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over certain assessments made in spite of my protests on some Miris ; with the Deputy Commissioner over theft of rails at Tipang, and the keeping ~~of~~ open of 5 miles of path in Lakhimpur to our bridle path in the Naga area which I hope will be negotiable next year in the rains as well as the winter; and concerning fish mahaldars. I also had some small discussions with the Superintendent of Police. It has cleared up a lot of little matters.

- 18th. Left at 6.30 a.m. by launch and arrived at Kobo at 3.30 p.m. Here I commenced an office dak from Sadiya.
- 19th. Left at 9 a.m. to inspect Murkongsellek ~~Saw~~ Mill Factory. The labour is very contented in appearance and in good condition. Returned at 3 p.m. 16 miles - when I continued and finished my Sadiya dak.
- 20th. To Pasighat 22 miles 11.30-1<sup>15</sup>, after giving orders for the planting of trees at Kobo. Every Inspection Bungalow, except Saikhowa has <sup>got a</sup> now full quota of fruit trees : The compounds of all Government servants will be completed before long. In the evening walked round the station. Wet most of the morning.
- 21st. ) Mr. Parsons has been laid up with flue for a fortnight  
22nd. )  
23rd. ) and was looking tucked up. I am taking up to Sadiya for a few days change. His office staff has also been out of action. The Agricultural Inspector met me here and I - arranged for the planting of trees in the station to - replace the big ones which are gradually falling down or into the river. I picked places for 60 and put in a - nursery of 20 for infilling.

I commenced inspection of offices, which appear to be in good order. The Abor is still very prejudiced against the "Doctor Babu" as a class. It is due to the lack of real sympathy so frequently shown by S.A.S. and which the Abor is quick to sense. That class of Government servant so often instinctively despises "junglis" for a variety of reasons, and cannot always disguise it.



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12/12/33

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|-------------------|--------------|
| ASSAM SECRETARIAT |              |
| Register No.      | Department.  |
| Date of Receipt   | 12 SEP. 1933 |
| 2290              |              |

12/12/33

OFFICE OF THE POLITICAL OFFICER, SADIYA FRONTIER TRACT.

.....

Memo No. 724 G/ XXIII- 3

Dated Sadiya the 9<sup>th</sup> September 1933.

Submitted to the Chief Secretary to the  
Government of Assam, Shillong.

Pol B, Hank/34 = 1465

JH Grace  
Political Officer,  
Sadiya Frontier Tract.

12/12/33

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Tour diary of the Political Officer, Sadiya Frontier -  
Tract for the month of August<sup>September</sup> 1933 together with his T.A.  
bill for the month.  
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S. Bhattacharjee. 4/9.



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Tour diary of the Political Officer,  
Sadiya Frontier Tract for the month of  
AUGUST 1933.

3rd.

At 9.30 a.m., with Supervisor checked the revised road estimates on the Lohit Valley Road which I found fault with last month. The savings which ensue have to be spent on making a big diversion and new crossing across the Kundil at Sadiya. The Lohit, although low for the time of the year, has changed its course and now directly impinges, for the moment at any rate, on the mouth of the Kundil. About 200 yds has been swept away, which leaves a salient on the south east corner of Sadiya which is bound to go. I went as far as 24/6 and then turned back to Sunpura which I reached at 2.30 p.m. (34 miles). At Sunpura I looked at the work of clearing the new camp site which is progressing well. The river still cuts here and although the Inspection Bungalow is probably safe this year, and the hospital, it will most likely have to be moved next year. The Miris of Mijara came to see me with complaints against the oppression of the Forest Department. Most of the complaints are the result of mutual misunderstanding.

4th.

Left at 9 a.m. for Lathao (Khamti) by Launch. The river being low we had to tie up and go into camp some distance below the place. I walked  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile to the village and on 1 mile to see the rice cultivation, and back to camp. Here also I heard further stories of the steady methods of one of the Sadiya shopkeepers, whom I am enquiring about. A really hot day.

5th.

It rained heavily in the last part of the night and then turned brilliantly hot. Left by dug out at 9 a.m. and got to Maimong about 3 p.m. 12 miles. The fields here are splendid. In all these villages I have been distributing fruit trees and pine apple suckers - taken out of my own garden. A small shop has been started here by a Khampti - this is a Khampti village - and as it is cutting off some of the trade from one of the Sadiya shop-



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keepers - he is trying to spite him (ref. yesterday's notes).  
6th.

It again rained heavily in the small hours and until dawn and then became sweltering hot. Left by dug out at 9 a.m. and reached Chowkham at 1.30 p.m. ( 6 miles) The fields here are good and the fruit trees doing well. The village continues to improve under the new regime. It appears that the shop keeper, who is making trouble, ~~touts~~ for trade by offering the Khamptis small presents when they come to Sadiya : he then enters the amount up without saying anything and tries to charge them interest : he also mixes up the accounts of living and dead men to the detriment of living. However his blood is on his own head, as there is a well known standing order that transactions with the tribes must be on a cash basis. Credit and subsequent harassing of tribesmen has led to several shop keepers being cut into pieces, as I have told the shop keeper.

7th.

Left Choukham at 8 a.m. by dug out in extreme heat and got to Lathao about 1 p.m. ( 18 miles). There I transhipped to the launch and started for camp at Dihing Mukh. On the way I intercepted an office dak which necessitated a change of plans in the last half of the month. I therefore dropped my camp at Dihing Mukh and proceeded to Sadiya. On the way Mr. Needham, in a dug out with an out board engine, over-took me so I got into it and arrived at Sadiya  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour before the launch at 5 p.m. It is hotter in Sadiya than out on tour. On arrival I got on with work.

8th.

Left at 9 a.m., after completing urgent work, by launch and proceeded to Ningru where I arrived at 5.30 p.m. I was able to finish my office work on the way. There is a marked absence of crocodiles and porpoises this year which the people say is unusual and indicates absence of fish.

9th.

I halted and spent the day going into various matters and



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and looking at the fields. The difference between Khampti and Singpho cultivation is very marked. The former have nearly finished transplanting the latter are weeks behind. The prolonged drought of the last few weeks is *hitting* the cultivation badly. Here it is not irrigated and most of the fields are in hollows dependent on rain.

The Singphos are deservedly diminishing - dirty, lazy, opium sodden, and unreliable. But there are lots of foreigners settlers of the ex tea garden coolie class only too willing to take on their abandoned cultivations. I collected some celts here to send for the petrological survey. There were undoubtedly very ancient trade routes into these parts from Burmah and also from the high hills of Tibet. I have seen ~~and~~ jadeite celts of Burmah and have collected a number legends of the high hills to Tibet which are evidence of intercourse.

It is still roasting hot and abnormal weather.

10th.

Last night was sultry and there was distant lightning. I broke camp at 4 and got down to Sadiya at 9 a.m., and found a very heavy day's office work.

11th.

After completing office and cases I left at 2 p.m. from Mouzadar's ghat for Kobo and Lakhi 21 miles ( 6 p.m. ).

A change in plans has necessitated my going to Pasighat now instead of at the end of the month as was previously arranged.

12th.

Holiday.: no charge. The weather has broken and it started to deluge.

13th, 14th, 15th.

At Pasighat ( 3 miles ) by 9 a.m. A large number of houses from Balek intend to do wet rice cultivation this year. I have therefore brought down the Agricultural Instructor with me to go and see the place, and help them. The sites should be suitable but will have to be carefully examined, because if it



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should be a failure it would set the Abors against this -  
form of cultivation. In the mean time it has deluged -  
continuously day and night. The Assistant Political Officer  
who is on tour to the east, will probably have to remain on  
tour as he can't get back across the flooded streams. -  
I finished the office inspections. The trees planted last -  
month have in many cases died from the heat and drought of the  
last 3 weeks. They<sup>e</sup> were replaced during these 3 days.  
On 15th evening left for Kobo (22 miles at 5 p.m.) so as to make  
an early start tomorrow.

16th.

Left at 6 a.m. for Sadiya reaching Mouzadar's ghat  
at 9.45 a.m. and proceeded to a heavy day's office work and -  
cases.

18th.

Left Sadiya at 2.30 p.m. for Saikhoa and thence by  
train to Shillong.

19th

En route.

20th.

Arrived at Shillong at 12.30 p.m.

21st to 26th.

Halted. As directed by Chief Secretary I had brought  
up numerous files for discussion. I also had discussions with  
Chief Engineer, Conservator, Commissioner of Excise, Under -  
Secretary, Legal ~~Reman~~ Remembrancer and Personal Assistant to  
the Inspector General of Police. The result of which will be  
to diminish both correspondence and expense to Government. A  
most satisfactory. 6 days.

27th to 30th.

Halted and did no work.

31st. Left Shillong at 2.30 for Sadiya.

1st. Arrived Saikhoa 9 p.m. halted.

2nd Left Saikhoa at 8 a.m. arrived Sadiya 10 a.m.

*W. Grace*  
Political Officer,  
Sadiya Frontier Tract.



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OFFICE OF THE POLITICAL OFFICER? SADIYA FRONTIER TRACT. 68  
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|-------------------|--------------|
| ASSAM SECRETARIAT |              |
| Department        |              |
| Reg/Vicr NO.      | 12. OCT 1933 |
| Date of Recpt     | 12. OCT 1933 |
| Diary NO.         | 2464         |

Memo.No. 828 G/XXII - 3.

Dated Sadiya, the 9th October 1933.

Submitted to the Chief Secretary to the Government  
of Assam, Shillong. 12/10  
14/1

M. B. Thapa

Political Officer,  
Sadiya Frontier Tract.

Tour diary of the Political Officer, Sadiya Frontier Tract  
for the month of September and October/33 together with the  
T.A. bill for the months.

M.B.Thapa 6/10.

Pol H, Marib 34 = 1667



TOUR DIARY OF THE POLITICAL OFFICER,  
SADIYA FRONTIER TRACT, FOR THE MONTH  
OF SEPTEMBER 1933.

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5th September. - Left Sadiya for Pasighat at 10.30 A.M. and proceeded by launch to Murkongselek taking the Supervisor, Agricultural Inspector and a contractor with me. Arrived at 1.15 and proceeded to examine sites for a Local Fund Rest House just sanctioned. A suitable site was found well in from the river. The Forest Departmental bungalow might go into the river at any time. If it has to be dismantled, Local Fund may pick up material - chiefly C.I.- quite cheap at the ensuing auction. Inspected the bazaar. I gather from general comments of the Mills employeess that it is infinitely more satisfactory now that the Local Fund has taken it from the Mills. A 700 c.p lamp is being installed there shortly. The labour at the Mills looks well conditioned and happy. Thirty or so of the women will increase the population within the next few months and this also argues for well being.

6th September. - At 9.30 A.M. by road to Pasighat arriving at 11.30 A.M. Enroute I looked at the road parties. The general impression seems to be that the Shingling program is successful. The Kobo tiger continues to mock the local Shikaries who can't hit it, and the black leopard was again shot at and missed last night. Met the Assistant Political Officer at Pasighat and had a general look round. There has been a witch doctoring amongst the "Ajenti". Galongs of Daring just across our administered border. As a result there have been 3 deaths amongst the administered Galongs, and 2 very sick men; and one unoffending old gam had a finger bitten off by a pig and he is in hospital with septic wounds. It has created a very strong feeling. But I find that some of the offenders have deposits in Pasighat and these may possibly be expended on an even stronger counter witch doctoring. I shall have to go to the area this cold weather and learn more.

7th September.- After seeing various Abors in Pasighat. Left at Midday for Kobo

Pal B, Murk / 342 / 1668



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Kobo arriving at 1 P.M. I spent the afternoon doing office work and in the evening a dak from Sadiya arrived.

8th Sept. - Left at 7 A.M. by launch arriving at Pasighat at 11 A.M. and Sadiya at 11.15 A.M., Enroute I did my office dak. I am hoping that in a few years more it will be possible to supply the Permanent Coolli Corps with local Abor grown rice from the wet cultivations at Pasighat. It would save Government money, and profit the Abors in every way.

11th Sept. - Left Sadiya at 3 P.M. to inspect the L.V. Road and campworking at Sumpura. The road will only need light dressing after the next storm. The camp site is well forward and jungle clearing satisfactory. The river has cut little this year but there is no saying what it may do next year. Returned to Sadiya at 6.15 P.M.-28 miles.

13th Sept. - To inspect the Nizamghat Road to Bomjur and back. It is good. Parwanas should issue to the tribes for clearing the jungle. At the 10th mile the bridge might well be shortened I think. I see a new place has been opened near the road for the Abors to do their Shikar Puja- which spells spare time, and cash for gun-powder - their cotton and rice is doing well. 8.4 P.M.-46 miles.

16th Sept. - By launch from Pasighat to Dibrugarh - 11.30 A.M. - 4 P.M. The river is difficult and shoals are many: we got stuck for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. close to our starting point. At the suggestion of Commissioner of Excise I have come to see the Deputy Commissioner concerning some excise matters. Also to arrange a combined visit if possible on the Superintendant of the Frontier Tea Company in connection with land disputes.

17th & 18th Sept. - Halt in Dibrugarh in connection with the matters noted yesterday.

19th Sept. - Left by road at 8 A.M. and arrived Bethani 10.A.M.- 62 miles. The road good. From Bethani by launch to Parghat - miles and so/ to Sadiya by 11.15. On arrival commenced office work. Today is a holiday.

The weather is phenomenal: for over a fortnight now there has been no rain, and the sky is still cloudless. There is a



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a good deal of anxiety for the crops which are dependant on the rainfall- as few are irrigated.

- 22nd Sept. - To the launch ghat (2½ miles) at 8 A.M. and by launch to Kobo and road to Pasighat by 11.15. On arrival I took up cases which the Assistant Political Officer was not able to deal with adequately.
- 23rd Sept. - Miscellaneous work.
- 24th Sept. - By dug out to camp on the Sobia river 9-3. I went down myself with Mr. Needham in a large dugout to which he has attached an out board motor. It certainly makes the dugout a most efficient craft on these rivers and is most economical to run. From this camp I intend to move out in various directions. The weather is stormy- rain and sunshine alternately and the rivers turbid.
- 25th Sept. - Today the Abors showed me with great pride the place where they once cut up the Assam Rajas chief <sup>local</sup> ~~real~~ official. I heard them again at night discussing it and the like round the fire. The Miris and foreigners to this Frontier Tract would have a very poor time if we withdrew. Villagers from around came to see me and discuss their troubles - in main grievances against the Forest Regulations as applied to their boats. Halted.
- 26th Sept. - Today whilst going into some rights of hunting and snaring I saw a crocodile far up a stream in a most unexpected place. The Abors had never seen one although they knew them by name. The Miris said it portended rain, and a flood if it was shot. Apparently the crocodiles go up when the river is low, before the fish come down and there is generally a flood thereafter as the river low is unseasonable at that time. Received an office dak from Sadiya and also the boats from Sadiya arrived. These were to have gone to another river and it will put me back a day as the boats will have to be hauled over land through jungle. Halted.
- 27th Sept. - Continued my enquiries. Apparently each village has a village hunting ground, and each clan in the village an allotted portion. This is for general hunting. But inside this again



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families and individuals have private places for setting snares and traps of various kinds. These rights are jealously guarded. A number of folk tales centre round these rights.

28th Sept. - Left camp at 8 A.M. and proceeded about 8 miles to camp above Seriam village 4 P.M. Seriam used to be a large village but was greatly diminished by sickness. In it are people called Millangs a sept of the Padams - who preserve their own dialect which has many words entirely different from Minyong or Padam. A Padam or Minyong will not understand 2 Millangs talking. Indifferent weather continues.

29th Sept. - Blazing hot today. One of my Miri boatmen has run short of opium and wanted leave to go to a village and get some more. It shows how easy it is to get opium on payment from some pass holder who has a ration in excess of requirement. It is a ~~common~~ common practice but very hard to stop. I had to stay in camp today as the river was rising rapidly and not negotiable. The camp of 15 souls had a day of washing and drying out. Halted.

30th Sept. - Today tried to get up to Banguk village but had to turn back as the water was too heavy for my boat. The witch doctors for incantations have a language which seems to be a survival of an earlier tongue or a separate tongue. The witch doctors themselves say it is an old language spoken once by people right up in the hills beyond and before Abors.

1st October. - Villagers came in to see me today with their usual small worries and information. The crops promise well from the look of fields. And when one has boiled down complaints about crops it is almost always to be found that the complainants are heavy opium consumers.

2nd October. - Left camp at 9 A.M. and went slowly down stream about 10 miles. We put up a herd of wild buffaloes at one place. This is a very deserted area, and there is one marsh in the jungle famous to the Abors as a gathering place for all kinds of wild animals. About noon came to Saraw village. This is in 2 portions. The gam is a runaway slave. His father was bought by a Silluk man a war <sup>capture</sup> ~~capture~~ originally - and he grew up as a slave; XXX



That is to say he had food, cloth, and lodging, but no territorial rights, or say in village affairs. When Government took over 20 years ago, he left Silluk and founded the village. He is a very fine specimen physically.

Crops and health good here and signs of prosperity. Into camp at the junction of the Gonga and Sissar rivers. A blazing hot today.

3rd October. - Left camp at 9 A.M. and went down to Dihangmukh about 8/10 miles. There I met the launch and a dak from Sadiya, which I proceeded to do as we went up to Sadiya. Arrived at a ghat 2 1/2 miles down about 3 P.M. and so home.

*M. Gall*

Political Officer,  
Sadiya Frontier Tract.

M.B. Thapa 6/10.



9/11

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| ASSAM SECRETARIAT             |
| Department                    |
| Register No.                  |
| Date of Receipt 9 - NOV. 1933 |
| Diary No. 2635                |

9/11

Office of the Political Officer, Sadiya Frontier Tract, SADIYA.

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W.C. 9.16.22  
Memo No. 978 G/ XXII -

Dated Sadiya the 6 th November 1933.

The undermentioned document is forwarded to the  
Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam, Shillong.

M. G. Gae  
Political Officer,  
Sadiya Frontier Tract.

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Tour diary of the Political Officer, Sadiya Frontier Tract for the  
month of October 1933 together with his T.A. bill for the month.

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S. Bhattacharjee. 3/11.

Pol B, Memo 34-1668



(75 75)

Tour diary of the Political Officer,  
Sadiya Frontier Tract for the month of

OCTOBER 1933.

The object of this tour was to reestablish friendly personal contact with unadministered Digaru Mishmis up the Lohit Valley. This object was achieved. As only 75 Permanent Coolie Corps coolies were available, the escort had to be restricted to 30 - rifles and yet this only enabled us to be independent of a ration dump for 5 days. The six halts within administered territory - (it is 6 days marching to Theroliang the last place) were rationed in advance for both inward and outward journeys. The 75 permanent coolie corps coolies were sent ahead to form a dump of 10 days - rations at Theroliang. After our 1st day's march into unadministered territory these had to return to Theroliang and bring up 5 more days rations to enable us to advance yet 1 more day, and halt for other days in order to give the Mishmis time to come and see us. We were out 9 days altogether in unadministered territory. Our - average day was 5-6 hrs march and 3-4 hrs camp and perimeter - building. The Assam Rifles got very fit. The Naga coolies who were in the majority fortunately, were excellent. The Gurkhali coolies in different to poor. The cost to Government has been nil. 7th..... Left Sadiya at 9 a.m. and arrived at Paya about 11 a.m. 23½ miles. Here I joined the escort under Capt. Glen which had - just arrived. The day was very hot and sunny, and the men felt the march. There were one or two lame and 1 down with fever. It is - generally the case after 10 days of Pujas with abnormal eating and drinking. In a couple of days they'll be alright.

8th..... Started at 6 a.m. for Tezu and arrived at 12 a.m. A blazing hot day. The men got in about 1.30 marching better than yesterday. Capt. Glen who had developed really bad sore feet before he got to Paya, suffered badly to-day. He feels the heat too and seems very unwell. On arrival I met various Mishmi head men and - heard the news. In the evening a message came that one of my - Gurkhali P.C.C men at Theroliang was missing and had not yet been

P.B. March 34 = 1670

9/10/34