only bait dangled before me. They had seen Capt. Mercer
× ~~had~~ he reported a flat on the Arrowsmith about 30 miles up & about two
miles below the Gorge where he had been able to land
his plane. And the proposal was to fly the party
& all stores to this plane & make a good base camp
there. This was indeed up to date climbing & as they had
made all arrangements about provisions, I saw I was in for
a luxury trip. The party to consist of the ladies & myself
Alec Graham & Jack Cox a guide at the Waikato, & the only question
was whether Capt. Mercer could get the party & the stores down in
three trips. He was often going down to Jacksons Bay with
the mail or a passenger & took some things down ~~that way~~ there before we started.
Then on ~~the Guide Morning~~ Feb. 23 1935 in good weather he set off with
Jack Cox & tents and as much of the stores as he could carry,
& landed them on the flat up the river. & ~~returned~~. Alex Graham
& I went down on his return with more stores. It was
most interesting as we flew down the coast to get a view
of the country which was less changed with the Alpine
range above it, & to get occasional glimpses of the
bridle track I had often ridden. Before landing
Capt. Mercer flew up the river far enough to us to
get a view of the upper river where it turned left.
& to see the country we should have to go thro' to get to
open country above the bush. × × We landed to find
that Cox had made a good start in preparing a camp

× In Capt. Mercer is no get there as quick as you can pilot
He has a great interest in the hills & ~~will~~ is always ready to go up
or down or out of his course or take a photograph that will
help or attract his passengers. & by means of the speaking tube
is a continual guide to the country he is flying over. ×