

ETHNIC GROUPS- EASTERN JAARA

Based on 1954-55 Assessment. Checked July 1955.

1	Bani Bajonko	Ngalungoobe	53	
		Firdu Fulbe	10	
		Futa Jalon Fulbe	15	78
2	Barokunda	Mandinka	1425	
		Jaxanke	68	
		Serer	11	
		Hausa	1	1505
3	Barokunda Wharf	?		2
4	Bodeyel	Futa Toro Fulbe	71	71
5	Bureng	Mandinka	1222	
		Futa Jalon Fulbe	9	
		Laibe	29	
		Jalunka	9	
		Wolof	2	
		Manjago	10	
		Serahuli	6	1287
6	Dabali	Laibe	24	
		Futa Jalon Fulbe	24	48
7	Dabatu	Futa Toro Fulbe	48	
		Mandinka	2	
		Futa Jalon Fulbe	17	67
8	Dasilame	Mandinka	370	
		Futa Jalon Fulbe	4	374
9	Demati Ya Demati-kunda	Futa Toro Fulbe	70	70
10	Dongoro Ba	Futa Toro Fulbe	71	
		Futa Jalon Fulbe	17	88
11	Dongoronding	Ngalungoobe	45	
		Kaabu Fulbe	4	49
12	Dumasansang	Mandinka	84	
		Serahuli	8	
		Mansuanka	33	
		Manjago	6	
		Futa Jalon Fulbe	2	133
13	Felenkoto	Ngalungoobe	99	
		Kaabu Fulbe	12	111
14	Hamdalav	Serahuli	61	61

15	Jaba	Firdu Fulbe	24	
		Futa Jalon Fulbe	43	67
16	Jawo-kunda	Ngalungoobe	14	14
17	Jasong	Mandinka	765	
		Tilibonko	2	
		Jola	14	
		Wolof	6	787
18	Madina	Serahuli	116	
		Nyaani Fulbe	6	
		Nyaamina Fulbe	27	149
19	Neema	Mandinka	5	
		Tilibonka	4	
		Futa Jalon Fulbe	4	
		Bowenke (Fuuta)	3	16
20	Nyawuru	Firdu Fulbe	105	
		(Kolda area)		
		Futa Jalon Fulbe	12	117
21	Pakali Ba	Mandinka	551	
		Jalunka	5	
		Manjago	3	
		Futa Jalon Fulbe	50	
		Nyoominka	3	
		Serahuli	7	
		Jaxanke	6	
		Futa Toro Fulbe	22	647
22	Pakali Ba Tenda	?	6	6
23	Saare Njoba	Firdu Fulbe	13	
		Manjago	10	
		Futa Jalon Fulbe	28	51
24	Sibinding	Futa Toro Fulbe	55	55
25	Sukuta	Mandinka	428	
		Nyoominka	4	432
26	Sutukung	Mandinka	1027	
		Jaxanke	286	
		Wolof	25	
		Nyoominka	40	
		Jalunka	6	
		Futa Jalon Fulbe	3	
		Tilibonka	1	
		Manjago	6	
		Jola	2	1396
27	Tēmanto (Je Sabali)	Ngalungoobe	25	25

28	Welingara Ba	Ngalungoobe	49	103
		Firdu Fulbe	36	
		Futa Jalon-Bowenke	18	
29	Welingaranding	Rorobe (Nyaani)	54	76
		Futa Jalon Fulbe	17	
		Firdu Fulbe	5	
				<u>7885</u>

Summary- Ethnic Groups

			%
Mandinka	5879		74.6
Jaxanke	360		4.6
Jalunka	20		0.3
Serahuli	198		2.5
Nyoominka	47		0.6
Serer	11		0.1
Fulbe-			
			%
Futa Jalon	245	3.1	
Bowenke	21	0.3	
Futa Toro	337	4.3	
Laibe	53	0.7	
Firdu	193	2.4	
Kaabu	16	0.2	
Roroobe	54	0.7	
Ngalungoobe	285	3.6	
Nyaani	6	0.1	
Nyaamina	27	0.3	
Total	1237		15.7
Wolof	33		0.4
Manjago	35		0.4
Mansuwanka	33		0.4
Jola	16		0.2
Tilibonka	7		0.1
others & unknown	9		0.1

100.0

Because of the attraction of Eastern Jaara for rice growing during the 1950s, nearly a quarter of the Mandinka population were recent immigrants, particularly from the poorer districts of Western Kiang, and Central and Lower Badibu.

A substantial number of immigrants also came from the south, from Kaabu, Pakau (Pakao), and Woy.

From	:	Kiang Districts	16%
		Baddibu Districts	21
		Woi	10
		Kaabu	30
		Pakao (Pakau)	9

the others coming from a wide variety of places.

SPECIFIC PLACES

ELEPHANT ISLAND

SOOFA NYAAMA CREEK + DUMASANSANG CREEK

DUMASANSANG

ELEPHANT ISLANDLocally called Futo kono

- (1) Reeve: The Gambia. 1912. p. 143

"Elephant Island...apparently of greater age (than Sea-Horse Island) by its forest of large trees, divides the river into two streams, each one-third of a mile in width and with eight to ten fathoms of water."

- (2) Report from Colonel Vermuyden to Prince Rupert. 1660.

"We viewed Elephant Island, the which is seated commodiously as to the command of the river, being from the mouth thereof forty-five leagues; however, it is not habitable, for that it flows every tide a foot above the island, it being wholly a wood of mangroves, so thick that it is not passable without much difficulty."

- (3) Francis Moore: Travels into the Inland Parts of Africa.... 1738, p. 25.

"In this country (Jagra) is Elephants Island, which is four or five miles long, full of trees, and withal marshy."

- (4) Poole: Sierra Leone and The Gambia, Vol. II, 1850, p. 108.

" We passed Bye Creek and Bademe..and then reached Elephant Island. In perspective, as seen by us on nearing it, it presented a rich and bold point, of rather a round form, standing out between the two sides of the shores which are opposite, and gradually receding in a protracted circle, while it afforded a fine sweeping access onwards up the river. The country here becomes more open, with extensive swamps, covered with high green grass, and distanced in the back ground by the country somewhat elevated...
...Opposite to Elephant Island is a place called Damassasang Creek.... "

SOOFA NYAAMA CREEKIn lower reaches called DUMASANSANG CREEK.

Long creek separating Jaara from Niamina.

Reeve (1912)... "runs parallel to the main river in an east-west course about ten miles to the south."

Though only navigable for a short distance, the stream runs east for about 60 miles.

A legend regarding the name is given in Bamba Suso's narrative Musa Molo :

(Gordon Innes: Kaabu and Fuladu: Historical Narratives of the Gambian Mandinka. 1976 . p. 152-3.)

"It was Dikori Wude who gave the Sofaniama Creek its name. He said

(in Fula), 'LaamDo oo soofii Do, o nyaamat' (The chief has urinated here, he will eat.). It was he who settled his Fula at Mabali.

R.W.Hav: "Supposed Junction of the Rivers Gambia and Casamanza on the Western Coast of Africa,"
Journal of the Royal Geographical Society, III, 1833, 72-76.

"Mr Joiner, one of the principal merchants at Bathurst, is a native of the country immediately in the vicinity of the creek opposite Elephant Island. He has frequently been up it in small vessels and canoes, and affirms that it takes a direction into the interior; that it is deep at the entrance, but soon shoals so much that one of his schooners, drawing six feet, could not ascend higher than the town of Domaseusa (= Dumasansang). After this the creek is only navigable for canoes, and even by them not more than fifteen miles farther, abreast of Europennah, where it becomes dry, but its channel still remains, and during the rainy season, is flooded many miles higher to a place called Cabbou."

Francis Moore (1734)

p. 205 "Creek of Damasensa....(we) went up in the Yawl...going up a very narrow place for about half a Mile.. a great tree at Damasensa...

p. 251 Mons. Le Maigre's House..This person is a Frenchman, and a private Trader, and the only European that lives here, nor are there twenty Houses in the place. It is near five Miles up the River, which at the entrance may be fifty Yards over, but grows so narrow at last, by reason of the Mangrove Trees as not to leave room to row. It is full of Alligators...."

Poole (1850)

109 "Opposite to Elephant Island is a place called Damasasang Creek, up which there is a trading town of the same name, where a very considerable trade is carried on. Here, I believe, the largest quantity of ground nuts is grown along the river. There are also some English factories in the place. "

William Singleton (1821) visited Dumasansa -

"At the house of Leza Itla, a mulatto woman of property, we were regaled with a breakfast of boiled rice and new milk...Leza Itla has lately come to Dumasansa , having been driven from Kat-a-ba, up the river, by the war between Som-un-cul-e, son of the late king of Bi-un-ea, and certain chiefs who dispute his claims to the cap.... Her house..which was large and built in the European fashion, was burnt to the ground. Many of her cattle were driven away, and every thing the warriors could find was taken from her.."

PAKALIBA

This place is mentioned in the Rough Guide (1995) p.286.

"A village by the Sofanyama Bolong on the district boundary between Lower River and MacCarthy Island Divisions. It's an attractive place - a scheduled river boat stop -marked by a ridge of small rocky hills that are surprising in the undulating sanannah. Pakaliba is the source of a fable about a crocodile hunter called Bambo Bojang, who learned to control the Sofanyama crocodiles after being attacked by them; he's now the patron saint of the bambo (crocodiles), and his descendants live in the area. If you've time, you could track down Lalo Kebba, a famous kora player, and persuade him to sing the whole story."

CENTRAL JAARA

CENTRAL JAARA - PHYSICAL FEATURES

Inland there are many more substantial swamp areas than appear on the map.
(However this period - 1955-was one of good rainfall).

- (1) The swamp between Buiba and Japine. This valley continues up to within $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile of Sasita, with very large lakes at intervals. ^a
- (2) The swamp between Jalanbere and Badume. There is a valley between Jalanbere and Hamdalay where rice is cultivated.
- (3) The branch going south east between Badume continues up to the zone between Hamdalay and Jobkunda.

In all of these valleys the Fulbe people were growing considerable quantities of rice.

(a) colored photographs.

CENTRAL JAARA VILLAGE NAMES							
1894	1902	1930	1936	1946	Map 1948	1954 Assessment	1973 Census
Village List	Village List	Village List	Village List	Assessment			
1 Badume	Badumen	Baddumi	Badumi	Badume	Badume	Badume	Badume
2 Bay Tenda	Bai	Bai (tenda)	Bai	Bai	Bai Tenda	Bai Tenda	
3 Bajonkoto	Bajjannko						
4 Buyba	Buiba	Buiba	Buiba	Buiba	Buiba	Buiba	
5						Buiba Keba Jalo	Buiba Jalo Kunda
6				Buiba Toranko		Buiba Musa Njado	
7 Busankili							
8 Daasilame = Saare Sedi	Dasilame						
9 Dabaya* (Moved to & amalgamated with Sasita 1937)	Dabaya						
10 Daaru Fatima							
11 Digante		Dieganti	Diganti	Dikanti		Digante	Daru Fatima
12			Dongoro Bajonki	Dongoro -ba	Dongoro Ba = Modi Kulo		
13 Fololo	Forlolo Forlolor Fololo						
14 Foroyaa	Foro Ya Faro Ya ^e Foroya						
15 Hamdayal	Hamdalai Hamdalai Hamdalai						
16 Jabisa = Western Jaara	Jabisa						
17 Jalaba	Jalaba						
18 Jalambere	Jalanbere Jalongbere Jalambere						
19 Jalokunda	Jallowkunda Jallow- Kunda						

65

e = error, name attributed to wrong location.

1894	1902	1930	1936	1946	1948	1954	1973
Japine/Japeni	Jappini	Jappeni	Japeni	Jappine	Jappeni	Japeni	Jappeni
20	Japine/Japeni	Jappini	Jappeni	Jappine	Jappeni	Japeni	Jappeni
21	Job-kunda				Job-Kunda		
	= Suluko						
22	Kanuma	Kannuma	Kanuma	Kanuma	Kanuma	Kanuma	Kanuma
23	Medina			Madina	Madina ^e	Medina	
24	Naaneko					Naneko	Naneko
25	Neema		Naema	Nema	Nema	Nema	
26	Pakuba = Western Jaara						
27	Saare Alfa		Saare Alfa	Sarehalfa			
28	Saare Buli					Saare Buli	
29	Saare Modi Kulo					Sare Modi Kulo	
	= Dongoro Bā'						
30	Saare Musa Molo					Sare Musa Molo	
31	Saare Pate			Sare Pate	Ker Pateh		
32	Saare Samba Tako			Sare Samba Tako	Sare Samba Tako		
33	Saare Samba Njaay			Sare Samba Njie			
34	Sasita	Sasita	Sasita	Sasita	Sasita	Sasita	Sarsita
35	Tabanaani		Tabanani				
36	Tembeto	Temmbetto	Tembeto	Tembeto	Tembeto	Tembeto	Tembeto
37	Welingara = Sitafuma		Welingara	Welingara	Welingara	Welingara (Sitafuma)	Welingara Ba
38	See #12						
39	Fulakunda	Fulakunda	Dongoro Bajonki	Dongoroba			
40			Seno Bajonki				
41	Bantanding	Banta n'Ding	Bantanding				
42		Ulumberi					

e = error. name attributed to wrong location.

VILLAGE LOCATIONS

(Referring to 1948 map.)

Saare Musa Molo	one mile down path to Charoli Bolong, west of the path.
Musa Njado	$\frac{1}{4}$ mile SW of Buyba.
Buyba Keba Jalo	$\frac{1}{4}$ mile further on.
(On swamp edge was an old <u>site</u> Jabeliya)	
Sasita	as on map.
Busankili	a new settlement. $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Sasista by path which goes along edge of swamp. 2 miles direct to Japine.
Dasilame	fork left $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from clump of baobabs outside Sasita, cross head of swamp. One mile exactly from the baobabs.
Medina	south 1 mile /from Sasita.
Digante (Demba Gulo)	2 miles from Sasita via Medina and Buli Ya. $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles direct to Sasita. On returning directly to Sasita, Medina and Buli Ya are on the left, off the track.
Ker Pate	as on map.
Jalokunda	as on map.
Samba Tako	as on map.
* Hamdalay (Saare Umaro)	not as shown on map. 2 miles from Jalokunda. $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Jalanbere across a swamp. At crossing of path from Badume southwards & Jalanbere- Saare Modi Kulo path
Job Kunda (Suluko)	is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of Hamdalay.
Jalaba	is about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from Job Kunda, behind a hill.
Naneko	about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from Jalaba. A path runs from Job Kunda through Naneko parallel to the swamp, and comes out at Badume (about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles distant).
Sasita	is 3 miles from Japine; 2 miles further along this road, one comes to Foro Yaa; 3 miles further along to Seno Banjonki ; 2 miles further to Misira.
Tembeto	is now a continuation of Japine. Counted as separate villages in assessments. Earlier maps show space between the two.
Bantunding	NE of Badume, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile.

* 1948 Map. erroneous attribution to hamlet NW of Sare Samba Tako.

Wasadung On early maps. Never existed according to elders.
a mistake by map-makers.

Dongoro Nding. On 1948 Map is across the frontier - labelled as abandoned.

Dongoro Bajonko. A small hamlet, half a mile east of Sasita.

Foloringoto ? A small hamlet on road between Sasita and Japine, 3/4 mile from Sasita.

Samba Jadiya Hamlet about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north of Japine on road to Bai Tenda. East of the road.

CENTRAL JAARA- ETHNIC GROUPS

Based on 1954-55 Assessment. Data checked July 1955.

1.	Badume	Mandinka	330	
		Futa Jalon Fulbe	3	
		Tilibonka	12	
		Laibe	7	
		Jalunka	12	364
2.	Bayi Wharf (Bai)	ors.	2	
3.	Buyba Mandinka	Mandinka	30	
		Tilibonka	13	
		Laibe	5	
		Futa Toro Fulbe	18	
		Serahuli	11	
		Mansuawanka	6	
		Mauritanian	4	87
4.	Buyba - Keba Jalo	Futa Toro Fulbe	48	
		Futa Jalon Fulbe	5	53
5.	Buyba- Musa Njado	Futa Toro Fulbe	17	17
6.	Busankili	Futa Toro Fulbe	34	34
7.	Dasilame = Saare Sedi	Futa Toro Fulbe	12	12
8.	Digante	Futa Toro Fulbe	184	
		Serer ?	9	
		Badibu Fulbe	17	
		Futa Jalon Fulbe	2	
		Laibe	6	218
9.	Fololo	Futa Toro Fulbe	69	
		Futa Jalon Fulbe	16	85
10.	Foro Yaa	Futa Toro Fulbe	123	
		Laibe	4	127
11.	Hamdalay	Futa Toro Fulbe	22	
		Futa Jalon Fulbe	22	44
12.	Jalaba	Ngalungoobe	19	
		Firdu Fulbe	2	
		Futa Jalon Fulbe	2	23
13.	Jalanbere	Serahuli	333	
		Bambara	9	342
14.	Jalokunda	Futa Toro Fulbe	22	22

15.	Japine (Japeni) (Marikoto)	Mandinka	558	
		Badibu Fulbe	4	
		Nyoominka	15	
		Aku	1	
		Syrian	1	579
16.	Job Kunda (=Suluko)	Futa Toro Fulbe	112	112
17.	Kanuma	Mandinka	113	
		Laike	11	
		Futa Jalon Fulbe	16	140
18.	Medina	Badibu Fulbe	62	
		Wolof	12	
		Serahuli	2	76
19.	Naneko	Ngalungoobe	97	97
20.	Nema	Futa Toro Fulbe	12	
		Futa Jalon Fulbe	6	18
21.	Saare Buli (Kaabu)	Futa Toro Fulbe	40	
		Jaxanke	12	
		Futa Jalon Fulbe	13	
		Firdu Fulbe	3	68
22.	Saare Paate	Futa Toro Fulbe	15	15
23.	Saare Samba Tako	Futa Toro Fulbe	39	39
24.	Saare Modi Kulo (= Dongoro Ba)	Ngalungoobe	22	
		Futa Toro Fulbe	54	76
25.	Saare Musa Molo	Futa Toro Fulbe	18	18
26.	Sasita	Futa Toro Fulbe	129	
		Futa Jalon Fulbe	6	135
27.	Tembeto	Mandinka	340	
		Tilibonka	3	
		Jalunka	19	
		Manjago	1	363
28.	Welingara (Sitafuma)	Ngalungoobe	120	
		Futa Jalon Fulbe	5	
		Tilbonka	9	134

CENTRAL JAARA- ETHNIC GROUPING

Summary

		%
Mandinka	1371	41.5
Jaxanka	12	0.3
Tilibonka	37	1.1
Bambara	9	0.3
Jalunka	31	0.9
Wolof	12	0.4
Manjago	1	-
Mansuwanka	6	0.3
Serer	9	0.3
Nyoominka	15	0.5
Aku	1	-
Mauritanian	4	0.1
Serahuli	346	10.5
Fulbe - Badibu	83	2.5
Laibe	33	1.0
Firdū (Kaabu)	5	0.1
Futa Jalon	96	2.9
Futa Toro	968	29.3
Ngalungoobe	258	7.8
Others	3	0.2
	<hr/> 3300	<hr/> 100.0 <hr/>

POPULATION- JAARA CENTRAL

	1902 Dist.S.B.#5	1930	1946 Assessment	1954/5 Assessment	1973 Census
Badume	198	160	224	364	298
Bai Tenda	57	32		2	
"Bajjannko"	92				
Bantanding	59				
Buyba	72	18	50	87	
" -Keba Jalo				53	131
" -Musa Njie				17	
Busankili				34	
Daru Fatima					180
Dasilame				12	
Digante		51	104	218	204
Dongoro Ba			104		
Fololo			149	85	
Fulakunda	87				
Foroyaa			177	127	
Hamdalay			22	44	
Jalaba				23	
Jalanbere			348	342	667
Jalokunda			37	22	
Japeni	214	247	627	579	944
Job-kunda				112	
Kanuma		27	190	140	151
Madina			61	76	
Naneko				97	128
Neema			31	18	
Saare Pate			54	15	
Saare Buli				68	
" Alfa		172			
" Modu Kulo				76	
" Musa Molo				18	
" Samba Njie			32		
" Samba Tako			68	39	
Saare Bajonki		65			
Sasita	87	150	87	135	155
Tembeto	134	117	389	363	520
Welingara			153	134	173
others					608
	1000	1039	2907	3300	4159

SPECIFIC PLACES

BADUME

BAI CREEK / BAI TENDA

BURENG

JAPENI / JAPINE

BADUME

(Poole 1850 Bademe ; Napier Hewett 1862 Badeemah)Hequard: Voyage sur la cote et dans l'intérieur de l'Afrique Occidentale.p. 153 ..."nous arrivâmes à Badoumar...Mamadi Sonko...roi de ce pays, me fit l'accueil le plus ~~gracieux~~....

"Le village de Badoumar est grand et contient environ quatre cents cases et 2,500 à 3,000 habitants. Toutefois, au premier aspect, il paraît encore plus important à cause de l'étendue des terrains qu'occupent ses cases irrégulièrement disséminées. Presque toutes sont en criquetis, (krinting), espèce de nattes faites de long roseaux coupés dans toute la longueur et tressés ensemble de manière à former un tissu serré assez grand pour enceindre la case. Un trou, pratiqué dans ce tissu, forme la porte. Ces cases, de forme ronde, sont couvertes en paille, et présentent une espèce de galerie, en paille tressée. L'habitation du roi est située sur un terrain un peu plus élevé que les autres. Ses cases, au nombre de trente, sont construites de la même manière, deux seulement sont en criquetis crépi avec de la terre, et figurant une espèce de mur. Ces dernières servent probablement à la résidence particulière du Roi. Les portes qui sont rabotées et assez bien faites ont dû lui être données par quelques traitants anglais. L'intérieur de ces cases est tapissée de gris-gris.

L'habitation du roi est entourée de deux rangs de fortes palissades, entre lesquelles court un large fossé dont le fond est couvert d'épines. C'est là qu'en cas d'attaque se réfugient tous les habitants du village, beaucoup trop grand pour être bien gardé et défendu. Il y a deux ans, Mamadi Sonko, retranché dans cette enceinte, soutint pendant cinq jours l'attaque d'une nombreuse armée de Peulhs du Fouta-Dialon qui étaient venus piller et ravager tout son pays, sous le prétexte de le soumettre à l'islamisme. Le sixième jour sa poudre étant épuisée, il pu s'échapper durant la nuit et se réfugia chez le roi du Yamina, son voisin, où il resta jusqu'au départ des Peulhs.

BADUME

Based on Van der Plas' account (1957).

Badume is the easternmost village in Central Kiang. Legends picture it in the middle of the last century as a flourishing Soninke village, the seat of Jasi, the last Soninke king, rival of its strictly Muslim neighbor, Bureng.

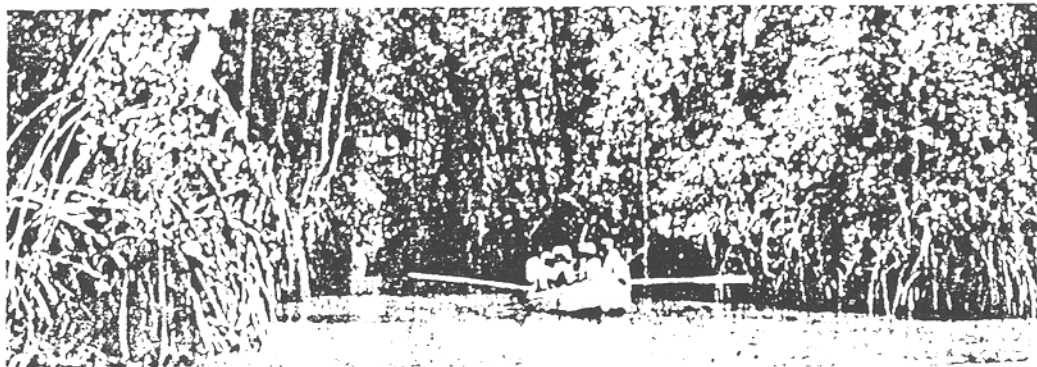
The Soninke wars were essentially a struggle between these two centers. In the beginning Bureng was successful. Later a coalition of the Soninke brought it close to ruin. Muslim forces from Senegal turned the tables. Jasi fell fighting in Bureng. His tomb, marked by two stones sloping towards each other, is a local curiosity, visitors standing for a moment with widespread legs, one foot on each stone.

It is now a quiet village of 27 compounds and a population of 378 inhabitants. The Sonko kabilo is the oldest.

(Van der Plas carried out a survey of the village and its rice stocks.)

#3026

Dr. E. Hopkinson: "Birds of the Gambia," Elder Dempster Magazine,
January 1929, p. 130.



Bai Creek, Gambia

BAI CREEKBAI TENDA = Bai Wharf

The main 'port' for Jaara Japine.

Old spelling: Bye Creek.

Modern Mandinka spelling: Bay.

Once a buying station for groundnuts.

"Early in 1887 overtures were made to the Government by the people in the countries of Fogni and Jarra to be placed under British protection, and after mature consideration treaties were entered into with the chiefs of these countries, and the Union Jack was hoisted in the principal towns." At this time a flag was hoisted at Bai, the wharf town to Japeni.

The entrance to Bai Creek is shown in a photograph - Dr.E.Hopkinson:

"Birds of the Gambia," Elder Dempster Magazine, January 1929, p.130.

BURENG

See under Badume for rivalry between Bureng and Badume.

Jaasi

Jaara Mansa Jase Banna Damfa was the first chief of all Jaara, and lived at Bureng.

He was killed in a war against Badume. His grave is marked by two stones, and it is customary for visitors to stand for a moment with widespread legs, one foot on each stone. The grave is known as Jarinka Jaasi.

JAPINE

Various spellings:

JAPENI

(Jaara District)

Map: Jappeni

Gordon Innes: Japine

H. Hecquard: Voyage sur la Cote et dans l'Interieur de l'Afrique Occidentale, 1855 .

p.151 (Translated)..."we reached Diapina, the second capital of Diagara (Jaara)...I went to greet the chief, an important person, who should succeed the present day chief. I also visited his prime minister, who has great influence in the country, and serves as an intermediary between the English traders in their transactions with the King of Diagara.

Diapina is a strong village, which must have at least 1,500 inhabitants, and which no longer is surrounded by any palisade, so that the king can, if necessary, make use of various means to slip away. His produce consists of rice, millet, and groundnuts, of which the inhabitants harvest a great quantity, which they sell to the English."

(The king lived at Badoumar = Badume)

The town holds the old royal symbols - the chono .

WESTERN JAARA

The population of this district has increased enormously, due to

- (1) the growth of Mansakonko as an administrative center.
- (2) the creation of the main Trans-Gambian Highway, linking the Senegal region north of the river Gambia to the Casamance in the south.

Soma is now at the intersection of the north-south route with the main east-west Gambian South Bank road.

Essentially one has a series of old Mandinka villages bordering the extensive swamps - Jifin, Toniataba, Sikunda, Soma, Pakalinding, Sankwia, Kanikunda, Karantaba, while to the south towards the frontier are villages of Fuuta Tooro Fulbe.

	1894	1902	1930	1946	1948	1973
	Village List	Village List	Village List	Assessment	Map	Census
	S.B. No.4					
1	Bajonkoto (Jenoi)				Bajon Koto	
2	Digante			Dikante	Diganteh	Diganteh
3	Fonkoy-kunda		Fonkoi Kunda	= Koyel	Fonkoi Kunda	Sare Fonkoi
4	Jabisa		Jabisa	Jabisa	Jabisa	Jabisa
5	" Fulakunda		Jabisa Fulakunda			
6	Jaydina				Jaidina	
7	Jenoy	Jinnoi	Genoi	Jinoy	Jenoi	Genoi
8	Jifin	Giffin	Jiffine	Jifini	Jiffin	Giffin
9	Kanikunda	Kanni Kunda	Kanni Kunda	Kane Kunda	Kani Kunda	Kanikunda
10	Karantabaa	Karantabar	Karranta Ba	Karantaba	Karantaba	Karantaba
11	Karantaba Kuta			Karantaba Kuta		
12	Koyel			Koyel		
13	Loli	Loli				
14	Mansakonko				Mansakonko	Mansa Konko
15	Misira			Misira	Misira	Missira
16	Pakalinding	Pakelle Ding	Pakalli Nding	Pakellinding	Pakali Nding	Pakalinding

(In Central Jaara on
map)

1894	1902	1930	1946	1948	1973
	Village List	Village List	Assessment	Map	Census
17 Sankuya	Sankwia	Sankwia	Sankwia	Sankwia	Sankwia
18 Santanto		Santanto			
19 Saare Fonkoi = Fonkoy-kunda					
20 Sēno Bajonki		Sono Bajonki = Seno	Seno-bajonki	Seno Ba	Seno Bajonki
21 Sinchu Bani		Sinchu Bani			
22 Sikunda (Siikunda)	Sekunda	Sikunda	Sikunda	Si Kunda	Si Kunda
23 Sooma	Soma	Soma	Soma	Soma	Soma
24 Sumbundu	Sumbundu	Sumbundu	Sumbundu	Subundu	
25 Tankong Bajonki		Tankong- Bajonki			
26 Tonyataba (Toonva taba)	Toniattabba	Toniataba	Toniataba	Toniataba	Toniataba
27 Wellingara			Wellingara	Willingara	
28 Valal			Valali	Yallal	

Location of Villages

(1948 Air Survey map.)

Running east from Misira is a broad track.

2 miles from Misira is Seno Bajonki.

3 miles further along one comes to Foro Yaa,

2 " " " " " Sasita.

3 " " " " " Japeni.

Seni Bajonki is presumably where Jaidina is marked on the map. An old village. 60+ y.

Jaidina and Seno Ba are said to be south of the border in the Casamance.

Sana Yaa is a village which came from Toniataba about 1947. It is said to be at the junction of paths to Toniataba, Sikunda, and Soma, fixing it close to the site of Vallal on the map.

A mile from Sana Yaa on the road to Soma is Sumbundu Bajonki, a new settlement of one yard, from Sumbundu. (1½ miles north of Sumbundu)

Sites of Sumbundu, Digante, Misira, apparently correct.

Willingara (marked on the map) was not known.

Sedi Yaa was one mile from Fonkoykunda. Near the boundary. Came from Misira.

Fonkoi Kunda Also known as Kohel (Kovel).

Pakuba and Jabisa appear in Central Jaara on the map, but the farm lands of Kanikunda and Karantaba are to be found in this area.

Pakuba and Jabisa are accessible by a road on the north of the Mansakonko-Japine road, a short distance west of Mansakonko-Japine and Karantaba-Japine fork.

POPULATION - WESTERN JAARA

	1902	1930	1946	1954	1973	*
Village List	Village List	Assessment	Assessment	Assessment	Census	
Diqante			181	330	321	
Fonkoy-kunda		49	33	19	101	
Jabisa		122	91	156	181	
Jabisa Fulakunda		36				
Jenoy	48	62	149	178	655	
Jifin	158	102	260	347	520	
Kanikunda	205	397	721	785	964	
Karantabaa	216	270	520	604	706	
" Kuta			66	30		
Loli	12					
Mansakonko				73	320	
Misira			309	218	286	
Pakalinding	65	61	327	401	1080	
Sankuya	196	341	723	728	1223	
Santanto		10				
Seno Bajonki		98	165	129	106	
Sincu Bani		16				
Sikunda	234	222	361	443	632	
Soma	214	279	400	491	1267	
Sumbundu	111	22	18	20		
Tankong Bajonki		24				
Tonyataba	326	280	691	755	1272	
Welingara			18			
Yalal			56	71		
others					322	
	1785	2391	5089	5778	9956	

* Villages under 100 not separately.

ETHNIC GROUPS- WESTERN JAARA

Based on 1954-55 Assessment. Data checked July 1955.

1	Digante	Futa Toro Fulbe	290	
		Futa Jalon Fulbe	31	
		Laibe	9	330
2	Jabisa	Mandinka	142	
		Laibe	11	
		Firdu Fulbe	3	a 156
3	Jenoy & Jenoy Bajonkoto	Mandinka	163	
		Jola	11	
		Wolof	2	
		others	2	178
4	Jifin	Mandinka	334	
		Serer	13	347
5	Kanikunda	Mandinka	785	785
6	Karantaba	Mandinka	604	604
7	Kohel (Fonkoykunda)	Futa Toro Fulbe	19	19
8	Mansakonko ^c	European	5	
		Wolof	12	
	(Administrative	Mandinka	33	
	Headquarters)	Aku	6	
		Bambara	6	
		Fulbe	4	
		Nigerian	4	
		Serer	2	
		others	1	73
9	Misira	Futa Toro Fulbe	179	
		Futa Jalon Fulbe	21	
		Mandinka	8	
		Jaxanke	5	
		Bainunka	5	218
10	Pakalinding	Mandinka	390	
		Bambara	2	
		Tilibonka	3	
		others	6	b 401
11	Pakuba =Karantaba Kuta	Mandinka	30	30
12	Sana Yaa	Mandinka	30	30
13	Sankuya	Mandinka	714	
		Tilibonka	2	
		Jaxanke	6	
		Jalunka	6	728
14	Sedi Yaa	Futa Toro Fulbe	41	41

15	Seno Bajonki	Futa Toro Fulbe	117	
		Futa Jalon Fulbe	4	
		Laibe	8	129
16	Sikunda	Mandinka	443	443
17	Soma	Mandinka	481	
		Jola	9	
		Tilibonka	1	491
18	Sumbundu	Futa Toro Fulbe	20	20
19	Toniataba	Mandinka	736	
		Tilibonka	19	755
				<hr/> 5778 <hr/>

a Actually came from Yallal in Badibu.

b Traders -including Mauritanians.

c Data for Mansakonko not checked.

d All villages visited except for Jenoi Bajonkoto. Data for this community are included in those for Jenoi itself in the assessment data.

	<u>Summary</u>	%
Mandinka	4893	84.7
Jaxanke	11	0.2
Tilibonka)		
Bambara)	33	0.6
Jalunka	6	0.1
Futa Toro Fulbe	666	11.5
Futa Jalon Fulbe	56	1.0
Laibe	28	0.5
other Fulbe	7	0.1
Aku	6	0.1
Wolof	14	0.2
Bainunka	5	0.1
Jola	20	0.3
Serer	15	0.3
European	5	0.1
Others	13	0.2
<hr/> 5778		<hr/> 100.0 <hr/>

SPECIFIC PLACES

JENOV

TONIATABA

MANSA KONKO

SOMA

YELITENDA

JENYO

This was selected in 1946 as the site of an Agricultural Research Station.
(Rice Experimental Station).

MANSAKONKO

A Government Station situated on a hill between Pakalinding and Sankwia. The site was selected to be an administrative center for the Central Division, and was chosen for its elevation, and the fact that it was near the trans-Gambian road which links Dakar and the Casamance, as well as being close to the east-west road on the south bank. The name is derived from konko (hill) and mansa (king, governor), and would seem to have been given to it when the site was chosen i.e. Government Hill.

It now includes a Rest House for official travellers, a Post Office, a Health Centre etc.

TONIATABA

Suleman Santu

In 1892 the chief of Toniataba/was a strong supporter of Fode Kaba. A party of a dozen men of the First West India Regiment was sent under Major Madden to summon him to appear before the administrator. The town was stockaded, and the gates were closed against the party. Major Madden attempted to break down one of the gates, and was fired upon, Lance Corporal Gordon saving his life, for which he was awarded the Victoria Cross.

This ended with a punitive expedition comprising contingents from H.M.S. Alecto and Swallow and the First West India Regiment being sent against the town. Toniataba was stormed and destroyed, Suleman Santu being killed in the attack.

In May 1892 the chiefs of Eastern Kiang and Western Jarra entered into treaties with the British in which they agreed to acknowledge British sovereignty.

J.M.Gray : A History of the Gambia. p. 467.

Colonial Office

Further Correspondence Relating to Territories on the River Gambia, 1892
January-June.

H.M.S.O. 1 2 (African West No. 425).

Michael Tomkinson's Gambia has a photograph of Toniataba Mosque, p.51.

The old fort, which no longer exists, is described as follows:

"The fort, which I have been informed was built by an Arab for Fodi Cabba some years ago, was at the north-west corner of this town, and was 100 yards long and 50 yards broad. The walls were 15 feet high and 4 feet thick, and had two rows of loopholes, while at each angle was a circular flanking tower. The fort was divided into two parts by a strong wall running across it. In the northern half was a tower 20 feet high, the lower part of which was dome-shaped, and had a winding staircase leading up to it outside to a turret large enough to contain 12 men. The staircase was protected on the outer side by a thick parapet wall, of sufficient height to screen a man from view. In the southern half of the fort was a square tower 16 feet high, and there was a similar structure at a gate which gave access to this part of the fort from the east. On the western side of the fort was a ditch, 15 feet wide x 5 feet deep, outside which was the war-fence."

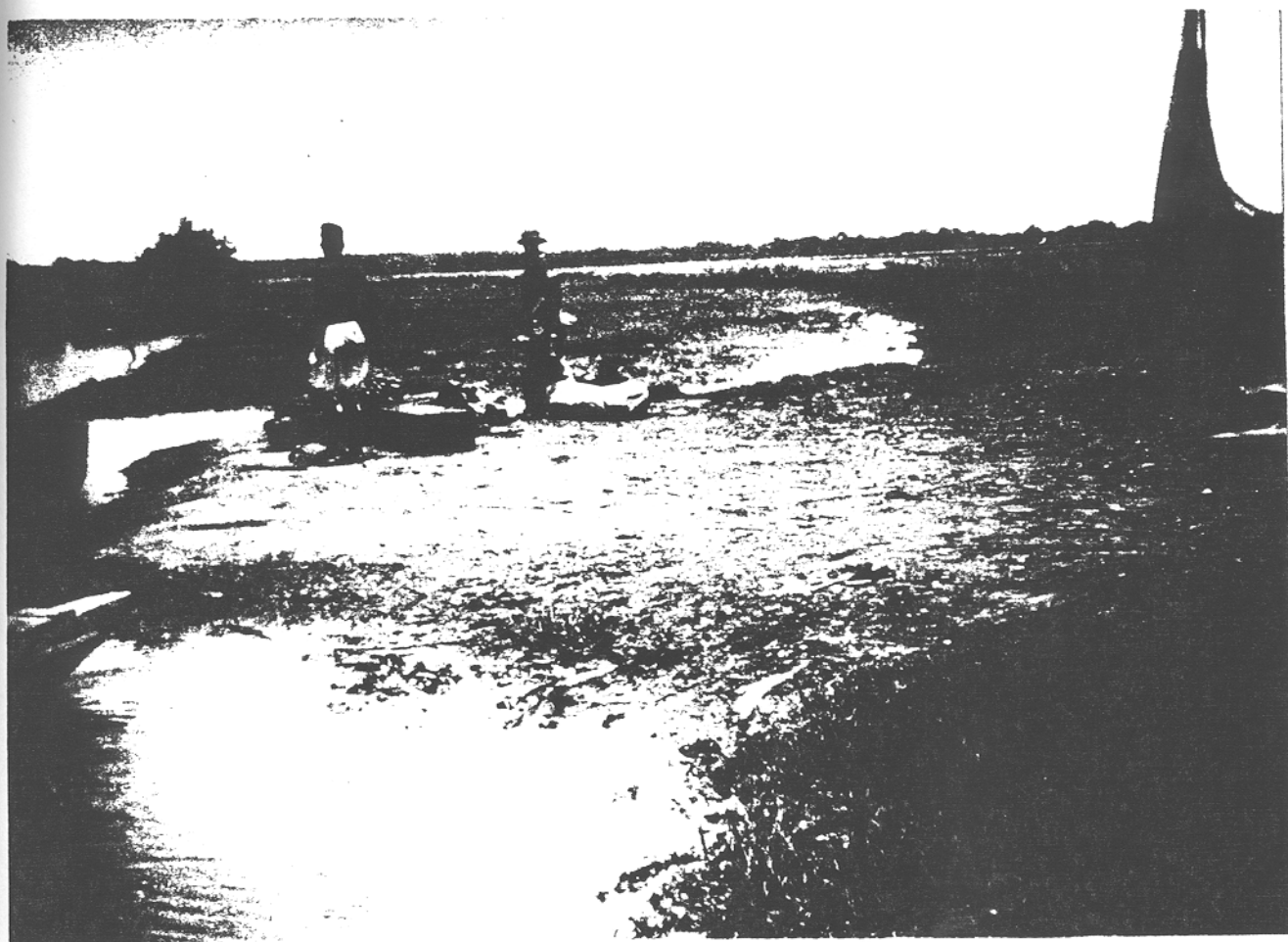
Colonial Office

Further Correspondence Relating to Territories on the River Gambia,
1892 January-June.

London: H.M.S.O., 1892, 121 pp. (African West No. 425).

p. 100.

LANDING PLACE AT TONIATABA -1947. Photograph by David P. Gamble

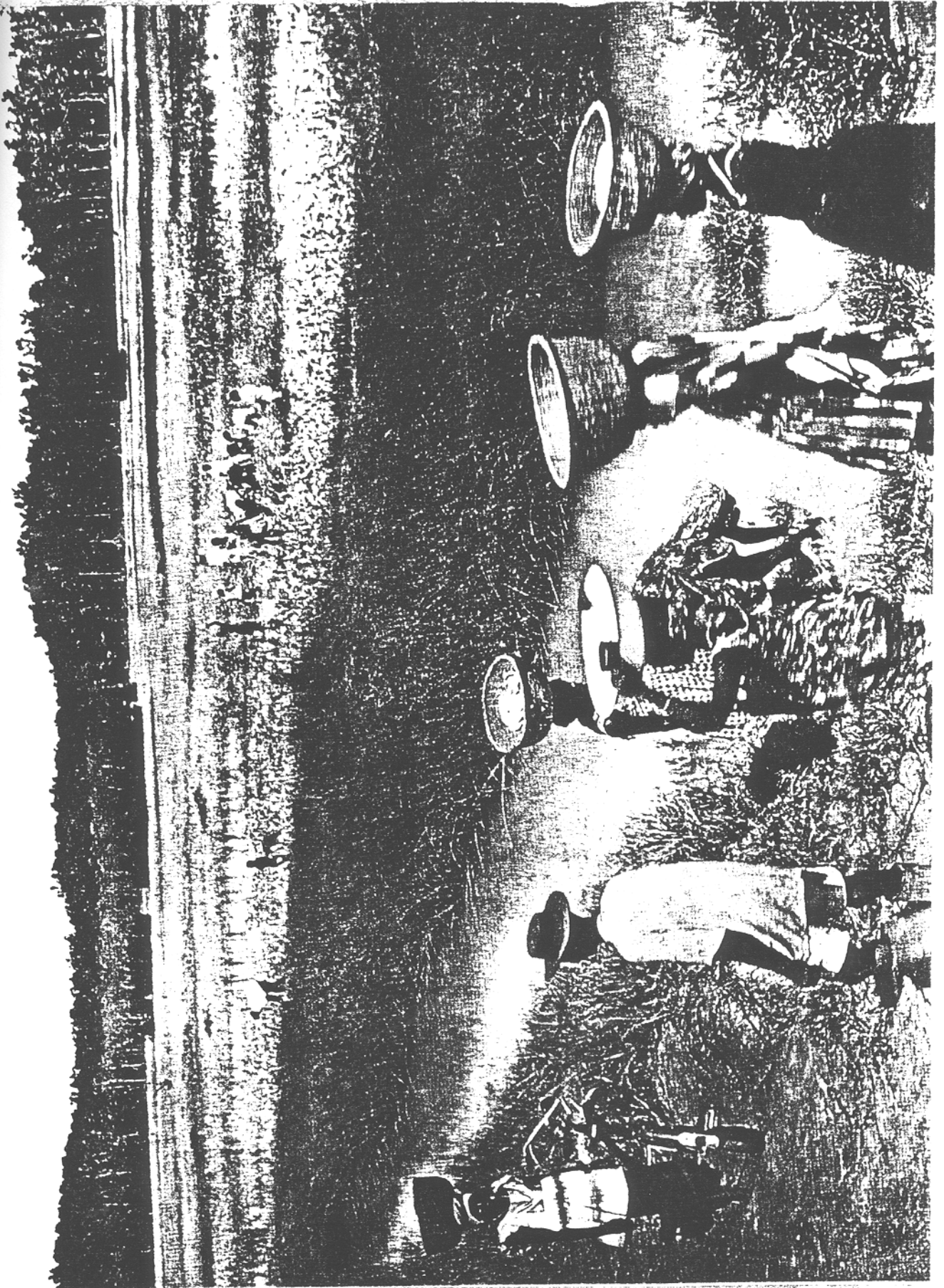


YELITENDA is the name given to the 'wharf' on the south bank on the Trans-Gambian road.

I am not sure whether it was an original name or came about from frequent references by those constructing the road to "That bloody wharf".

Before the north bank section of the trans-Gambian road was completed, the ferry ran from Balingo on the north bank to Yelitenda on the south.

Photographs of the Yelitenda-Bambatenda Ferry are given in Whose Development ? by John Bruton et al. Birmingham: Development Education Centre, 1987 - cover and page 56. Traffic on the Trans-Gambian road is shown on page 55.



KIANG (KIYANG)

KIYANG (GENERAL)	93-106
KIANG EAST	107-118
KIANG CENTRAL	119-131
KIANG WEST	132-163

KIVANG

Spelling on maps Kiang

Maps consulted:

1: 1,000,000		1905
1 cm to 2.5 kilometres		1931
1:50,000		1948
1:125,000		1956
Land use maps 1:25,000		1958
1:50,000	Sheets 14 13, 12	1963
1: 250,000		1980
River Chart		1942

Old spellings:

Kaen	(1732, Leach's map)
Caen	(1730) Francis Moore
Kiam	(1723) Labat
Kaen	(1749+) Adanson.
Quiam	(1684) Coelho

<u>Area</u>	Eastern Kivang	50 sq.miles
	Central Kiyang	63 " "
	Western Kivang	198 " "

Research in Kiyang

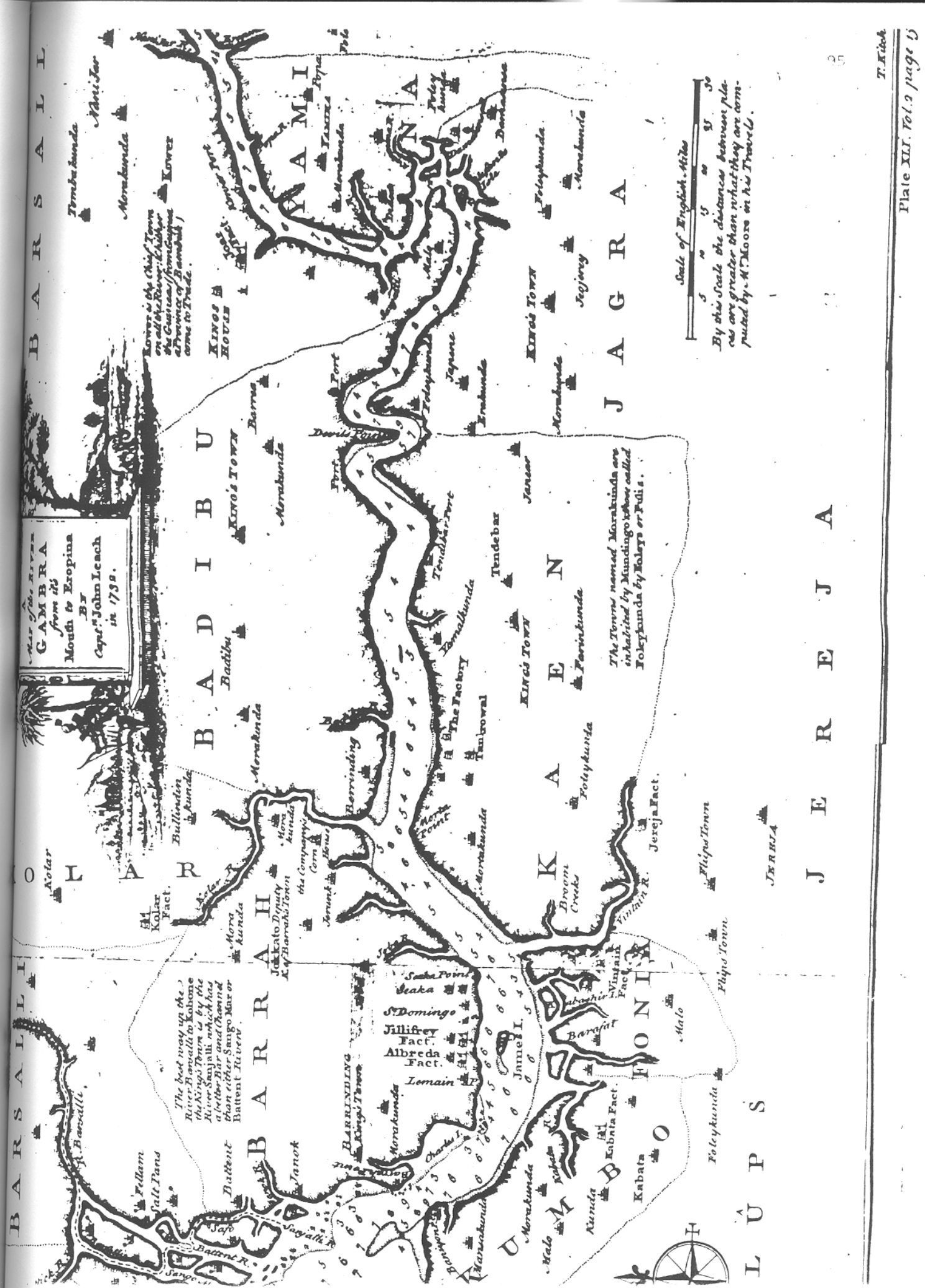
I stayed for about a month at Kaiaf (Eastern Kiyang) 25 May-21 June 1947, when Dr. Berry was beginning work at Jenyer.

I was based at Jenyer in February 1949, and from November 1949 to January 1950. In February visits were made to Bateling (Western Kiyang) for Girls' Initiation ceremonies, and Mandina (Central Kiyang) for Boys' Circumcision ceremonies. Though I was living at Keneba later, I made a visit to Njau (Upper Saalum, every month until February 1951, stopping at Jenyer on the way there, and on the way back. Visits were also made in June, July, and Sept. 1951.

I was briefly at Kwinella (Central Kiyang) 12-18 February 1950. Then I moved to Jali (Western Kiyang), where I stayed about a month while accomodation at Keneba was being prepared. A small round house was first built for me in the M.R.C. Compound. Visits were often made to other villages e.g. Manduar, and Tankular.

General surveys of the villages of East, Central, and Western Kiyang were made districts/in May 1953, and October 1955.

Kwinella was visited on a number of occasions in later years when going up river.



THE GAMBIA RIVER
from its
Mouth to Kropina
By
Capt. John Leach
in 1799.

The best way up the
River is to go to Kaboro
the River is by the
River Sangha, which has
a better Bar and Channel
than either Sango Mar or
Barent River.

Lower is the Chief Town
on all the River; higher
the Customs/Provinces
a Province of Bambaré
come to Trade.

The Towns named Morakunda are
inhabited by Mundingo who are called
Tokokunda by Kaloys or Fula's.

Scale of English Miles

By this Scale the distances between pla-
ces are greater than what they are com-
puted by. M. Moore on his Travels.

Kiang (Kiyang) boundaries

Kiang West is bounded on the north and west by the River Gambia, and on the south by the Bintang Bolong.

From a point just east of Sintet it follows the international boundary due north to a boundary pillar east of Dumbuto. It goes west for a mile, then due north to the River Gambia about a mile west of Tendaba.

Kiang Central is bounded on the north by the River Gambia; on the south by the international frontier. The boundary described above separates it from Kiang West. On the east a south-north line drawn from the boundary pillar just east of Sare Sajo to the river, separates it from Kiang East.

Kiang East is separated from Jaara West by a north-south line drawn midway between Kaiaf and Jifin, the river and the international frontier forming its north and south boundaries.

KIYANG

History (From Notes by Lang Koma Sanyang - 1943. Secom file DI 25/48)
his nephew

"Jifoyang Ba Sane and Sankule Ba Sanyang (having helped the people of Jaara in their war against Birasu) came with their followers to Kiang, and stayed at Mangadenye, near Jenyer. But fighting arose between the Mandinka and the Jola. Sankule Ba Sanyang authorised his son Bunka (or Buka) Sanyang to go with his own followers and stay near Kasikong, so that they could easily go and fight the Jolas. Unfortunately Bunka was killed by the Jolas.

Jifoyang Ba Sane and his followers stayed at Mangadenya, and Sankule Ba Sanyang and his followers and sons, came and stayed at Kunong-mansa-sansang, from where his sons scattered. One of his sons called Kangbadikani Wali Sanyang went with his followers to Sukoto, near Bateling, the other son called Tiliyala Jenung Sanyang went to Kuynela. Bunka Sanyang's followers and some other sons of Sankule Ba Sanyang stayed at Kiyang Bambako. Other sons went with followers to Kiyang Manduwar. Two other sons remained with Sankule Ba, the father at Kunongmansasansang. The sons shared the crown according to their ages. - Kunongmansasansang, Bambako, Kuynela, and Sukoto (now called Bateling), and Manduwar.

During the time of Farang Sara Suntukung Sanyang at Bateling, Fode Kaba Dumbuya, a war-king, and the Kaiaf people started to fight against Jenyer. Farang Sara Suntukung Sanyang told his men to go and help Jenyer against Fode Kaba. While the war was still on Farang Suntukung died at Bateling. For a while there was no king in this area (Koringkunda). After Jenyer was defeated they got a chance to crown a king at Kuynela, called Farang Tamba Wude Sanyang. The villages in Koringkunda then were : Mandina, Kunongmansasansang, Bambako, Kuynela, Bateling, and Manduwar. (plus Wurokang, Bumari, and Tendaba DPG).

Jenyer shared a crown with Kolior and Jataba in an area called Malongkunda. The villages were Jenyer, Kolior, Jataba, Sandeng, Sankandi (Sumakunda), Jifarong, (plus Tankular, Jaali, Baijana, Kulikunda and Kantongkunda DPG). and Kaiaf/ Kaiaf, however, became Muslim, and with the help of Fode Kaba Dumbuya, fought Jenyer.

After the fighting at Jenyer, Fode Kaba went to Manduwar by a roundabout way, unknown to the other Koringkunda villages, and defeated that town.

Farang Tamba Wude Sanyang decided to ask for British protection against Fode Kaba, and a British flag was raised at Tendaba./ (The hole where the flag was set is on the little hill at Tendaba wharf). (Slides #480, 481).

Mansakoto Sanyang of Bateling was at first unwilling to accept British protection, but a prominent trader at Tenda~~a~~ Kekutanding Keta, advised him to agree, and on his return from up river the Governor was asked to stop at Talikoto or Nganingkoy to present the flag. This was done. The country became two Districts divided between Farang Tamba Wude Sanyang of Kuynela, and Mansakoto Sanyang of Bateling. Farang Tamba Wude Sanyang of Kuynela ruled from Kuynela up to Kayaf, and Mansakoto Sanyang of Bateling ruled from Bateling to Karingkotaw (sic) (Kurungkoto).

When Farang Tamba Wude Sanyang died at Kuynela, Eastern Kiyang became a separate district ruled by the Sanes of Kayaf.

(1932 notes from Sefo, Eastern Kiang .)

One legend states that Malongkunda (Malunkunda) was formed when Jifoyang Ba Sane, set a fire to determine his lands -wherever the fire went was to be his territory. The Malongkunda towns were Kayaf, Jenyer, Kolior, Jataba, Jamaru, Tankular, Jali, Jifarong, Bayijana, Kulikunda and Kantongkunda. Malun meant Sane. So a long narrow shape was carved out which bypassed other settlements. later Malongkunda would therefore have been split/between the Chiefs at Kuynella and Bateling.

There was also a part of Kiyang called Yaabu-to which comprised Bambako, Kunung, Jirof, and Mandina, the ruler having the title of Farang.

At one time when there was fighting between Jaara and Kiyang, the Malongkunda ruler drove them back up to Fan Ndong near Karantaba. (Fand Ndong comes from the Mandinka fan long -know yourself.) However, the first

boundary between Kiyang and Jaara was between Kayaf and Jifini, where a hole was said to have been dug by the Jaara Mansa in Jifoyang's time.

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| 1. | Kings of Malongkunda | Mansa Bani Koto | of Kolior |
| | | " Mang | Jenyer |
| | | " Ajuma | Jataba |
| | | " Manjang Saane | Kaiaf |

(Unconfirmed notes)

2. Another informant had Jifoyang Sane coming from Kaabu.
(Balabatinkida ?)

Galloway (1980) states:

"Kiang was a kooring state founded by the Sanvangs of Kantora.

Later the territory came to be divided with a Sane branch from Kansala.

The Sanvangs settled around Kunnong and established control over the areas now called Kiang Central and Kiang West.

Later the Sanes of Kansala came and settled in Kiang East at Jenyeri and Kaiaf, where they ruled."

KIANG AND VILLAGE NAMES.

On modern maps the name of the District is spelled Kiang, modern Mandinka spelling is Kiyang.

Jobson (1620) mentions Tankular which is printed Taukorovalle (Purchas p.235), Tancrovally (Purchas p.285), Taucro Valley in The Golden Trade. He passed further on to Tindobauge (= Tendabaa), (p.235) where there was a Portuguese trader, and where the King's customs were paid, the King dwelling some six miles from the river. This would seem to be the area of the present day Kwinela.

The Spanish Capucin Missionaries (1646-47) mention Tancaroale as a port of the Gambia.

On the Courlander map, about 1652, the writing is difficult to read. A road is indicated parallel to the river and ten names are given. It is possible to identify Tankular, Tuabo Clon (= Tubab Kolongo), Tendaba, and possibly Jasobo in the east.

A map seemingly made in connection with Colonel Vermuyden's expedition in 1661 names the area K. of Kyan, with a second kingdom K. of Farambamba, being found further west. Muta Point is indicated, but the writing is not clear. Tankular and Tubab-kolong and possibly Jirof (in the east) are shown.

Francisco de Lemos Coelho's Description of the Coast of Guinea (1684) refers to the village of Tancoroale, a waterside village, and mentions the land of the Faram de Quiam. Other ports were Jasabo, Tubabo-Colom, and Sitato. He mentions Tagamdaba, which "we also know by the name of Cabaceira (Calabash-tree)" The calabash tree is the baobab tree, sita in Mandinka, Sitato meaning 'at the baobab tree'. Tagamdaba is undoubtedly Tendabaa.

Francis Moore (1730) writes Caen, Leach's map of 1732 Kaen.

Labat (1728) writes Kiam. Adanson (1749 +) Kaen.

Leach's map (1732) shows:

Morta Point = Muta Point on modern maps.

Nearby is a village Mortakunda - not found in present times. Elsewhere there are numerous Morakundas - Muslim towns, so perhaps the t here is a printer's error, copying from Morta Point. The nearest town is at present called Maaka (from Mecca).

In the southwest area are Broom Creeks. Presumably this comes from the town of Burong. The creek of Burong would be pronounced 'Burom Bolong'. A sketch map by Adanson shows a town - Broam.

In the southern section was also a Fula village- Foleykunda .

Tankular is shown - written Tankrowal.

Southeast of this is Farinkunda (cf. 1661 map). This might well have been a predecessor of Manduwa, one of the old royal towns.

South of Tendebar Port is 'King's Town' - This would have been the present day Kwinela.

Janear in eastern Kiang is Jeanyeri.

Yamalkunda - shown between Tankular and Tendabaa and west of the Nganingkoyi Bolong. An 1842 map shows Jemaaly at about this point. There is no village there at the present day.

Governor Ingram describes the place in 1842: "Arrived off Jamaly Cunda, and landed: twenty years since this was the most flourishing place on the banks of the river, being then the rendezvous of the gold merchants from the interior: it is now of comparatively little importance: the native inhabitants are peaceable and well-disposed."

WHARFS, CREEKS

Kiyang (Bisset Archer 1906), p, 192-3.

EK Wharf at Jossoto, 3 miles from Kolior.

Jossoto Creek is $\frac{1}{2}$ miles from river; boats and canoes only can go up.

CK Mandina Creek only fit for boats one mile from river.

Jiroff Creek can be used by cutters both at high and low water.

Bambako Creek $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, with wharf at end; it is 20 ft. wide and deep enough for cutters at high water.

Tendaba Wharf Tendaba is on the river, but steamers cannot come within 300 yards of the wharf at low water, or 200 yards at high water. The landing is effected by boats.

BATI MANSA

Batimaussa (= Bati Mansa) was first mentioned by Cadamosto in 1456. "....there were many lesser lords who dwelt near the river, some on one bank, some on the other; he offered, if I were willing, to bring me to one of them, called Batimaussa, and to treat with him to enter into friendship with us, since it seemed to him that we were well disposed persons. This offer was very acceptable to me; so taking him on board and treating him hospitably, we sailed up the river until we reached the place of the said Batimaussa, which according to our estimate was about sixty miles and more from the river mouth....where we dropped anchor the stream was much narrower than at the mouth, being in our judgment no more than a mile wide. This river has many branches which join together....

Arrived at this place, we decided to send one of our interpreters with the negro into the presence of this lord Batimaussa with a present for him....." (From The Voyages of Cadamosto..... ed. G.R.Crone, 1937.)

They obtained only a little gold, slaves, cotton cloths, civet, skins, etc.

Cadamosto also mentions a spring near the river bank from which his people drew water, where there was a gigantic baobab tree.

Diogo Gomez (From The Voyages of Cadamosto... ed. G.R.Crone, 1937.) about the same time, 1456/57, on returning from Kantora states "they told me that...on the left or south side of the river there was a certain great chief named Batimansa. I desired to make peace with him, and sent this black who had been with me in Cantor. The lord of this country desired to speak with me in a great wood on the bank of the river, and brought with him an immense throng armed with poisoned arrows, lances, swords, and shields...."

Valentim Fernandes (1506-1510) who is repeating Cadamosto's account also mentions Batimansa. After this I can trace no further references to him.

The distance up river and the width of the river suggests that the vessels anchored off Kiyang, either at Tubab-kolong (White Man's Well) or at Tendabaa. The mention of various branches of the river suggest that they had passed the Mini Minium Bolong on the north bank, and the Bintang Bolong on the south. The town of Bati Mansa was clearly not on the river bank, but no mention is made of a long journey to reach it. The only village in this area is Bateling, a royal town, founded by the Sanyangs, which is about two miles from both Tubab-kolong and from Tendaba.

The suffix -ling might well be a diminutive form, though the usual diminutives are -ring and nding. I can think of only one other place name ending in -ling, namely Bankuling.

In a comment on Cadamosto in my bibliography, The Gambia (1988), I suggested that bati might be baa-tiyoo. - owner of the sea or waters, an analogy with banku-tiyoo, owner of the land, or chief. In many Serer and Wolof communities along the coast and at the mouth of the Senegal there were apparently officials with the title "King of the Sea," (cf. Jogomay in Baol), whose duties involved sacrifices to the spirits of the sea, for protection against storms, ensuring good fishing, etc. The R.P. Ezanno, for example, describes their role in his article "Fadiout," Bulletin du Comite d'Etudes Historiques et Scientifiques, No.1, 1919, p.69.

It seemed likely that there would have also been such an official near the mouth of the Gambia River in pre-Islamic days, and if strange beings and strange ships came from the sea, it would have been natural to inform him of these events, and bring them to see him.

On the other hand, Kiyang is rather far from the coast, and the word preceding the title Mansa is generally a place name, though there are such terms as Kanta-mansa - a chief guarding the frontiers, Kidifay-mansa - warlord, etc.

So it now seems to me that the area between Nganingkoy Bolong and Tendabaa is the likeliest area to have been that where Cadamosto met Batimansa.