mile [800 m] from the creek we entered a low dense scrub of mulga, whitewood, grevillia, jasminum and some acacias. The soil became more sandy about seven miles [11.3 km] from the creek, spinnifex replaced the better grasses, and the scrub was more open, and consisted of more eucalyptus (bloodwood and coolebah). A species of black wattle was also common (lunch 12.45 - 1.45). A mile [1.6 km] from lunch camp we crossed a ridge of quartzite gravel and a small belt of better scrub among the spinnifex. The sandy and loamy patches of soil produced corresponding changes of scrub until 3.15 when we mounted on to undulating gravelly country with fair grass and herbage and dotted with mulga and black wattle. After four miles [6.4 km] of this country we came out on to open grey-soil plain, dotted with clumps of gidyea and gravelly throughout. This plain was three miles [4.8 km] across and we camped on a red soil ridge at 5.45. This ridge was dotted with a sparse scrub of jasminum, grevillias and whitewood.

20 DEC. WED.

Left camp 7.30 a.m. Camped 12.10 p.m. S.E‘ly across open plain towards Avon Downs. Through paddock fence 11.35 a.m. and down gravel and limestone slope towards the James River. Plenty of water in the James it having recently run. Mailman enroute to Borroloola, passed through in the evening. Fine and clear throughout, clouding up from S.W. towards sundown - weather warming up considerably, thermometer in station office 108° Fahr. (42.2°C) at 3 p.m. Observations taken for Lat., Time & Azimuth -

Latitude + obsn. - 20° 02‘ 38" S.
Watch 6‘ - 35 fast on local time.
Compass error = 4° 43' E. Distance 14' (22.5 km).

Wednesday, 20th December 1911

After leaving camp we descended from the ridge on to the open plain again. It was dotted with clumps of gidgeya, the soil was gravely and the surface slightly undulating. The plain continued unaltered until we reached the slope leading down to the James River. This was strewn with sandstone and limestone boulders, and lightly timbered with eucalyptus near the creek. We stopped at Avon Downs Station at 12.10.

The mailman came through from Camoweal at 7.30 p.m.

Observations for latitude were taken at night.

21 DEC. THUR.

Left camp 1 p.m. Camped 4.35 p.m.
Left Avon Downs 1 p.m. after taking observations for Time and Azimuth. Travelling S.S.W. towards Long Water Hole on the Rankine River. Across open plain with occasional gravely ridges - well grassed and carrying patches of gidgea and white wood scrub. Crossed the James River 4.30 p.m. camping for the night on S.W. bank. Magnificent feed - rich green grass and herbaceous bush. Fine and clear throughout, and exceedingly hot - 100° fahr. (37.7°C) in station office at noon wind N.W. and Northerly, light to moderate. Distance 10' (16.1 km).

Thursday, 21st December 1911

Sights for time were taken in the morning.

We left Avon Downs at 12.45 and took the track leading about S.W. towards the Long Waterhole on the Rankine. We crossed gravely and rocky ridges for a mile [1.6 km] before getting on to the open plain of grey soil, gravely for the most part, and dotted in places with small jasminum bushes. After about five and a half miles [8.8 km] we crossed a ridge with a sparse scrub of jasminum, creeper tree, whitewood and gidgeya, while a creek containing some good waterholes lay about half a mile [800 m] to the S.E. of the track. At 4.35 we crossed another creek, flowing South and joining the former about a mile [1.6 km] from the crossing. We camped on the Western side of the creek at 4.40.

22 DEC. FRI.

Left camp 7.35 a.m. Camped 2.45 p.m.
Travelling S.S.W.'ly towards the Rankine. Passed Avon Downs outlying stock yards 9.35 a.m. having passed over six miles (9.6 km) of sandy loam plain, richly grassed - creek with several fine waterholes close to yards. Thence across plain and generally open country till reaching the Rankine 12.15 p.m. Followed the creek up W.N.W. in search of a camp and good feed for the camels - finally camping on end of water hole about 1½ (2.4 km) further up at 2.45 p.m. on S.W. side of creek. Fine & clear throughout - wind S.E. and Southerly, light. Distance 15' (24.1 km).

Friday, 22nd December 1911

We left camp at 7.30 and continued in a S.W. direction over an open plain of brown soil, with a splendid growth of green grass and herbage for six miles [9.6 km] when we crossed a creek bordered by some scattered eucalyptus (coolibah). There was a large number of cattle watering at the waterholes and a yard on the Western side of the creek. There was no defined track after passing the yard so a more Southerly course was taken across the plain. After three miles [4.8 km] we crossed a rocky ridge dotted
with jasminum, gidyea and eucalyptus (bloodwood and coolibah) and continued over the
plain until we reached the Rankine River at 12.25. After lunch we went about a
mile [1.6 km] up the River (North) and camped at Long Waterhole at 2.40. The green
portulacca (parachilienya or pig weed) on the plain to the South and West of the River
provides good feed for the camels.

23 DEC. SAT.

Rankine River. Intend camping here for two or three days completing preparations for
crossing the strip of desert country between here and the Marshall River. One camel
(Smut) very lame - old hole in off forepad having punctured again - doctored him up,
also several others with sore backs - most of them showing some slight improvement in
condition, and apparently free from tick. hands employed on thorough overhaul of
loading, fixing new ropes where necessary, repairing and tightening up all pack
saddlery, etc, in readiness for the journey ahead of us. Fine and clear throughout -
moderate to fresh S.E’ly wind.

Latitude * obsn. 20° 20’ 13” S.

Saturday, 23rd December 1911

One of the camels ("Smut") has become very lame during the last few days, but a small
stake was taken out of his pad yesterday, and a few days rest will probably make him
fit to travel with a load. The other camels are also being attended to.

A thorough overhaul of stores, cases, ropes and saddles was commenced to-day.

Observations for latitude were taken at night.

24 DEC. SUN.

Rankine River. Hands employed on loading and saddlery during forenoon - camels
brought in from feeding ground and all sick ones attended to. Transferred steering
compass from iron saddle to wooden one - finding that the iron saddle causes too
much deviation, varying from 15° Westerly on S.E. to 12° easterly on S.W. - swung saddle
to all points and checked with the prismatic. Fine & clear throughout - light to
moderate S.E wind. Observations taken for latitude, time, and azimuth.

Latitude 20° 20’ 06” S.

Watch 6’ 1" 26’ fast on local time.

Compass error 4° 26’ E.

Sunday, 24th December 1911. 4th in Advent

No work except that of attending to the camels was done in camp.

Observations for latitude were taken during the evening.

25 DEC. MON.

Being Xmas day no unnecessary work done in camp - camels attended to as usual,
otherwise only ordinary camp duties performed. Fine and clear throughout - very hot -
moderate to fresh N.W wind. Observations taken for time and azimuth.

Watch 6’ 49’ fast on local time.

Compass error .4° 29’ East.

Monday, 25th December 1911. Christmas Day

Observations for latitude were taken at night.
26 DEC. TUE.

Hands employed upon general preparations for departure tomorrow. Filling up all water carrying appliances after thoroughly rinsing out the wooden kegs with solution of permanganate of potash. All loading and saddlery straightened up. Everything placed in readiness for an early start on the morrow - intend covering from 25° - 30° (40.2 - 48.3 km) per diem if all goes well until reaching the next water - every probability of striking same in the Marshall River if not earlier, but know of no certainty between here and Eastern end of the MacDonnell ranges. Camels all driven in to water before sundown - one camel boggled in bed of creek, giving all hands a half hour's job to haul him out. Fine and clear throughout - strong S.E. wind - vivid lightning to the Nor'ard after sundown. Observations for time and azimuth - watch 6' 1M 37"5 fast on local time. Compass error - 4° 29' Easterly.

Tuesday, 26th December 1911

The repairing of all ropes, saddles and cases was completed to-day, and every vessel available was filled with water. One of the nine gallon [41 l] drums leaked badly, but it was temporarily stopped and taken on.

27 DEC. WED.

Left camp 7.50 a.m. Camped 6.10 p.m. Camels brought in and watered shortly after day break - loaded up and proceeded S.S.W'ly, steering for Mt. Playford at head of the Arthur River - a creek running into the Marshall River. Across open and richly grassed plain - country full of crab holes making bad travelling. Belt of gidgea scrub 11.40 a.m. Commencement of the desert country. All the afternoon through spinifex and more or less dense scrub - mallee, mulga, grevillea - occasional limestone outcrops in the sandy soil. Camped for the night on patch of feed camel bush. Fine and clear throughout - light to moderate S.E. wind. Distance 27' (43.5 km).

Latitude * obsn. - 20° 40' 16" S.

Wednesday, 27th December 1911

We left the Long Waterhole on the Rankine at 7.50 and took a course S.S.W. over open downs of soft soil, full of crab-holes for about a mile [1.6 km], then harder, more gravelly, and shewing better herbage for about 11 miles [17.7 km] when we entered a scrub of gidyea and whitewoods, lunch 11.50 - 12.40. After a narrow belt of spinifex there was a splendid growth of green mitchell grass which extended across a stretch of open plain half a mile [800 m] wide, into another belt of gidyea, whitewood and jasminum. Four miles [6.4 km] from lunch we came on to red sandy soil with mallee, some grevillia, eucalyptus (bloodwood) and spinifex; shortly afterwards we crossed a few low sandhills. For about nine miles [14.5 km] the scrub consisted of mallee, acacia, grevillia, bloodwood, emu berry and other small bushes, while the soil was still a red sand. From 5.30 until we camped at 6.10 we passed through a dense undergrowth of small acacia and patches of higher acacia scrub 10 to 15 ft high [3 to 4.6 m].

28 DEC. THUR.

Left camp 7.50 a.m. Camped 6.15 p.m. Steering S.S.W. Thick acacia and mallee scrub, with spinifex, until 1 p.m. - thence continuance of spinifex, but soil stonier and country more open, occasional small patches of mallee scrub and currant bush. Country improving in appearance after 3 p.m. - big green shoot in the spinifex, clumps of young herbage and currant bush - every indication of recent good rains. Crossed limestone ridge 4.50 p.m. and out on to
big flat 5.30 p.m. - richly grassed, and carrying an abundance of young bush and herbage - numerous small clumps of the native poplar. Camped on splendid camel feed. Fine and clear generally - clouding up from the south and at sundown - wind S.E. and Easterly, light to moderate. Distance 27' (43.5 km).

Latitude * obsn. - 21° 00' 18" S.

Thursday, 28th December 1911

After leaving camp at 7.50 we continued S.S.W. through mallee and acacia scrub; this dense scrub continued, with the exception of a few more open patches of mallee and grevillia until lunch - 11.50. There were a few bloodwoods amongst the scrub, and the soil was red sand, covered with spinifex. After another half mile [800 m] we came out of the dense scrub on to more open country of grevillia, jasminum and mallee. The soil was harder and was covered in places with limestone gravel. At 3 p.m. we crossed a limestone ridge and the country became still more open, with a fair growth of green herbage amongst the spinifex, six miles [9.5 km] further on another ridge was crossed after which there was no timber except a few dead mallee, but the herbage was good. At 5.30 we descended in to a flat of fair grass and herbage, and dotted with a few bloodwoods. We camped at 6.15.

29 DEC. FRI.

Left camp 9.45 a.m. Camped 6.35 p.m.

Late start - camels wandered a long distance during the night despite the excellent feed round camp - already they are commencing to look tuckered up for want of water - no stamina apparently after their rough experiences with poison, etc. - animals travelling badly throughout the day, continually bunching up, and lying down at every stoppage. Steering S.S.W. - alternate patches of spinifex and grassed country until noon - thence limestone ridges and mallee scrub. Across prominent limestone ridge 1.25 p.m. thence open flat till 2 p.m. afterwards mallee and grevillea scrub and spinifex. Over white gum flat richly grassed 4.20 p.m. - came on indications of an old native soak at 4.45 p.m. - stopped to exploit - sunk down to 6 ft. (1.8 m) on clay bottom but only obtained small trickle - quart pot full in four minutes. Proceeded 5.50 p.m. - camping 6.35 p.m. on poor camel feed - fed the animals out till 9 p.m. then tied them up to bushes for the night to prevent them wandering.

Fine and clear throughout - Easterly wind, light to moderate. Distance 18' (29 km).

Lat. * obsn. - 21° 14' 58" S.

Friday, 29th December 1911

The camels, instead of remaining on good feed made back along the track, and the trackers did not return with them until 9.15. We left camp at 9.45 and crossed belts of spinifex and good grass until lunch 12.20 - 1.15. At 11.45 we crossed a limestone ridge, and half a mile [800 m] from lunch camp a more prominent limestone and ironstone rise was crossed. Mallee scrub and spinifex then prevailed until 3.20 when the country was more open and dotted with white gums. At 4.20 we descended from another ridge onto a flat of good green grass and herbage. We tried a soakage, but it only made a quart [1.1 l] of water in three minutes, so we continued at 5.45 and camped at 6.40.

It was decided, on account of the signs of distress now shewn by the camels, to make at once for the Sandover, a creek which appears to be a large one, and on which several waterholes and even a well are marked.

30 DEC. SAT.

Left camp 5.45 a.m. Camped 6.05 p.m.
Early start in order to benefit from the cool morning hours - camels apparently very thirsty and much distressed - lying down on the track at every opportunity. Perfectly evident that they can never make the Marshall without a drink - altered course to S.W. to cut in on the lower end of the Sandover River, where water holes and native wells are marked on the plan - distance about sixty miles (96.5 km), hope to make in on water by tomorrow night - Sandover draining all the northern McDonnellss (sic) on E. side of Overland Telegraph Line should still hold quantities of water from heavy rainfall of March last year. Thick mulga scrub for an hour after starting - thence spinifex and mallee, with low sandridges running approximately N.W. and S.E. - occasional small gum flat between the ridges - sharp lookout kept, but no signs of water on them. Saw smoke bearing S.S.W. 1.25 p.m. - Edged down towards it, but no traces of blackfellows visible. At 4.40 p.m. saw what appeared to be water through some scrub to the southward - on investigation proved to be only patch of sand - later saw tracks two blackfellows heading S.E. Camped for the night on very poor feed - camels completely knocked up, continually bellowing with thirst (sic) all night. Heavy thunderstorm to the southward after camping - only few drops of rain locally - wind N.E. and Easterly, light to moderate. Distance 32° (51.5 km).

Lat. + obsn. - 21° 30' 50" S.

Saturday, 30th December 1911

We left camp at 5.45 a.m. and after crossing three miles [4.8 km] of undulating sandy country covered with spinifex and mallee, we entered a belt of dense mulga scrub which lasted until 8.10. The country from then until lunch was sandy with ridges of sand and limestone from 2 to 4 miles [3.2 to 6.4 km] apart. Between these ridges there were patches of dense acacia scrub, and in places a few white gums. At 11.15 we crossed a limestone and ironstone ridge running parallel to the other ridges i.e. about N.W. & S.E. We stopped for lunch in a gum flat 12.5 - 1.10. The gum flats became better-looking as we went along during the afternoon, but there was no great change from undulating sand covered with mallee and spinifex. At 4.45 we went S. x E. to get a nearer view of a patch of green gums, but found that what appeared to be a waterhole was white sand. We crossed a black's track who had gone by during the day, the boy said, and saw a smoke beyond some stony ridges to the S.E. when we knocked up, continually bellowing with thirst (sic) all night. Heavy thunderstorm to the southward after camping - only few drops of rain locally - wind N.E. and Easterly, light to moderate. Distance 32° (51.5 km).

Lat. + obsn. - 21° 30' 50" S.

31 DEC. SUN.

Left camp 5 a.m. Camped 11.50 a.m.
Left camp 7 p.m. Camped 1.00 a.m. (1.1.1912)

Off camp at dawn - steering S.W. for the Sandover River - camels coming along well until 11 a.m. the slacking off perceptibly with the heat of the day. Off loaded and camped throughout the afternoon - camels laying down in the shade of trees, the camp being on a small gum flat. One camel (Brandy Balls) went mad and stone blind - running round the camp in circles - another nearly dead. Loaded up and proceeded at 7 p.m. having discarded all useless impedimenta, bundles of native weapons etc. to lighten loads as far as possible. Got the mad camel along alright, driving it behind the string - the sick one dropped in his tracks at 8 p.m. and had to be abandoned. Travelling throughout over undulating sandy ridges: eternal spinifex and mallee scrub, with occasional small white gum flats. Country more open and level at night - still some growth.

Camped at 1 a.m. to get observations for Latitude - but sky completely overcast by the time the theodolite had been set up. Generally dull and overcast throughout the day, with slight drizzle of rain at 4 p.m. Wind easterly, moderate.

Two loads and pack saddles discarded during the day - loads containing superfluous cooking utensils, spare cutaips (?) for pack saddles, some groceries, etc.

Distance 37° (69.5 km).
Sunday, 31st December 1911. 1st after Christmas

We left camp at 5 a.m., and changed our course to S.W. The country was similar to that crossed on the previous afternoon, spinifex, with mallee and acacia, and sand ridges with a few white gums in the broad flats between. The scrub was very thick for about three miles [4.8 km] from 10 a.m. At 9.30 a mountain peak was noticed again bearing E.S.E. It had been seen during the previous afternoon and the bearing corresponds to that of Mt. Hogarth. At 11.50 we stopped for lunch, but as the camels could not be made to move we camped until sundown. One camel had then to be abandoned and as one of the others had become blind, his load was also left, and he was driven behind the string. We left at 7 p.m., and travelled until 1 a.m., when we stopped to obtain an observation for latitude, but the sky clouded over and made observations impossible. A prominent limestone ridge was crossed at 11.50 p.m., and from that time onwards, the country seemed to improve as more large timber was noticeable.

1912
1 JAN. MON.

Left camp 8.50 a.m. Camped 11 a.m.
Left camp 8.50 p.m. Camped 11.35 p.m.
Camels let loose to feed at day break, having been tied up for a few hours to prevent them from wandering. Good patch of parakylia (Portulaccae Australis) [sic] near the camp, which from its watery consistency should have alleviated their thirsts somewhat. After allowing our beasts ample time for a feed, loaded up and proceeded toward the river till 11 a.m. when coming on to a gum flat the camels bunched up under & around the trees rendering it impossible to get them a yard further. Parakylia growing in abundance all over the flat, so decided to off load and spell the animals till sundown, whilst we went ahead on foot and endeavoured to locate the river. Went out about five miles (8 km) in a Southerly direction in the afternoon but failed to cut the creek - returned to camp at 5 p.m. to find that two more camels had died - the mad one, and another that had been in very poor condition from Borroloola. Decided to temporarily abandon all loading, and push the camels on to water with empty kegs. Discarded everything excepting empty water kegs and immediate necessaries and proceeded at 8.50 p.m. after obtaining star observations for latitude, same giving 21° 44' 49" - couple of miles further to the river nor'ard than the traverse had led me to expect - mighty hard to correctly estimate speed under the present conditions.

Headed in S.W. x W.W to hit creek above water hole marked on plan - to know on which side of me the waterhole lay on reaching the creek, also to be handier to a native well tens miles (16.1 km) higher up should the water hole prove dry. Camels coming along fearfully slowly despite empty backs - on patch of luxuriant parakylia at 11.35 p.m. - off loaded camels and turned them out on it, thinking that a feed and the cool night air would revive them for the few necessary miles on to the creek in the early morning. Fine and clear throughout - fearfully hot - wind N.E. and Easterly, light.

Distance 9' (14.5 km).

Monday, 1st January, 1912

We left camp at 9.50, and went S.W. by W. so as to strike the creek at one of the waterholes marked on the map. At 11 a.m. the camels refused to proceed so we camped and sent them out on to some good bush with a little portulacca (parachulya and pigweed). We went several miles to the South in order to strike the creek, but we were unsuccessful.

All loading and kits were then abandoned and the water (50 gals.) [227 l] and a week's supply of provisions taken on the four most able-looking camels. We took a W. X S. course so as to strike the well on the creek, as the latter should be more easily located - The latitude obtained by observation shewed us to be even still N. of the creek - We left
at 8.50 p.m. and camped on some good parachulya at 11.35 p.m. Two camels died during the afternoon.

2 JAN. TUE.

Turned the black trackers out before dawn to bring the camels into camp, having heard the bells at intervals close handy during the night - fully expected that the parakylia and their worn out condition would have kept them within a few hundred yards radius of the camp. Several however had wandered some distance and the sun was well up by the time the boys got back to camp - also the mob had split up, three or four having been left under trees refusing to move, and one missing altogether. Decided to locate the creek and water to my own satisfaction before attempting to move them further. Whilst waiting for the camels, all hands had been busy gathering a large stock of parakylia, and I gave instructions for the animals to be hand fed on it during the day - also that if I failed to return to camp by 4 p.m. for a smart lookout to be kept for a big smoke in the direction of the creek which would denote the position where I had found water - on viewing it, Waldron to take a bearing on the smoke with the prismatic compass, and bring the camels down to the river in the cool of the evening. Left camp 10.30 a.m., taking blacktracker Tom with me - tracked up the missing camel and found him lying under a tree contentedly chewing his cud - sent up a smoke to show his position to those in camp. Proceeded Southerly and reached the creek shortly after noon - turned westerly along it, sinking several trial soakage holes at likely spots. At 2 p.m. came on a native encampment - series of small native wells in bed of creek, but no supply large enough for watering camels. A blackfellow volunteered to pilot us back Easterly to where a larger quantity of water could be obtained - retraced our steps accordingly, and at 5 p.m. our guide showed us a large damp patch on bed of creek - dug out a few shovelfuls of sand and saw that a large supply of water was obtainable. Sent up a big column of smoke immediately to notify the camp, and proceeded to open up the soakage - by 7 p.m. had a full supply of water in readiness for the thirsty camels. Kept large fires alight on the bank to show our position, but men and camels failed to put in an appearance by midnight.

Tuesday, 2nd January 1912

When the boys returned with the camels in the morning they reported one - "Goldie" - dead, one missing, and two unable to move. They said that they had seen crows and wild dogs and places where natives had been digging for yams. Mr Macpherson then left with Whisky Tom and said that he was going South until he struck the creek and that he would send up a smoke if he found water. Only four camels had been able to reach camp, and these were hand fed all day with pig-weed and parachulya. Another camel died at camp - "Blackhead" - and in the evening one of those left out on the gum flat, "Sundown", died. There were then only eight camels left, and these were handfed until midnight. No sign of smoke was seen, but a strong S.E. breeze prevented smokes made in camp from rising. At 2 a.m. Mr Macpherson returned and said that he had struck the creek and found a soakage. Simpson was sent away immediately with the camels, and instructed to return on the following evening.

3 JAN. WED.

Started back for camp shortly after midnight to ascertain what had gone wrong. Roused the camp up on arrival there at 2 a.m., and learned that our smoke signals had not been seen, and no move made in consequence - the strong S.E. wind blowing had presumably kept the smoke too low to be seen at any distance. Found that four more camels had died towards sundown. Despatched the remainder down to the water immediately in charge of Simpson instructing him to bring back the strongest of them in the cool of the evening to shift the light camp impedimenta down to the creek - also to send the blacks out at dawn to track up the missing camel and put him on water quickly as possible. Moved camp down to the creek in the cool of the evening -
the missing camel was found early in the morning, close to the creek, and put on water immediately, apparently well during the day but died at night. The camels’ stomachs are undoubtedly all to pieces as after result of ironwood and gutta percha poisoning, and red water - the dry stage has only finished the work that the poison begun - proof of this lies in the fact that the only camel that has behaved normally throughout and shown no signs of distress is the solitary exception that was never sick from eating poison - he being as well and strong as at the commencement of the trip. Fine and clear throughout - strong N.E. and Easterly wind - exceedingly hot.

**Wednesday, 3rd January 1912**

Simpson came back at sundown and brought seven camels. The missing one had been found and brought to water at 10 a.m. but he died - after having taken a small drink - at sundown. One camel, Fred, was too weak to return and was left at the creek.

We left camp at 8.40, struck the creek at 10.35, and reached the soak about a mile and a half [2.4 km] further West. The camel left behind was alive and apparently well.

**4 JAN. THUR.**

Sandover River Camp. Hands employed fixing up temporary camp, digging second soakage for camp use etc. shall be compelled to remain here probably for a fortnight before the weakest of the surviving camels are fit to travel - all very weak at present. Shall send back for abandoned loading immediately they are fit to do a little work. Magnificent feed for them along both banks of the creek - buck bush, cotton bush, salt bush, white wood, acacia, etc. - Fine and clear throughout - light S.E and Easterly wind.

**Thursday, 4th January 1912**

The tarpaulin was rigged, a bush shed built and our stores put under cover.

The camels are still very weak and are being given a drink at frequent intervals.

**5 JAN. FRI.**

Hands employed digging out and timbering soakage - also rigging up rough troughing etc. for the camels. One camel still very shaky, remainder commencing to pick up again. Fine and clear throughout - strong S.E. wind.

**Friday, 5th January 1912**

The camels were given several drinks during the day, and all of them seem to have recovered.

It was decided to return to our camp of 1st inst. next day, and bring on the loading left there.

**6 JAN. SAT.**

Flour and other food supplies running low, so sent back for the abandoned loading, distance about 7' (11.3 km), N.N.E. Despatched the camels (excepting sick one) with Waldron, Simpson, black trackers, and a native guide, at 4 p.m with orders to load up at moonrise - 9 p.m. - and return to camp in the cool of the night. Fine and clear throughout - comparatively cool - strong S.E. wind blowing. Observations for Latitude, Time, and Azimuth.

| Latitude | obsn. 21° 49’ 19” S. |
Watch 6° 7' 26" fast on local time.
Compass error 3° 42' E.

Saturday, 6th January 1912

The saddles were temporarily (sic) repaired during the morning, and at 4.15 I left camp and went N. 10 deg. E. until I struck our pad of 1 st inst. at 5.45 p.m. This pad was followed and our camp of that date reached at 7.15 p.m.

The camels were still weak, so the loading was distributed as much as possible. We left again at 10.15 p.m., and taking a course, S.W. by W., reached our camp on the creek at 1 a.m.

7 JAN. SUN.

Camels returned to camp with the abandoned loading at 1 a.m. No unnecessary work done in camp throughout the day - camels brought in from feeding for the sick and sore backed ones to be attended to. Fine and clear throughout - fresh S.E. and easterly wind.
Latitude * obsn. 21° 49' 47" S.

Sunday, 7th January 1912

Observations for latitude were taken at night.

8 JAN. MON.

Sick camels attended to - hands employed on repairing and overhauling pack saddles - also out foraging with gun and rifle, our supply of tinned meat having given out. Water kegs rinsed out with permanganate of potash, and filled with clean water from the soak to prevent the wood from shrinking. Fine and clear throughout - moderate S.E. and Easterly wind.
Latitude * obsn. 21° 49' 27" S.
Watch 6° 8' 13" fast.
Compass error 3° 50' E.

Monday, 8th January 1912

I went about 4 miles [6.4 km] up the creek to-day and found little change in the country bordering it; good gum flats with fair grass and herbage lie on either side. The native soak is about a quarter of a mile [400 m] above camp and is 6 feet [1.8 m] deep. The blacks apparently live well and look much better than those met with on the Lander. The differences in their condition is mainly due to the fact that rabbits have come up here, but have not gone so far North on the Western side of the telegraph line.

Observations for latitude were taken at night.

9 JAN. TUE.

Intend following the creek down easterly for a couple of days to see the trend of it - leaving tomorrow with three of the strongest camels. Hands employed on saddlery repairs and camp routine. Fine and clear throughout - moderate to fresh S.E. wind.
Mean Lat (all observations) 21° 49' 27" S.
Watch 6° 7' 27" fast.
Compass error - 3° 53' E.
Tuesday, 9th January 1912

As Mr Macpherson had decided to take three camels, and to make a trip down the creek to the Eastward, stores were packed and a pack saddle repaired. Simpson and two blacks are going with him.

Observations for latitude were taken at night.

10 JAN. WED.

Left camp 7 a.m. Camped 6.10 p.m.

Following Sandover River in an Easterly direction, taking with me Simpson, blacktracker Tom and three camels. Passed small waterhole under southern bank 9.10 a.m. and some natives out hunting at 11.20 another waterhole and permanent native soakage at 2.20 p.m. at junction of Sandover with small creek running on from S.W. - called by the natives Ooratipra (sic) Creek- this small creek has lately run - intend traversing it from main creek on return journey towards camp. N.E'Ily from this junction until camping on an old native soak - sunk down 8 ft. (2.4 m) on to clay bottom - no luck! Splendid camel feed good strip of country along both banks of the river, richly grassed and bushed. Enormous bodies of water must flow down this creek at times. - the river 1 mile (800 m) wide between flood marks in places - elsewhere with higher banks, trunks of white gums scarified and rubbish deposited in their lower branches to a height of 18 - 20 ft. (5.5 - 6.1 m) above bed level of creek. Fine and clear throughout - moderate to fresh S.E. wind. Distance 27' (43.5 km).

Lat. * obsn. 21° 51' 57" S.

Wednesday, 10th January 1912

Mr Macpherson left this morning for a trip down the creek. He took Simpson, one of our trackers and the myall belonging to the creek. His intention is to follow the creek, if possible, for 40 miles [64.4 km] and to find out on his return journey if any creek flows in from the South. The native who went with them says he knows of such a creek.

The camels left behind were attended to this afternoon, and one of them "Darkie" has several swellings on the back and belly. These are being treated with hot fomentations.

11 JAN. THUR.

Left camp 7.00 a.m. Camped 2.45 p.m.

Travelling Easterly along the Sandover - creek forking at 7.20 a.m. branches running N.E. and S.E. - Followed N.E'Ily branch (another small branch running due north) until 8 a.m. - finding it rapidly diminishing in width turned southerly to cut the branch running S.E. - on it at 8.20 a.m. - Passed a blackfellow's camp at 8.30 - camp on 3 small waterholes about 200 yards (183 m) from southern bank of creek - only small encampment, three bucks and their lubras. Crossed small branch of creek running E.S.E. 8.40 - main creek running S.E. - Range of low lying hills bearing 90° - 135°, distant from 8' to 10' (12.9 to 16.1 km). Creek making big N.W'Ily bend 10.45 a.m. afterwards dwindling rapidly in size and importance - flood marks far less noticeable - ceased following it at 11.30 a.m. - marked large white gum in bed of creek C† and started on our return journey 12.30 p.m. According to the natives this creek opens out on to a wide box flat a few miles further to the Eastward, afterwards forming up again and running right over on to the Queensland border - probably joining up with Bibby's Creek or one of the other numerous creeks running through the border fence into the Georgia. Beautiful strip of country along both banks of the creek so far as the eye could see - richly grassed and carrying all varieties of edible bush. Traced the line of creek running E.N.E'Ily for a long distance ahead of the point where we turned back - the natives information regarding it is probably authentic, as it appears to be their regular
highway in journeying to and fro between Lake Nash and the McDonnell (sic) Ranges. Camped for the night on a waterhole at the native’s camp passed during the forenoon. 
Distance 18’ (29 km).

Thursday, 11th January 1912

The camels were attended to to-day, as usual, but, though their backs are no worse, it will be impossible to heal them before we leave.

12 JAN. FRI.

Left camp 8.20 a.m. Camped - noon. Following the river back to the waterhole at junction with Ooratippra Creek - camped on reaching the junction to get star observations there for latitude - unable to get Meridian Altitudes at noon, the theodolite not being fitted with a diagonal eye piece. Camels watered and hobbled out for the remainder of day on excellent feed. Fine and clear throughout - light to moderate S.E’ly wind. Distance 11’ (17.7 km).
Lat. 21° 53’ 15” S.

Friday, 12th January 1912

The camels were attended to in the afternoon, and the overhauling of loading commenced.

13 JAN. SAT.

Left camp 7.55 a.m. Camped 4.25 p.m. Travelling S.W’ly from the Sandover River, presumably following along the course of the Ooratippra (sic) Creek. Shortly after leaving the Sandover however the creek opened out on to a wide box and gidgea flat, subject to periodical inundations flood marks against all trees but no defined water course. Country mostly well grassed - bare gidgea flat 2-3.30 p.m. thence white gum and box flat, richly grassed. Came unexpectedly on a water course at 4.20 p.m. - running from the S.W. Camped on good water hole 4.30 p.m. Fine and clear throughout - extremely hot wind N.E. and Easterly, light. Distance 19’ (30.5 km).
Lat. 22° 06’ 33” S.

Saturday, 13th January 1912

All stores were packed into two loads of boxes, three loads were set aside for water thus leaving three riding camels.

The camels whose backs are in a dreadful state and whose condition has improved but little, were again attended to.

14 JAN. SUN.

Left camp 7.45 a.m. Camped 4.25 p.m. Travelling northerly towards headquarters camp on the Sandover - mostly through mallee and acacia scrub, and spinifex. Struck the creek at 4.15 p.m. and the camp 4.25 p.m. Generally dull and overcast - heavy shower of rain 3.30 - 4 p.m. creek running a small stream in centre of bed when we arrived in camp : weather hot and muggy, wind N.E. and Northerly, light. Distance 21’ (33.8 km).
Sunday, 14th January 1912

Mr Macpherson and Simpson came back at 4.25 p.m. They reported a good trip with abundance of water. Some natives were seen in a waterhole South of the creek.

There was a heavy shower of rain at 3.30 p.m.

The camels were attended to as usual.

15 JAN. MON.

Sandover River Camp. Hands employed in preparations for departure towards Arltunga. Pack camels mostly showing improvement after their spell - two however still looking somewhat tucked up, and a couple with sore backs. Dull & overcast throughout - heavy squall of rain 3 p.m. light showers onwards - generally calm, but rain accompanied by violent N.W'Iy squalls - tarpaulin tent carried away in one - repaired and re-set it afterwards.

Monday, 15th January 1912

A tree was marked 15.1.12 with a 'C' on top and upward arrow underneath the 'C'. at camp, and some of the discarded loading stacked on the Northern bank of the creek. All saddles, halters, etc were overhauled and repaired.

Several light showers of rain fell during the afternoon and evening.

16 JAN. TUE.

Completing preparations for departure southerly tomorrow. Three old pack saddles, four loading boxes, old roping, and small amount superfluous stores discarded owing to shortage of carrying power - all stacked up on north bank of river above flood marks - tree abreast on bad of creek branded CT with date. All surplus riding saddles are to be carried as top loading, being in good order and too valuable to discard if it can be avoided. Drizzling rain during early part of day - clearing up later with strong Easterly wind. Observations taken for time and azimuth - not altogether dependable owing to the high wind blowing.

Watch 6° 1' 57" fast of local time.

Compass error - 3° 25' E.

Tuesday, 16th January 1912

The remainder of the abandoned loading which contains nothing of any consequence, was stacked to day and the rest of the stores and saddles packed up for carrying.

The camels have improved but were by no means in good condition.

17 JAN. WED.

Left camp 7.45 a.m. Camped 4.55 p.m.

Travelling southerly towards water hole on Ooratipra Creek - camels coming along fairly well, one or two not quite up to concert pitch yet however. Native guide Billy accompanying os to large water hole on same creek, two days journey S.W'Iy. Fine and clear throughout - fresh S.E. and Southerly wind. Distance 21' (33.8 km).
Wednesday, 17th January 1912

We left camp at 7.45 and took a course about S.S.E. from the creek so as to strike a waterhole 21 miles [33.8 km] distant. After crossing the belt of good grass and green scrub on the bank of the creek we entered sandy country again with a scrub of mallee, grevillea and small acacia, and spinifex among which was a fair quantity of parachielya [sic]. In places there were a few eucalyptus (bloodwood, bloodwood, and white gums) lunch 11.45 - 12.40. We continued through spinifex and mallee until 4 p.m. when we descended on to a well-grassed gum flat. Ironwood (acacia), whitemud, mulga and other acacia were the principal shrubs and there were several varieties of eucalyptus (gums). There was a splendid growth of herbage including pigweed (nardoo) parachielya, roly-poly and bluebush. We camped near the chain of waterholes in a billabong off the creek at 5.0.

18 JAN. THUR.

Left camp 7.50 a.m. Camped 4.15 p.m. Travelling S.W’ly along the Ooratipra Creek - creek at times well defined, elsewhere spreading out into wide flats or blue bush swamps. White gum and box flat with occasional patches of mulga and gidgea scrub during the forenoon, crossing an ironstone ridge 9.30 a.m. Small watercourses in bed of creek 9.40 and 9.50 a.m. crossed creek on to Westerly bank 9.55 - creek bending away S.S.E. 10.30 - 10.50 a.m. creek opening out over magnificent blue bush swamp, flood marks 2-3 feet (0.6 - 0.9 m) high against all trees - thence onwards through splendid country, richly grassed and bushed. Well defined creek at noon, steep banks and sandy bed. Rabbits very numerous - have been getting thicker each day since leaving the Sandover. Crossed creek again to southern bank 2.35 p.m. - creek running W.N.W. across track. Low lying ranges sighted ahead 2.50 p.m. Sand and stony ridges 3.30 p.m. - creek coming in again from N.W. 4 p.m. Camped on fine water hole over 1 mile (1.6 km) in length - should last a long time when filled - solid holding ground and good catchment for any local rains - steep banks and country falling towards them on both sides. Splendid camel bush everywhere. Fine and clear throughout - S.E. wind, light. Distance 215' 

(34.6 km).

Lat. 22° 17' 22" S.

Thursday, 18th January 1912

We left camp at 7.50, and after deviating to W. to cross the billabong we continued S.S.W. over well grassed gum flats which shewed signs of inundation in flood times. There was a low ridge of ironstone gravel running parallel to our course until 9.35 when we crossed a spur on the North side of it and passed through a belt of thick gidgea scrub before descending on to gum flats again. There were several small waterholes to the North of us here and three miles [4.8 km] from the ridge we crossed an extensive blue bush flat after which the box and gum flats were intersected with numerous small creeks flowing towards the North East. Lunch 12.10 - 1.10. After lunch we kept a fair sized creek on our left for about six miles [9.6 km]. The country bordering on it was covered with a moderate scrub of creeper tree, ironwood and other acacia, and a splendid growth of pigweed and mungeroo [munyeroo]. We crossed the creek at 2.45 and on the further side passed over some limestone and sandstone rises dotted with gidgea. We then took a course about S.W. x W. and approached the creek again. At 4.15 we camped on a large waterhole in the creek ( ). Rabbits and birds of all kinds are very plentiful.

A mile [1.6 km] below the camp this creek joins another one flowing in from the West. The creek on which we camped only forms a short distance above camp.
19 JAN. FRI.

Left camp 8.45 a.m. Camped 12.10 p.m.
Travelling S.W.'ly along Ooratipra Creek - late start, only a short distance to Ooratipra W.H. so delayed in order to get sights for time and azimuth. Country much as yesterday - not quite so thickly bushed. Kept wide of creek to avoid numerous steep gullies and small watercourses running into it. Across creek 10.15 a.m. - very steep banks, some little delay in getting pack animals across. On creek again 11.20 - small waterhole shallow and nearly dry. Creek again at noon - magnificent waterhole nearly a mile (1.6 km) in length with large rocky bar at lower end. Made camp on S.E. bank, splendid camel feed. Fine and clear throughout - light to moderate S.E. wind.
Distance 91' (15.3 km).
Lat. 22° 22' 29" S.
Watch 6' - 1" 50" fast on local time.
Compass error 3° 34' 25" E.

Friday, 19th January 1912

We left camp at 8.50 and continued S.W. and S.W. x S. across a flat of eucalyptus (bloodwood) ironwood (acacia) and creeper tree. At 9.45 we were on the Eastern bank of the main creek and half a mile [800 m] further on the scrub of the alluvial plain changed to small acacia, creeper tree and whitewood, while the soil was a more friable light-coloured loam. At 10.30 we crossed a fair-sized tributary of the [sic] and went S.W. among a network of creek heads flowing N. and N.E. from the foot hills of the Jervois Range, now only a few miles ahead of us. At 12.10 we struck the main creek again and camped at a large waterhole extending for a mile [1.6 km] to the West and South West. This hole seems very deep and there is over a mile (>1.6 km) of unbroken waterhole. Above this, close to the hills is a chain of waterholes into which the water is now running. An old stock yard lies on the East side of the creek about a mile and a quarter [2 km] above camp. On all the flats around there is a splendid growth of mungaroo, salt bush and other herbage.

Observations for latitude were taken at night.

20 JAN. SAT.

Camped all day on Ooratipra Waterhole, giving the camels a spell on excellent feed. Observations taken for Latitude, Time and Azimuth. Fine and clear throughout - light to moderate S.E. & Easterly wind.
Lat. 22° 22' 39" S.
Watch 6' - 1" 10' fast on local time.
Compass error - 4° 00' 40" E.

Saturday, 20th January 1912

From a crown-shaped hill about two and a half miles [4 km] S.W. of camp a good view of the creek catchment and valley can be obtained. Another range of hills rises to the S.W. of the ones seen from Camp, but the creek heads seem to rise from the North Eastern slopes of the first line of hills. A tributary creek joins this creek in which we are camped about four miles [6.4 km] to the Eastward. The hills are composed of red sandstone and are dotted with gidyea and a good growth of small saltbush. Rabbits and [e]uro were seen.

All water kegs, drums and canteens were filled during the afternoon.

Observations for latitude were taken at night.
21 JAN. SUN.

Left camp 7.55 a.m. Camped 1.45 p.m.
Travelling S.W.'ly along Ooratipra Creek, heading in towards the ranges, continually crossing the creek from side to side after getting into the broken country - creek on long chain of fine waterholes, and running a small stream between them - probably a spring at the head of it in the ranges. Fine and clear generally, clouding up towards sundown - light Easterly wind and excessively hot - camped early on waterhole and excellent feed to spell camels for remainder of day. Distance 11' (17.7 km).

Lat. 22° 29' 33" S.

Sunday, 21st January 1912

We left camp at 7.55 and took a S.W. course over the plain on the E. side of the creek for about 3 miles [4.8 km] when we came to the gap in the hills through which the creek passes. After some difficulty the camels were led through the gap and an old cattle pad followed along the main creek all day. The course taken by the pad was generally S.W. and so through the ironstone and sandstone hills, and the creek was flowing slowly, with good waterholes in places lunch 12.10 - 1.20. The scrub in the creek valley was grevillia, black wattle, ti-tree and eucalyptus with a splendid growth of munyeroo.

We camped on a large waterhole at 1.50 so as to give the camels a rest and a feed on a patch of whitewood and creeper tree near by.

Observations for latitude were taken at night.

22 JAN. MON.

Left camp 6.25 a.m. Camped 2.40 p.m.
Awkward travelling during the forenoon - country broken and very rough. Creek one long chain of beautiful waterholes - continually compelled to cross it in following through a narrow gap in the ranges 7.35 - 8 a.m. very rough almost impassable for camels in places. Across the divide and on to the Southern watershed 9.30 a.m. - another creek forming up and running S.W. Down a steep pinch with narrow gorge at the foot of it 9.40 a.m. - awkward work getting the pack train through, but out clear without mishap by 10.20 a.m. Thence better travelling - country opening out and slightly more level stone ridges, mulga and gidyea scrub - occasional flats covered with rich grasses and munyeroo. Over a high ridge 2 p.m. - prominent peak visible to the south'ard, probably Mt Sainthill of the Jervois Range bearing S.S.E. distant about 8' (12.9 km). Struck the upper waters of the Marshall River 2.40 p.m. - camping on large waterhole & excellent feed. Fine but cloudy - Exceedingly hot - light N.E.'ly wind - few drops of rain at 5 p.m. Distance 16' (25.7 km). Lat. 22° 38' 57" S. (Observations not altogether reliable - myriad of mosquitoes and other pests swarming around the instrument rendering accurate work impossible).

Monday, 22nd January 1912

After leaving camp at 6.35 we followed the cattle pad along the creek. The course varied from S.S.E. to S.W. and for one and a half miles [2.4 km] mulga and smaller acacia with a good growth of munyeroo was passed through. We then entered a long gorge of sandstone cliffs where travelling was very difficult. There were waterholes along the whole length of the creek until we reached the watershed at 9.40. The descent of the creek flowing S.W. was the commenced and at 10.30 another red sandstone gorge was entered. This gorge was also very difficult to traverse while the creek was full of water again. After coming out of the gorge we crossed some rich alluvial flats and at 11 a.m. followed the pad over limestone hills dotted with gidyea, ironwood and whitewood. Lunch 12.5 - 1.10. At 11.35 an old camp near a rock-hole in the hills was
passed. We continued to follow the pad over the limestone ridges until 2.45 when we camped on a fair sized creek which is probably one of the head waters of the Marshall.

Observations for latitude were taken at night.

23 JAN. TUE.

Left camp 6.50 a.m. Camped 4.50 p.m.
Travelling S.W'ly towards the Plenty River. Across open flat running parallel with a creek coming in from S.W. and junctioning with the Marshall just below our night camp - crossed it 8.10 a.m. - fine water hole above crossing. Country consisting of broken ranges with well grassed and bushed flats between them - good travelling generally, rough whilst negotiating the ridges. McDonnell Ranges visible to South and S.W. at 10.20 a.m. On fair sized creek 11.50 a.m. - small water holes at point of crossing - creek running S'E'ly. Every creek in the locality has surface water in, must have been good rains recently. Clear of the Jervois Range 1.50 p.m. out on to open plain, well grassed and bushed. The black trackers lost the run of the old cattle pad we had been following - halted the camels and searched for it without success, the high grass on the plain having hidden it completely. Located creek ahead with fair sized water hole in it, moved camels on to it and made camp for the night. Fine and clear throughout - moderate to fresh S.E. and E'ly wind. Distance 22' (35.4 km).
Lat. * obsn. - 22° 47' 09" S.

Tuesday, 23rd January 1912

We left camp at 6.55 and went W.S.W. over a gravelly salt bush plain at the foot of a razor-back range running S.E. and N.W. At 8.15 we crossed a creek flowing E.S.E. into the creek on which we camped. We followed the creek on the Eastern bank passing many large waterholes and after crossing some gravelly ridges dotted with gidyea we passed through the creek gap in the range and down on to a flat of ironwood, whitewood and fair herbage. At 9.45 we crossed another small creek flowing S.E. For two miles [3.2 km] then we passed through mulga scrub and over quartz gravel ridges before crossing another range of hills from which the McDonnell Ranges could be seen. We then descended on to well grassed flats separated by white quartz ridges covered with mulga and other smaller acacia. Stopped for lunch on a small creek flowing S.E. at 12.0 - 1.15. One and a half miles [2.4 km] from the creek we crossed another line of hills and at 2 p.m. we descended on to a more extensive flat dotted with whitewood eucalyptus (bloodwood) and ironwood. At 3 p.m. there was a small gravelly rise of spinifex, mallee and ironwood, but a well-grassed flat succeeded until we camped on a small creek at 4.50. There was a delay of 40 min. through the boys losing the cattle pad. All the creeks crossed contained water, and the abundance of green grass and herbage points to a recent heavy rain. Erise or Crise? after lunch, S.W.

24 JAN. WED.

Left camp 7.45 a.m. Camped 10.45 a.m.
Picked up the old cattle pad snaking towards the Plenty River and followed it for a while - when nearing the creek found the pad edging away N.N.W. so abandoned it and headed S.S.W. arriving on the Plenty shortly after 10 a.m. - located a good water hole about 1' (400 m) eastwards, camping there for remainder of the day. Sent black trackers on camels to find which direction the cattle pad led in, also to see if traces of one could be found on South side of creek heading in for the McDonnell Ranges - they returned towards sundown unsuccessful. Mt. Mary bearing from the camp 162° distance about 12' (19.3 km).
Lat. * obsn. 22° 49' 45" S.
**Wednesday, 24th January 1912**

We left camp at 7.40 and followed the pad S.W. over a well-grassed plain for three miles [4.8 km] when a belt of mulga and gidyana scrub also about three miles [4.8 km] through, was crossed before we descended through some mallee and spinifex down on to the Plenty on which we stopped at 10.20. We then camped near a waterhole further down the creek. This creek has only run to a point half a mile [800 m] below camp.

The boys went out to-day to locate the pad on the Southern side of the creek but they were unable to follow it. It was therefore decided to go back S.E. to the eastern end of the Ranges and so around to Earthling [?].

**25 JAN. THUR.**

Left camp 6.50 a.m. Camped 6.10 p.m.

Skirting round eastern end of the McDonnells, making for our old 1905 camp at Waterfall on the Inumbra Ck. (Arema ?) - ranges too rough to cross from the northern approach. Crossing wide open plain during the forenoon - well grassed and bushed - honey combed everywhere with burrows but very few rabbits visible - must have perished out during a dry spell. Crossed creek running N.E’ly into the Plenty at 8 a.m. - abreast of Mt. Mary at noon. Rougher going during the afternoon, passing close along Eastern extremity of range, crossing numerous small creeks and watercourses running out Easterly on to the plain. Camped for the night on salt bush flat in rough country at the foot of the ranges. Distance 30' (48.3 km).

Lat. + obsn. 23° 10' 24" S.

**Thursday, 25th January 1912**

We left camp at 6.55 and took a course towards the end of the McDonnell Ranges. The plain on the south side of the creek was level and well-grassed, and was dotted with ironwood (acacia) and needlewood (hakea). At 8 a.m. a large creek running E. was crossed after which there was a better growth of herbage, salt bush and small acacia. Several other smaller creeks were crossed and the plain continued unaltered until we camped in a small creek for lunch 12.15 - 1.10. A mile [1.6 km] from lunch another small creek was crossed and at 2 p.m. we turned along through the foothills of the ranges. There was a fair growth of grass between these hills and as we went on the growth of green herbage on them shewed that the recent rains which had not been so heavy on some of country passed over earlier in the day, were better here. The bigger hills were outcrops of mica shist, while the smaller ones were covered with white quartz grains. Several creeks flowing down from the ranges were crossed some of them gum creeks, others ti-tree. An old cattle camp was crossed at 6 p.m. At 6.10 p.m. we camped on the E. side of a fair sized gum creek.

**26 JAN. FRI.**

Left camp 6.20 a.m. Camped 4.45 p.m.

Heading in through the ranges S.W’ly towards the Inumbra - a creek on the southern watershed. Very rough travelling during the forenoon, mostly through steep and broken ranges, getting an occasional slant along a creek bed or valley. On southern watershed 11.30 a.m. striking one of the heads of the Inumbra at 1 p.m. On the main Inumbra Ck, a mile (1.6 km) above the waterhole at 4.10 p.m. - rough work getting down to the water - camping there for the night on arrival. Fine & clear throughout - S.E. and E’ly wind, light. Distance 24’ (38.6 km).

Lat. + obsn. 23° 23’ 51” S.
Friday, 26th January 1912

We left camp at 6.30 and after following the ranges for a mile and a half [2.4 km], we turned in South through a gap. Some steep mica-shist and quartz hills were crossed, and at 8.30 a few bullocks were seen. We then descended on to a creek bed and followed the creek across well-grassed gum and needlewood flats until 10.15 when we struck a fresh buggy track. This track wound in and out through the hills and over the grown flats of the creeks. At 1.15-2.5 we stopped for lunch near a large creek flowing East. We then continued to follow the track which made a more interesting course until 4.15 when we struck the Inumbra creek and saw a hut on a hill to the N.W. A turn was then taken South until we came on the creek at "waterfall" waterhole where we camped at 5pm. The waterhole is of fair size but has silted up considerably since seen by Mr. Macpherson in 1905. There is however a large rock waterhole near the hut referred to above.

27 JAN. SAT.

Left camp 6.35 a.m. Camped 5.10 p.m. Travelling westerly through the McDonnells towards the Arltunga Goldfields. Crossing the Illogwa River 8.55 a.m. thence upwards over the watershed of the Illogwa and Hale Rivers following a creek up towards the divide - numerous small flats, covered with "old man" salt bush, making the going fairly open and easy. Over the divide and on to the watershed of the Hale at noon, reaching the Hale itself 1.35 p.m. Continually crossing and recrossing various bends of the Hale during the afternoon fine waterholes at almost every crossing place. Camped for the night upon wide salt bush flat on river bank. fine and clear generally, clouding over heavily towards sundown - no night observations possible. Light N.E. and Easterly wind. Distance 28' (45.1 km).

Saturday, 27th January 1912

We left camp at 6.35 and after going out South from the waterhole we mounted on the small elevated plain well-grassed, and dotted with ironwood. We then continued in a Westerly direction of hills of schist and quartz gravel covered in places with a moderate acacia scrub. At 9.55 we crossed the Allogwa Cr. [Illogwa] on the banks of which was a good growth of "old man" salt bush. We then continued to follow a pad over the small hills between the two main ranges - the Northern one a dark conglomerate and schist formation, the Southern one a quartzite range - lunch 12.0 - 12.50. We struck the Hale at 1.40 and crossed it several times afterwards. The flood marks were high and there were small waterholes everywhere and crossed it. At one crossing - 4.5 there was a good deep waterhole. The travelling was not quite so rough during the afternoon and there was less scrub on the small schist and quartz hills. At 5.15 we camped on the E. side of the Hale.

28 JAN. SUN.

Left camp 6.40 a.m. Camped 2.30 p.m. Crossed the Hale again 7.40 a.m. - fine waterhole alongside track : continually crossing bends of the river during the forenoon, tried a direct track for Arltunga, but abandoned it on account of its roughness. Headed for Claraville, passing there 11.30 a.m. - thence towards Arltunga : arrived at the Cyanide 2.30 p.m. Made camp in the bed of the creek - men taking up their quarters in a vacant hut - self and Waldron with the gold Warden Mr. O'Grady. No mail of any sort awaiting us, or any communication from the Government, intend waiting for the incoming mail due on Wednesday 31st inst. Fine and clear throughout - light easterly wind. Distance 23' (37 km).
Sunday, 28th January 1912

We left camp at 6.40 and after crossing the Hale we continued Westerly over country similar to that crossed during the previous afternoon - schist hills and sparse acacia scrub. The Hale was again crossed several times and water was seen at every crossing. Three miles [4.8 km] from camp we passed a large, deep waterhole. At 11.25 we passed the old store and Claraville, and after crossing a small stretch of salt bush flat known as Claraville plain, we wound in and out through the schist hills until we reached Arltunga Govt. Cyanide Works at 3.15.

29 JAN. MON.

Arltunga Gold Fields. Camped waited arrival of mail on Wednesday in expectation of receiving instructions from the External Affairs Dept. Hands employed upon repairs to saddlery and various camp duties; camels with sore backs attended to. Drove over to the township during the afternoon and ordered sufficient stores to carry us into Alice Springs. Fine and clear generally - clouding over towards sundown - wind light N.E. and N'ly.

Monday, 29th January 1912

A small supply of stores was obtained to-day, and brought up to camp. The camels were attended to and some repairs done to saddles and loading.

30 JAN. TUE.

Hands employed upon repairs to pack saddles and ordinary camp duties. Set up the theodolite, but no observations possible - heavy thunderstorm with 23 points (5.75 mm) of rain during the afternoon, and sky remaining heavily overcast later - light to moderate N.W’ly wind.

Tuesday, 30th January 1912

The mining industry here is at a low ebb at present. Many of the old miners have died or have become incapacitated through phthisis and no new men have come to replace them. This disease seems, therefore, to be mainly responsible for the present condition of the field, but with the system of mining that the men pursue it would be impossible for them to avoid it.

31 JAN. WED.

Unsettled weather and cloudy sky throughout - obtained ò and * observations for latitude, but none dependable using O’Grady’s theodolite with occasional light showers. Southern mail arrived but brought no orders from External Affairs.

Lat. Mer. Alt. ò 23° 25’ 44” S.
Lat. * obsn. 23° 26’ 14” S.

Wednesday, 31st January 1912

As the road by Winnecke’s Battery is said to be better than the mail track to Alice Springs it was decided to travel by the former.

Observations for latitude were taken at night.
1 FEB. THUR.

Straightening out packs, saddles, and loading, in readiness for departure tomorrow - cleansing and filling water kegs etc. - camels brought in from feeding and backs attended to as usual.

Observations taken for Time, Azimuth and Latitude. Fine but cloudy throughout - wind generally light and variable - light southerly after sundown, sky somewhat clearer.

Lat. (mean of all observations) 23° 26' 28" S.
Watch 6' 2° 54' fast on local time.
Compass error 3° 29' E.

Thursday, 1st February 1912

The water kegs were filled, and other arrangements completed for leaving here tomorrow.

Observations for latitude were taken at noon and at night.

2 FEB. FRI.

Left camp 9.50 a.m. Camped 6.20 p.m.

The usual late start after three or four days in camp - packs disarranged and various delays. Taking the Winnecke's, Bond Springs track into the Alice in preference to the mail track - better road and very little longer - also wish to have a look round at Winnecke's Depot mine. Travelling N.W. by - good road and easy going after the first three miles (4.8 km) - country looking well, numerous salt bush flats - camped on one for the night, about seven miles (11.3 km) short of the mine. Fine throughout but sky heavily clouded over at times - light N.W. wind, weather close and muggy - slight sprinkle of rain about 4 p.m. Distance 20' (32.2 km).

Friday, 2nd February 1912

We left the Government Cyanide Works at 9.50 and went out N. and N. x E. over the hills. After 3 miles (4.8 km) we descended on to more level country with good grass in the flats and a sparse growth of whitewood, ironwood and hakea. At 12.0 we crossed a stretch of salt bush plain and from then till lunch (1.10 - 2.20) we travelled over a well-grassed loamy plain covered in places with a moderate scrub of gidgea and mulga. A mile (1.6 km) from lunch we mounted a higher gravelly plain dotted with hakea, mulga and smaller acacia, and at 3.55 crossed a small creek flowing S.E. We then continued over a well-grassed plain dotted with mulga until camp at 6.20. At 5.45 we crossed a fair sized tributary of the Hale; flowing N.E.

3 FEB. SAT.

Left camp 7.20 a.m. Camped 6.20 p.m.

Passed Graveyard Hill 8.30 a.m. thence through rough broken ranges to Winnecke's Depot Mine at 10.10 a.m. - found the field practically deserted, only two men working at the battery. Filled kegs and watered camels at the well, proceeding again at 10 40 a.m. towards Bond Springs 5th.

Through rough and broken country for remainder of day, track winding about in all directions - country opening out somewhat towards sundown. Camped on small flat, good camel feed, acacia and salt bush. Close and sultry weather - sky cloudy and overcast throughout - distant thunderstorms South and East of us - wind light and variable. Distance 24' (38.6 km). Sky heavily overcast after sundown - no observations possible : light showers of rain at intervals during the night, with squalls of wind from all points of the compass.
Saturday, 3rd February 1912

We left camp at 7.25 and crossed a mile [1.6 km] of undulating gravelly country with a good growth of salt bush before entering a dense scrub of mulga and more hilly stretches. The scrub and herbage on the hills was much the same, and after some rough travelling we reached Winne[c]ke's at 10.10 - 10.40. We continued our westerly course through hills covered with mulga, with a white quartz range close on our left. At 1.00 we turned through a gap in this range and at 1.30 - 2.40 camped for lunch at a small rock hole (Gliding Rock). We wound in and out through quartzite and schist hills until 3.5 when we struck a small creek flowing E., and followed its bed for 4 miles [6.4 km]. At 5.55 we turned S.W. out of the hills and camped on a more open patch of well-grassed plain at 6.20.

4 FEB. SUN.

Left camp 7.45 a.m. Camped 4.00 p.m.
Travelling S.W'Iy towards Bond Springs Stn. - Fine open country and good track.
Waterhole alongside road 10.10 a.m. in small creek - 15' (24.1 km) from Bond Springs - watered camels and proceeded. Arrived at the station 4 p.m. making camp close to the water hole. Fine and clear during the forenoon, clouding up heavily later - light to moderate S.E'Iy wind. Distance 20' (32.2 km). Heavy thunderstorm to the N'ard after nightfall - stacked all saddlery and camp gear under tarpaulin but only a light shower fell over the camp. No observations possible.

Sunday, 4th February 1912

We left camp at 7.40 and continued our course Westerly over the well-grassed plain dotted with mulga, grevillea and a few bloodwoods. Four miles [6.4 km] from camp several rich-looking flats of red soil were crossed with ridges of spinifex between them, and at 9.15 we passed the "Fifteen Mile" creek which had evidently run with recent rains. We then crossed a few scrub covered hills before stopping for lunch in a more open and extensive flat 12.0 - 12.50. We continued over this flat until 3.30 when we crossed some low hills and camped at a waterhole at Bond Springs Station at 4.5.

5 FEB. MON.

Left camp 7.30 a.m. Camped 11.45 a.m.
Travelling towards Alice Springs Telegraph Station. On to the overland Telegraph Line 9.10 a.m. arriving at Alice Springs 11.45 a.m. Heavy mail awaiting me, including instructions from the External Affairs Dept. which should have been sent to Arltunga. Notified the Govt. by wire, and waited further instructions. Weather sultry, sky cloudy & overcast - wind S.W'Iy, light to moderate. Distance 11' (17.7 km).

Monday, 5th February 1912

We left Bond Springs at 7.30 and went S x W over undulating schist country, well-grassed, and dotted with red soil and needlewood (hakea). At 9.10 we struck the Overland Telegraph and followed the track down to Alice Springs telegraph station which was reached at 11.40.

The necessary stores were obtained from the town during the afternoon and a visit paid to Corporal Stott.

6 FEB. TUE.

During the afternoon received orders from the Secretary External Affairs Dept. to return to Arltunga - completed arrangements to leave on the morrow.
Tuesday, 6th February 1912

As Mr Macpherson received a telegram to-day saying that the Department wished him to return to Arltunga, some stores were packed for his trip.

Some of the camels have sore backs and these are now being attended to.

7 FEB. WED.

Left Alice Springs for Arltunga at 1 p.m. leaving the camp in charge of Mr. Waldron. Arrived Undoolya Station at 5.15 p.m. and interviewed the owner, Mr. John Hayes, J.P., in reference to certain matters at Arltunga. Left Undoolya 6.15 p.m. and proceeded until 1 a.m. - then camping on track - blacktracker Tom & two riding camels with me. Dull & sultry weather - wind light and variable.

Wednesday, 7th February 1912

Mr Macpherson left to pursue his investigations at Arltunga after lunch to-day.

8 FEB. THUR.

Saddled up and proceeded at 6.40 a.m. arriving Love's Ck. Station 2.30 p.m. - the owner Mr. Louis Bloomfield absent. Camels feeding out on salt bush flat all afternoon - brought them in and saddled up again 7.20 p.m. - travelled all night - good track with the exception of a few miles through the gorge, very bad there, much cut up by floods especially that of March 1910 - weather dull and threatening - heavy thunderstorm from 7 - 8 p.m. but little rain falling - wind light and variable.

Feb 8. to Feb 13. No entries - just a blank page under each date.

9 FEB FRI.

Arrived Arltunga 6.30 a.m. - day employed in making certain investigations. Camped at the Cyanide, but obtained a mount and rode over to the township after midday meal and spent the afternoon interviewing various residents regarding certain matters under discussion. Arrived back at the Cyanide 6.30 p.m. Camels brought in from feeding at sundown - saddled up and commenced return journey to Alice Springs at 8 p.m. Fine and clear throughout - light to moderate S.E and Southerly wind.

10 FEB. SAT.

Camped on track 1 a.m. Proceeded again 710 a.m. camping during the afternoon from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., camels on excellent feed. Saddled up again and proceeded till midnight - then camping alongside track for remainder of night. Fine and clear throughout - light to moderate S.E wind.

11 FEB. SUN.

Proceeded towards Undoolya Station 6.30 a.m. - arriving there shortly before noon; spent remainder of day enjoying the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Hayes. Camels feeding out on salt bush flat. Left Undoolya 7 p.m and arrived at Alice Springs Telegraph Station shortly after midnight. Fine and clear throughout - light to moderate S.E. wind.
12 FEB. MON.

Alice Springs. Hands employed in preparations for departure - packing stores and fixing several new loading ropes. Received orders from the Secretary, External Affairs, to proceed South to Oodnadatta, and return soon as possible to Melbourne. Fine and clear throughout, light to moderate Easterly wind.

13 FEB. TUE.

Day employed in office routine - hands packing stores and straightening loading - sore backed camels attended to as usual. Fine and clear throughout - fresh Easterly wind.

14 FEB. WED.

Left camp 1.50 p.m. Camped 10.10 p.m.
Broke camp during the forenoon - passed through the township and halted at store to square up the various accounts. Left the township 3.15 p.m., passing Temple Bar Well 7.10 p.m. and the 17° (27.3 km) shackle on the O.T. line 9.05 p.m.
Camped for the night alongside track - good camel bush. Fine and clear generally - light to moderate Southerly wind. Distance 23° (37 km).

Wednesday, 14th February 1912

We left the telegraph station at 2.50 after taking on stores we left the township at 3.50 and too [sic] the Southern road through Heavystone Gap on to the Emily plain. This plain - which forms part of Undoolya Station is well-grassed with a fair scrub of needle-wood (hakea), mulga, ironwood and other acacias. At 7.40 we passed Temple Bar Well - 300 feet deep [91.4 m] and a small supply of water. We camped in some spinifex and acacia at 10.40.

15 FEB. THUR.

Left camp 7.10 a.m. Camped 5.45 p.m.
Travelling Southerly along the O.T. line - passed Gray's Well (200 ft. [61 m] - dry) at 11.40 a.m. camped for the night at Deep Well 50' (80 km) from Alice Springs. Thunderstorms to N'ard and Westward during the afternoon - light rain over track - dull and overcast throughout, wind gusty and variable. Rain 8 p.m. - saddlery and equipment stacked and covered - weather clearing up later however.

Thursday, 15th February 1912

We left camp at 7.45 and for the greater part of the day we passed through spinifex and acacia. The soil was sandy with red sandhills until lunch at Gray's Well (200 ft [61 m] and no water) 12.10 - 12.55. At 9.45 we passed the "27 mile" shackle opposite Ooraminna W.H. The country continued sandy until we reached a ridge of hills 2 and a half miles [4 km] from Deep Well after which the soil was more loamy. The country which is part of Undrolya [sic] Station is on the whole, poor. We camped at Deep Well at 6.40.

16 FEB. FRI.

Left camp 8.20 a.m. Breadon's Dam 11.30 a.m. - Hayes' new homestead 4.40 p.m. - Frances Well 5 p.m. Watered camels and proceeded 5.30 p.m. camping for the night alongside track 5.50 p.m. - good camel bush, mulga and acacia. Avoided camping at the well - a filthy dirty and dusty camp, also large number of Afghan camels there which ours would have got boxed up with before morning. Fine but cloudy during
forenoon dull and threatening later - light rain 3 p.m. - wind strong Easterly. Light showers at intervals during the night. Distance 25' (40.2 km).
Altered watch from sun to standard time - an advance of 35 minutes.

**Friday, 16th February 1912**

We left Deep Well at 8.20 and after three miles [4.8 km] of sandhills, spinnifex and desert oak (casuarina) we mounted a limestone ridge and continued over gravelly hills covered with a moderate scrub of acacia until lunch (12.5 - 12.50) in a small creek. The country continued unaltered except for a better growth of salt bush until we passed Frances Well Station at 4.40. We stopped at the Government Well to water the camels and fill the kegs at 5.0 - 5.30. We crossed the Hugh and camped a mile [1.6 km] to the South of it in some spinnifex and mulga at 5.50.

**17 FEB. SAT.**

Left camp 8.15 a.m. Camped 6.45 p.m.
Day broke dull and threatening - strong S.E. and Easterly wind - rain at intervals throughout the day solid from 3 p.m. onwards - clearing up again at 10 p.m. Passed Alice Well 3 p.m. - , camped off mail track on short camel pad to Horse Shoe Bend at 6.45 p.m.
Distance 29' (46.7 km).

**Saturday, 17th February 1912**

We left camp at 8.10 and continued through low sandhills of desert oak and spinnifex until we crossed the Hugh at 1.10 (lunch 12.0 - 12.50). We then followed the Hugh until we reached Alice Well at 3.5. The creek was crossed several times before we camped at 6.45, and the country except for narrow stretches of loamy soil at some places along the banks of the creek was composed of high, red sandhills.

**18 FEB. SUN.**

Left camp 8.15 a.m. Camped 7 p.m.
Travelling through the Depot Sandhills along camel track, leaving Depot Well on our right. Arrived Horse Shoe Bend 1.45 p.m. - watered camels and filled kegs at the well - purchased beef, etc. at the store. Proceeded again 4.40 p.m. camping for the night alongside track about 7' (11.3 km) South of the Bend. Light top moderate East and N.E. wind - dull and cloudy throughout - rain continually threatening, light shower 3 p.m. Distance 23' (37 km).

**Sunday, 18th February 1912**

We left camp at 8.10 and crossed the Hugh half a mile [800 m] after leaving.

We then continued over the Depot sandhills until 12.40 and we crossed a more loamy mulga flat and followed the Finke to Horseshoe Bend where we took on meat and water 1.45 - 4.40. We mounted a high-level plain of mulga and fair grass and camped at 6.55.

**19 FEB. MON.**

Left camp 8.25 a.m. Camped 6.55 p.m.
Travelling towards Old Crown Point, arriving there 3.35 p.m. Proceeded 3.45 p.m. camping on track about 9' (4.5 km) beyond. Evidence of good rain having fallen everywhere - good grass, and pools of water in all creeks and water courses. Dull and threatening throughout - calm generally, light Easterly wind towards sundown rain
commenced just after camping - rigged tarpaulin tent and stowed all saddlery and equipment. Distance 28' (45.9 km).

Monday, 19th February 1912  No entry.

20 FEB. TUE.

Left camp 8.15 a.m. Camped 6.30 p.m.  
Light drizzling rain throughout the night - day dull and overcast, with light rain from 11 a.m. till 5 p.m. almost continuously - Southerly wind, light. Passed the Goyder Well 11.20 a.m., left main track after crossing the creek, branching off on camel pad to the right - travelling principally over wide open flats, with the exception of one stony range - country looking like a vast meadow, green grass and herbage everywhere - pools of water in every small watercourse. Distance 28' (45 km).

Tuesday, 20th February 1912

We left camp at 8.15 and for about six miles [9.6 km] the soil was sandy with a good growth of grass and mulga. Loamy and sandy flats were then crossed until we passed a good shallow well in the Goyder at 11.20. The flats continued till lunch (12.25 - 1.15). Shortly after lunch we crossed a ridge of stony hills and at 3.30 descended on to well-grassed loamy flats which continued till camp at 6.35. The country throughout is looking splendid. There was a drizzling rain during the day.

21 FEB. WED.

Left camp 8.35 a.m. Camped 11.20 a.m.  
Drizzling rain all night - dull and cloudy with occasional light showers throughout the day - S.E. and Southerly wind light. Travelling towards Charlotte Waters Telegraph Station - making camp on arrival there on station side of creek. Afternoon employed fixing up camp, washing camels backs, etc. Purchased supply of onions and potatoes from an Afghan hawker - 50 lbs (22.7 kg) potatoes at 5d. a lb. and 45 lbs. (20.4 kg) onions at 6d. a lb. No fresh meat obtainable at the station; arranged for a supply from Mr. McKinnon at the bore. Distance 8' (12.9 km).

22 FEB. THUR.

Charlotte Waters. Received instructions from Secretary, External Affairs to proceed via Dalhousie Springs and obtain samples of the various waters there. Hands employed in camp duties, tending sick camels etc. Dull and overcast throughout - occasional light drizzling rain - wind light Easterly.

21st and 22nd February 1912  No entry.

23 FEB. FRI.

Left camp 1.25 p.m. Camped 6.55 p.m.  
Forenoon employed breaking camp, tending camels with sore backs, fixing pack saddles etc. Travelling along mail track towards Blood's Ck. - camping for the night on the Adminga (sic) Creek - fine water hole close to road - excellent camel feed, salt bush and gidgea. Fine throughout but cloudy - hot N.E. and Northerly wind. Distance 16' (25.7 km).

Friday, 23rd February 1912

Some stores were obtained from the store at the bore and we left the Telegraph Station at 1.30pm. We went South over string tableland and crossed two small creeks before
camping on a waterhole in the Adminga at 7pm. Water was lying in claypans everywhere along the track, and there is a good growth of small salt bush after the recent rains. The Territory border (approx) was crossed at 4.15.

24 FEB. SAT.

Left camp 8.15 a.m. Camped 6.25 p.m.
Southerly along track, arriving Blood's Ck. 11.50 a.m. Proceeding again for Dalhousie Springs 1.20 p.m. passing the Possum W.H. 6.10 p.m. and camping on rise beyond for the night - good camel feed, saltbush.
Dull and overcast throughout, very hot and sultry - light Northerly wind till 6 p.m. then shifting fresh Southerly in rain squall - thunderstorms in all directions. Distance 26' (41.8 km).

Saturday, 24th February 1912

We left camp at 8.20 and continued over stony tableland until within a few miles of Blood's Creek when a more level gravelly plain was crossed. We stopped at Blood's Creek store (11.40 - 1.25) and then took the track to Dalhousie passing the Duck Ponds at 4.30 and camping to the S.E. of Possum Creek at 6.30.

25 FEB. SUN.

Left camp 8 a.m. Camped 5.10 p.m.
Left the direct Dalhousie track at 10.50 a.m. and headed towards the springs.
Obtained sample of water from hot springs 11' (2.4 km) S.W. of the Big Spring - arrived at the Big Spring 2.15 p.m. and also took sample there. Left the Big Springs 3.15 p.m. and arrived Dalhousie Station 5.10 p.m. - all hands absent at a muster excepting the cook.
Fine and clear generally, clouding over slightly towards sundown - moderate to fresh S.E'ly wind. Distance 12' (33.8 km).

Sunday, 25th February 1912

After leaving camp at 8.5 we turned off the track and followed Christmas Creek to a spring on Dalhousie from which a sample of water was obtained (12.35 - 1.40). We then proceeded to Big Spring and obtained another sample there (2.25 - 2.50). Dalhousie Station was reached at 5.20, and a sample of the Station Spring also taken.

26 FEB. MON.

Left camp 9 a.m. Camped 6.35 p.m.
Took sample of water from date Palm Spring at head station - water tepid. Travelling southerly towards Oodnadatta - passed Three Forges Waterhole 3.30 p.m. - watered camels and proceeded 3.45 p.m. On to mail track short distance South of Willow Well at 6.20 p.m. Camping alongside the track shortly afterwards - good camel feed, acacia and young salt bush. Fine and clear generally, clouding over somewhat during the afternoon - calm during forenoon, light to moderate S.E'ly wind later. Distance 25' (40.2 km).

Monday, 26th February 1912

We left Dalhousie Station at 9a.m. and after crossing stony tableland dotted with salt bush for 13 miles [21 km] we camped for lunch 1.35 - 2.25. Three Forges (trig) was passed an hour later and we camped a few miles south of Willow Well at 6.45. There are waterholes on the Stevenson here but the sandhills are devoid of feed.
27 FEB. TUE.

Left camp 9.08 a.m. Camped 6.10 p.m.
Passed the 10' Bore (Stevenson) at 9.05 a.m. - Old Macumba Station 11.50 a.m. - fine water holes at various points in the Stevenson Ck.
Crossed the Alberga 1.45 p.m. - passed Wire Ck. Bore 5.10 p.m. Camped alongside track near Storm Creek on large salt bush flat. Fine & clear throughout - light to moderate S.E’ly wind. Distance 28' (45.1 km).

Tuesday, 27th February 1912

We left camp at 8.10 and passed the Stevenson Bore an hour later. We stopped for lunch at Macumba Old Station (12 0 - 1.10) and found good waterholes in the creek. The Alberga was crossed 2 miles [3.2 km] from Macumba, Wire Creek Bore passed at 5.15, and we camped at 6.20.

28 FEB. WED.

Left camp 8.20 a.m. Camped 3.25 p.m.
Travelling towards Oodnadatta - passed Swallow Ck. 11 a.m. On arrival at Oodnadatta sent blacktrackers with camels to make camp alongside the bore - all camels sore backs washed before turning them out on feed. Fine and clear throughout - light Southerly and S.E. wind.

29 FEB. THUR.

Received telegraphic communication from external Affairs regarding invalid pensioner Perks - police apparently have no instructions about him here. Perks arrived on mail from North in the evening, and was transferred to hospital. Camels attended to as usual.

28th and 29th February 1912 No entries.

END OF WALDRON JOURNAL.

1 MARCH. FRI.

Train arrived from south - no instructions regarding disposal of camels and equipment as yet to hand from the Department.
Camels attended to as usual. Hands employed straightening up and storing equipment.

2 MAR. SAT.

Engagement of camel man Simpson, and the cook, Edward Collins, terminates this day. Despatched wires to the Department regarding sick man Perks, also in reference to railway passes Oodnadatta - Adelaide.

3 MAR. SUN.

(Sunday)

4 MAR. MON.

Wired the Department in reference to Perks, Marsh's offer for camels, and the non-arrival of Railway passes. Advice regarding passes received by S.M. the same night.
Camels backs attended to as usual - black trackers rationed for a fortnight, pending arrival of next mail with their salary sheets.

5 MAR. TUE.

Left Oodnadatta en route for Adelaide. Camped for the night at Hergott Springs - found ambulance van waiting there for Perks - shifted him over into it and made him comfortable for the night - Waldron taking over the duties of sick nurse.

6 MAR. WED.

Arrived Quorn and proceeded on to Port Augusta, handing Perks over to the hospital authorities there - ambulance meeting train.

7 MAR. THUR.

Arrived Adelaide.

8 MAR. FRI.

Had an interview during the afternoon with Mr. T. E. Day\textsuperscript{10} according to instructions received from the Department in Oodnadatta.

Left by Melbourne express.

9 MAR. SAT.

Arrived Melbourne and reported at External Affairs Department.

END OF MACPHERSON JOURNAL.

\textsuperscript{10} Chief Surveyor of the Northern Territory and Member of the Land Board.
ROUTE OF NORTHERN TERRITORY EXPLORATION PARTY 1911-12