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PATROL REPORTS

DISTRICT: GULF

STATION: IHU, 1959 - 1960

Original documents bound with reports
for: Beara, volume 8.

Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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GULF DISTRICT PATROL REPORTS

1959/60

BEARA & IHU

| <u>Report No.</u> | <u>Officer Conducting Patrol</u> | <u>Area Patrolled</u> |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| <u>BEARA</u> | | |
| 1 - 59/60 | M.G.Atyeo | Kaimare Census Division |
| 2 - 59/60 | M.G.Atyeo | Koriki Census Division |
| 3 - 59/60 | M.G.Atyeo | Baimutu Census Division |
| 4 - 59/60 | M.G.Atyeo | Baroi Census Division |
| 5 - 59/60 | M.G.Atyeo | Iari and Mappua Census Divisions and Five Koriki Villages |
| 6 - 59/60 | M.G.Atyeo | Koriki Census Division |
| <u>IHU</u> | | |
| 3 - 59/60 | J.P.Fowke | Upper Vailala |



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of GULF Report No. IHU 3 59/60

Patrol Conducted by J. P. FOWKE

Area Patrolled UPPER VAITALA

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans YES

Natives OBE RP&NGC ONE INTERPRETER

Duration—From 22 / 1 / 1960 to 4 / 2 / 1960

Number of Days TWELVE

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? YES

Last Patrol to Area by District Services 12c 12 / 58 / 1958

Medical 58 / 1958

Map Reference DISTRICT FOUR GD

Objects of Patrol SEE PATROL INSTRUCTIONS

DIRECTOR OF DISTRICT SERVICES
AND NATIVE AFFAIRS,
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

/ / 19

District Commissioner

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

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

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

67-2-13.

28th March, 1960.

District Officer,
Gulf District,
KIRIWA.

PATROL REPORT - ITH 1/59.60 UPPER VAILALA.

Practically all sweeping generalisations are not true. I refer to alleged indolence, laziness and dishonesty attributed to all the people. Even if only one man is not lazy then the statement is illogical.

It is preferable to refer to the draught of a vessel rather than to type when writing of the navigability of rivers.

Circular Instruction No. 40/46-47 requires that all group movements be voluntary, and with the approval of all the people.

The Roads Maintenance Ordinance rescinds by implication the relevant Regulation of the Native Regulations.

It would appear that the S.D.A. teacher is well able to take a hint.

The Councillors are the representatives of the people, and as such should be elected by them. The Village Constable is the representative of the Administration and as such should be appointed. Perhaps I have misconstrued Mr. Fowke's statement in the penultimate paragraph of the section on Village Officials.

An interesting report of an ably executed patrol.

(T.S. Archison)
Acting Director

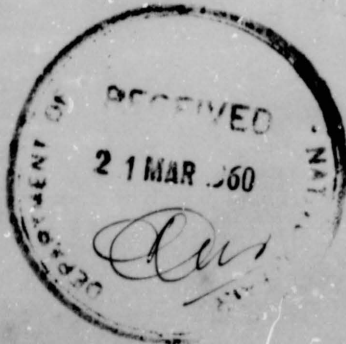
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TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

67/2/13 ✓

AKJ:DSH



In Reply
Please Quote

No. 67-2-4

District Office,
Gulf District,
KEREMA.

10th March, 1960.

The Director,
Department of Native Affairs,
KONEDOBU.

PATROL IHU 3 - UPPER VAILALA.

Enclosed is a report on the above patrol by J.P. Fowke,
C.P.O.

NATIVE AGRICULTURE.

Thorough research into the reason why natives (of the Vailala area) do not grasp the opportunity to raise living standards is germane to the success of any venture. I consider "indolence" or "laziness" are loaded words (also begging the question) which should be skirted; the reasons must be more deeply investigated. If natives are unwilling to exert themselves they either do not consider the rewards worth the pain, or are incapable of the exertion, or a mixture of both. I consider the last is the case.

There being little hope of Vailala natives themselves changing their outlook there does appear to be a good future case for arranging a limited number of Toaripi natives to settle upriver, where land is virtually unlimited. It would be essential to obtain the approval of the Vailala people, through their Local Government Councils. There might well be a degree of envious animosity which would act as a spur to the goal of better living standards which the Toaripi people would set.

There does seem to be a natural tendency for the more sophisticated people to guide their less advanced brothers - a westerly movement as old as the early trading expeditions. Prewar, I believe, Hanuabadans were employed as foremen and clerks on all Gulf District stations; now, these duties are performed by Toaripi people and Hanuabadans have returned to their ships as captains of Steamships K fleet, returned to their traditional trading role! Within the District, too, there is this Westerly Good Neighbour movement. The Iokea people have executive control over the Toaripi Association which has extended an arm over the Kaipri people near Kerema. Additionally Toaripi natives are used as Secretaries and Co-operative Assistants throughout the Kerema and Vailala areas. There is not much love lost, but the less-advanced are sufficiently realist to accept the guidance given.

I consider there is therefore a good case to examine this line of policy in the future. The urgent need at present is for a Native Lands Commissioner to establish ownership, and Waste and Vacant Land in the area.

Mr. Fowke has written a most thought provoking report and has got to the core of the situation very well.


(A.K. Jackson)

DISTRICT OFFICER.

AKJ:DSH

67-2-4

District Office,
Gulf District,
KEREMA.

10th March, 1960.

The Director,
Department of Native Affairs,
KONEDOMU.

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(A.K. Jackson)

DISTRICT OFFICER.

4
30-1/1245.

Patrol Post,
I H U. Gulf District.

29th February, 1960.

The District Officer,
K E R E M A.

Patrol Report No 3, 59/60.

The above report, submitted by Mr. C.P.O. Fowke is attached, together with claim for camping allowance.

Vital Statistics.

The population has decreased 16 from the previous years figures. When births, deaths, and migrations are reckoned against the previous year figures, there is a margin of one unaccounted for.

There is no natural increase, and the excess of deaths over births has increased from nine in 1958 to 20 in 1959.

The Medical Assistant did not submit a copy of his report, and this report offers no explanation for the increasing excess.

Only 17% of the labour potential is away at work.

TAX

if warranted.

Machinery exists in the Ordinance for exemptions,

Agriculture.

Rice and peanuts were distributed. As the report indicates peanut were more popular. Rice cultivation is hard work and this may be a deterrent to increased individual plantings.

The report does not reveal whether subsistence food supplies were ample but the elderly D.A.S.P interpreter, ^{KIVOZIA,} who accompanied the patrol, ~~informs~~ informs me that sage and fish supplies are sufficient, but other staples are not, due to non-planting.

Medical

No copy of the Medical Report was submitted by the Medical Assistant but this report indicates the health is satisfactory. KIVOZIA attributes the large number of deaths to what seemed to be influenza.

Village Constables.

Recommendations are attached to the report.

Transport

If the river is laden with debris and snags, a launch would perhaps also find trouble.

5

Crown Land

It is recommended this land be kept for native needs in the future.

The report reveals a satisfactory native situation.

John Arthur
(J.R. HEARTER.)
Officer in Charge.

Territory of Papua and New Guinea.

COPY.

No. 30-1/1166.

Patrol Post,
I H U. Gulf District.

29th December, 1959.

Mr. J. Fowke,
Cadet Patrol Officer,
I H U.

Patrol - Upper Vailala River.

Please arrange to leave on patrol of the above division early in the New Year.

Mr. Wrigley, E.M.A., will be accompanying you.

The patrol is chiefly for normal administration, including revision of the census from the Tax Census Registers, and medical inspection, etc.

Some matters requiring attention are :-

- (a) The appointment of a V.C. at HEAWA - the previous one has been dismissed.
- (b) The V.C. at HUKULARA is to be replaced
- (c) The road to AROARO from the river needs some attention. Ten spades are available for issue to this village, and the work should be done on the weekly maintenance day. These people have been charged and convicted twice previously for neglect of this matter.
- (d) The people are to be informed that Personal Tax is to be levied in 1960. Please make a tax rate recommendation in your report. Mr. Bailey thought 10/- would be sufficient.
- (e) Encourage planting of coconuts, peanuts and rice. A bag of peanuts is available for distribution to interested people, and I hope that a bag of rice may also be made available before you leave. There is a guaranteed local market for rice and peanuts at the rates of 4d per pound and 6d per pound respectively.

Settle matters requiring adjudication out of Court wherever possible, and refer any crime or otherwise to this office. Investigate any land matters which may be presented.

The patrol may take about two weeks; however I desire a thorough patrol of the area.

I wish you a successful and enjoyable patrol.

(J. MCARTHUR.)
Officer In-Charge.

7

INTRODUCTION

All villages in this division with one exception, are readily accessible by water transport. The river is navigable to small scows as far as Keka, a distance of approximately 140 miles. The river is fast flowing and subject to frequent floods. During these floods large quantities of floating debris are brought down, making canoe travel somewhat hazardous.

Little rain was experienced, and the patrol was carried out without incident, apart from the failure of the outboard engine at Hepa.

The patrol was well received in most villages, and carriers and native foods were supplied in ample quantities.

The people are of the same stock as the coast at Orokelo-Keurunatives, and speak the Keuru dialect.

DIARY

22-1-60

0915 Patrol left Hospital with M Medast and all gear.

1600 Arrived Hepea. Several stops to repair engine on the way. Census and routine.

23-1-60

1000 Left for Heawa.

1730 Arrived. Beds set up and meal prepared.

24-1-60

24-1-60

Observed.

25-1-60

0900 Village inspected and census of Heawa, Nakoro and Kairava.

P.M. Discussion with villagers.

26-1-60

0700 Left Heawa.

0900 Stopped briefly at Hukulara hamlet. Census conducted (nine people)

1600 Reached Lohiki.

27-1-60

0800 Village inspection. Census of both Hepa and Lohiki conducted.

P.M. Various routine matters attended to. Latrine site marked out.

28-1-60

0800 Departed Lohiki.

0930 Arrived Hepa. Village inspected.

1015 Outboard broke underwater gear 100yds upstream.

1115 Self, Medast, Const. Doker and personal servant left in paddle canoe. Interpreter Pairi to follow with rest of gear. Big canoe with ~~with~~ ~~bulky~~ ~~gear~~ of patrol's equipment to return to Ihu. Ki with Kivovia in charge.

2030 Arrived Paku after slow trip against flood.

29-1-60

Census of Paku and Iori people at Paku. Routine matters dealt with. Larine site marked out.

30-1-60

0530 Left for Keka.

0730 Passed Iori.

1630 Arrived Keka rest house. Servant and carriers detailed to make camp. Rest of patrol continued $\frac{1}{2}$ mile upstream to village. Census conducted and routine matters attended to.

31-1-60

Observed.

1-2-60

0530 Left Keka.

0800 Arrived Iori. Village inspected.

0930 Arrived Paku. Allocated work progressing well.

1300 Arrived Hepa. Inspection Ditto.

1400 Arrived Lohini. Ditto.

1600 Arrived Heawa, having inspected Nakoro on the way down.

2-2-60

0800 Left Heawa. Inspected Kairava and Hepa on the way. Satisfactory progress in both villages. Informed Aro Ar o-V.C. that patrol would return next day to conduct census.

1630 Arrived Ihu.

3-2-60

Abortive attempt to reach ARO Aro by outboard canoe. Underwater gear on second outboard fell to pieces.

4-2-60

to ARO Aro by paddle canoe. Census held and routine matters dealt with. Discussion with villagers regarding proposed move to new village.

1330 Returned Ihu

END OF PATROL

--- cc00cc ---

2

NATIVE AFFAIRS

The subject of tax was brought up during discussions with the villagers, and they were informed that they would be liable to pay a tax of £1 per male adult later this year. This information did not bring forth any comment, and I think that any views they wish to express on the matter will be expressed when they are called on to hand over the cash. It is worth mentioning that apart from selling timber to the SDA mill at Karokaro, these people have very little economic outlet. I believe that Mr. Bailey ~~xxxxxxx~~ recommended 10/- as the amount to be imposed on these people, but that the figure later quoted in the Gazette was £1.

Numerous complaints, mostly of a petty nature, were brought to the notice of the patrol, and all were settled amicably out of court. One prisoner was brought back to Ihū, where he was charged under section 101 (4) of the NRO's.

During the patrol's stay at Heawa, the subject of the possible amalgamation of Nakoro, Hukulara, and Kairavaimo into one big village was raised. A large new village on a good site would be an improvement over the three present hamlets, however, in cases like this it is a question of striking while the iron is hot and building the place before everyone loses enthusiasm. I doubt that anything will come of this, and would be satisfied with the present villages once the instructions given by the patrol are carried out.

Hukulara is inhabited by the recently dismissed V.C. and his immediate family, nine in all. He is an old man, senile and obstinate, and will, no doubt, prefer to stay on his own ground rather than move to another village.

During a discussion with the people of Aroaro, the same question was raised. Aroaro is perched on a steep hill which rises out of the surrounding swamps, and is about one and a half hours walk from the river. It is a very old site, and there is no room for expansion. Practically everyone favoured a move to a new site on the river bank about a mile above Maira plantation. I think something may come of this move, as the new site is a good one, and some people have already started building there.

Over the last two years these people have been in constant trouble over their neglect of the track leading to the village. This leads through swamps most of the way, and to build it up properly would take months of work. At present it consists of rotten logs and poles over which one walks. It was explained that spaces had been made available and that if it was decided to remain in the old village, work would have to begin immediately, or serious action would be taken. I suggested that moving to the new site would do away with the need for the track, but also made it clear that anyone choosing to remain permanently in the old village would have to build and maintain the road to the satisfaction of the Government.

The villagers agreed that it would benefit them to build a new village on the aforementioned site, and it was decided to start work immediately.

NATIVE AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

During the patrol a quantity of rice and no peanuts was distributed. The peanuts were by far the more popular, but a fair amount of rice was distributed also.

Cash cropping in this area is confined to a little rice-growing. Only one man, Kavea, carries out rice planting on anything approaching a large scale. He was recently paid something like £70 for his last years crop.

There is an abundance of good land in this area, land which could be planted with peanuts or possibly coffee, and provide a good cash income for those responsible. However, as I have stated, Kavea is the only man in the area to have made use of the resources at hand.

Having seen this, one asks oneself why the people are not keen enough to set to and make use of the land at their disposal. It is all too easy to put it down to sheer indolence. As a matter of fact, I ~~initially~~ believe that laziness and indolence is one of the largest contributing factors, but before arriving at this conclusion, it is necessary to explore other possible avenues. It has been suggested that problems of land tenure i.e. total lack of land by younger men prevent enthusiastic types from going ahead with agricultural projects. Having discussed this matter I am of the opinion that this is not strictly the case. Although a mans garden land and sago areas are often widely scattered and small in area, there is no reason why he should not ~~clear~~ an area in the virgin bush, which, although divided into individual holdings, is not widely fragmented as are the rood areas, and use this to plant a cash crop.

There are several tracts of ~~Coconut~~ land in the Upper Vailala which would, if such a scheme was mooted, be suitable for resettlement. However, I am of the opinion that if a native of this region really wanted to establish a peanut or coffee block land would be the least of his problems.

The problems we face, if we wish to see economic advancement in this area are

- (a) Indolence
- (b) The desire to place any enterprise on a communal or "share" basis. This leads to endless petty disputes and litigation when the time comes to split up the profits
- (c) Lack of technical knowledge.
- (d) The large number of pigs in the area. It is often a two or three month job to build a good fence round a large garden, and even then a concerted effort by several pigs will often break it down ruining the result of months of toil and sweat. There is a constant controversy raging over this matter, (more so in the coastal Oroko region) pig owners versus would-be agriculturalists.

to overcome these problems, a definite policy for the area must be decided upon; and an experienced officer detailed to go into the field to stimulate interest, establish the ownership of each block, encourage preparation of the ground, and provide technical advice during planting. Without constant encouragement these people are only too likely to give up once they strike difficulties.

The policy, once formulated, must be carried through to its conclusion under proper European supervision, otherwise failure must be expected.

MEDICAL AND HEALTH

The patrol was accompanied by Mr. A.B.E. Wrigley, E.M.A. The usual number of cuts and contusions, coughs etc. were treated. Several cases including one of yaws, one Hansenite and a club footed child were sent to Ihu for treatment.

EDUCATION

There are two L.M.S. mission teachers in the area, neither a particularly impressive type. They had both been absent for some time and only returned to the area at the time of the patrol's visit. Several children from Aroaro, the village closest to the station, attend the station school.

ROADS AND BRIDGES

The only road in the Census Division is that leading from the river bank to Aroaro about 1 1/2 hours walk. It leads through swamp for much of the way, and consists mainly of tree trunks over which one walks. These people have been instructed many times to build the road up, but little has been done to date.

MISSIONS

The LMS is the only mission at present working in the area, and they are not particularly active.

There was an SDA teacher at Keka some time ago, but he left after the village idiot shot him in the arm with an arrow.

I believe the Catholic Mission intends to expand its activities into this area. The priest in charge intends to do a trip to Lohiki later in the year.

VILLAGE OFFICIALS

Most officials encountered were helpful and had their villages clean. During the patrol several new appointments were made. They are as follows.

Hukulara. As per instructions the Hukulara VC was dismissed; however, as the village consists of two houses with a population of nine, the appointment of a new VC does not seem necessary. The Heawa VC and the Nakoro councillor were requested to keep an eye on Hukulara.

Success of appointment

Heawa. There had been no VC here for some time before the patrols arrival, the former VC having been dismissed at Ihu. At a discussion held in the village popular opinion seemed to favour one Hiri-Wailea as new VC. I found him to be rather slow-thinking, but of an apparently honest nature, a somewhat rare quality in this area. He seemed genuine in his desire to make the best of the job, so I provisionally appointed him as VC, and told the people that he was to be obeyed even though he had no uniform as yet. He was told to report to Ihu when called upon to collect his uniform.

One Raiheavu Koa was appointed as councillor. A young man, he should be of help to the new VC.

Paku-Iori.

These two villages have long been under the control of the VC Kari. He was, no doubt, a good man in his time, but now, due both to age and the fact that he suffers from chronic bronchitis, finds the work involved in looking after the Paku as well as his own village Iori, a bit too much. I therefore provisionally appointed one Mapore-Hua as VC of Paku. Mapore, quite a striking type physically, has a lot of influence amongst his people, and has been unofficially carrying out the duties of VC for the last two years. Under his supervision a particularly good rest house and police barrack has been built. Mapore was instructed to carry out duties connected with his own village, and to help VC Kari with any particularly onerous tasks which may arise.

Keka.

A new councillor, one Pita-Saita was appointed. There was no councillor here previously.

In all villages where new VC's were appointed, a special point was made of explaining to the people that a VC's appointment has to be confirmed by the Director of Native Affairs, and that any orders given by him regarding housing, village hygiene and sanitation, health, maintenance of roads etc. are backed by law.

PATROL TRANSPORT

As has been mentioned in the diary and introduction to this report, the Anzani outboard used by the patrol gave constant trouble, culminating in the complete collapse of the underwater gear.

While it is realized that the Anzani is now being replaced ~~by~~ with the Archimedes, a more satisfactory type, it must be borne in mind that even these engines are really only intended to power fishing dories, and cannot be expected to push heavy loads over long distances, running for anything up to ten hours at a stretch, as is the case with the Vaialala patrol. It is true that outboards have been known to give reliable service for years, but in these cases one generally finds that the amount of time and money spent on maintenance and overhauls is out of all proportion to the amount of use obtained from the engine. It is the opinion of the writer that patrolling by paddle canoe is generally more satisfactory, if only for the sake of the nerves of the officer concerned. However, as I have stated, the Vaialala is a swift-running river, and is often laden with debris and snags, ~~so~~ so canoe travel is particularly when carrying any quantity of patrol gear is a slow and risky business. The ideal solution would be found if one of the district workboats could be made available for 10-12 days each year.

GOVERNMENT LAND- VAILALA

There are six blocks of Crown land in the Upper Vaialala, totalling approximately 2950 acres in area.

The boundaries to these blocks were last established in 1956 by Mr. DeElder, CPO. His findings are contained in a report 34-1/186 of 8-3-56, which was submitted to the Director of Lands.

This land would appear to be suitable for agricultural development, although in some places it is subject to periodic flooding. Hepea village is situated on DA 158.

I am unable to show DA 879 on the accompanying map, as there has been some uncertainty as to its true position. It is indicated on Lands Dept. map District 4 G.D. as being directly opposite the old Upolia oil fields, however this does not agree with the position as shown on the original Purchase Document. Mr. Elder stated in his report that if the dimensions given were taken as correct, and positioned according to the Purchase Document, then the north-south boundary would cross the Etori river, which seems incorrect. Mr. Elder stated that when the dimensions were halved the block would fit on the map in its correct position. It was later suggested that a report to the effect that this ~~area~~ reduced area was without doubt Crown land together with a sketch map and a Statutory Declaration from the native concerned, be prepared. However, though such a report was no doubt made, there is now no record of it at Ihū. The position regarding this particular block would have to be clarified before any use could be made of it.

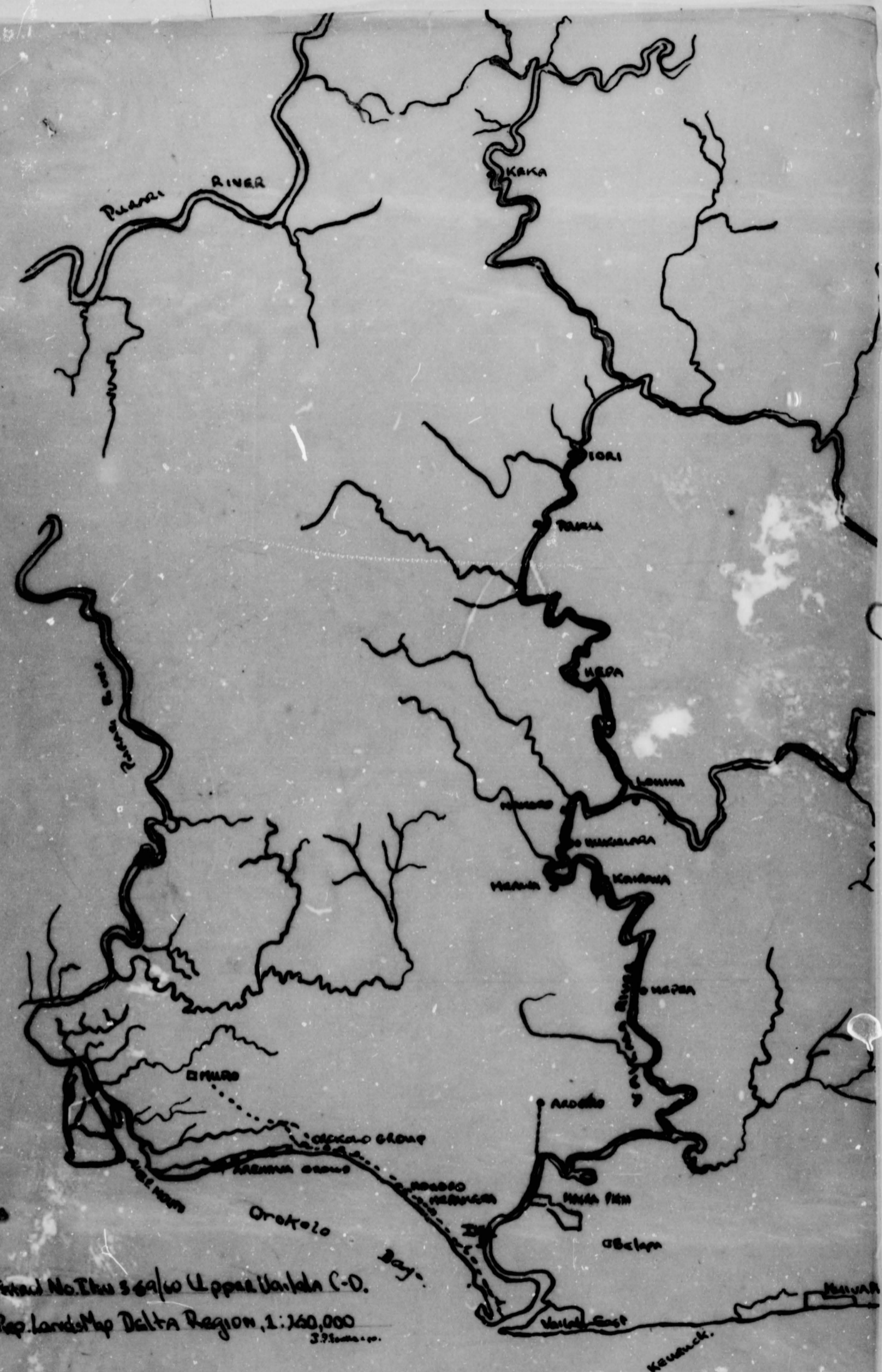
POLICE 9470 Const. DCKET

CONDUCT. Good.

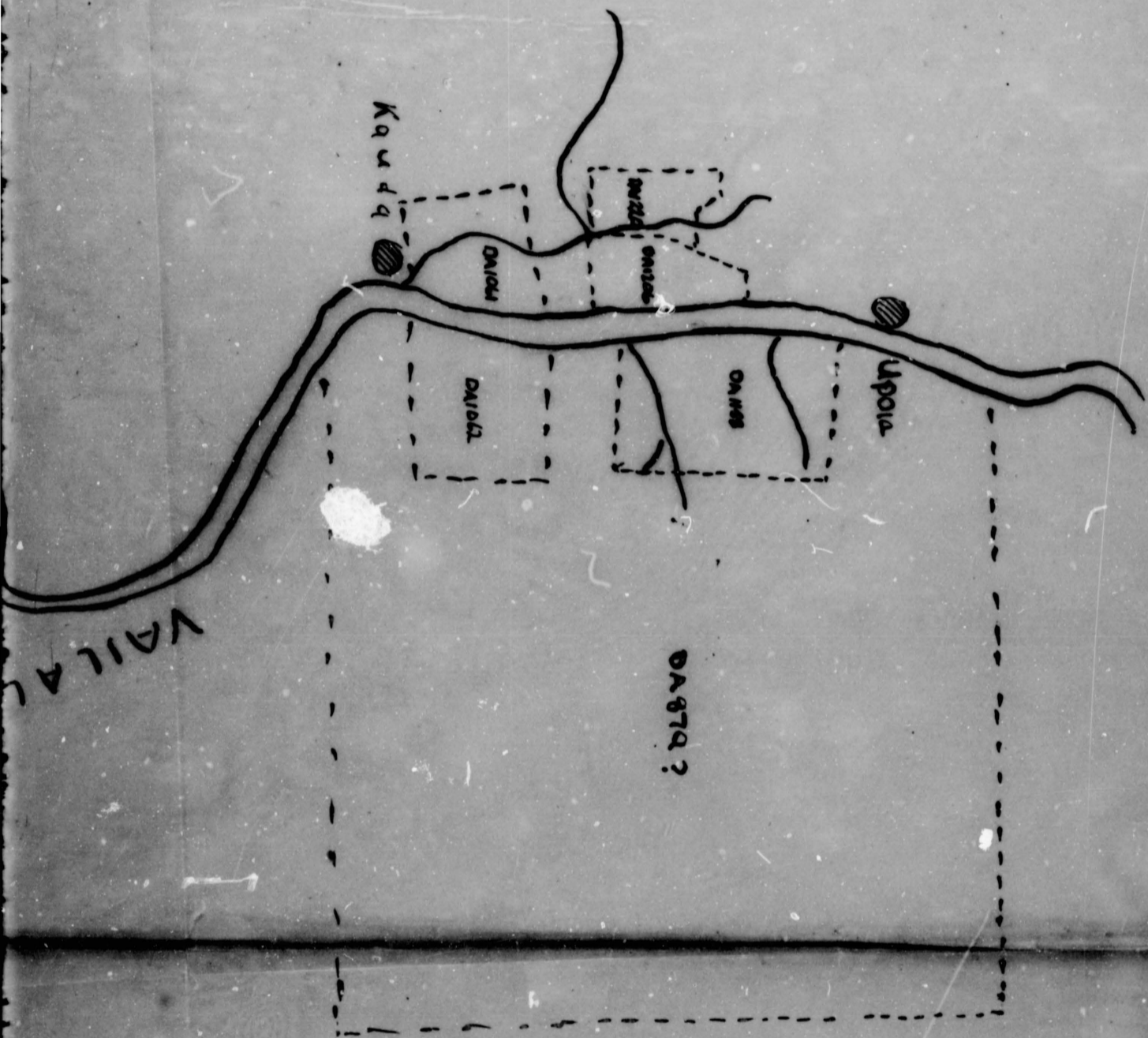
COMMENTS. Smart, intelligent
a useful member
of the force.

---00000000---

VILLAGE POPULATION REGISTER



Petrol No. 10 5 69/10 Upper Vanikoro C-D.
 Rep. Lands Map Delta Region, 1:160,000
 37/10/10



LOP OF SKETCH MAP IN ORIGINAL DA 819

PLAN OF LAND

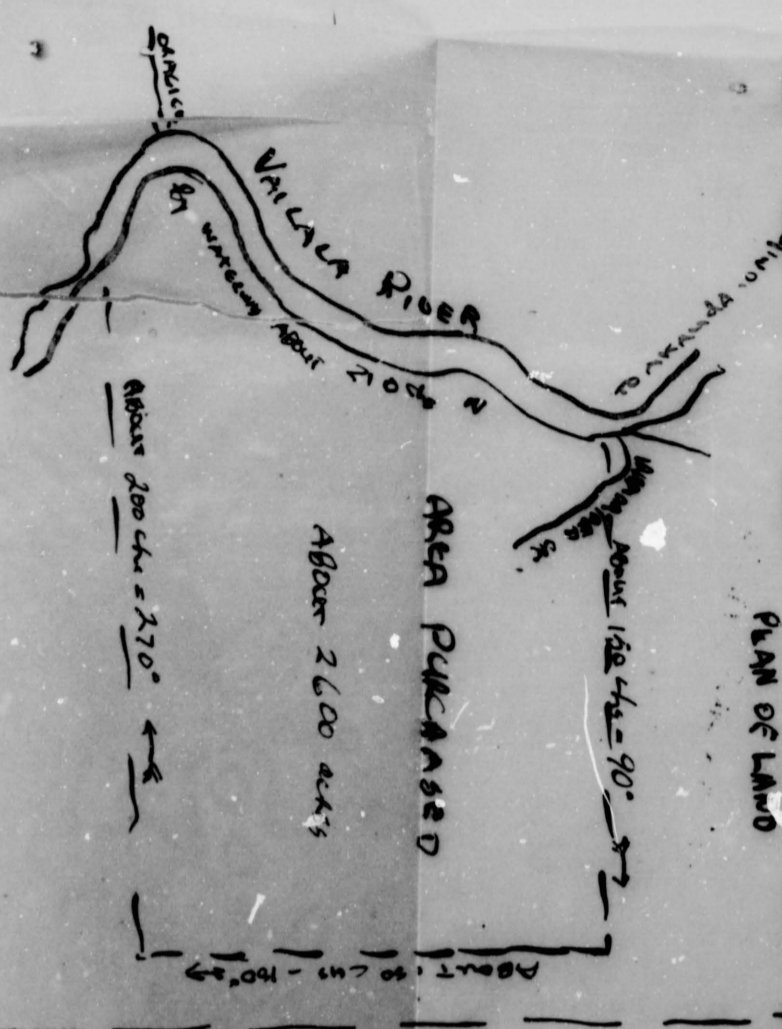
AREA PURCHASED

ABOVE 2600 ACRES

ABOVE 800 ACRES = 270° ←

ABOVE 150 ACRES = 90° →

ABOVE 100 ACRES = 100° →



VAILALA

TAKEN FROM LANDS MAP DISTRICT 450

