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PATROL REPORTS

District : Western

Station : Kiunga

Volume : 2

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Period : 1939-1940

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Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF P.N.G. - WAIGANI.

PATROL REPORT OF: KIUNGA

ACC. No: 496.

Volume No: 2..... 1939/40..... Number of Reports: 1.....

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TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of *Kimunga* Report No. *2/39-40*

Patrol Conducted by *R. L. Lumsden*

Area Patrolled *Elevata R.*

Patrol Accompanied by—Europeans *1/1*

Natives *19*

Duration—From *25/6/39* to *8/7/39*

Number of Days *14*

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? *no*

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services *...../...../19.....*

Medical *...../...../19.....*

Map Reference *.....*

Objects of Patrol *Leasin*

DIRECTOR OF DISTRICT SERVICES
AND NATIVE AFFAIRS,
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

/ 19

District Officer

Amount Paid for War Damage Compensation *£.....*

Amount Paid from D.N.E. Trust Fund *£.....*

Amount Paid from P.E.D.P. Trust Fund *£.....*

Report of patrol to the Elevala River District by R.C.M. Turner P.O. for purposes of (1) establishing a base camp (2) providing protection for Island Exploration Co. field parties, (3) contacting local natives and (4) securing local A.C.s for Daru Detachment.

Sunday 25th June 1939.

After waiting for the morning wireless schedule left Kiunga for the Elevala R. per canoe at 9.45 a.m. I took with me A.C.s URUBI, TOBOSO and TOAKIPU and for carriers I had 8 prisoners, 4 Ok-Tedis and 4 Awins. The Fly was low and squally although the main current was sluggish, there no back-eddies to help us and the going was slow. Stopped for lunch at 11.45 a.m. on a sandspit about three miles from Kiunga. Went on again at 12.30 p.m. and continued on until 5.30 p.m. at which time we camped on the right hand bank of the river. Estimate distance travelled to-day about twelve miles.

Monday 26th June 1939.

Left camp at 7 a.m. per canoe. Continued paddling upstream and reached Elevala Junction at 9.50 a.m. Spelled ~~saxiara~~ paddlers and started again at 10.15 a.m. in heavy rain, paddling up the Elevala R. The going here is slightly faster than that of the Fly. Stopped at 12.15 p.m. for lunch and left again at 1 p.m. After lunch the speed of the current increased and the paddlers found the going much heavier. At 4 p.m. saw an Awin native on the bank - the first sign of life since leaving Kiunga. A.C. URUBI was able to communicate with him by signs and induced him to sell him his bow and arrows to shoot flying foxes, thousands of which were continually rising from the surrounding bush. Made camp at 4.45 p.m. on the left hand bank of the river.

Tuesday 27th June 1939.

Left camp at 7 a.m. per canoe. Continued upstream against a stronger current than yesterday. During the morning passed several hunting parties of Awins and bought food from them. Stopped at 11.30 a.m. for lunch at an old IECO camp site. Left again at 12.30 p.m., continued paddling all afternoon and made camp on the left hand bank at 5.45 p.m. The IECO launch Tedi, with Mr. Larking on board, arrived at 6 p.m. and his party made camp nearby.

Wednesday 28th June 1939.

Left camp at 7.30 a.m., police and carriers continuing in the canoes, while I accepted Mr. Larking's invitation to travel in the Tedi to the Elevala Base Camp. Arrived at the camp at 10.30 a.m. Camp in ruins, and the site covered with secondary growth. Left at 1.10 p.m. and returned about 4 miles downstream. Mr. Larking selected a site for a new base camp and landed stores and IECO labourers. After starting labourers on clearing work left again in per Tedi at 3.30 p.m. to bring the canoes up. Found them about three miles downstream, took the police and carriers on board and the canoes in tow and returned to the camp site at 4.50 p.m. Made camp.

Thursday 29th June 1939.

In camp. Rain all day and river rising. Prisoners and carriers clearing site of new base camp. During the afternoon several Awins and Pares visited the camp. Saw a quantity breadfruit purchased. Made enquiries about the people inhabiting the district to the south, through Mr. Bullock's party is cutting from the June R. *but nothing* Awins nor Pares were able to tell me anything. Interpretation was *poor and* *SHALL* probably get more from them when that improves. Some of them *said that the*

district was entirely uninhabited while another stated that it was the land of the departed spirits. ~~xxxxxx~~

Friday 30th June 1939.

In camp. River still rising. Mr. Larking left at 9 a.m. for Kiunga per Tedi. Discoverers and carriers building a store for the base camp. Self packing stores with which to do a short patrol along the old track to the Strickland. Awins and Pares in camp during the morning with a small quantity of bananas and breadfruit for sale. During the evening A.C. MARABAU, on detail duty with Mr. Larking's party, reported having contracted V.D. Left a note for Mr. Larking asking him to return MARABAU to Kiunga at the first opportunity.

Saturday 1st July 1939

Left camp at 7 a.m. and turned south. After about five minutes walk climbed a steep hill to the local village composed of one community house. We found that the guides who had promised to take us to the Strickland track had gone away the previous night. Got some instructions as to the track to follow and took a track from the village running south. Followed this for about half a mile and then swung east still keeping to the top of the ridge. After about a mile left the ridge, waded through an extensive sago swamp and reached a large taro and banana garden. Immediately after leaving the garden reached two community houses situated on the crest of a ridge. This village is, I think, to the south of the old base camp. Followed the ridge along, NNE direction, and reached the Elevala-Strickland track at 8.30 a.m. at a point SE of the old base camp. Followed this track all day in a generally easterly direction. Passed through several IBCO labour camps and stopped for lunch at the IBCO No. 2 camp. Left again at 12.15. Struck a community house, in good condition but deserted, at 1.45 p.m. and dropped down to cross a large creek. Reached the IBCO Camp 3 at 2.30 p.m. and made camp.

Sunday 2nd July 1939.

Left camp at 7 a.m. in light rain and continued along the IBCO track in a general easterly direction. At 7.45 a.m. reached an old deserted community house on the top of a hill. Continued on and reached another, more recently deserted, at 8.30 a.m. From this village a good view was obtained of the country to the east for about 6 or 7 miles. It appeared densely wooded with swamps and low hills. Dropped down to this country and shortly after met two natives on the road. They led us to their village which consists of one community house a few hundred yards past the IBCO camp 4. Arrived at 9.30 a.m. At this village about 30 PARES or, as they called themselves, GAIA-PARES were gathered and I was able to buy quite a large quantity of sago. These people were extremely friendly and crowded around us with shouts of "Senai! Senai! Amuni! Amuni!" (Peace! Peace! Good! Good!) Our Awin interpreters had great difficulty in making themselves understood but this did not in any way lessen the cordiality of our relations. In their clothing as well as in their behaviour they differed greatly from the Awins - almost all wore headdresses of varied styles. Bird of Paradise plumes, cassowary and white cockatoo feathers and cuscus skins were cut to individual patterns. Most of them wore their hair dressed in matted tails down their necks and almost all had black-string tails, hornbill beaks and twisted cane circles hanging from the back of their belts. Ropes of red, yellow and grey native beads were worn from both shoulders, bandolier-fashion, from shoulder to armpit. A pit-latrine was observed about ten yards from the house - have since

(3)

noticed one or more of these in all Pare or Gaia-Pare villages. Left this village at 10.15 a.m. and continued on until 11 a.m. when I stopped for lunch at one of the IECO camps. Left again at 12.30. Country around here was very low-lying and wet until about 3 p.m. we started to climb to the top of a high ridge from which we were able to look back to the ridge we had crossed early in the morning. Passed a desert community house on this ridge and followed along the top of the ridge to camp at 3.45 p.m. in heavy rain. Shortly after making camp a party of 8 Gaia-Pares arrived in camp with a pig and a quantity of sage to sell. These people also were effectively friendly and one of them expressed his willingness to go to Dara as a policeman. Heavy rain all night.

Monday 3rd July 1939.

Local Gaia-Pares again in camp with a small quantity of sage for sale. Left at 7.45 a.m. and followed the IECO track. Passed several deserted houses, leaving the last about 10.15 a.m. From then on the track was mainly through swamps and no further signs of habitation were seen. Reached the Strickland R. No. 5. camp at 12.45 and made camp. River. low.

Tuesday 4th July 1939.

In camp all day spelling carriers, several of whom are suffering from sore feet. A small party of local Pares in camp and a small quantity of taro and sage bought. Was unable to find out from them where their villages were or ^{to be found} that I wanted them to guide me to the Pare villages next day.

Wednesday 5th July 1939.

Left camp at 7 a.m. and returned about half a mile in a westerly direction along survey track. From here turned south and followed the footprints of yesterday's visitors. Their tracks took us in a SSE direction for about three miles - the first mile through sage swamps and then over low hills. Arrived at their village - a community house surrounded by newly planted taro gardens - at 8.25 a.m. Two of yesterday's visitors were at the house and although unable to buy any food we were able to induce one of them to guide us along the track. This among NE and finally N, past several abandoned houses and villages until we finally reached the survey track at 10.15 a.m. Continued on until 10.30 and then stopped for lunch beside a small fenced taro garden. Just as we were about to depart at 12.15 two Pare men approached us and we were able to persuade them to guide us along a track to their village - less than a mile to the south of the IECO track. Continued on after buying a large quantity of sage along an excellent track which ran roughly parallel with the IECO track. Passed through several sage swamps and reached another community house at 1.45. This was about half a mile from the survey road and one side of the house was shaded by small coconut palms all bearing well. Bought a quantity of sage and coconuts from the people and proceeded on along the IECO track. Reached last Sunday's camp at 3.30 p.m. and made camp. About 20 of the local Gaia-Pares were again in camp with sage, breadfruit and taro for sale. Was more successful with interpretation than on the former visit. These people promised to take us along a track to the north by which we will be able to reach the Elevala or Gaia as they call it in one day.

(4)

Thursday 6th July 1939.

The local Gaia-Pares arrived in camp at 6.30 a.m. with the news that they had made a mistake yesterday and that the Gaia was really 5 days away over very rough country. They appeared to regret having told us about the short cut and anxious for us to go on the old road. Decided to risk the five days trip and try the new track so left camp at 7.15 a.m. After about 10 minutes walking reached these people's villages which consist of two large community house situated about a quarter of a mile from each other. After leaving these houses we were led along a winding but fairly good track through very broken and thickly timbered country. The track twisted and turned in all directions in an effort to keep to the top of the ridges but the general direction taken was NW. This continued until 11.15 a.m. when we dropped down to the Elevala R. The river was running strongly and appeared to be much the same size as at the base camp. Lunched and commenced building three rafts. While cutting timber for the rafts we discovered an old camp in the scrub which, judging from its age and the two bed-timbers, I think must be one of Hides and Lyall's. Rafts complete and left at 4 p.m. Took a compass traverse as we went downstream. Numerous snags in the river were a constant source of trouble and eventually at 5.15 p.m. one almost capsized the raft and put the compass out of action. Made camp at 5.20 p.m. Our Gaia-Pare guides who had disappeared while the rafts were being built had appeared again and again on the bank, taking short cuts through the bush, to shout to us as we went past. Several of them came into camp during the evening but disappeared during the night.

Friday 7th July 1939.

No sign of the Gaia-Pares this morning - also the one who had said he would go to Dara as a local A.C. Left camp at 8.15 a.m. in light rain on a river which had risen 4 feet during the night. Continued compass traverse. Passed to good banana gardens both on the right hand bank. At 8.40 passed the raft which had been first to get away gyrating in a back-eddy, from which the crew were making strenuous efforts to escape. Loud whooping some five minutes later told us that they had succeeded in getting back into the main current. Shortly after this occurred an incident which greatly entertained the raft crews. I had been successful in bringing down with a shotgun a hornbill as it flew over the raft and as the bird hit the water a prisoner-carrier and my dog plunged into the water together and swam upstream after it. They reached it together and we were all greatly amused by the diverting spectacle of the dog and the prisoner fighting in midstream for the wounded hornbill which was just as strenuously defending itself against both. The prisoner at last outwitted the dog by pulling the bird under water and holding it with his feet while he swam back to the raft. Went on until 9.45 a.m. and then pulled into the bank to spell the raft crews who were feeling the cold badly. Left again at 10.15 a.m. At 11.20 a.m. swung round a sharp bend to find three trees locked together blocking the river. The crew of the first raft were repairing the wreckage of their raft on the far side of the barrier. Our raft was thrown against the blockage and jamming under a log was swamped. By strenuous effort we managed to keep the raft from capsizing while we chopped the logs through with tomahawks. This was accomplished and the raft freed but not before the third raft, with the rice, was also jammed and swamped. Continued on downstream and at 12.5 p.m.

(5)

passed the mouth of a river which appeared bigger and stronger than the CAIA, down which we were travelling. This the Avins called the Wai-Uagi - the U almost silent. The river widened out considerably and the speed of travelling was increased slightly. Stopped at 1.15 p.m. for lunch and left again at 3 p.m. Shortly after 4 p.m. the river narrowed and hills rose steeply from the banks. At 4.50 p.m. we passed the IECO base camp and continued on to the new base camp about 4 miles downstream. Arrived at 6 p.m. Mr. Larking was in camp having arrived the previous day. He had with him some official mail and radios for us which required answering and as his radio set was out of order I accepted his invitation to accompany him to Kiunga on the following day per launch.

Saturday 8th July 1939.

Left camp at 9 a.m. per launch Tedi. Made very good time with a flooded river under us and reached Elevala Junction at 1.10 p.m. Found the Fly also flooded and continuing downstream at 15 knots arrived at Kiunga at 3 p.m. Advised R.M. of arrival by radio.

General.

New base camp. The new base camp has been established at a spot about 4 miles below the old one. This has been done so that the camp will be close to the spot at which Mr. Bullock expects to strike the Mak Elevala R. The position is not as good as the old one but it is out of reach of any average sized flood. From the point of view of proximity to the Strickland it is not quite as good but the trip can still be done in three days. Should the IECO ever wish to operate on the Strickland again I should advise establishing a base camp where my rafts were built. From this point the Strickland can be reached in less than 9 hours by loaded carriers. When seen by me the river was easily navigable by launch as far as I went.

Local Natives. Friendly contact was made with all the natives seen with varying degrees of success. The greatest success was with the Gaia-Pares who were most enthusiastic over us - the Pares of the Strickland and the Avins of the Elevala were much more retiring and shy.

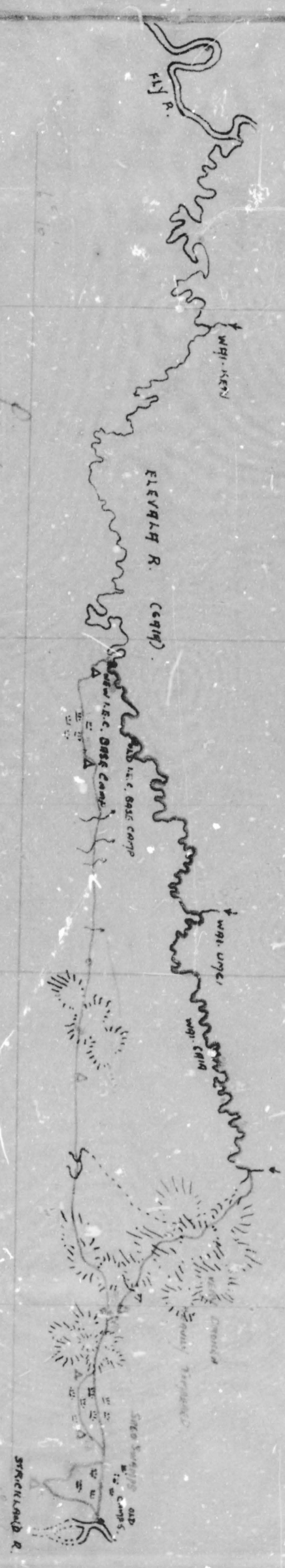
Local A.C.s I was unable to bring down any Local A.C.s this time but that is only due to my hurried departure. As far as the Gaia-Pares are concerned I anticipate no difficulty in that direction as several of them were anxious to come. I am returning to the Elevala to-morrow and I hope to find them in the camp when I get there.

Reu Larking

P.O.W.D.
10/7/39

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[G.P. 67]

PATROL REPORT

STATION NUMBER
of 1939/40

Kiunga Police Camp.

STATION

REPORT OF A PATROL made by

R.C.M. Turner P.O.

Kilevua R. District

for the purpose of

- (1) establishing a base camp. (2) providing protection for Island Expiration Co.
field parties. (3) contacting local natives. (4) securing Local A.C.s for Daru.

Left Station on 25/6/39

Returned to Station on 8/7/39

Number of Carriers employed 16

Number of Police taken 3

Name of Vessel used and of Officer in Charge

Villages visited

(1) Unless the patrol is a regular routine patrol in a long-settled district a sketch map of the district patrolled should accompany the report, showing, as nearly as possible, the positions of the places visited and a copy is to be made for filing on the station.

(2) In the body of the report the name of the village should be followed by the name of the V.C. The number of houses and the population, as nearly as possible, should also be stated. The customs of the natives should as much as possible be noted and reported.

(3) The Patrol Report is to be enclosed in this jacket, which, properly filled in, is to be sent to the Government Secretary immediately after each patrol.

(4) The space below is not to be written in.

(5) The cost of the patrol must be shown on the back, in the space provided.

8926/10.39.—1,000.

Forwarded to the Government Secretary

Date 26/7/39, 19

Officer in charge of Station

Report of patrol to the Elevala River District by R.C.M. Turner P.O. for purposes
(1) establishing a base camp (2) providing protection for Island Exploration
Co. field parties, (3) contacting local natives and (4) securing local A.C.s for
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In camp. River still rising. Mr. Larking left at 9 a.m. for Kiunga per Tedi. Prisoners and carriers building a store for the base camp. Self packing stores with which to do a short patrol along the old track to the Strickland. Awins and Pares in camp during the morning with a small quantity of bananas and breadfruit for sale. During the evening A.C. MARABAU, on detail duty with Mr. Larking's party, reported having contacted V.D. Left a note for Mr. Larking asking him to return MARABAU to Kiunga at the first opportunity.

Saturday 1st July 1939.

Left camp at 7 a.m. and turned south. After about five minutes walk climbed a steep hill to the local village composed of one community house. We found that the guides who had promised to take us to the Strickland track had gone away the previous night. Got some instructions as to the track to follow and took a track from the village running south. Followed this for about half a mile and then swung east still keeping to the top of the ridge. After about a mile left the ridge, waded through an extensive sago swamp and reached a large taro and banana garden. Immediately after leaving the garden reached two community houses situated on the crest of a ridge. This village is, I think, to the south of the old base camp. Followed the ridge along, ENE direction, and reached the Elevala-Strickland track at 8.30 a.m. at a point SE of the old base camp. Followed this track all day in a generally easterly direction. Passed through several IECO labour camps and stopped for lunch at the IECO No. 2 camp. Left again at 12.15. Struck a community house, in good condition but deserted, at 1.45 p.m. and dropped down to cross a large creek. Reached the IECO Camp 3 at 2.30 p.m. and made camp.

Sunday 2nd July 1939.

Left camp at 7 a.m. in light rain and continued along the IECO track in a general easterly direction. At 7.45 a.m. reached an old deserted community house on the top of a hill. Continued on and reached another, more recently deserted, at 8.30 a.m. From this village a good view was obtained of the country to the east for about 5 or 7 miles. It appeared densely wooded with swamps and low hills. Dropped down to this country and shortly after met two natives on the road. They led us to their village which consists of one community house a few hundred yards past the IECO camp 4. Arrived at 9.30 a.m. At this village about 30 PARES or, as they called themselves, GATA-PARES were gathered and I was able to buy quite a large quantity of sago. These people were extremely friendly and crowded around us with shouts of "Sonu! Sonu! Amani! Amani!" (Peace! Peace! Good! Good!) Our Awin interpreters had great difficulty in making themselves understood but this did not in any way lessen the cordiality of our relations. In their clothing as well as in their behaviour they differed greatly from the Awins - almost all wore headdresses of varied styles. Band of Paradise plumes, cassowary and white cockatoo feathers and orcas skins were cut to individual patterns. Most of them wore their hair dressed in matted tails down their necks and almost all had black-string tails, hornbill beaks and twisted cane circles hanging from the back of their belts. Ropes of red, yellow and grey native beads were worn from both shoulders, bandolier-fashion, from shoulder to armpit. A pit-latrine was observed about ten yards from the house - have since

noticed one or more of these in all Pare or Gaia-Pare villages. Left this village at 10.15 a.m. and continued on until 11 a.m. when I stopped for lunch at one of the IECO camps. Left again at 12.30. Country around here was very low-lying and wet until about 3 p.m. we started to climb to the top of a high ridge from which we were able to look back to the ridge we had crossed early in the morning. Passed a deserted community house on this ridge and followed along the top of the ridge to camp at 3.45 p.m. in heavy rain. Shortly after making camp a party of 8 Gaia-Pares arrived in camp with a pig and a quantity of sage to sell. These people also were effusively friendly and one of them expressed his willingness to go to Dara as a policeman. Heavy rain all night.

Monday 3rd July 1939.

Local Gaia-Pares again in camp with a small quantity of sage for sale. Left at 7.45 a.m. and followed the IECO track. Passed several deserted houses, leaving the last about 10.15 am. From then on the track was mainly through swamps and no further signs of habitation were seen. Reached the Strickland R. No. 5. camp at 12.45 and made camp. River. low.

Tuesday 4th July 1939.

In camp all day spelling carriers, several of whom are suffering from sore feet. A small party of local Pares in camp and a small quantity of taro and sage bought. Was unable to find out from them where their villages were ^{all these} or that I wanted them to guide me to the Pare villages next day.

Wednesday 5th July 1939.

Left camp at 7 a.m. and returned about half a mile in a westerly direction along survey track. From here turned south and followed the footprints of yesterday's visitors. Their tracks took us in a SSE direction for about three miles - the first mile through sage swamps and then over low hills. Arrived at their village - a community house surrounded by newly planted taro gardens - at 8.25 a.m. Two of yesterday's visitors were at the house and although unable to buy any food we were able to induce one of them to guide us along the track. This swung NE and finally N, past several abandoned houses and villages until we finally reached the survey track at 10.15 a.m. Continued on until 10.30 and then stopped for lunch beside a small fenced taro garden. Just as we were about to depart at 12.15 two Pare men approached us and we were able to persuade them to guide us along a track to their village - less than a mile to the south of the IECO track. Continued on after buying a large quantity of sage along an excellent track which ran roughly parallel with the IECO track. Passed through several sage swamps and reached another community house at 1.45. This was about half a mile from the survey road and one side of the house was shaded by small coconut palms all bearing well. Bought a quantity of sage and coconuts from the people and proceeded on along the IECO track. Reached last Sunday's camp at 3.30 p.m. and made camp. About 20 of the local Gaia-Pares were again in camp with sage, breadfruit and taro for sale. Was more successful with interpretation than on the former visit. These people promised to take us along a track to the north by which we will be able to reach the Elevala or Gaia as they call it in one day.

Thursday 6th July 1939.

The local Gaia-Pares arrived in camp at 6.30 a.m. with the news that they had made a mistake yesterday and that the Gaia was really 5 days away over very rough country. They appeared to regret having told us about the short cut and anxious for us to go on the old road. Decided to risk the five days trip and try the new track so left camp at 7.15 a.m. After about 10 minutes walking reached these people's villages which consist of two large community house situated about a quarter of a mile from each other. After leaving these houses we were led along a winding but fairly good track through very broken and thickly timbered country. The track twisted and turned in all directions in an effort to keep to the top of the ridges but the general direction taken was NW. This continued until 11.15 a.m. when we dropped down to the Elevala R. The river was running strongly and appeared to be much the same size as at the base camp. Lunched and commenced building three rafts. While cutting timber for the rafts we discovered an old camp in the scrub which, judging from its age and the two bed-timbers, I think must be one of Hides and Lyall's. Rafts complete and left at 4 p.m. Took a compass traverse as we went downstream. Numerous snags in the river were a constant source of trouble and eventually at 5.15 p.m. one almost capsized the raft and put the compass out of action. Made camp at 5.20 p.m. Our Gaia-Pare guides who had disappeared while the rafts were being built had appeared again and again on the bank, taking short cuts through the bush, to shout to us as we went past. Several of them came into camp during the evening but disappeared during the night.

Friday 7th July 1939.

No sign of the Gaia-Pares this morning - also the one who had said he would go to Daru as a local A.C. Left camp at 8.15 a.m. in light rain on a river which had risen 4 feet during the night. Continued compass traverse. Passed to good banana gardens both on the right hand bank. At 8.40 passed the raft which had been first to get away gyrating in a back-eddy, from which the crew were making strenuous efforts to escape. Loud whooping some five minutes later told us that they had succeeded in getting back into the main current. Shortly after this occurred an incident which greatly entertained the raft crews. I had been successful in bringing down with a shotgun a hornbill as it flew over the raft and as the bird hit the water a prisoner-carrier and my dog plunged into the water together and swam upstream after it. They reached it together and we were all greatly amused by the diverting spectacle of the dog and the prisoner fighting in midstream for the wounded hornbill which was just as strenuously defending itself against both. The prisoner at last outwitted the dog by pulling the bird under water and holding it with his feet while he swam back to the raft. Went on until 9.45 a.m. and then pulled into the bank to spell the raft crews who were feeling the cold badly. Left again at 10.15 a.m. At 11.20 a.m. swung round a sharp bend to find three trees locked together blocking the river. The crew of the first raft were repairing the wreckage of their raft on the far side of the barrier. Our raft was thrown against the blockage and jamming under a log was swamped. By strenuous efforts we managed to keep the raft from capsizing while we chopped the logs through with tomahawks. This was accomplished and the raft freed but not before the third raft, with the lice, was also jammed and swamped. Continued on downstream and at 12.15 p.m.

(5)

passed the mouth of a river which appeared bigger and stronger than the GAIA, down which we were travelling. This the Avins called the Wai-Uagi - the U almost silent. The river widened out considerably and the speed of travelling was increased slightly. Stopped at 1.15 p.m. for lunch and left again at 3 p.m. Shortly after 4 p.m. the river narrowed and hills rose steeply from the bank. At 4.10 p.m. we passed the old IECC base camp and continued on to the new base camp about 4 miles downstream. Arrived at 6 p.m. Mr. Larking was in camp having arrived the previous day. He had with him some official mail and radios for me which required answering and as I's radio set was out of order I accepted his invitation to accompany him to Kiunga on the following day per launch.

Saturday 8th July 1939.

Left camp at 9 a.m. per launch Tedi. Made very good time with a flooded river under us and reached Elevala Junction at 1.10 p.m. Found the Fly also flooded and continuing downstream at 15 knots arrived at Kiunga at 3 p.m. Advised R.E. of arrival by radio.

General.

New base camp. The new base camp has been established at a spot about 4 miles below the old one. This has been done so that the camp will be close to the spot at which Mr. Bullock expects to strike the Wai Elevala R. The position is not as good as the old one but it is out of reach of any average sized flood. From the point of view of proximity to the Strickland it is not quite as good but the trip can still be done in three days. Should the IECC ever wish to operate on the Strickland again I should advise establishing a base camp where my rafts were built. From this point the Strickland can be reached in less than 9 hours by loaded carriers. When seen by me the river was easily navigable by launch as far as I went.

Local Natives. Friendly contact was made with all the natives seen with varying degrees of success. The greatest success was with the Gaia-Pares who were most enthusiastic over us - the Pares of the Strickland and the Avins of the Elevala were much more retiring and shy.

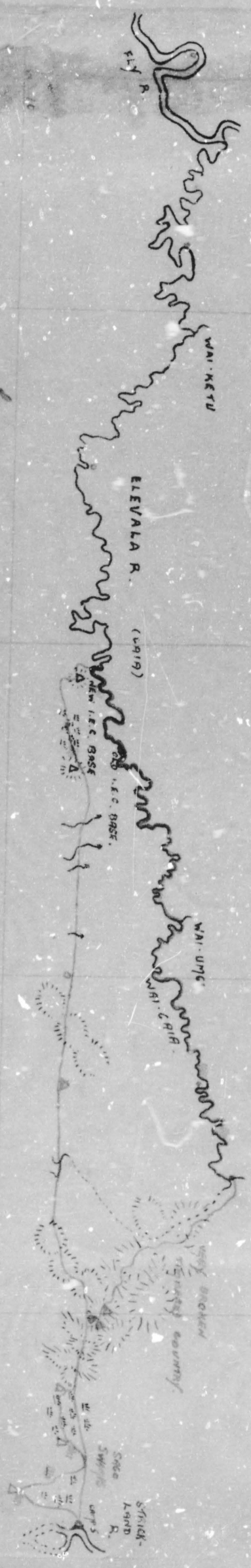
Local A.C.s I was unable to bring down any Local A.C.s this time but that is only due to my hurried departure. As far as the Gaia-Pares are concerned I anticipate no difficulty in that direction as several of them were anxious to come. I am returning to the Elevala to-morrow and I hope to find them in the camp when I get there.

R.E. W.D.
R.E.W.D.
10/7/39

Remarks by R.E.W.D.

I placed the P.O. at Elevala Base to make further contact with the PARES as I intend him to go to the Karim Range in August. Mr. Beharrell did not reach the large villages seen from the air, but will suggest P.O. Turner goes up the Rantoul and strikes N.W. from there. P.O. Turner seems a man of initiative, and I am hoping his patrol will be successful.

R.E. W.D.
R.E.W.D. 26/7/39



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