

C O P Y.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA & NEW GUINEA

FORM OF MAGISTRATES INQUIRY.

Territory of Papua.

To wit: Samarai.

Being an Inquiry taken for our Sovereign Lord the King at Samarai in the said Territory on the 17th day of September, 1951, before me Bobby Bunting one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said Territory, as to the whereabouts of one Lachlan Maclean, Second Officer on board M.V. "Awahou", formerly of Tiree, Scotland.

I do find as follows:-

- (a) The said Lachlan Maclean sailed as Second Officer on board M.V. "Awahou" from Sydney for Samarai on 6th September, 1951.
- (b) That whilst at sea, about September 12th, it became apparent to the Master John Eric Hills and Chief Officer James Armstrong, that the said Lachlan Maclean was not well and suffered from temporary lapses of delusion.
- (c) That on Saturday 15th September, 1951, Lachlan Maclean appeared well and healthy and stood his watch commencing at noon that day.
- (d) That Lachlan Maclean was last seen alive, standing along on the bridge during heavy weather by Fijian seaman James McGoan about 1 p.m. on Saturday, September 15th, 1951.
- (e) That shortly after 3 p.m. acting steward Isei Baleilevuka discovered that Lachlan Maclean was not on the bridge at his duty.
- (f) That the "Awahou" was searched and that no trace of Maclean could be found, at position 12 deg. 20' S.- 150 deg. 29' E.

I do therefore conclude:-

- (a) That the said Lachlan Maclean disappeared from the M.V. "Awahou" between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. on Saturday, 15th September, 1951, whilst the "Awahou" was in the vicinity of position 12 deg. 20' S.- 150 deg. 29' E.
- (b) That from the evidence produced I can find no suspicious circumstances surrounding his disappearance.
- (c) That the said Lachlan Maclean is missing and presumed drowned.
- (d) That the said Lachlan Maclean did meet his death by misadventure and not due to the negligence on the part of any person or persons on board the "Awahou".
- (e) That it would have been impossible to find a man in the heavy seas running at the time of his disappearance.

Signed: B. Bunting J.P.