

Diary Entry One

Date: March 10, 1929

Dear Diary,

More than ever today, I felt how burdensome our struggle for freedom is. The Mau movement grows in strength, and our people are more united than I could have ever hoped. Yet every step that we go forward is resisted with a fresh obstruction of New Zealand's government. The 1920 League of Nations Mandate that gave NZ sweeping power of governance over Samoa under a class C mandate, has been felt in the worst ways for too long: New laws imposed on our people, ignoring our customary practices, taking away the authority from the Fono of Faipule, and I cannot stand by while our people suffer in their own land. I find that my Samoan-European origin is a bridge I have to use, in order to put the fight of the people across to the world's understanding. I have reminded the Mau that our way is the peaceful resistance way.

Diary Entry Two

Date: April 12, 1929

Dear Diary,

Today has been a sad day. News has reached us that the New Zealand administration is stepping up its effort to muzzle the Mau. They have been arresting our members. All these things pain me; our peaceful movement is being labelled criminal. I have had countless hours talking strategies with other leaders, and we are ready for further resistance, come what may to our persons. If my exile can save the others and keep the movement alive, then I am willing to make that sacrifice. The Mau is not just a movement; it is our people's hope.

Our people, who have been oppressed so much, one ordinance after another eroding our freedom to movement, meetings, and village practices, we are still battling on for our dignity and right to freedom. I feel pride and sorrow. Pride, for I feel proud that they are true to our cause; sorrow, for I know the struggle yet before us. The colonial administration cannot realise nor conceive that we love Samoa: Samoa mo Samoa. I know they regard me as an agitator, but I am but a mouthpiece for the silent sufferings of our people.

Today, I communicated with the chiefs and exhorted them to hold firm. The Mau symbol has become a serious thing to wear, a personal symbol and declaration of commitment to freedom. But I know it places us in danger; the police grow more aggressive at each peaceful march. Some of the younger men are frustrated; they want instant change, and even retaliation is mentioned. I understand their anger, but I believe the real change will come from stalwart resilience.

Diary Entry Three

Date: December 28, 1929

Dear Diary,

Today is a day of mourning for Samoa. We have lost our loved ones today on this day, now referred to as "Black Saturday." The reports have come in. How brutal it is, to think that at the time of our peaceful march, violence welcomed us- I am unable to forgive or forget it. Our people came onto the streets with only a voice, and the New Zealand forces replied with bullets. I fear this loss will further deepen the gulf between us and the colonial administration. They have even shown us that they will try to use deadly force in attempting to silence us, but they simply don't understand that such gestures strengthen our determination.

I feel helpless stuck in NZ on this enforced banishment. I will continue to write and communicate with Samoan leaders and I will push on with my efforts as I did when I went to protest the mandate in Geneva. Though I was not in Samoa and can do little, their sorrow is my sorrow, and I pledge to them that I will not allow their sacrifice to be in vain. But Black Saturday has only set in concrete my conviction regarding our cause. The world needs to see what New Zealand has done to our people, and I will see that it does.

Diary Entry Four

Date: February 15, 1934

Dear Diary,

As I write tonight, I am overcome with reflections of the path that we have trodden and the route ahead. We shall not accept as our lot an ordained life at the hands of those that do not understand land, custom, or value. I feel proud standing among those who share this vision. For every song sung, every march walked, and every symbol worn-the acts of unity remind me that we are far from defeated. When I finished exile and returned to Samoa in 1933 I immediately rejoined the leadership efforts of the Mau. When General Hart banned me from participating in the fono, I was not deterred. When the authorities raided my home in Tuaeufu, I was not deterred. We must continue to get global awareness of the suffering we face at the hand of this administration. Our international efforts have gained us some momentum. I know that one day the world will see Samoa as we do. Until then, I will continue to lead, to speak, and to stand firm. Let this be my pledge unto Samoa and to generations that will tread this land in peace.

Perspective Two

Key person: [Colonel Sir Stephen Allen]

Diary Entry One

Date: March 15, 1929

Dear Diary,

Today was yet another day spent addressing the mounting unrest in Samoa. The unrest in Samoa is no longer a murmur; it is a movement clothed in navy blue lavalava with a white stripe, the Mau's uniform, worn increasingly openly as a challenge to authority. The Mau movement has grown increasingly bold with more Samoans joining their ranks and openly defying our authority. Nelson and his group have lobbied our government in 1926 seeking Samoan self-rule, and yet have continued to show that are in need of our guidance and experience. My responsibility is plain: New Zealand holds a League of Nations Class C mandate here (confirmed in 1920), and the Samoa Act 1921 vests executive authority in the Administrator to uphold law and order. Progress has been made under our administration, in roads, schooling, and public health infrastructure, but the Mau's civil disobedience threatens stability. I cannot be blind to the audaciousness of Olaf Nelson and his followers, who appear to think they can flout the rule of law without penalty.

I have been in conferences with my advisors, and it is evident that we cannot allow this rebellion to spread further. We are establishing new controls to limit the activities of the Mau and dampen their influence. Some of the chiefs seem to be sympathetic to Nelson's cause, it further complicates our matters. I am willing to arrest them if need be, though I would wish otherwise. Samoa is not ready for independence, and I am convinced that Nelson's rhetoric has blinded their judgments. The movement's motto, "Samoa mo Samoa" ("Samoa for the Samoans"), makes their objective unmistakable, but my charge is equally clear: prevent disorder and protect the mandate. My duty is the welfare and stability of this territory, and I am not going to allow a misled movement to interfere with that.

Diary Entry Two

Date: July 5, 1929

Dear Diary,

It would appear that the Mau's defiance grows more definite, they are determined to demoralise every aspect of our control. Their organisation now spans chiefs, women's committees, and villages, a national movement, not a fringe circle. I see the influence of Nelson in all of this. He does not act content to live under the rule of law but, instead, has filled the Samoan people with unreal expectations of independence. Western Samoa does not have the resources and infrastructure to survive on its own, and the actions of the Mau threaten to unwind the progress we have, up to this point in time, enjoyed.

Today our patrols and presence in those villages known to be Mau strongholds were increased. I know these measures may sound harsh, but they are necessary. If the Mau wishes to test our resolve, they will very shortly find that the administration will not be provoked by them. We have started detaining their leaders, hoping this will break their will. I must confess, however, that I sometimes wonder how history will view this chapter. This approach is consistent with our legal framework and the Administrator's obligation to maintain order under the mandate and the Samoa Act 1921. We are striving to get peace and order, but the continual provocations from the Mau make it hard to see any light on the way of solution. Anyway, I am doing my duty, and the Samoan people will thank us someday for having kept order.

Diary Entry Three

Date: December 30, 1929

Dear Diary,

Yesterday was a day not easy to forget. Events of "Black Saturday" have shaken me to my bones, yet I am also convinced that what we did was needed. A peaceful protest by the Mau degenerated into absolute mayhem, and lives were lost on both sides, including a senior officer. The situation got out of hand, radically beyond anything we could have foreseen, and I am afraid that I find myself strongly irritated at Nelson and his cohorts for pushing their cause with such utter abandon. Samoan casualties included Tupua Tamasese Lealofi III and others, up to 11 Samoans killed, and Constable Abraham was beaten to death. "One Lewis gun... was fired over the heads of the people... No one was struck by machine-gun fire." This was to deter the crowd but panic and rifle fire followed, with tragic effect. They should have known that marching in defiance of the law brought sanctions. Nevertheless, the life that was taken is an abhorrent outcome that leaves much on my mind. This tragedy brings the need for order to be reclaimed in Samoa with no further delay. It is my duty to ensure that peace is maintained and New Zealand's mandate over Samoa respected.

Diary Entry Four

Date: February 20, 1930

Dear Diary,

Mau's resistance puzzles me in spite of our strenuous efforts to keep them in check. In the weeks since Black Saturday, we have moved decisively. On 13 January 1930 I declared the Mau seditious and banned the Mau uniform, after they refused to surrender wanted men or vacate their headquarters. These proceedings followed due process "*The inquest began on Thursday, January 2, and the Mau was declared seditious on Monday, January 13... Thirty witnesses were called.*" Again the Mau continue undeterred. As many as 1,500 Mau withdrew to the bush, aided by villagers with food and intelligence. To restore order, we have deployed 150 marines and seamen from HMS *Dunedin*, supported by 50 military police and a seaplane for reconnaissance. Since that fateful Black Saturday, they have continued unabated.

Today, I ordered increased surveillance of known Mau supporters. I realise this is a sensitive area, but we cannot afford any more disruption. I know my decision will be unpopular among the Samoans, but I sincerely feel it is called for in the best interest of Western Samoa's future. One day, they will, perhaps, understand that our governance did not seek to oppress but to develop and stabilise. Till that day, my mind is made up: if the Mau continues to defy our authority, they shall come to understand that we are more than ready to enforce obedience to the rule of law.