

A GUIDE TO THE WATERFALLS OF SRI LANKA

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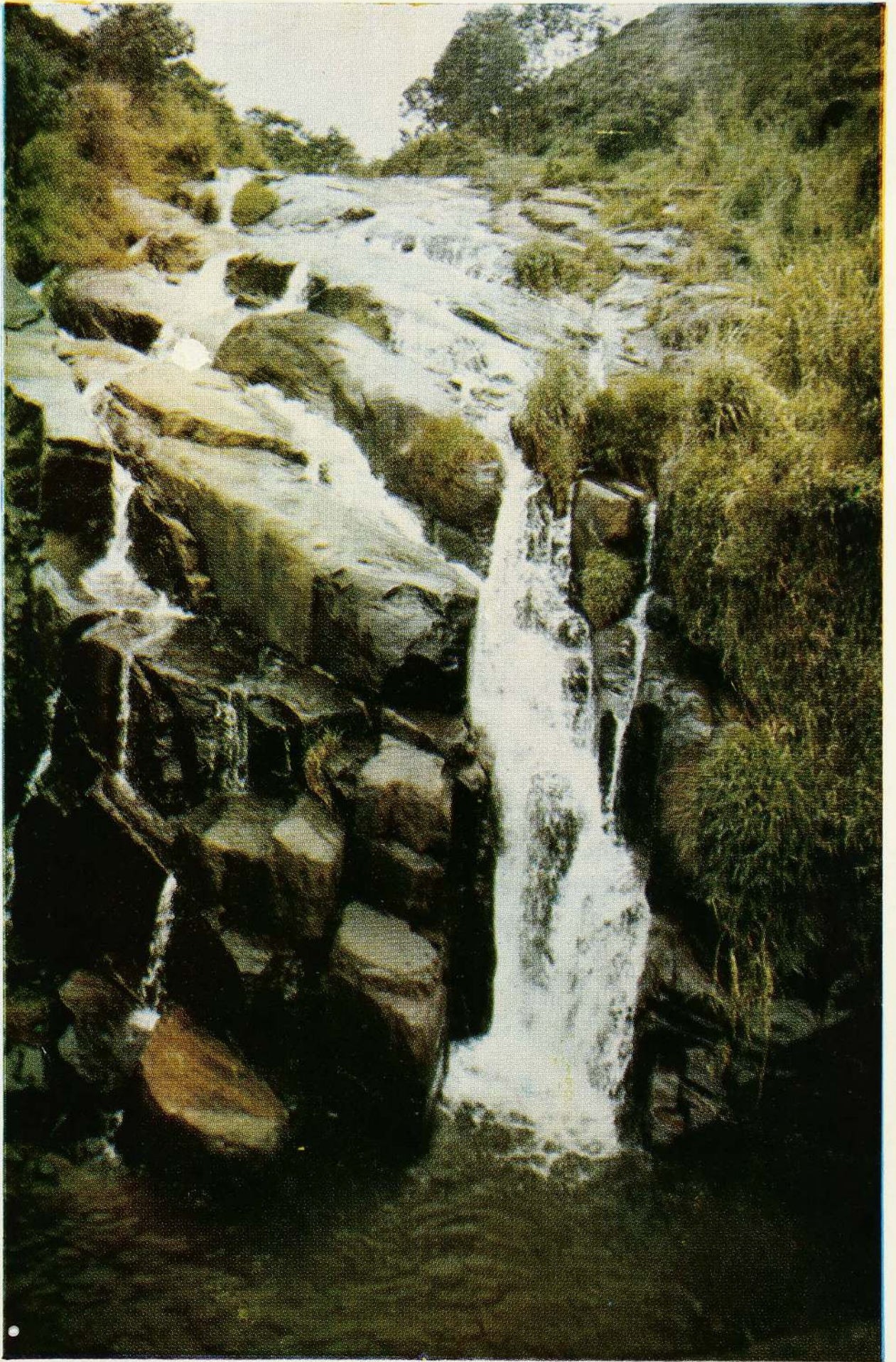
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By:
EBERHARD KAUTZSCH



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Kotmale Mahapokuna Fall

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A GUIDE TO THE WATERFALLS OF SRI LANKA

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EBERHARD KAUTZSCH

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TISARA PRAKASAKAYO LIMITED

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Front Cover

DIYALUMA FALLS

(Photograph : Eberhard Kautzsch)

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PREFACE

by

Dr. Eberhard Kautzsch

Waterfalls are attractive and sometimes frightening. They fascinate the onlooker by their variety. The mysterious plunge of the waters, the light, the constantly changing sunshine and shadows and the colour of the surrounding rocks and vegetation combine to make a most beautiful sight. The noise of the rushing waters, a deep rumbling bass or a clear whispering treble sometimes polyphonic where several waterfalls fall together into a valley, or when cascades resound together, enhances the beauty of a waterfall. Every fall whether big or small has its own individual face and behaviour. One can admire a waterfall for hours.

The total number of waterfalls in Sri Lanka with a height of over 5—10 meters approaches a hundred. Ninety nine of these are listed in this guide to the waterfalls of Sri Lanka. The ten largest falls range between 109 meters and 263 meters and they are well known in the island and also registered in different guide books. They are however missing in the internationally published *Rolls of Waterfalls in Our World*. It is surprising too, that many waterfalls are unknown in the district of their location. Probably the local people do not care for waterfalls, because this phenomenon is not exceptional for them.

The number of waterfalls published here is as complete as possible. Not all of them are fixed in the Survey Department's 1 inch to 1 mile map of Sri Lanka either. But the author has seen most of the ninety-nine falls himself in the period 1979–1982 and taken photographs. So this guide may be the first comprehensive collection of waterfalls on this island. Ceylon is very lucky in having such a large number of beautiful waterfalls and the reasons as to why there are so many of them is discussed in the introduction to this book.

Finally I must record my gratitude to those who have helped me to locate and get to the waterfalls in this guide. I must particularly mention the poor villagers and farmers of the areas who spared no pains to accompany me to the waterfalls sometimes through jungles with hardly a foot-path. To them I am most thankful. Without the help of these farmers I would not have been able to make such a comprehensive guide.

It is quite possible that there may be some waterfalls which have not been recorded in this guide. I am sure that lovers of nature and students of Sri Lanka's geography will be able to add to this guide in the future, perhaps including the "cascades" and "rapids" in which also Sri Lanka abounds. I also hope that a Sinhala translation of this book can be published so that the great majority of the people can read about the beauty of their own country. I wish to thank my publishers M/s. Tisara Prakasakayo Ltd., for kindly undertaking the publication of this work and to Mr. S. D. Saparamadu the firm's Director, who apart from assisting in the publishing, also wrote the Introduction to this book.

INTRODUCTION

Waterfalls have fascinated human beings from the beginning. They are one of the most beautiful of natural phenomena. From ancient times waterfalls have struck awe to those who see them and several have various legends and historical events associated with them.

Sri Lanka in comparison to its size has perhaps the largest number of waterfalls of any country in the world. They constitute about a hundred, some of great height and others only a few meters. Perhaps no country has neglected its waterfalls as much as Sri Lanka. As many as ten of the waterfalls are so unknown that they are in jungles without even a foot-path leading to them. The vegetation round many falls has been denuded. Sri Lanka's highest waterfall, the Bambarakande Falls (263 m), a sight of the most exquisite beauty is still known only to a few, even though it is a bare 4 miles off the main road from Colombo to Bandarawela. Many still believe that Diyaluma (220 m) is the highest waterfall in Sri Lanka.

Several geographical factors are necessary for there to be an abundance of waterfalls in any country. Sri Lanka is fortunate in that all these factors are found in the central highlands of the island. Firstly, the geological formation of the land has to be such that there is a sharp upthrust of the earth's surface resulting in several clearly defined peneplains with precipitous edges. Secondly, the rivers with the waterfalls should flow over a firm hard rock base. This is essential as otherwise the waterfall over the millenia will wear out its bed and gradually disappear. Thirdly, there should be plenty of rainfall so that the rivers with the waterfalls are always carrying a large amount of water. A fall is at its best when there is a large volume of water rushing over its lip. Finally, a thick vegetation surrounding a waterfall always adds to its beauty. These factors are dealt with in detail in the following paragraphs.

The geological structure of Ceylon shows three distinct peneplains, a coastal peneplain of about 1,500 feet above sea level, a second peneplain at about 4,400 feet and a third peneplain about 6,000 feet. These peneplains are very marked and have been caused by a series of upward thrusts of the land surface millions of years ago. Two different theories have been advanced as to how and when these upward thrusts took place. Whatever its origins Sri Lanka's three peneplains are sharply divided from each other.¹

The division between the second and third peneplains is sharply marked particularly on the southern and eastern edges of the third peneplain. There is an almost wall like escarpment rising to over 3,500 feet above the low lands of the second peneplain on the southern part of the central highlands. This escarpment starts at the foot of Adam's Peak (7,300 feet) and proceeds to Wellawaya at the foot of the great Haputale scarp (5,000 feet). Some of our highest waterfalls are over this cliff wall, e.g., Aberdeen, Laxapana, Kirindi Ella, Bambarakanda, Diyaluma, Rawanella, etc. This horst or upward thrust land mass surrounded by depressed land is also evident on the eastern border of the highlands at a lesser height falling abruptly into the Uma Oya, a tributary of the Mahaweli. The Dunhinda, Manawela, Kurundu and Victoria falls are features of this escarpment. There are no waterfalls on the northern face of the horst. There is also an

1. Two quite different theories have been suggested as to the origin of the geological structure of Ceylon. Adams suggests that the Island was formed by a series of four uplifts of the earth's surface millions of years ago. First the island rose from the sea to a certain height and remained stationary for a period during which it was denuded, this is the highest or third peneplain of the Central Highlands. It then rose another 4,400 feet and remained stationary for some time. The entire island then rose again to another 1,500 feet and finally for a fourth time to a height of about 100 feet to make the coastal plain. Four peneplains was created by these four different upthrusts. (*Canadian Journal of Research* 1929, Volume I, Nos. 5 & 6), Dr Wadia a former Ceylon Government Mineralogist has suggested a different explanation. He does not accept Adams' view that the central part of the island which was due to the first uplift is the oldest part. He argues that very old land masses never retain for long the variegated topography which characterises the central highlands. Wadia's view is that the oldest land masses are the plains which surround the central highlands forming the northern, eastern, western and southern plains of Ceylon. This he says was the earliest part of the Island to be uplifted and this was then reduced by denudation by the millenia to the nature of a plain. The second peneplain (1,600 feet) was then formed by a vertical upthrust which lifted the surface level of the Island well above the first peneplain. Later still another upthrust lifted the central land mass to form the third peneplain of 6,000 feet, which today constitutes the central highlands. The fact that the central hill country has waterfalls would seem to support Wadia's view. (*Spolia Zeylanica* Volume 23, Part 1, 1941) see also *The Ring of Waterfalls in Central Ceylon and its bearing on the Geological Structure and Earth Movements* by D. N. Wadia in same Volume. See also P. G. Cooray, *The Geology of Ceylon*, 1967.



THE GEOLOGY OF CEYLON
 showing the distinct peneplains
 From P. G. Cooray - *The Geology of Ceylon*



- 0 - 500 ft
- 500 - 1000 ft
- 1000 - 2000 ft
- OVER 2000 ft

40 MILES

THE GEOLOGY OF CEYLON

internal faulting in the central horst in the Watawala Ragala area on the third or highest peneplain. Here we find the Devon, Ramboda, Elgin, Parawella and St. Claire falls.

Where waterfalls are concerned it is very important geologically that the peneplains should have been formed by a sharp upward thrust or by a sharp depression of the earth's crust. Normally mountains are formed by the folding action of the earth's crust and in such cases peneplains do not occur and consequently there is a lack of waterfalls. It is when faulting of the earth's crust takes place that plateaus and peneplains are usually formed.

The second essential for a waterfall is that the bed of the river should flow over very hard rock. Sri Lanka is fortunate that its land mass particularly in the central region is of very ancient rock. Geologically Ceylon is part of this Dekkan plateau of Peninsular India which is considered one of the oldest land masses in the world. The major part of this plateau was formed in Pre Cambrian or Archean times and consists of very hard crystalline rocks particularly of granite and gneiss. These are rocks of extreme hardness and it is over these rocks that the rivers with our waterfalls flow. Unless the waterfalls descend over extremely hard rock, the tendency is for the water to erode its bed and for the fall to gradually recede backwards, causing it to disappear altogether and for the river to cut a deep gorge within which it flows. A river flowing over soft rock also has a tendency to carry with the water, sand, stones and other debris which itself acts as an additional eroding agent on the rock bed. The Colorado river in the United States is typical of such a river and it has cut a deep gorge over a greater part of its length.

The energy of a waterfall causes rapid erosion in whatever kind of rock constitutes the river bed. If the rock is hard, the erosion is less, and if the rock is soft erosion will be considerable. There are certain waterfalls on the Nile which fall over very hard rock. From flood marks and inscriptions cut by the Pharaohs on the rock face we can see that these waterfalls have not receded even a few inches in 4,000 years. As already mentioned most of the waterfalls in Sri Lanka flow over hard Archean rocks and erosion is negligible. One well known exception is the Rawana waterfall on the Ella-Wellawaya Road, which flows over khondalite a kind

of limestone, a rock which is less hard than the Archean granite and gneiss, and here erosion is clearly marked and can be seen. The fall has in fact cut into the rock in several ledges.

Where rainfall is concerned, Sri Lanka lies at the south eastern end of the Indian Peninsula with the Indian Ocean surrounding it. Ceylon also has a very high range of mountains at the center with heights ranging from 6,000 to 8,000 feet. This great height precipitates rain not only from the South Western monsoon during the May to August period, but also from the North Eastern monsoon from October to January. In addition during the inter monsoon period there is convectional rain or thunderstorms. Most of the rivers in Ceylon frequently get water from both monsoons and are constantly flowing streams.

A lush vegetation depends on several factors, the soil, rainfall, temperature and the availability of sunlight. In Sri Lanka all four factors are available in abundance particularly rainfall which is the prime consideration while it lies in the tropics which has an abundance of vegetation. Many of the areas with waterfalls are in the wet zone of Sri Lanka and therefore in the zone of the tropical rain forest. All our waterfalls are surrounded with thick vegetation which adds greatly to their beauty.

A word should be said about 'cascades' and 'rapids' which are also found in abundance in Ceylon but are not described in this guide. In a waterfall there is a sharp and precipitous deepening of the river bed so that the river loses contact with its bed causing a free descent of water. A 'cascade' is caused where the descent is less sheer and the river maintains contact with its bed. Several cascades of this nature are found on the lower reaches of the Mahaweli river. When the deepening of the river's rock bed is still less marked and the water flows through rock walls on either side, it is called a 'rapid'. Water flowing through rapids is marked by great velocity and turbulence and shows a broken surface. Rapids are common in many Sri Lankan rivers. Cascades and rapids are often classified as waterfalls but they are not so treated in this book. Their height is estimated from the top of the first cascade (rapid) to the bottom of the last.

Sometimes a waterfall falls from over very hard rock but there are layers of softer rock or soil below it. In such cases the tendency is for the softer layers at the bottom to wear out faster and to undermine the top layer of hard rocks causing it to collapse. The Niagara Falls is a typical example of this action. The Niagara and Horseshoe falls fall over a hard rock lip, but there are layers of softer limestone below it. The water eats into the soft rock causing the lip of the waterfall to collapse periodically. It has been measured that the falls of the Niagara and the Horseshoe recede at the rate of 4 feet a year. The Horseshoe falls has cut a gorge seven and a half miles in length by this process of recession by undermining.

Usually a waterfall falls into a pool. A typical example of this in Sri Lanka is the Dunhinda Falls. In certain cases where the waterfall is very high and the volume of water carried is small then the water disintegrates into mist or spray before it reaches the bottom. Many of Sri Lanka's waterfalls particularly during the dry season fall into this category. Some waterfalls have massive rocks at the base so that the weight of the waterfall is broken on them. A typical example of this in Sri Lanka is the Diyaluma falls.

Waterfalls are also possible on man-made reservoirs. Sri Lanka has several hundred large man-made reservoirs built for irrigation purposes during the last two thousand three hundred years. In the ancient reservoirs the bund damming the river was of rammed earth while the spill dam was usually over a natural rock ledge or sometimes over a spill built of cut rock cemented together. When the reservoirs become full during the rains the excess water goes over the spill dam causing a waterfall. None of the spills of the ancient reservoirs are of any great height. The reservoirs of the twentieth century however, have concrete spills, some of considerable height, and when the reservoir is full the water flows over the spill making a waterfall. One such man-made waterfall of great beauty which is well known in Sri Lanka is the spill of the Senanayake Samudra built at Inginiyagala in 1950.

In constructing such artificial spill dams however, the dam is built at an outward slope so that the water slides down the spill, while there is a concrete platform at the bottom which shoots the

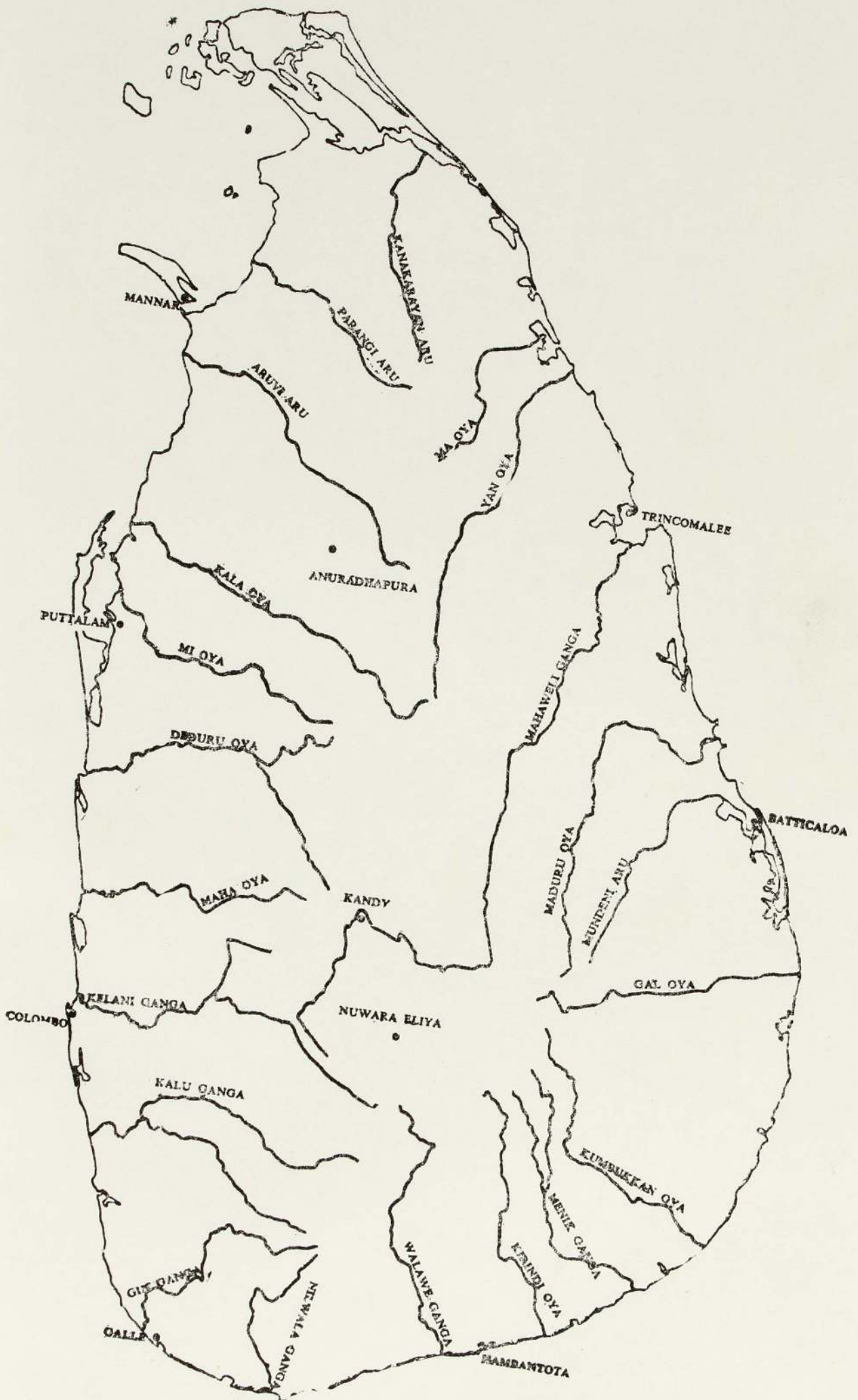
water horizontally down stream. Thus there can be no undermining. Needless to say waterfalls of this nature are not perennial and can be seen only when the rivers are in spate, and the reservoirs are overflowing. Many of the artificial reservoirs built in the twentieth century in other parts of the world also have such waterfalls over the spill dams. The Tennessee river which was one of the earliest multi purpose river development projects has as many as 27 such waterfalls along its length.

The Hunas Falls is an artificial fall of another kind. Here a stream coming from the Hunasgiriya mountain has been dammed to form a lake and the overflow is diverted over a steep rock ledge 60 meters in height to create an exceptionally beautiful waterfall.

Waterfalls serve another purpose in providing hydro electric power. Only a fall with a great height can usually be used for this purpose. It is also necessary that it should carry a large volume of water. Fortunately none of Sri Lanka's falls carry any great quantity of water which makes them useful for generating hydro power. Many of the large waterfalls or cataracts in the world have however been harnessed for this purpose. The Niagara falls which drains four of the Great Lakes of North America has been harnessed for generating electricity though the quantity of water used for this purpose is regulated so that the beauty of the falls is maintained.

In comparison with Sri Lanka's waterfalls the highest waterfall known in the world is the Angel in Venezuela, its drop is more than 3,200 feet, so great a height in fact that it makes little contact with the cliff side on its way down and the water dissolves in mist. The other exceptionally high waterfalls in order of height are the Kukenaam in Venezuela of 2,000 feet, the Sutherland in South Island, New Zealand of 1,900 feet, the Tugella Falls in Natal, South Africa of 1,800 feet, the Ribbon Waterfall in Yosemite, California of 1,620 feet, the Upper Yosemite of 1,430 feet and the Garvarni in France of 1,384 feet.

The term 'cataract' is used when a waterfall carries an enormous amount of water. The best known 'cataract' is the Niagara falls which discharges 200,000 cubic feet of water per second throughout the year. The largest mean discharge of water of any



THE PRINCIPAL RIVERS OF SRI LANKA

waterfall in the world is however that of the Guatra or Sete Quedas on the Parana River between Brazil and Paraguay. It is estimated that 470,000 cubic feet of water per second goes over the falls which is only 30 feet less in height than the Niagara. The Khom cataract on the Mekong River in Vietnam has an annual flow of between 400,000 and 420,000 cubic feet per second.

This brief note on waterfalls will serve to introduce the Sri Lanka reader to a subject which has not been comprehensively dealt with earlier. No one has listed our waterfalls or provided a guide to what is one of the most beautiful aspects of our scenic beauty.

This book by Dr. Eberhard Kautzsch is therefore welcome. It lists all the waterfalls in Sri Lanka and gives all particulars relating to them such as the river, the height of the waterfall and directions on how to reach it, the nearest accommodation available and the vehicle to be used. Reference is also given to the Surveyor General's one inch to one mile map sheet on which the different waterfalls can be located. A brief account is given whenever a legend or story is associated with a waterfall. The book is also illustrated with photographs taken by the author of a number of falls and a few maps and diagrams.

The author, Dr. Eberhard Kautzsch of Munich, Germany, who has taken great pains to compile this work has been an admirer and regular visitor to Sri Lanka for many years. He is a lover of nature and all things beautiful. Strangely enough he is not a geologist or a geographer but a distinguished Doctor of Medicine who retired as Director of the Municipal Hospital in Munich. Oberfoehring Germany. He is a world authority on liver diseases and his work '*Enzyme Histo Chemistry of Liver Diseases*' is a standard work on the subject which has been translated into several languages.

S. D. S.

HEIGHTS OF THE WATERFALLS IN SRI LANKA IN METERS AND FEET

			<i>Meters</i>	<i>Feet</i>
29	Bambarakanda Fall	.. ..	263	863
32	Diyaluma Fall	.. ..	220	722
46	Kurundu Oya Fall	.. ..	206	676
95	Handapan Fall	.. ..	200	656
74	Olu Fall	.. ..	200	656
10	Mapanana Fall	.. ..	148	486
83	Lakshapana Fall	.. ..	129	413
50	Mahakandura Fall	.. ..	120	393
16	Kirindi Fall	.. ..	116	381
62	Ramboda Falls	.. ..	109	358
97	Ratna Fall	.. ..	109	358
93	Galdola Fall	.. ..	100	328
86	Nekkavita Fall	.. ..	100	328
63	Garandi Fall	.. ..	100	328
60	Pundalu Oya Fall	.. ..	100	328
82	Aberdeen Fall	.. ..	98	322
56	Devon Fall	.. ..	97	318
55	St. Clairs Falls	.. ..	80	263
40	Dunhinda Fall	.. ..	63	207
15	Alupola Falls	.. ..	60	197
99	Hunas Fall	.. ..	60	197
80	Manaketi Fall	60	197
65	Delta Fall	60	197
33	Alakola Fall	60	197
52, 53	Nanu Oya Falls	60	197
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14	Beruwatte Fall	50	164
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11	Dehen Fall	40	131
41	Ravana Fall	40	131
49	Andawela Fall	40	131
17	Bopath Fall	30	99
25	Diyawini Oya Fall	.. ..	30	99

			<i>Meters</i>	<i>Feet</i>
79	Hantun Fall	30	99
81	Sampat Fall	30	99
45	Lovers Leap Falls	30	99
67	Diyatiri Fall	30	99
76	Rikille Fall	30	99
33	Alakolagala Fall	30	99
91	Dehigolla Fall	30	99
94	Dalveen Fall	30	99
30	Laymastota Oya Fall	30	99
59	Elgin Fall	25	82
43	Manawela Fall	22	72
20	Baker's Fall	20	66
58	Diyagalle Fall	20	66
27	Suratali Fall	20	66
88	Alapita Fall	20	66
2	Laxapana Fall	20	66
3	Gartmore Falls	20	66
71	Gantuna Fall	20	66
78	Rukmal Fall	20	66
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85	Kotmale—Mahapokuna Fall	10	33
44	Glan Fall	10	33
75	Kalupahana Fall	10	33
68	Ahupini Fall	10	33
69	Windsor Forest Fall	10	33
39	Rawana Fall †	9	30
21	Slab Rock Fall	6	20
18	Katu Gas Fall	6	20

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				<i>Meters</i>	<i>Feet</i>
28	Brampton Fall	6	20
4	Fairlawn Fall	5	16
22	Galagamma Fall	5	16
66	Hellbodde Fall	..	..	5	16
77	Ritigaha Fall	..	..	5	16
61	Len Dola Fall	..	..	2	7
98	Abarana Fall	..	..	2	7
5	Doturugala Fall †	..	..	?	?
6	Diyana Fall †	..	..	?	?
7	Uran Fall †	..	..	?	?
8	Udakanda Fall †	..	..	?	?
31	Monerakanda Oya Fall	..	..	?	?
34	Diyabetma Fall †	..	..	?	?
89/90	Totulu Falls †	..	..	?	?
57	Mt. Vernon Fall	..	..	?	?
47	Gurugala Fall	..	..	?	?
70	Kelvin Fall	..	..	?	?
96	Edandu Fall †	..	..	?	?
51	Kabragala Fall	..	..	?	?
19	Petiyagala Fall †	..	..	?	?
26	Papulagala Fall †	..	..	?	?

† Waterfall within a pathless jungle.

REMARKS AND REFERENCES

1. Names of places, streams and mountains refer to the Survey Department's maps (SDm). 1 inch to a mile.
2. Names of waterfalls refer to SDm and to local information.
3. Heights of mountains or falls refer to SDm or own measurements.
4. Distances and heights are given in kilometers and meters. Heights above sea level are indicated...m NN.
5. Accommodation = Nearest available resthouse or hotel.
6. Distance = Driving or walking distance between accommodation and the waterfall.
7. Vehicle = That which takes you from the place of accommodation to the nearest point from where you start walking to the fall.
(Bus = Public (CTB) bus service)
8. Map Sheet = SDm. 1 inch to a mile. Available at the Surveyor General's Office, Kirula Road, Narahenpita, Colombo 5.
9. The best time to visit waterfalls is after the rainy season (October to January). After a long dry period or drought even the big waterfalls lack water.
10. The enumeration (No. 1 to 99) is purely arbitrary, but relates mostly to the location of the fall, with Adam's Peak as the starting point.

**ACCOMMODATION AND DISTANCE FROM COLOMBO
HIGH LEVEL ROADS
WATERFALL NUMBERS**

Balangoda	144 km	A-4	6-7-8-9-23-24-25
Belihuloya	160 km	A-4	22-26-27-28-29
Dickoya	132 km	via A-7	1-2-3-4-5-82-83-84-85
Ella	204 km	via A-5, A-2	38-39-40-41-42
Hassalaka	187 km	via Kandy	91-97
Horton Plains	160 km	via A-7	20-21-22
	200 km	via A-4	
Kaltota	172 km	via A-4	23-24-25
Kandy	115 km	A-1	91-92-97-99
Kitulgala	97 km	A-4, A-7	67-68-69-70-71-72-73- 74-75-76-77-78-79- 80-81-82-83-86- 87-88-89-90
Koslanda	196 km	A-4	30-31-32-33-34-35-36- 37-38
Nuwara Eliya	177 km	A-5, A-7	41-42-43-44-45-46-47- 48-49-50-51-52- 53-54
Pussellawa	137 km	A-7, A-5	60-61-62-63-64-65-66
Rakwana	140 km	A-4, A-17	93-94-95-96
Ratnapura	98 km	A-4	10-11-12-13-14-15-16- 17-18-19
Talawakele	147 km	A-7	54-55-56-57-58-59
Tangalla	196 km	A-2	98
Hambantota	236 km		

1. ADAM'S PEAK FALL

A small river with its source on the South-east slope of Adam's Peak falls into the southern corner of the Maskeliya Oya Tank as a waterfall of about 10 m. You may see this waterfall sparkling in the sun from a fair distance off even from the hillsides around Maskeliya town. A good motorable road takes you from Maskeliya via Mousakelle round the tank to Moray estate (15km). Park the car near the shore of the tank and walk another 500 m to the waterfall. Opposite at the other side of the creek the Gartmore Fall (see No. 3) plunges from a rockwall into the tank.

On the way to Moray around the tank you pass the Laxapana Fall (see No. 2) and the road-junction leading to the climb of Adam's Peak.

Accommodation : Dickoya, Upper Glencairn Hotel

Distance : 31 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus

Map Sheet : Ratnapura

2. LAXAPANA FALL

The road from Maskeliya to Moray (see No. 1) crosses the 20 m waterfall. Its sources rise from Laxapana estate on the south slope of Mt. Takinarupa (1860 m NN). The fall plunges into the Maskeliya Oya Tank (9 km off Maskeliya, via Mousakelle). The Sinhala name of the fall is 'Movini Alla' මොවිනි ඇල්ල.

Accommodation : Dickoya, Upper Glencairn Hotel

Distance : 25 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus

Map Sheet : Hatton

3. GARTMORE FALLS

A series of waterfalls in the area of the Gartmore tea estate falling into the Maskeliya Oya Tank at its Southern end. This place is bordered with mountain chains crowned by rocks. In the background rises the Doturugala rock (1855 m NN). Behind the ridge there is a mountainous highland (ca 1200 m NN) covered with thick forests. This basin serves as the source for the Gartmore waterfalls as well as four others (see No. 4, 5, 6, 7). The height of these falls range between 20–30 m. Depending on the amount of water fed by the monsoon rains the falls look very precious, sparkling in the sun, and can be seen from far around the country. The falls within Gartmore and neighbouring Blackmore (once Frogmore) estates join in a common valley (larch field) and into one river which plunges down from a height of 40 m over a rock into the Maskeliya Tank. Opposite to this creek is Adam's Peak Fall (see No. 1).

To get to Gartmore estate take the road from Maskeliya to Upcot (8 km). A road-junction at Glenugie (6.4 km) leads to Gartmore (6 km). Nearby Midlothian and further on by Mocha—both estate settlements below a high and steep wall of rocks—there are 3 thin falls resembling spider-threads. Following the motorable road to the end of the valley there are other bigger waterfalls pouring out of the dark green jungle on the height of the mountain range surrounding the basin-shaped valley. To get as near as possible to the falls you have to climb about 1000 m distance from the end of the motorable road through scrub and over boulders. To get to the lower fall which plunges into the tank, drive to Gartmore factory and a Hindu shrine, from there walk 300 m to the fall.

Accommodation : Dickoya, Upper Glencairn Hotel

Distance : 29 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus

Map Sheet : Ratnapura

4. FAIRLAWN FALL

The sources of the Maskeliya Oya are in the forests south-eastward of the Fairlawn tea estate. The most eastern tributary feeds the broad waterfall at the upper part of the estate near Meeriacotta. The stream plunges over a rocky barrier of 3-4 m altitude followed by some cascades on the river's way downward through tea plantations. There is a country-road from Norwood to Upcot (11 km) and another one from Maskeliya to Upcot (Samimale) (8 km). From Upcot leads a motorable estate road along the Maskeliya Oya to Meriyacotta (4 km) and the waterfall, set by the border of the Peak Wilderness Sanctuary (1810 m NN).

Accommodation : Dickoya, Upper Glencairn Hotel

Distance : 24 km

Vehicle : Car, Jeep, Bus

Map Sheet : Ratnapura

5. DOTURUGALA FALL

6. DIYAN FALL

7. URAN FALL

8. UDAKANDA FALL

The waterfalls from No. 5 to No. 8 are situated within pathless jungles and are described later in the section on 'Jungle-set Waterfalls' (see p. 74).

9. GERANDI FALL

A 12 m waterfall on the south slope of Detanagale New (1805 m NN) near Cicilton tea estate, north of Balangoda. The watercourse is a tributary to the Boltumbe Oya which joins the Walawe Ganga. The amount of water depends on the rainy season.

During half the year there is only a tiny rill from the rock; but even without a waterfall the beautiful landscape is well worth a visit. Drive from Balangoda on A-4-North to Morahela, then turn left to Pinnawala (bus service) and further on to Cicilton estate and its settlement Gerandi below the Detanagala New. There is a steep footpath (1 km) to the waterfall.

Accommodation : Balangoda Resthouse

Distance : 16 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus

Map Sheet : Ratnapura

10. MAPANANA FALL

A beautiful majestic waterfall (148 m) within the monsoon forest south of Adam's Peak, fed by Elle Oya, a tributary of Maskeliya Oya. This stream is a different Maskeliya Oya, not that flowing from Fairlawn (see No. 4) and feeding the tank at Maskeliya town. The Ella Oya rises from Benasamagala (1868 m NN) and her waters flow to the Kalu Ganga via Maskeliya Oya.

The name "Mapanana" derives from the tea estate where the waterfall is situated, southwest of Adam's Peak.

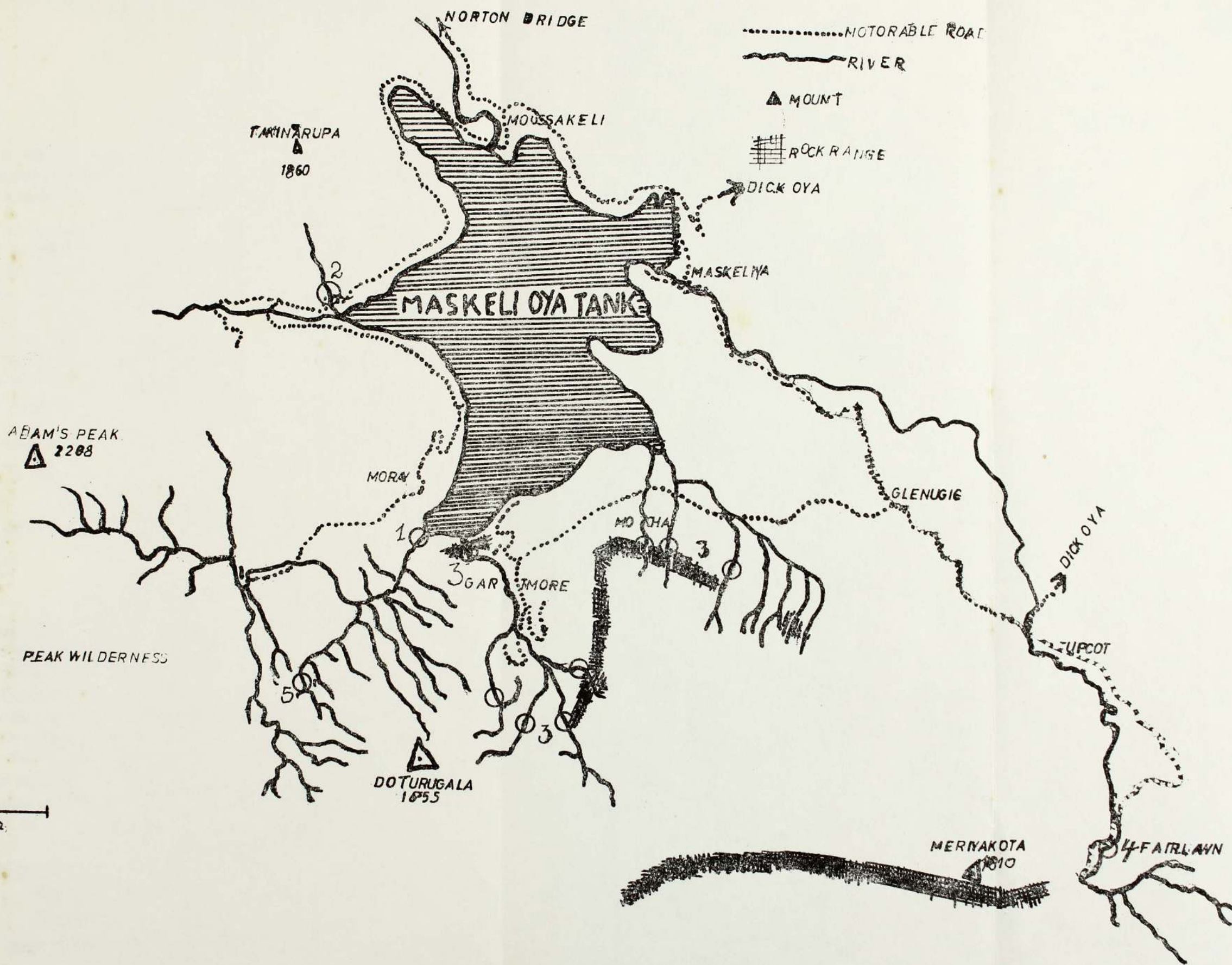
A good countryroad leads from Ratnapura via Gilimale (8 km) to Asoka Carney (20 km), a settlement on the bank of the Kalu Ganga. Here is the starting point of the climb to Adam's Peak (2208 m NN) on the south route (12 km). The path to Mapanana Fall (1.2 km) is marked by roadsigns and boards and also well maintained up to an open air tea house, from where one can walk to the waterfall. Below the fall the narrow path crosses the Ella Oya by a planked bridge without railings. It is difficult to climb through the scrub and boulders close to the fall.

Accommodation : Ratnapura Resthouse

Distance : 22 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus

Map Sheet : Ratnapura



THE WATERFALLS ON THE SOURCES OF THE KELANI GANGA

- (1) Adam's Peak Fall (2) Laxapana Fall (3) Garmore Falls (Mocha Falls) (4) Fairlawn Fall

The Maskeli Oya Tank is an artificial reservoir built for generating hydro electric power in the 1950's.

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11. DEHEN FALL

This 40 m fall belongs to a series of waterfalls in the valley both of the Bambarabotuwa Oya and her tributary the Wewel Dola, east of Ratnapura (also see No. 12 to 15).

The sources of this waterfall are on the west slope of Kon-durugala (1230 m NN). The watercourse joins Bambarabotuwa Oya, a tributary of the Denawak Ganga, joining the Kalu Ganga. The Dehen Fall is very close to the country-road from Ratnapura (21 km) via Lansdowne (junction to Asoka/Carney and Mapanana Fall, see No. 10), Galboda, Gallela, Kiriwandala and Hapugahena to Alupolla. Right after passing Hapugahena you find the waterfall, next to 'mile-post 71' above a road-bridge (14/15), plunging down from a vertical rockwall into a heap of boulders.

Accommodation : Ratnapura Resthouse

Distance : 21 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus

Map Sheet : Ratnapura

12. PANDI OYA FALL

The Pandi Oya runs out of the Peak Wilderness south-west of Adam's Peak. The stream crosses the country-road from Ratnapura to Wewelwatte under the bridge 16/6 near 'mile-post 72' west of Diyabibile and joins the Bambarabotuwa Oya. The waterfall is hidden by trees and scrub and can only be seen from Diyabibile at a distance of about 300 to 400 m. The height is about 100 m. The waters plunge down from a steep rock and divide into two strings. The Bambrellakanda (630 m NN) forms the background of this waterfall. A woodcutter's path leads from Diyabibile close to the falls (800 m).

Accommodation : Ratnapura Resthouse

Distance : 24 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus

Map Sheet : Ratnapura

13. BAMBARABOTUWA FALL

A small waterfall (10 m) of the Wewel Dola. It is about 300 m distance from the Bambarabotuwa Christian Church and below the tea factory on the hill. The Wewel Dola rises from the mountains between the Alutwelawisahena (1284 m NN) and the Dotalugala (1006 m NN), south of Udakanda (see No. 8). The Wewel-dola flows through tea estates and a country-side covered with small woods and lanes between low hills. The fall can be seen well from the church-hill at Bambarabotuwa on the Ratnapura road. There is also a path to the fall.

Accommodation : Ratnapura Resthouse

Distance : 25 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus

Map Sheet : Ratnapura

14. BERUWATTE FALL

A waterfall (about 50 m) at the upper part of the Wewel Dola within a tea plantation. The background in the north is crowned by Mt. Balakotenna (732 m NN). East of Rilhengama on the road from Bambarabotuwa (see No. 13) to Alupola, there is a road-junction to Agarsland and to Halvaturakanda-Balangoda. About 500 m east of this junction is the waterfall. The road was motorable by jeep or tractor only (1981.)

Accommodation : Ratnapura Resthouse

Distance : 27 km

Vehicle : Jeep

Map Sheet : Ratnapura

15. ALUPOLA FALLS

Alupola is located at the end of the Wewel Dola valley with her northern tributaries at the border of the Peak Wilderness. There are two waterfalls with an altitude of about 60 m, located above the Alupola estate bungalows, school and dispensary. The waters

rise in the forests of the southern incline of Battaturagala (1047 m). The road from Ratnapura to Alupola (27 km) is not very good but is motorable for cars during dry periods, otherwise you need a jeep. From Bambarabotuwa (25 km off Ratnapura)—Wewelwatte (see No. 13) a small estate-road passes Revuladolapolwatta and Rilhengama (both small settlements). At the junction to Agarsland—Halvaturakanda (see No. 14) turn to the left on a road leading upward with several bends and a hair-pin bend to the opposite side of the valley and to the waterfall. The fall can be seen from a fair distance.

Accommodation : Ratnapura Resthouse

Distance : 27 km

Vehicle : Car, Jeep, Bus

Map Sheet : Ratnapura

16. KIRINDI FALL

A 116 m waterfall in open hill-country covered with grass below a tea factory. The Kirindi Ella (river) has her numerous sources at Kuttapitiyakanda (954 m NN) in the Bambarabotuwa forest and flows into Denawak Ganga, a tributary of the Kalu Ganga. Drive from Ratnapura on A-4 to Pelmadulla (19 km), about 600 m before the Pelmadulla west border is a road-junction to Kuttapitiya; this road leads to a factory and 1.5 km further on you see the waterfall. A small footpath through meadows and reed (1200 m) takes one near the waterfall.

Accommodation : Ratnapura Resthouse

Distance : 21 km

Vehicle : Car, Bus

Map Sheet : Ratnapura

17. BOPATH FALL

A 30 m waterfall of the Kuru Ganga, a tributary of the Kalu Ganga. The river flows through thin woods and scrub and sands, an inviting place for picnics and a refreshing river-bath with the waterfall's 3 cascades in the background. A real beautiful landscape. The name of the fall derives from BO (බෝ) = *ficus religiosa*, the holy tree under which Lord Buddha became enlightened, and from PATA (පත) = leaf. The waterfall has the shape of a Bo tree leaf.

The Bopath Fall is one of the nearest to Colombo. Driving via Avissawella on A-4 to Higgashena junction (85.5 km) in the direction of Dehipala. Turn to the left here and proceed to the north-west on the small road till Agalawatte. Keep to the right at a road-junction in this village. This small motorable road runs with bends through a rubber plantation. Coming out of the estate you see the waterfall on the other side of a gap at a walking distance of about 100 m.

Though this waterfall is of 2 to 3 hours (89 km) driving distance from Colombo and only 15 km from Ratnapura, yet it is worth making an eight-hour holiday trip with friends or family to see the Bopath Fall.

Accommodation : Ratnapura Resthouse

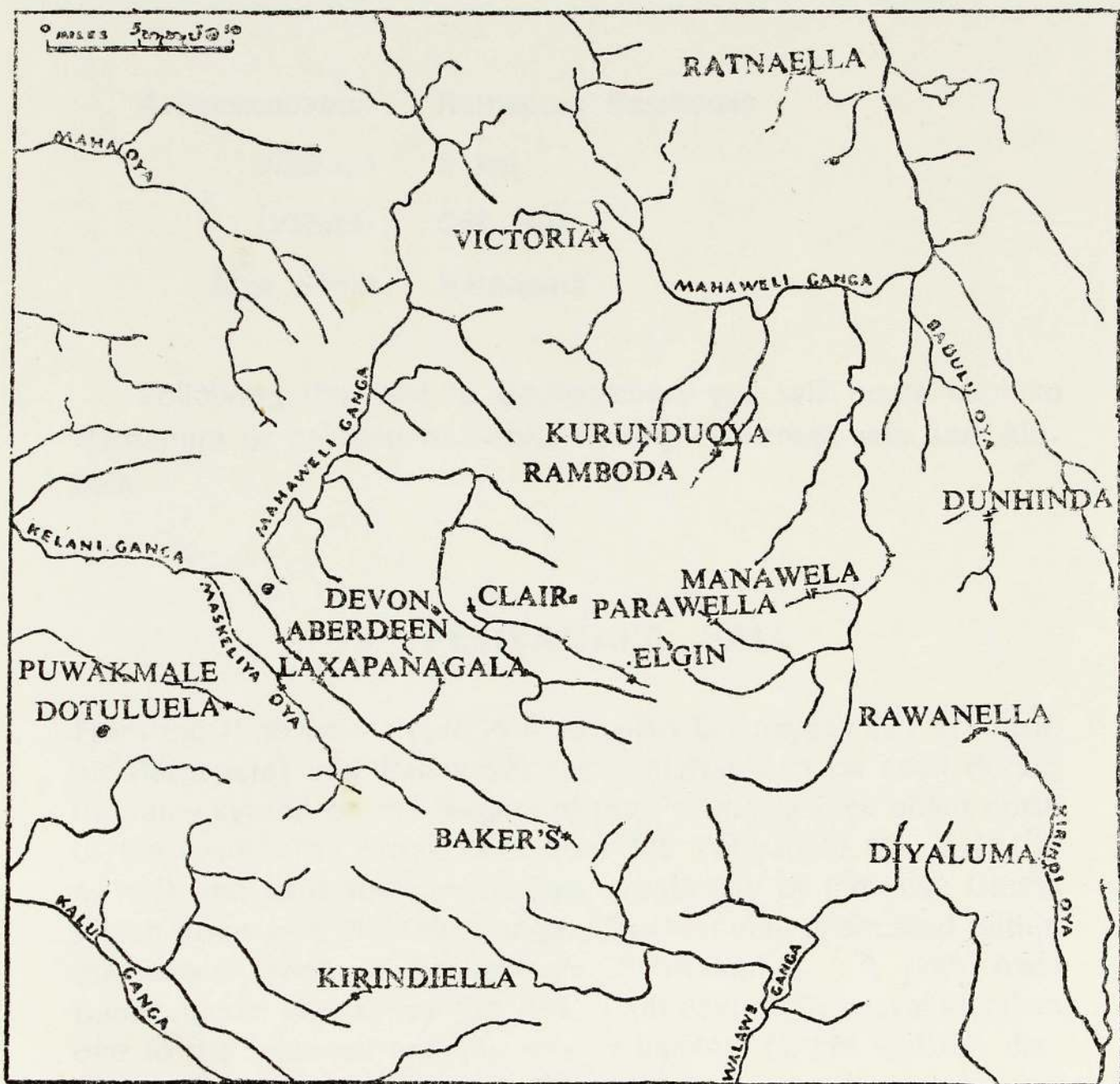
Distance : 15 km

Vehicle : Car, Bus

Map Sheet : Ratnapura

18. KATU GAS FALL

A small fall (6 m) with several cascades rushing down over rocks in scrub jungle. The fall is on the Katu Gas Ela with its sources in the monsoon forests of the southern slope of Minuwangala hill (550 m NN). The name derives from KATU (කටු) which is the name of different plants as *Akanthus*, Pepper etc. and also means (කටු) thorny. GAS, GAHA (ගස්, ගහ)—tree. Thus the name means : thorny-tree-river. Indeed, if you like to follow the cascades walking, it is very difficult because of the surrounding thick scrub.



THE CHIEF WATERFALLS OF THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS

Map shows the waterfalls on the sources of the Kelani Ganga, the Maha Oya, the Mahaweli Ganga and its tributaries the Kirindi Oya, the Walawe Ganga and the Kalu Ganga

From Elsie K. Cook – *The Geography of Ceylon*



THE UPPER PLAINLANDS OF THE CENTRAL INDIA
This shows the position on the course of the
the river... the... the... the...
... the... the... the...
... the... the... the...
... the... the... the...

Behind the Ratnapura bus stand a road branches off to Kospelawinna (2 km) from there turn right to Godigamuwa. This road crosses the Katu Gas Ela, along a bridge. Stop here and walk upstream 80 m along a small path to the waterfall.

Accommodation : Ratnapura Resthouse

Distance : 3 km

Vehicle : Car, Bus

Map Sheet : Ratnapura

Following the road to Godigamuwa you will come back to Ratnapura or proceed to Asoka-Carney or Lansdowne and Alupola.

19. PETIYAGALA FALL

From the High Level Road A-4 between Opanayake (27 km east, off Ratnapura) and Balangoda this waterfall can be seen during the rainy season on the heights of the Petiyagala rock chain north of the road. The brook rises from Mt. Petiyagala No. 2 (1443 m NN) and joins the Wegan Oya, a tributary of the Wey Ganga which flows into the Kalu Ganga. The waterfall is situated within the forests north of Kendaketiya, Penelakanda. A path from Badahelgoda, Horaketiya (on A-4, 5 km east of Opanayake) takes one to the waterfall and the nearby hamlets (2 km walking distance uphill).

Accommodation : Ratnapura Resthouse

Distance : 34 km

Vehicle : Car, Bus

Map Sheet : Ratnapura

20. BAKER'S FALL

One of the waterfalls of the Belihul Oya (also see No. 21, 22) a river rising from the Horton Plains. The fall plunges over a wide black rock about 20 m down into a gorge amid Rhododendron and huge fern trees. There is a good footpath from Far Inn Resthouse (3 km) through the Patna grassland of the Horton plains to the waterfall. Black monkeys frequent the trees.

When you proceed along the path to the south-east, you will come to 'World's End' and back to Far Inn.

Accommodation : Horton Plains Far Inn

Distance : 3 km

Vehicle : Walking, Car, Coach

Map Sheet : Haputale

21. SLAB ROCK FALLS

Set in sylvan grandeur these falls divide transversely into two from a broad ledge of rock right across the uppermost part of Belihul Oya, studded with small pools and narrow runs and a deep pool of some size and depth into which, from a height of about 6 m more than half the river blows.

A rarely used path westward from Far Inn to the adjacent forest covered hills (2 km) takes one to the falls.

Accommodation : Horton Plains Far Inn

Distance : 2 km

Vehicle : Walking

Map Sheet : Haputale

The falls are named after Sir Samuel White Baker (1821-1893), who together with John Henning Speke was one of the discoverers of the sources of the Nile and of her tributaries between Sudan and Ethiopia as well as of Lake Albert between Uganda and Zaire (1880-1864). In 1846 and 1855 Sir Samuel

Baker lived in Ceylon at Nuwara Eliya. Overwhelmed by the beauty of the landscape he bought a large block of land from the government, went back to England to return after one year with his brother and his family, with carriages, horses, cattle and sheep and a pack of foxhounds. Sir Samuel Baker's intention was to establish a typical English village in the delightful surroundings of Nuwara Eliya. This he did and called it Baker's farm. It was known as a picturesque farmstead and later it became a flourishing tea plantation. Sir Samuel Baker was an enthusiastic hunter and wrote two books on his stay and hunting adventures namely "Eight Years in Ceylon" and "Rifle and Hound in Ceylon".

22. GALAGAMA FALL

The last of a series of waterfalls of the Belihul Oya, a tributary of the huge Walawe Ganga, which runs into the Indian Ocean at Ambalantota (A-18!A-2, see No. 98). A visit to this 5 m fall is not easy. From Belihul Oya resthouse (A-4) take the small motorable road to Assaddunwela - Amunumulla. From Assaddunwela leads a path downhill through paddy fields and scrub to the deep gorge of the Belihul Oya covered with big and slippery rocks, overflowed by the waters. First you have to follow the rivercourse upstream climbing the rocks in the riverbed, then cross to the other side, where a small path along a steep rockwall takes one to the waterfall, that runs into a series of deep pools with whirls and currents (3.5 km). At flood times the water level will increase up to 5 or more meters as is seen by the natural watermarks on the rocks. Therefore it is not possible to pass the gorge. Another access scarcely less hazardous is to come from Baker's Fall (see No. 20) downhill along the gorge and passing Governor's Pool, Gem Pit Pool, Ford Pool to the Galagama Fall (2.5 km). The Galagama Fall is called 'Pahantuda Ella' by the native people after the 'Pahantuda' (පහන්තුඩ) wick, burner of a small oil lamp. The waterfall's shape looks very much like this.

Accommodation : Belihul Oya Resthouse

Distance : 7 km

Horton Plains Far Inn

Distance : 6 km

Vehicle : Car, Bus, Walking

Map Sheet : Haputale

From Balangoda (A-4) take a road to Kaltota in the south-west direction along the margin of the 2nd peneplain. Within this area there are three waterfalls, two of them amid the monsoon forest and jungle.

23. WALAWE GANGA FALL (West)

See below, under p. 77.

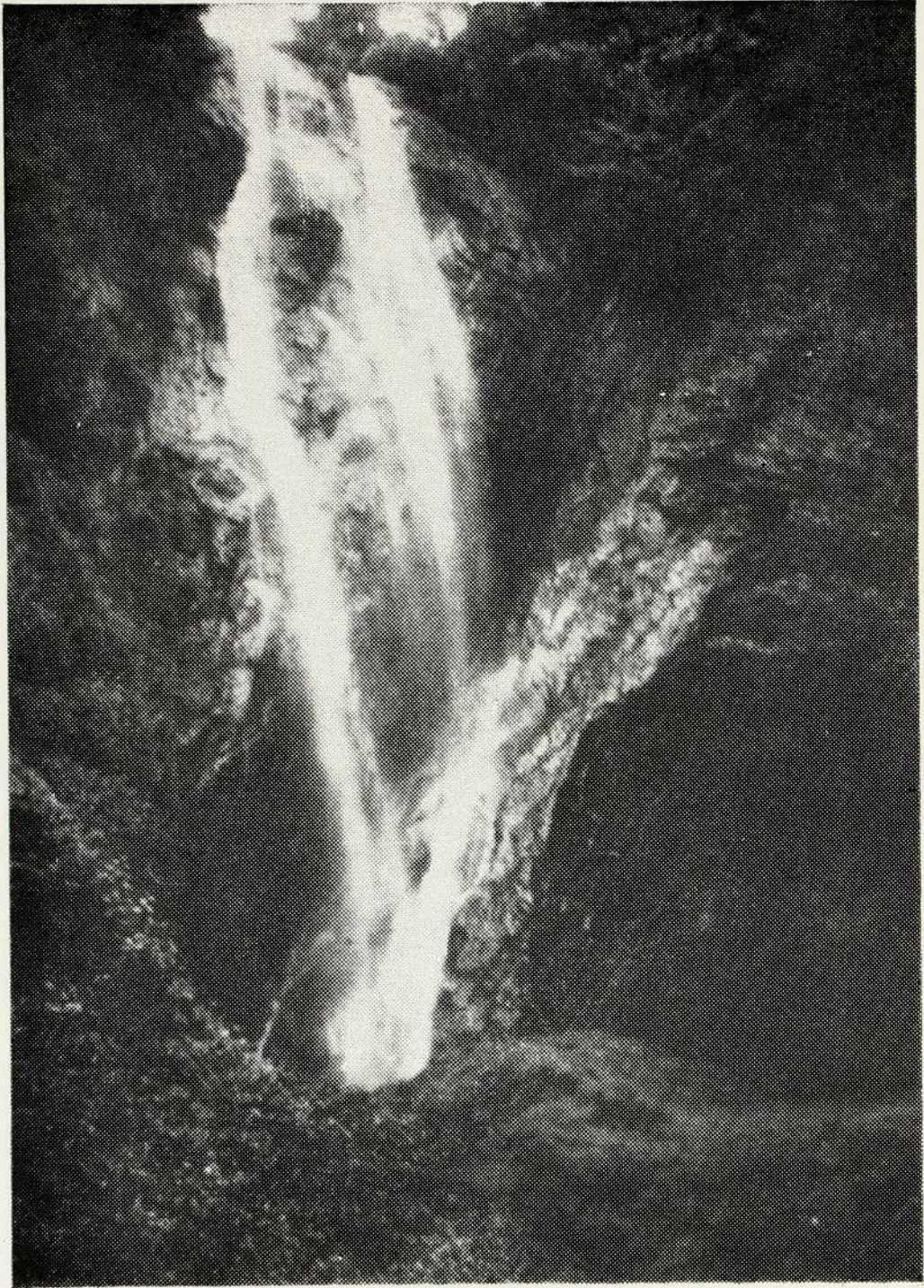
24. DUVILI FALL

See below, under p. 76.

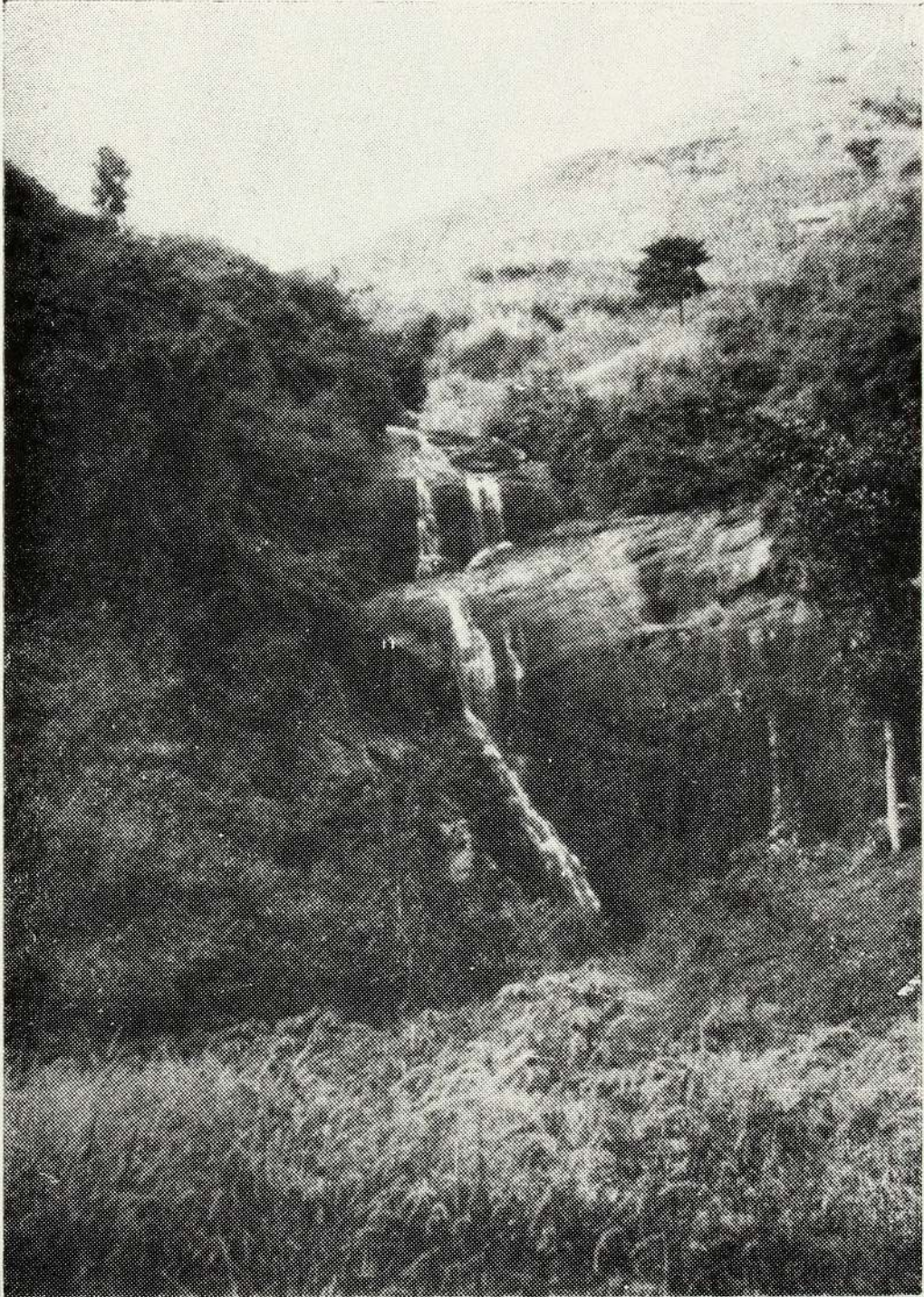
25. DIYAWINI OYA FALLS

The park country of Uda Palata Korale, south of the Horton Plain's Socle, is a highland with a few mountains of some height, rivers flowing through chains of hills (450-600 m NN) and covered with scrub and monsoon forests. The boundary between the Hortons and the maritime plain is like a rampart, a steep wall arising up to 300 m. Diyawini is a Buddhist temple and a small village at the bottom of this natural wall. There are two waterfalls flowing down from the highland, the bigger one (30 m) is fed by the Diyawini Oya, rising in the forests south of Wikiliya (6 km east of Balangoda). A smaller waterfall with less water comes from the area north of Navaneliya and the Balangoda-Kaltota road. Both watercourses join together below the falls and rush into Walawe Ganga.

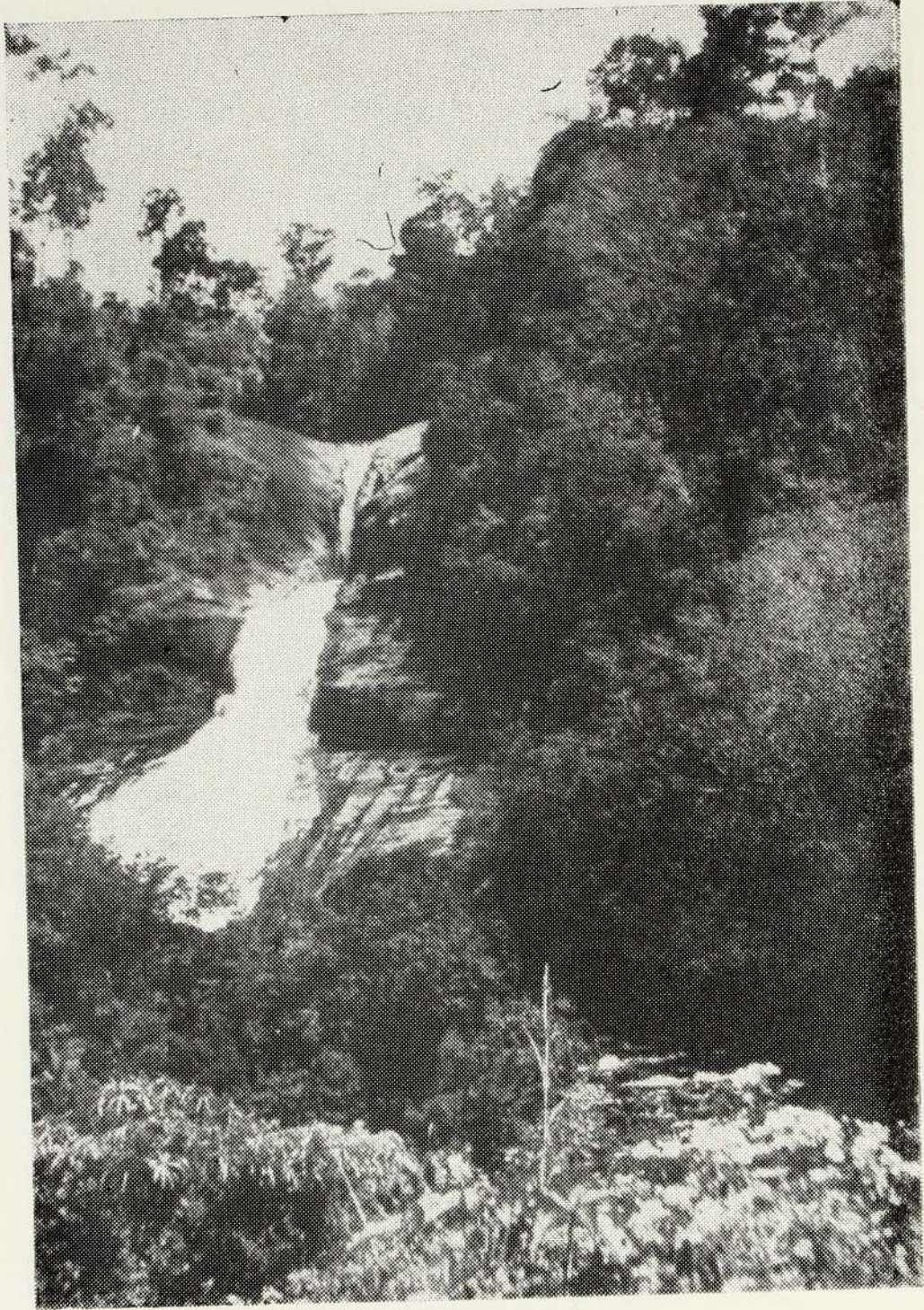
A very good motorable road (bus service) leads from Balangoda to Kaltota through the highlands. This road descends at Kaltota (28 km) to the low country and the Walawe Ganga valley. At the foot of the steep slope an irrigation channel has been cut to water the paddy fields. A motorable road along this watercourse takes one to Diyawini (16 km), and the close settlement Dorawela, Udagama. On the way can be seen the ancient Budugala Cave temple.



(2) Laxapana Fall



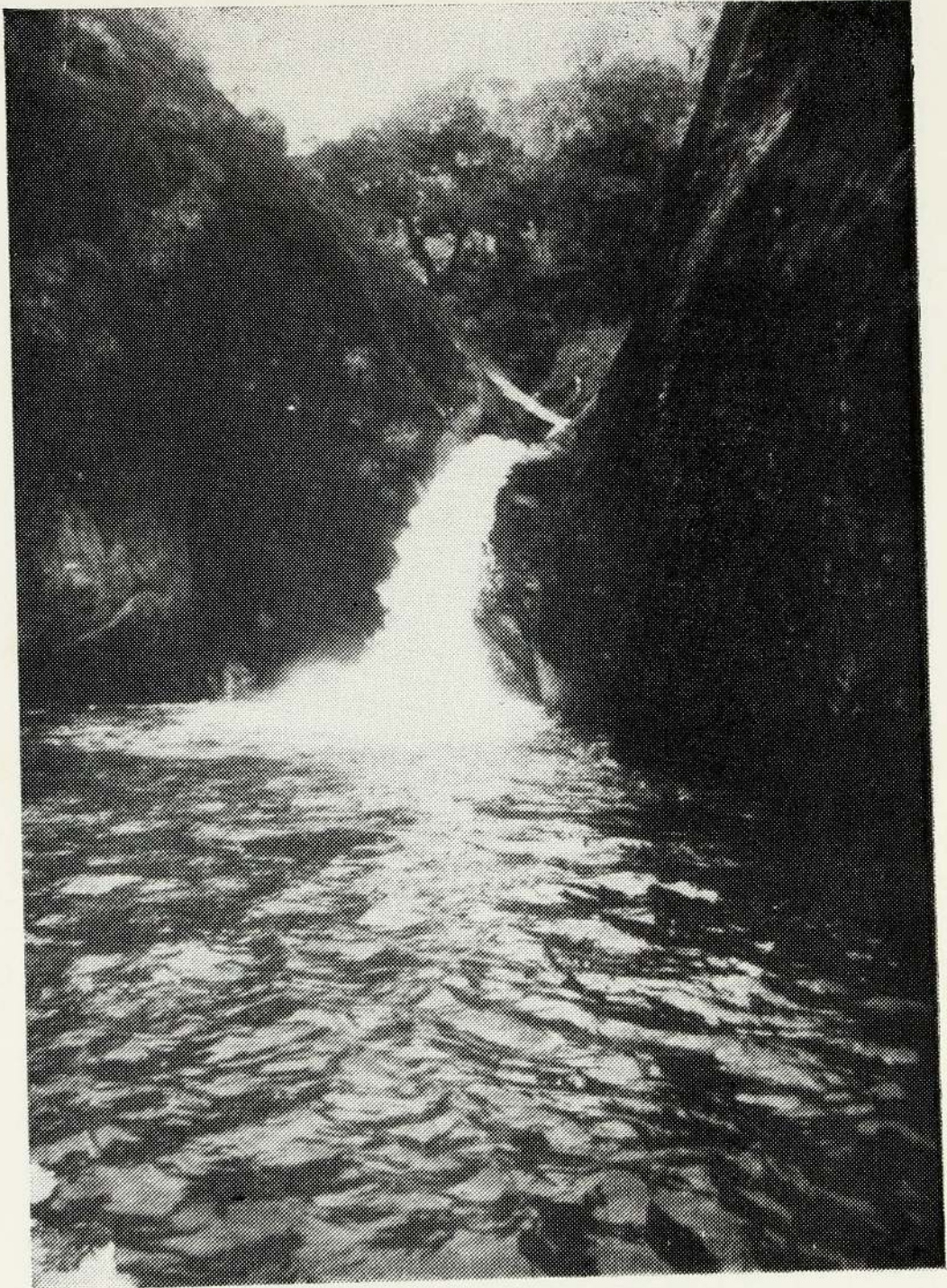
(16) Kirindi Fall



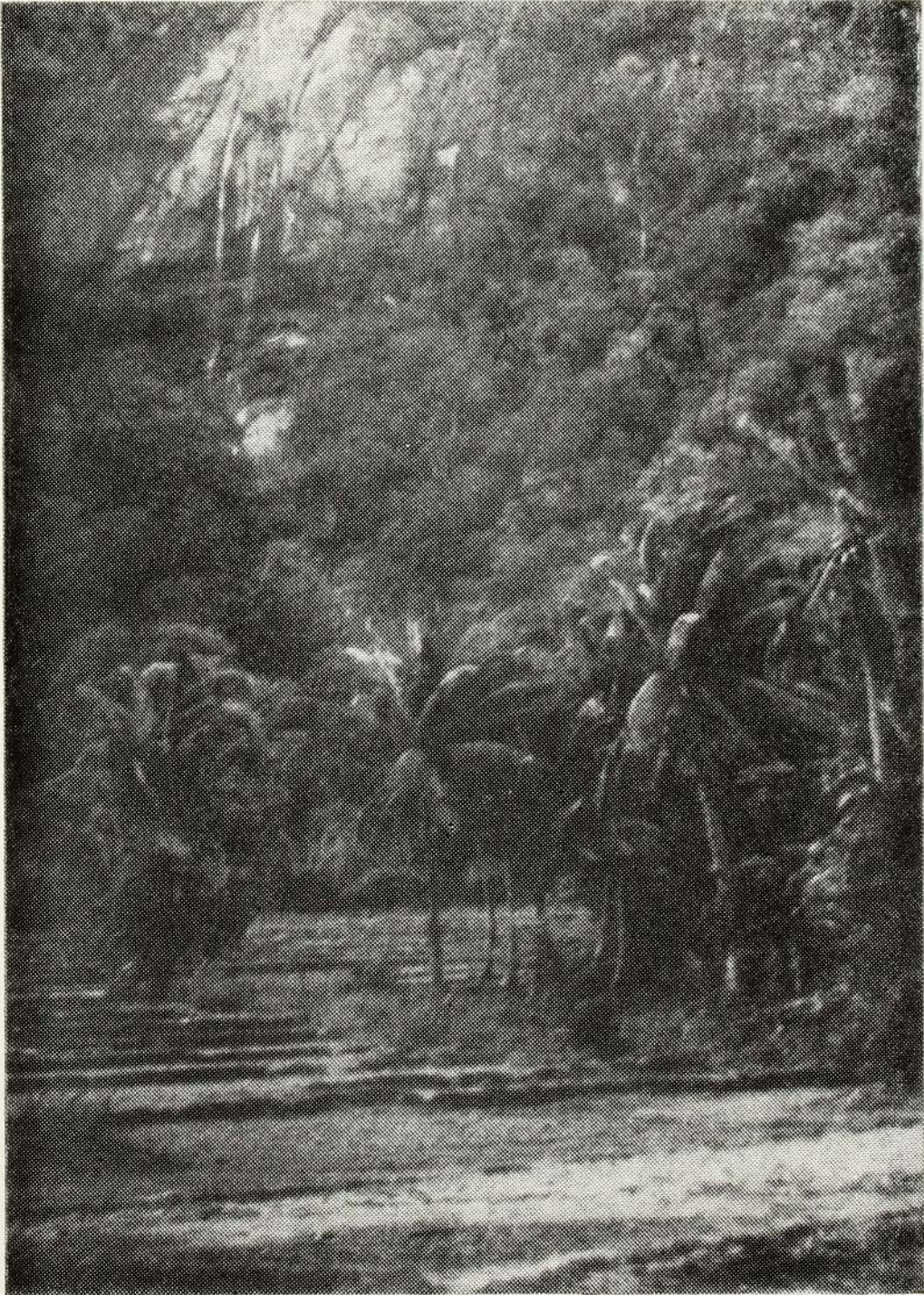
(17) Bopath Fall



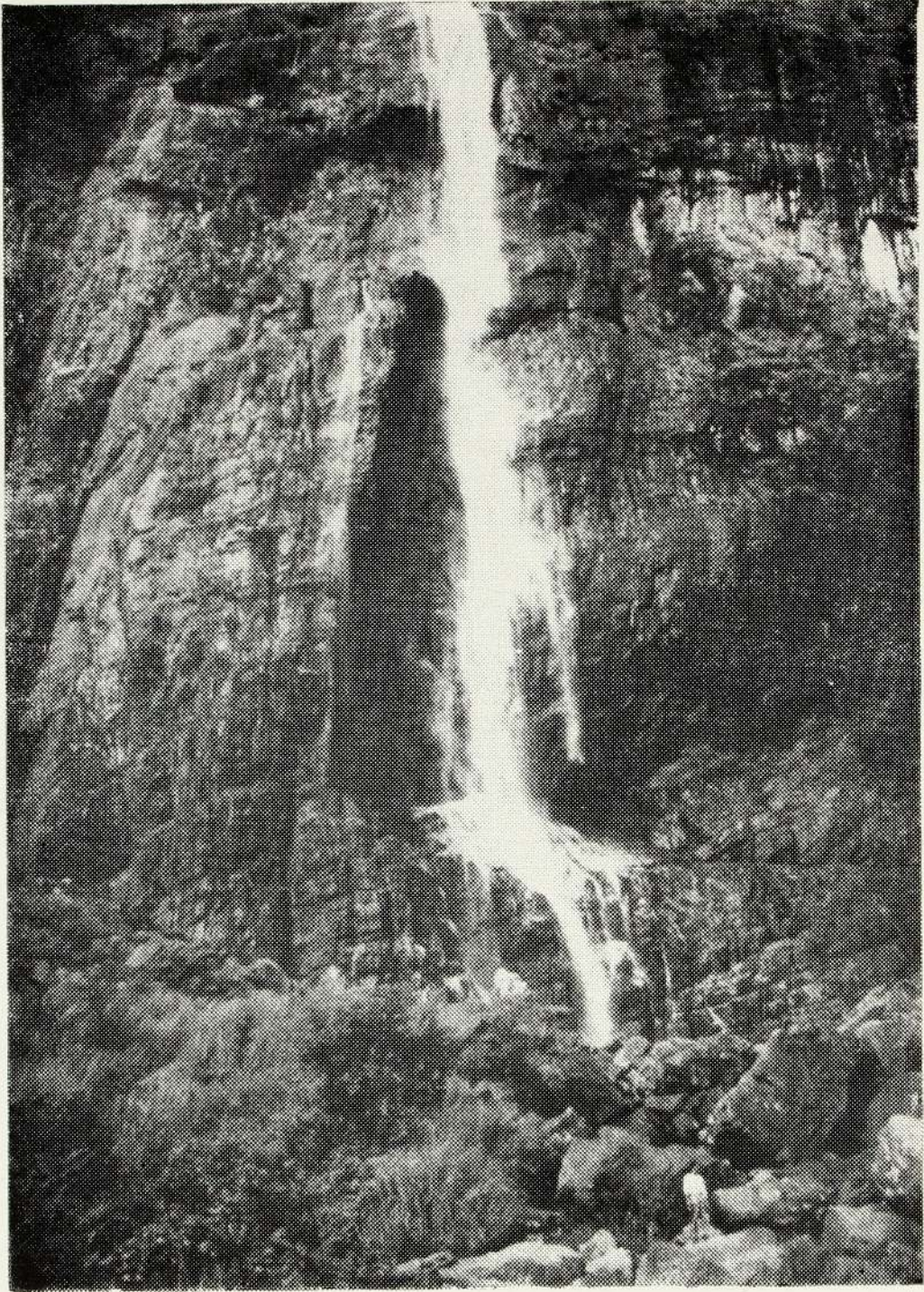
(20) Baker's Fall



(22) Galagama Fall



(25) Diyawini Oya Falls



(32) Diyaluma Falls



(39) Rawana Fall

Accommodation : Balangoda Resthouse
Distance : 44 km
 Kaltora Irrigation Dept. Bungalow
Distance : 16 km
Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus
Map Sheet : Haputale

The northern margin of the 2nd peneplain is covered by the west-east course of A-4 between Belihuloya, Kalupahana, Koslanda and Wellawaya. These mountains and hills belong to the south-eastern slope of the Horton Plains scarp and the Haputale scarp. There are several falls found precipitating their waters over a line of cliffs. Diyaluma Fall is one of the best known and for a long time believed to be the highest waterfall of Sri Lanka (220 m). But the Bambarakanda Fall in the same area with a height of 263 m is Sri Lanka's highest fall (see No. 29).

26. PAPULAGALA FALL

5 km east of Belihuloya the High Level road A-4 passes Lower Hiralouvah, where a steep estate-road with a series of narrow hair-pin bends takes one to Upper Hiralouvah (1500 m NN). This part of the Brampton tea estate is bordered in the north by a rock-range flanked by Mt. Papulagala (1530 m NN). During the rains a brook forms into a waterfall, which can be seen from the A-4 road. The altitude of the fall is estimated to be 30 m. The road to Upper Hiralouvah is motorable by tractor or jeep (4 km). The stream is a tributary of the Weli Oya which joins Walawe Ganga near Uggalkaltota (see No. 24, 25).

Accommodation : Belihuloya Resthouse
Distance : 9 km
 Koslanda Resthouse
Distance : 39 km
Vehicle : Car, Coach, Jeep, Tractor
Map Sheet : Haputale

27. SURATALI FALL

Properly speaking this is not a water-fall but a precious view of a long water-slip along a rock-wall amidst the forest by the road A-4 and 'Mile-post 105' (8 km off Belihul Oya) close to Halpe. The slip declines to about a 20 m altitude. The wall is a part of Mt. Ellamana (948 m NN) and the boundary of the Peak Wilderness Sanctuary. The sources of the stream are on the eastern slope of Ellamana and the waters join the Weli Oya. The name of the waterfall derives from the Sinhalese 'Suratali' (සුරතලී) = fondling.

Accommodation : Belihul Oya Resthouse

Distance : 8 km

Koslanda Resthouse

Distance : 40 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus

Map Sheet : Haputale

28. BRAMPTON FALL

Along the High Level road A-4 between Belihul Oya and Koslanda you will meet several smaller waterfalls, most less than 15 m in altitude. One of these is Brampton Fall (6 m) near Brampton Estate and close to the 'Mile-post 106' (10 km off Belihuloya). This tributary of the Weli Oya rises from the eastern slope of Mt. Papulagala (1530 m NN) (see No. 26) and forms the fall with some cascades between huge trees of the surrounding monsoon forest. The Weli Oya falls into the Walawe Ganga.

Accommodation : Belihul Oya Resthouse

Distance : 10 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus

Map Sheet : Haputale

29. BAMBARAKANDA FALL (Bambarakella)

Within a majestic basin-shaped valley bordered by huge steep rocks and dark green forests of pines and tropic trees the highest waterfall of Sri Lanka (263 m) plunges with two silver ropes over a vertical dark grey wall from the green saddle between Mt. Welihena (1375 m NN) and Mt. Bambaragala (1470 m NN) into a deep pool only 150 m walking distance from a small motorable road off A-4 at Kalupahana-Ganwasangoda to Quitota (3 km). The lower part of this road is bordered by farmhouses under Jak trees, palm trees and other useful plantations. The road climbs up a narrow valley which opens suddenly after a bend to the beautiful scenery around the waterfall (1000 m NN). The pool is surrounded by paddy fields. You'll park the car opposite to the fall by a small well (Sinhalese called 'pilla' පිලිලා) under an Oleander bush.

Accommodation : Belihul Oya Resthouse

Distance : 18 km

Koslanda Resthouse

Distance : 27 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus

Map Sheet : Haputale

30. LAYMASTOTE OYA FALL

South-east from Haputale and the road via Thotulagalla to Dambatenna (bus service) most hills are covered by scrub and monsoon forests. There at a height of 1200 m NN rises the Lemastote Oya. She forms at one of the steep slopes a waterfall, plunging 30 m over a rock-wall. The waterfall can be seen from the road at Thotulagala factory (4 km off Haputale). To get a closer view, drive further up another 4 km to Dambatenna factory from where a path takes 2 km downhill through tea plantations to the fall. The Lemastota Oya joins the Kalkanna Oya, a tributary of the Weli Oya.

Accommodation : Koslanda Resthouse

Distance : 29 km

Haputale Resthouse

Distance : 5 km

Map Sheet : Haputale

31. MONERAKANDA OYA FALL

The Monerakanda Oya rises north of the Mousakelle tea estate on the southern slope of Dawatagala (1805 m NN). Above the Mousakelle estate-bungalow are the falls which is best seen when there is enough water in the stream. The oya joins the Lemastote Oya close to Laymastote near A-4 'Mile-post 123'. (See No. 30).

Drive from Koslanda westward to Nahakettia (2 km) where a narrow road with many bends through tea plantations takes one up the hills to the Mousakelle estate. This road is only motorable by jeep (6 km). There is a beautiful view from the hills of the coastal plain and to Thotulagala factory in the west and even as far as to the Horton Plains if the air is clear.

Accommodation : Koslanda Resthouse

Distance : 29 km

Haputale Resthouse

Distance : 5 km

Vehicle : Jeep

Map Sheet : Haputale

PS : During the dry climate the narrow road from Nahakettia to Mousakelle is motorable by jeep up to Dambatenna (9 km). The fine landscape is inviting for a walk (2 h) in the early morning.

32. DIYALUMA FALLS

The 220 m waterfall of the Punagala Oya is close to the road A-4 between Koslanda and Wellawaya. It is the last of a series of waterfalls of this stream. One of them is Kudalu Fall (see No. 35). The Diyaluma Fall is the second highest in Sri Lanka. Above this big fall are several smaller ones to be visited after climbing a steep path to the ridge where the waters flow down. The Punagala Oya rises from the Mahakande pass (9.5 km off Koslanda), she flows into the Kuda Oya, a tributary of the Kirindi Ganga which flows to the Indian Ocean close to Tissamaharama.

The Sinhalese name 'Diya Luma', more exactly 'Diya Haluma' (දිය හලුම) means literally 'water-gush'. On the other hand Diya Luma may be translated as 'a liquid light'. This translation is connected with a story (reported by R. L. Brohier) :

"In unsettled times, when the island was disintegrated into many principalities, there was a young chieftain who was for some reason banished from his clan and forced to live in exile in the highlands of the natural rampart which rose from the maritime plain. He was betrothed to a lady of high degree who, rather than forsake her lover, was determined to join him. All the passes leading from the low-country to the hills were strongly guarded. Consequently escape was impossible. One day, as she stood gazing at the precipitous mountain side, an idea began to take shape in her mind. Here indeed was an obscure way of leaving her home, an altogether bold and daring plan. She bribed an emissary to carry a letter to her lover disclosing how she proposed to join him, minutely setting out what he should do to assist her. And so, late one evening on an appointed date, she stealthily made her way to the foot of the mountain, and found dangling over the face of the rocky escarpment a rope of twisted creepers. She glanced around. No one was about. Taking the end of the rope she lashed herself to it, and began her perilous journey upward. Every moment was packed with peril. Swayed hither and tither, dashed against the cruel jagged rocks, gripped by sickness and giddiness, she was hauled hand over hand, up...and up. There was every hope of her gaining the top. In fact, the anxious toilers above, were even rewarded with a glimpse of their precious burden, under the overhanging lip. At that moment, however, disaster intervened. The rope caught fast in a cleft. Frantic efforts to pull it free proved futile. Beyond all power of human aid the lifeless body of the maiden dangled in dizzy space. They say, that the Gods moved to pity by the harrowing spectacle, caused a stream of water to gush from the mountain and veil all evidence of tragedy in a watery light : or 'Diya Luma'.

The High Level road A-4 takes one to the foot of the fall. There is a small shop too, where they serve tea, fruits and other snacks (6 km off Koslanda, 13 km off Wellawaya).

Accommodation : Koslanda Resthouse

Distance : 6 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus

Map Sheet : Haputale

33. ALAKOLAGALA FALL

A 30 m waterfall near a sugarcane plantation, formerly Upper Rosebury rubber estate, close to the jungle. The rocky mountain ridge from Mt. Makuldeniya (1016 m NN) to Mt. Nialkola (1170 m NN), which proceeds to the watershed of the Mahakanda pass (see No. 32), borders a high flat valley in the west, most parts are covered with scrub and forest. There are wild elephants here attracted by the sugarcane plantation. The Alakolagala Oya rises in this area from several sources from the forests on that mountain ridge and becomes a foaming surging ribbon of water, the Alakolagala fall, a view of rugged grandeur. The stream joins the Radapola Oya, a tributary of the Kirindi Oya. The waterfall is well seen from Wellawaya at a distance of 3 km. To see the fall at close quarters, drive to Rosebury (A-4 'Mile-post 133'). From there take a scarcely motorable narrow road (jeep or tractor only!) 2 km up to the sugarcane plantation and to the waterfall which plunges into a deep pool.

Accommodation : Koslanda Resthouse

Distance : 6 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus, Jeep, Tractor

Map Sheet : Haputale

34. DIYABETMA FALLS

One of the most difficult walking tours to see this jungle-set waterfall is in a pathless area.

See under p. 77.

35. KUDALU FALL

A beautiful 20 m fall of the Punagala Oya, below by the Koslanda-Poonagala road (bus service), 4 km off Koslanda. The brook rushes with a series of cascades over different coloured rocks. Round turning strings of water glitter in the sun before they plunge into several deep pools. The road crosses the stream above the fall. The waterfall is best seen from the opposite side of the valley. There is a path (250 m) leading from a farmhouse by the road to the falls.

Accommodation : Koslanda Resthouse

Distance : 5 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus

Map Sheet : Haputale

36. ALIKOLA OYA FALL (North)

37. ALIKOLA OYA FALL (South)

The Alikola Oya rises with several sources from the north-east slope of the Mahakande pass, a watershed, where the Punagala Oya rises too, but flows to the south (see No. 32, 35). There are two waterfalls set in the forests on the heights of the Kirindi Oya valley. A motorable road takes one from Koslanda via Poonagala (7 km) to Fellside (6 km) and the Mahakanda pass. From Fellside leads a steep path down to Bambaragasyaya and the northern fall. This path proceeds to Mahatamaditta, Paragaha-arawa, Ilukarawa and the Wellawaya-Ella road (see No. 38). Turning to the south and to Galbokka and the Fellside factory the path leads to the southern fall, also steep downward. There is an altitude difference of 400 m to 2000 m between Mahakande pass and the level of the waterfalls (30°).

Accommodation : Koslanda Resthouse

Distance : 15 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus, Jeep

Map Sheet : Haputale

38. KIRINDI OYA FALL

See under jungle-set waterfalls, page 74.

39. RAWANA FALL

A nice waterfall of 9 m altitude close to the road from Ella to Wellawaya (A-2 North) about 6 km south from Ella. The stream, a tributary of the Kirindi Oya plunges with a foaming spray over a series of ledges into the valley close to a road bend. The waters rise from Wewatenna highland above the rocks (1050 m NN). In general the rocky underground of the waterfalls in Ceylon consists of hard gneiss or granite, but here the material is khondalite, a kind of limestone which undergoes decay faster. Thus there are caves near the falls. Rawana of the Ramayana legend is said to have lived in one of the caves above the waterfalls.

Accommodation : Ella Resthouse

Distance : 5 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus

Map Sheet : Nuwara Eliya

The Waterfalls from the 3rd Peneplain

The third peneplain is the uppermost peneplain, also called the central horst. This plain is not flat like a table but upfaulted with many deep and V-shaped valleys with their river beds. The outflow drains to the east and to the north while the waterfalls of the second peneplain drain to the east, south or west.

40. DUNHINDA FALLS

The bigger fall of the Baduluoya with a height of 63 m roaring down from the rockledge with clouds of foam into a broad pond holed in the rocks. A huge cement balcony recently built for visitors pollutes the natural surrounding. The Baduluoya rises in the mountains south and west from Hettipola-Ella (A-16) above the Ella-gap on the border of the Uva-highlands. She

falls in to the Mahaweli Ganga. The falls are 3.2 km north of Badulla (A-5, A-16) off Badulla-Taldena road. A path takes one to the waterfalls. At the junction there are some souvenir shops and tea shops. From here you have a fine view downhill to the Baduluoya valley where the road winds down with big bends. The path to the waterfalls follow the Baduluoya, which flows at the bottom of the valley through dark green forests. Some smaller waterfalls contrast in the sunshine like silver coins on a thread. The path from the road is reasonably good though the final third passes rocks and fallen trees and is more troublesome. The distance of the waterfall from the main road is about 2 km.

Dunhinda (a Sinhalese name) means, 'spraying' or 'vapour'-waterfall. (දුන් දුන් — that gave or was given; හින්දා — evaporate).

Close to the fall there is an ancient cave, once the home of Veddas from Bintenna. "Legends about Dunhinda are many and varied. One states that in ages past, a foul deed was committed here and that the victim's blood still cries for vengeance. Others believe that beneath those mysterious depths lies buried the fabulous treasure of Kumarasinghe, the unfortunate prince of Uva, and that watchful guardians who look after the treasure take an annual toll of human life to prevent inquisitive eyes from prying into the secret hiding place. This legend accounts for the toll of bathers taken annually. It is also believed that in the depths of these waters lives a fish with a golden ear-ring. Another belief among the elder generation is that somewhere here lies the entrance to the tunnel which was believed to be about 20 miles (30 km) long, a secret passage used in days gone by. Yet another legend linked with it is, that in the days of the Gampola king (14th century), romance swept the royal court Mampitiya Anuhas Menik Bandara, a princess of the royal blood fled from the wrath of her father with her lover, Kahapitiye Aratchi Bandara, a commoner. They were tracked to Kosgalla, a village which then stood by the falls, and rather than be separated from each other, or be taken captive to the court, the lovers stole away from the village to the top-most ledge of the fall and there, pledging their eternal troth, they hurled themselves down into the abyss below. That night, a fierce storm is said to have shaken the land around

for miles. Men and animals and whole villages were swept away. The hamlet of Kosgalla was wiped out and over the shrieking of the wind was heard the voice of Menik Bandara crying vengeance. To this day, when a storm sweeps the area and the river is in spate, it is said that the voice of Menik Bandara could be heard above the whistling wind and the roaring flood waters.'⁹ (J. D. Borger : The Waterfalls of Ceylon. Ceylon Today 6(1957)1).

Accommodation : Ella Resthouse

Distance : 29 km

Badulla Hotel

Distance : 5 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus

Map Sheet : Nuwara Eliya

41. RAVANA FALL

This 40 m waterfall set in the picturesque mountain country of the southern Uva Basin above the Uduhawara village and its temple can be visited easily. The sources are at the north-east slope of forest-covered Kotakitulakanda (2015 m NN) which flanks the break off of the Uva basin. The waters flow to the Ho Oya, a tributary of the Uma Oya, which joins Mahaweli Ganga.

There is a good road from Welimada (A-5) to Uduhawara with a public bus service (11 km).

Accommodation : Ella Resthouse

Distance : 23 km

Nuwara Eliya Hotels

Distance : 37 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus

Map Sheet : Nuwara Eliya

42. PARAWELLA FALL

A 50 m high and broad waterfall south of Kotakitulakanda (2015 m NN), formed by Pomuraella Oya, also called Dalgala or Dulgala Oya in her lower reaches. The river was called Fort Mac Donald River in British colonial times, when the Parawella Falls area and this valley was a favourite spot for hunting. As reported by Sir Samuel W. Baker 'the whole country formed a gorge, like a gigantic letter V. At the bottom roared the dreaded torrent Fort McDonald river, in a succession of foaming cataracts, all of which, however grand individually, are completely eclipsed by its last great plunge of 300 feet perpendicular depth into a dark and narrow chasm of wall-bound cliffs. The bed of the river is the most frightful place that can be conceived, being chocked by enormous fragments of rock, amidst which, the irresistible torrent howls with a fury that it is impossible to describe.' (S. W. Baker: Eight Years in Ceylon, London, 1874).

Now the majestic falls dominate to the west a beautiful quiet valley. The herds of elk which attracted the hunters are no more. A motorable road leads from Uduhawara to Parawella, a small settlement below the falls (3.5 km). Passing a ford at the end of the motorable road a path takes one to the falls (400m) (also see No. 41).

Accommodation : Ella Resthouse

Distance : 23 km

Nuwara Eliya Hotels

Distance : 37 km

Vehicle : Car, Jeep

Map Sheet : Nuwara Eliya

43. MANAWELA FALL

This 22 m high waterfall of the Ho Oya at the border of the Uva basin is said to be formed by a king of old, who dammed the river in its upper reaches and deposited a great treasure in a niche which was hollowed out in the rock. The village traditionalists

yet believe that this treasure lies secure behind the falling of the water but introduces a twist to the story, and names a hermit king : Manawa, in order to explain the origin of the name of the falls, literally 'the waterway (in Sinhalese 'ela' ඇල) of Manawa. In the incessant roar of the falling water you will hear the traditional whisper : 'it is there, the treasure lies hidden'. (In Sinhala : nidhanaya mehi tiyanawa නිධානය මෙහි තිබෙනවා). Indeed a king by the name of Manawamma ruled Ceylon, 676-711 A.D., but he spent more time in India than in Ceylon. Thus it seems doubtful whether he irrigated the Ho Oya in his life-time.

Drive from Nuwara Eliya via Udapussellawa (35 km), Napola-bokka (11 km) in the direction of Loonuwatta (2 km) and the waterfall lies close to the parking space at a walking distance of 200 m. The Ho Oya rises from the south slope of Buwalpola-kanda (1655 m NN) and joins the Uma Oya.

Accommodation : Nuwara Eliya Hotels

Distance : 48 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach

Map Sheet : Nuwara Eliya

44. GLAN FALL

An unimportant waterfall 10 m high existing only during the wet season above Glan estate at Nuwara Eliya close to the Grand Hotel at a walking distance of 500 m uphill (2070 m NN). The waters rise from the north slope of 'One Tree Hill' (2067 m NN) and flow over a rocky ledge amid forests, later on joining Lake Gregory.

Accommodation : Nuwara Eliya Hotels

Distance : 500 m

Vehicle : Walking

Map Sheet : Nuwara Eliya

45. LOVERS' LEAP FALL

Off the Nuwara Eliya-Kandapola road on the eastern border of Nuwara Eliya. The Lady Mac Land Drive takes you to a bridge below the 30 m waterfall which plunges from a rock-wall with a foam-spray waving hither and thither like a flag, and into a sheer precipice in Hawaeliya. The waters of the stream are taken by the first and oldest brewery of Sri Lanka to prepare a good beer. The sources of the brook are in the south slope of Pidurutalagala (2484 m NN), the highest mountain of Sri Lanka.

A legend associated with the waterfall speaks of two escaping lovers, who, pursued by an irate father, hurled themselves to death, linked in each others arms on a bright moonlit night. The howling wind often experienced in Nuwara Eliya is associated with this tragedy. There are few who would dare to walk past the fall alone at night for fear of a ghost which is said to haunt the spot where the lovers crashed. It is said that he was a Kandyan prince, who lost his way while hunting in the forests. He met a girl who put him on the correct way and he fell in love with her. About 500 m east of Lovers Leap Fall there is a smaller waterfall at the same altitude (1980 m NN).

Accommodation : Nuwara Eliya Hotels

Distance : 1 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus

Map Sheet : Nuwara Eliya

46. KURUNDU OYA FALL (Maturata Fall)

This waterfall of the Kurundu Oya overflows a ledge of black granite rocks and plunges into the abyss of a narrow forest-covered gorge of 206 m depth. Kurundu Oya Fall (formerly called Maturata Fall) is one of the most beautiful waterfalls of Sri Lanka, set at the border of the break off and steep slope of the third peneplain north of the Uva basin overlooking the lower peneplain and with the Dumbara plateau in the northern background. This waterfall can also be seen from Wetumulla below the gorge which opens to the Ragala-Kandy road. A narrow and scarcely

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motorable path climbs off Mailapitiya (east of Wetumulla) mile-post 39) uphill to a place below the falls. The Kurundu Oya rises from High Forest (1800 - 2100 m NN) and joins the Mahaweli Ganga. The country road from Nuwara Eliya takes one to Kandapola along the slopes of the Pidurutalagala (2484 m NN) and proceeds to Brookside (18 km), from there via Coodoogala, High Forest to Kurundu Oya (11 km); the road to the right leads to a ford near a small tea shop (2 km), there park the car. Now follow the path to a plucker's barrack (400 m) and further on 100 m where a small path through tea plantations takes one down to the margin of the gorge opposite the waterfall.

Accommodation : Nuwara Eliya Hotels

Distance : 29 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus

Map Sheet : Hanguranketa

Nuwara Eliya

47. GURUGALLA FALL

About 5 km below the big Kurundu Oya fall (see No. 46) there is a smaller fall of the Kurundu Oya which flows through deep V-shaped valleys to the north. The steep slopes between the Ragala-Kandy road (B-39) and the bottom of the valley are covered with paddy fields and bordered by a rockridge. Close to Gurugala Ella there is a 5 m waterfall. North of 'Mile-post 36' (Tennehenwala) from the Kumbalgamuwa Post Office leads a path downhill to the stream and the fall (500 m). Another road leads off Watumulla via Batagolla to Gurugala (2 km).

Accommodation : Nuwara Eliya Hotels

Distance: 40 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus

Map Sheet : Hanguranketa

48. ALAKOLA FALL

By the road from Uda Pusselawa to Kandy (7 km off Uda Pusselawa) via Rocklands there is a Hindu Kovil (Eramutukelle). Opposite a 60 m waterfall rushes during the rainy season over a steep rock-wall into the V-shaped valley of Obang Oya, which rises from Buwalpolakanda (1955 m NN). The name 'Alakola' is derived from the Sinhala අල 'ala' = yam and 'කොලය kolaya' = leaf; and means 'yam-leaf' which the fall resembles.

Accommodation : Nuwara Eliya

Distance : 38 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus

Map Sheet : Hanguranketa

49. ANDAWELA FALL

A 40 m waterfall close to the Ragala-Kandy road (B-39) 'Mile-post 31' at the bridge 31/17. The stream rising from Naya-meruhinna (1505 m NN) plunges with several cascades over a steep rock as a tributary of Bodi Belihul Oya (see No. 50, 51). Andawela is the name of the village by the fall, deriving from Sinhala අඳා 'anda' = eel, and වෙල 'wela' = paddy field, marsh.

Accommodation : Nuwara Eliya

Distance : 45 km

Kandy

Distance : 50 km

Hanguranketa Resthouse

Distance : 21 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus

Map Sheet : Hanguranketa

50. MAHAKANDURA FALL

Close to Padiyapelella on the Ragalla-Kandy road (B-39) and near the junction to Ellamulle (Mile-post 25/26) a 120 m waterfall plunges over several cascades into the depths. The road crosses this fall twice by a hair-pin bend. During the rainy season the waters spread over the rocks like a big piece of white tulle. The small stream (Bodi Ella) rises from Katukelle estate (1200 m NN). Off the lower third of the fall an irrigation channel has been built in 1888.

Accommodation : Kandy Hotels

Distance : 42 km

Hanguranketa Resthouse

Distance : 13 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus

Map Sheet : Hanguranketa

51. KABRAGALLA FALL

A waterfall set in the rain-forests north-west of Pidurutalagala (2485 m NN) and south of Kabragalle at a height of 1350 m NN. From Kandy to Ellamulle (1050 m NN) leads a road (B-39) via Galaha, Hanguranketa and Rikillagaskada (48). Ellemulla is also reached from Nuwara Eliya (B-39) via Ragala (58 km). Ellamulla is a settlement at the border of the forests and abandoned plantations. From there a scarcely motorable narrow road leads uphill to the Kabragalla factory (2 km) from where a path proceeds to the waterfall (3 km). The waters rise from the north-western forests of Pidurutalagala and join Belihuloya, a tributary to the Mahaweli Ganga.

Accommodation : Kandy Hotels

Distance : 50 km

Nuwara Eliya Hotels

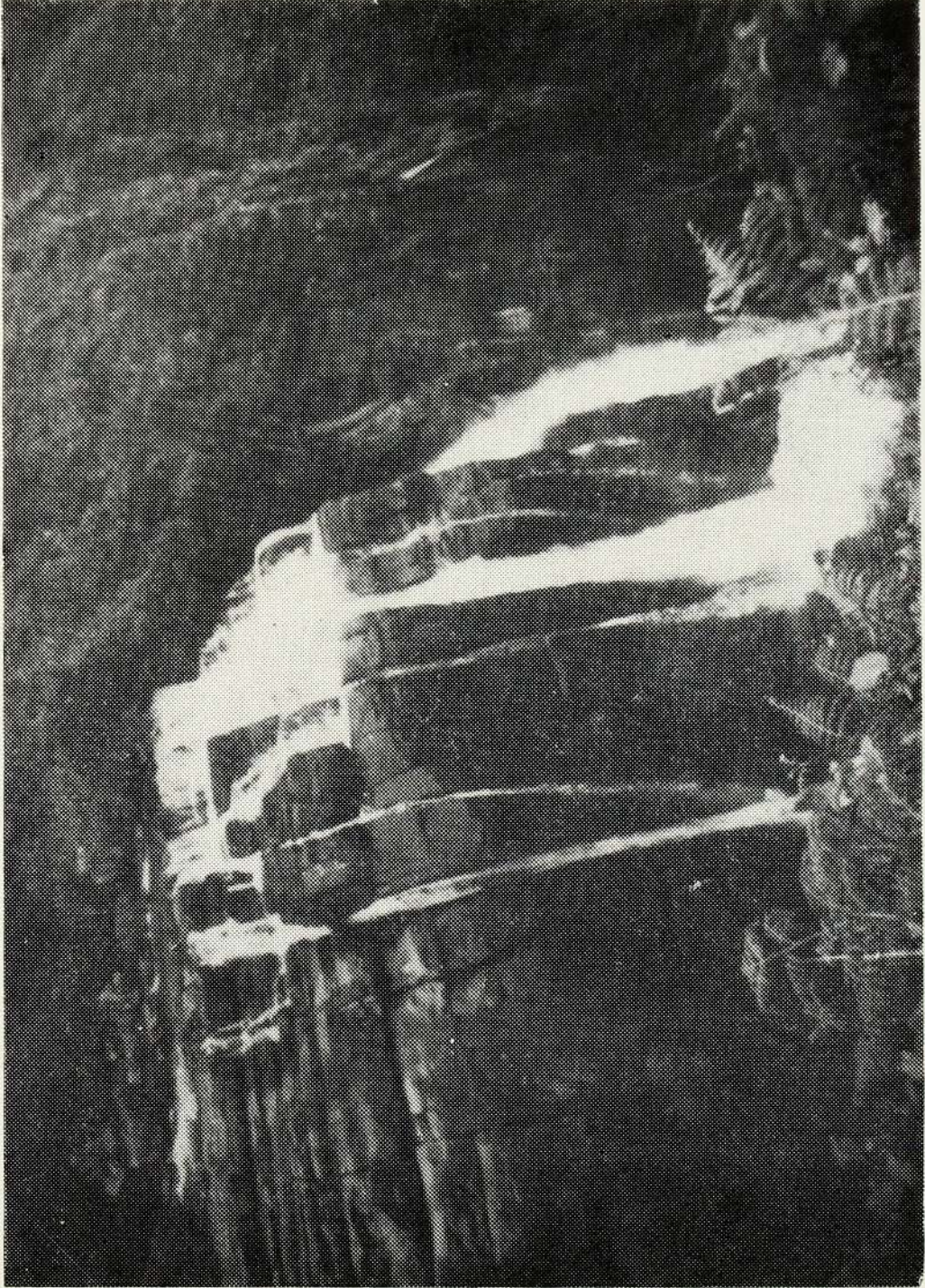
Distance : 60 km via Ragala

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Jeep, Bus

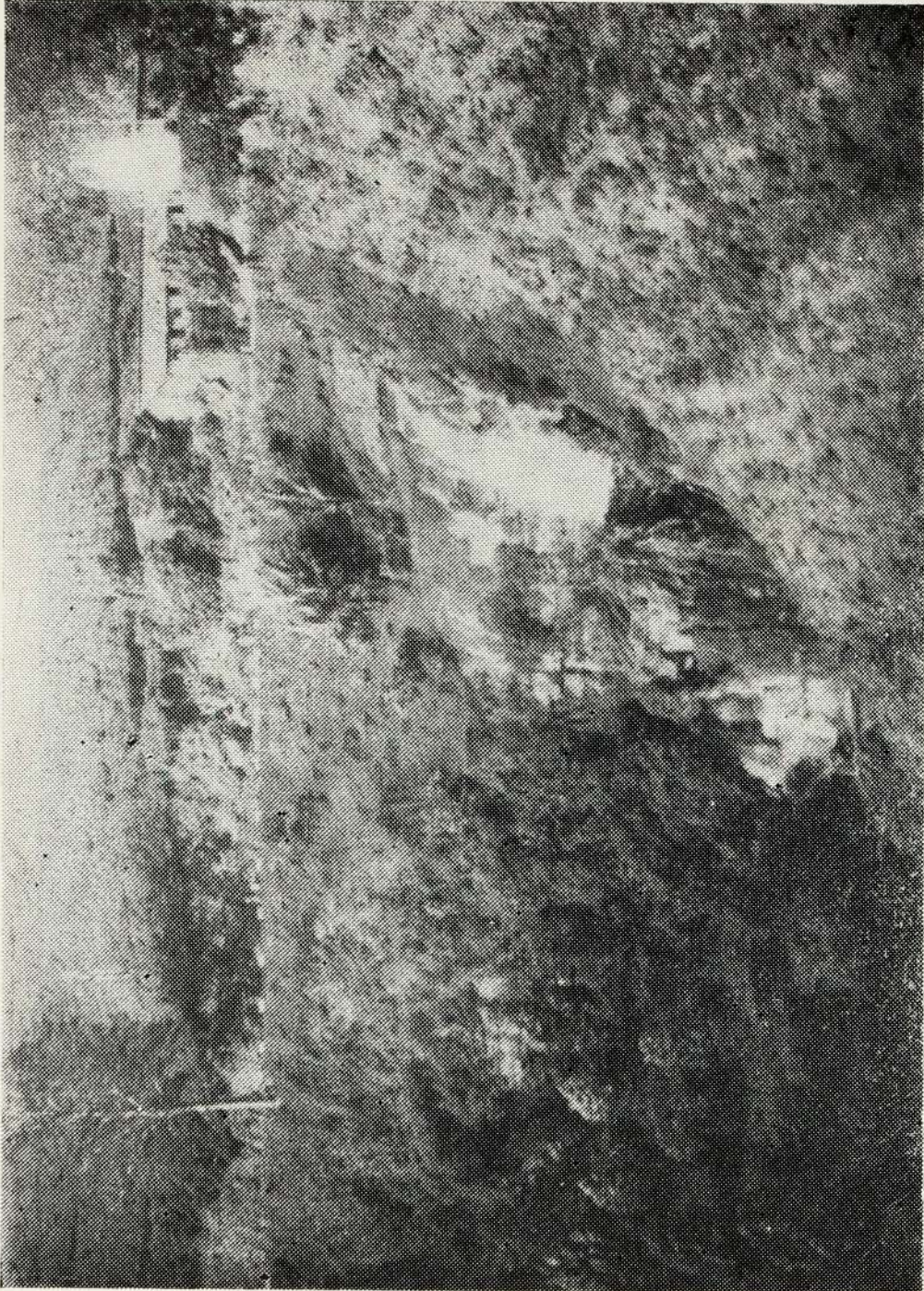
Map Sheet : Hanguranketa and Nuwara Eliya



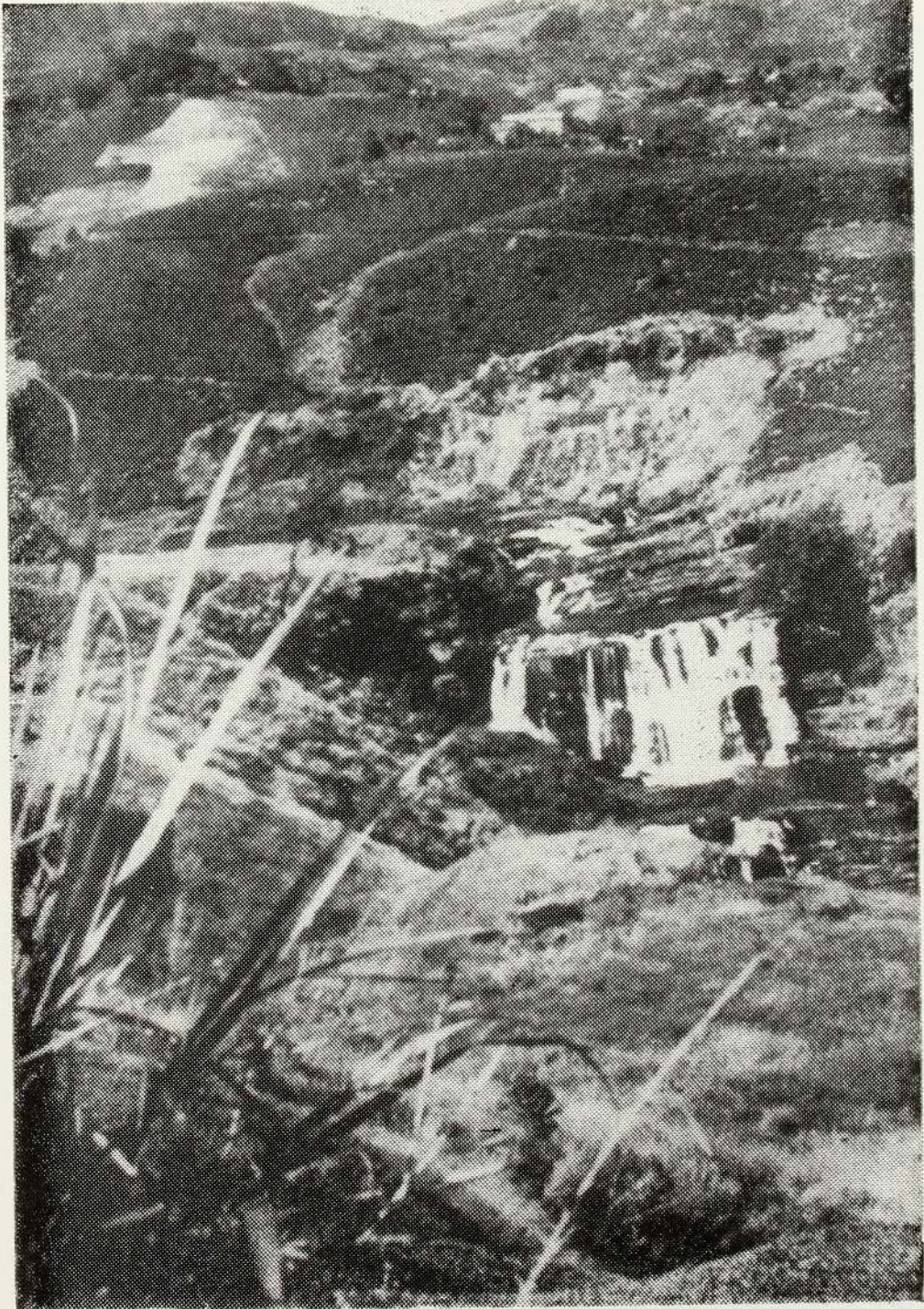
(40) Dunhinda Falls



(46) Kurundu Oya Fall (Maturata Fall)



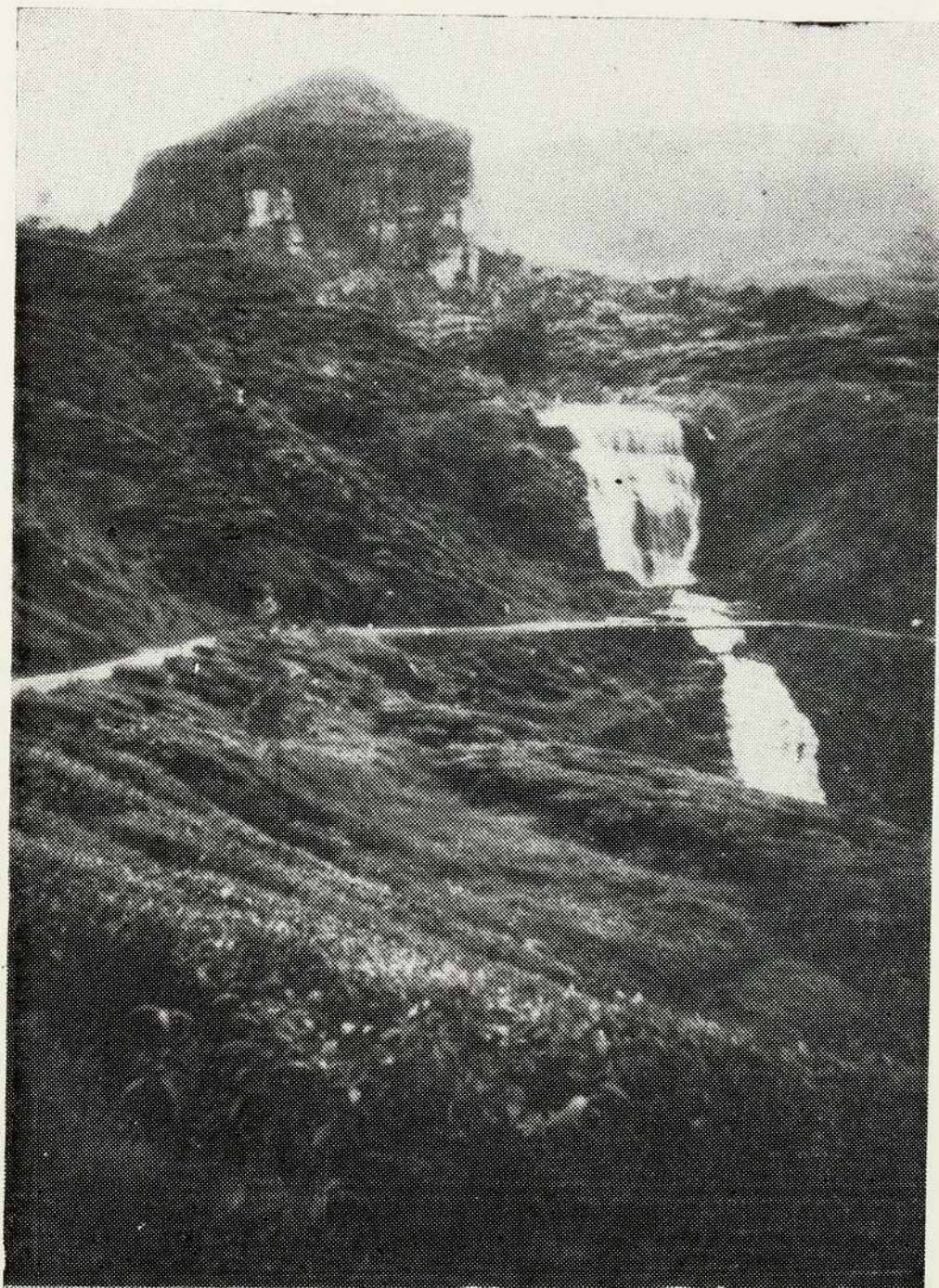
(54) One of the Dessford Falls



(55) St.Clairs Falls



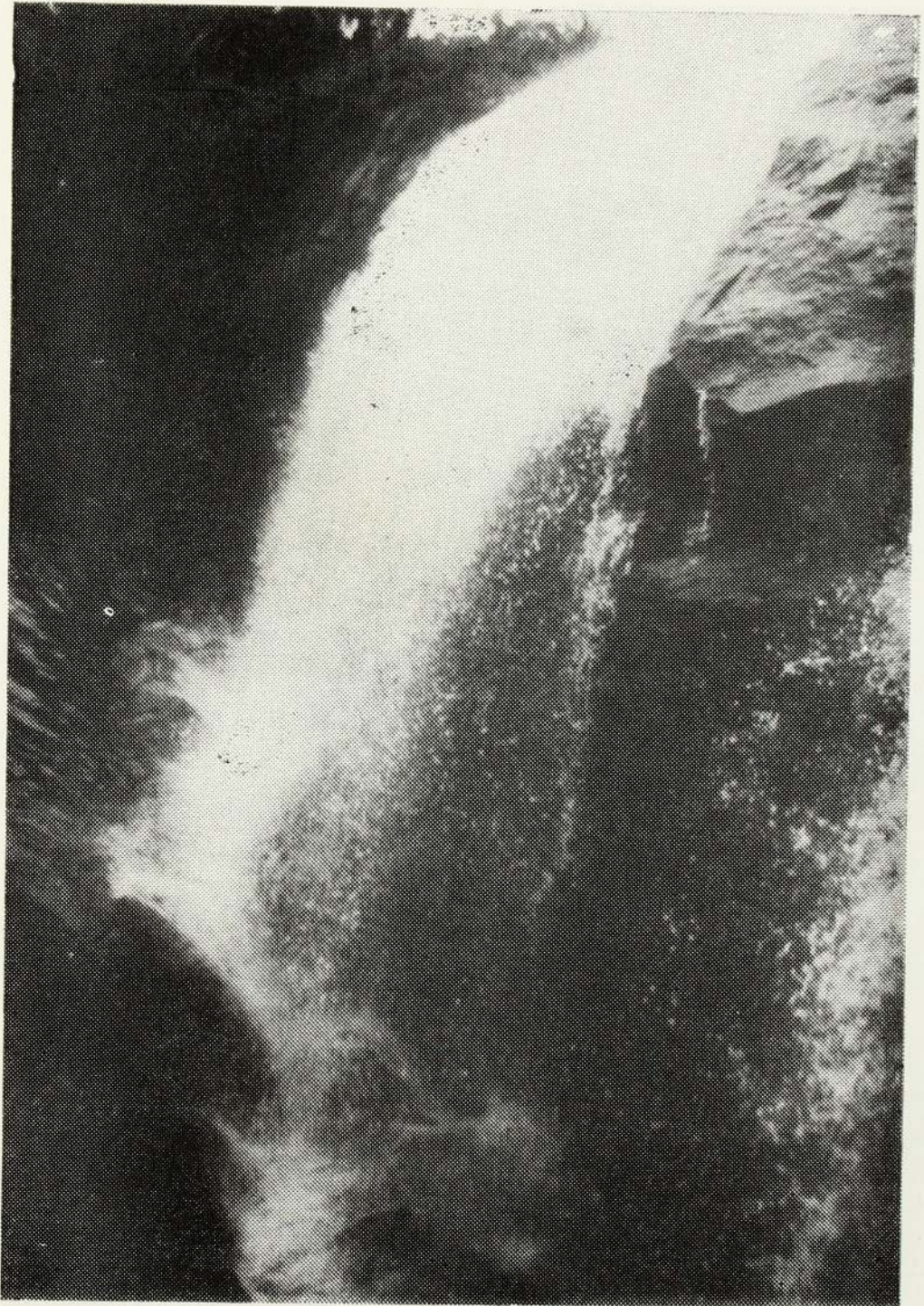
(56) Devon Fall



(60) Pundalu Oya Fall



(66) Hellbode Fall



(78) Rukmal Fall

52. NANU OYA FALLS

53. GLASSAUGH FALL

Two waterfalls north of Nanuoya (A-7) and the rail-road along the southern slope of Bambarakelle-Kikilimana (2202 m NN). Above the western railway-bridge a 60 m waterfall plunges from about 600 m NN into the depths. This fall is crossed by several estate-roads (Aadneven estate, Glassaugh estate) where you can get close to the fall (No. 53). The stream is a tributary of the Nanu Oya, rising from Bambarakelle and from Udaradella (2108 m NN). East of the tea factory below the railroad-bridge and the crossing road, Nanu Oya itself forms a 20 m waterfall (No. 52) close to the railway station. Nanu Oya joins Kotmale Oya at Talawakele. She is a tributary of the Mahaweli Ganga.

Accommodation : Nuwara Eliya Hotels

Distance : 6 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus, Railway

Map Sheet : Nuwara Eliya

54. A, B, C : DESSFORD FALLS

Three small waterfalls (10-15 m) close to A-7 between Nanu Oya and Talawakele at Dessford (Mile-post 27) rush down where the road (A-7) turns down into the valley of the Kotmale Oya. Above the crossing road at some distance there is one small fall partly hidden behind a hill. Behind Dessford Church there are two falls of a tributary of the Kotmale Oya.

Accommodation : Nuwara Eliya Hotels

Distance : 18 km

Talawakele Resthouse

7 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus

Map Sheet : Hatton

55. A, B : SAINT CLAIRS FALLS

Two waterfalls facing each other close to St. Clairs upon A-7, 3km west of Talawakele. The big waterfall (80 m) 'Maha Ella' (A) is formed by the Kotmale Oya. She flows over a rock ledge with three cascades into a big pool, producing a veil of foam radiating in the sunshine and contrasting to the black rocks. From A-7 a footpath takes one to the waterfall (500 m) which is well seen from the High Level road (A-7). (If you are taking photographs note the electric power line downhill between you and the fall).

The second fall (B), Kuda Ella, is formed by a tributary of the Kotmale Oya. This fall is set very close to the road (A-7) and can be seen better from a bend on the road on the hill near Km-post 90. Its altitude is about 50 m.

Accommodation : Talawakele Resthouse

Distance : 3 km

Dickoya, Upper Glencairn

Distance : 24 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus

Map Sheet : Hatton

56. DEVON FALL

This 97 m high waterfall of a small tributary of the Kotmale Oya got its name from Devon and his estate. Devon was a pioneer coffee planter. This fall is seen well from A-7 High Level road 6 km west of Talawakele. Close to 'Mile-post 20' there is a parking space for seeing the waterfall which is set on the opposite side of the valley. The fall can be reached by walking 1 km on a path downhill through tea plantations.

Accommodation : Talawakele Resthouse

Distance : 6 km

Dickoya, Upper Glencairn

Distance: 21 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus

Map Sheet : Hatton

57. MOUNT VERNON FALL

This village upon the Talawakele-Nawalapitiya road off A-7 (Dimbula) is set on the top of the hill range bordering the Kotmale Oya valley in the south. A small tributary brook rising from the hills west of the road forms a small scarcely known waterfall.

Accommodation : Talawakele Resthouse

Distance : 6.5 km

Dickoya, Upper Glencairn

Distance : 21 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus

Map Sheet : Hatton

58. DIYAGALLE FALL

This 20 m high waterfall is on the upper part of the Mahaweli Ganga in the Carolina estate area upon A-7, 5 km south-east of Ginigathena near the road-junction to Norton Bridge. The Mahaweli Ganga flows from the ledge of a rock that narrows the valley and the flow of the stream, opposite a conical hill. The waterfall is well seen from both the High Level road and from the Norton Bridge road. A hardly motorable path takes one to the river and close to the fall (200 m).

Accommodation : Kitulgala Resthouse

Distance : 21 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus

Map Sheet : Hatton

59. ELGIN FALL

A 25 m high fall of a tributary of the Dambagastalawa Oya at the last step of the northern slope of Horton Plains socle. This waterfall, set in the jungles, can be well seen from the train on the railroad Talawakele-Badulla. The fall gets its name from Elgin estate near which it is situated. Elgin is the name of the capital of the Scottish county of Moray while there are 6 towns called 'Elgin' in the USA (Ill., N.D., Nebr., Nev., Oreg., Tex.). The stream's sources rise from the jungle south of the fall.

From Talawakele a road leads through beautiful Agra Oya valley via Lindula (A-7), Tilkultry, Caledonia (Kelidiniya) to Elgin estate (19 km) at a height of 1500 m NN. This motorable road turns into a path, which leads through the jungle to the waterfall (2 km) and proceeds to the railway station Ambawela (5 km). From there a motorable road at the border of Elk plains leads to Nuwara Eliya (16 km). The falls can be reached by following either road.

Accommodation : Talawakele Resthouse

Distance : 21 km

Nuwara Eliya Hotels

Distance : 18 km

Vehicle : Car, Jeep, Bus, Train

Map Sheet : Nuwara Eliya
(Hatton)

60. PUNDALU OYA FALL

A 100 m waterfall of the Pundalu Oya on a ledge by the border of the third peneplain west of Nuwara Eliya. The stream rises from the northern declivity of Mt. Gretivestan (2423 m NN) and flows to Kotmale Oya, a tributary of the Mahaweli Ganga. Pundaluoya is a town on the road from Nuwara Eliya via Tavalamentenna (A-5)—35 km—to Talawakele (18 km), 15 km to Pusse-lawa). From Pundalu Oya a road to the east takes one to the waterfall (2 km) which plunges over a rock ledge down into the valley. The road crosses the fall at its lower third part. The top of the fall is crowned by a huge cube of black rockstone. The motorable road proceeds to Dansit estate.

Opposite the upstream road to the waterfall on the other side of the valley flows a 30 m water string down over some rocks, rising from the area north of Pundalu Oya (Uthuru Pundalu-Oya) and Mt. Kattaravela (1642 m NN).

Accommodation : Pusselawa Resthouse

Distance : 17 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus

Map Sheet : Hatton

61. LEN DOLA FALL

A 2 m waterfall of the Kotmale Oya above the Panna Oya. The Kotmale Oya coming from the south turns here to the west. Close to Ramboda at Tavalam(i)tenna (A-5) is the junction to Talawakele. After 6.5 km this road passes Sangilipalama, a busy town and domestic coffee-center. West of it a road leads to Palatera and Nawalapitiya, crossing the Kotmale Oya with an iron bridge. Eastward of this bridge a path leads upstream through modest plantations and fine scenery to the fall (1 km). Below the falls is a sandy river bank, surrounded by rocks, while tortoises and small fishes bustle in the stream together with cormorants. In a few years it is planned to build a reservoir which will submerge the falls.

The Sinhala name derives from 'lena' ලෙන = cave, 'dholaya' ධෝලයා = a large drum (i.e. Cave-drum Fall).

Accommodation : Pusselawa Resthouse

Distance : 12 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus

Map Sheet : Hatton

62. (—64) RAMBODA FALLS

Northwest from Nuwara Eliya the Ramboda valley declines from the peneplain westwards to the Mahaweli Ganga valley dividing into two branches: Kotmale Oya valley and the Ramboda-Pusselawa valley. Close to Ramboda, a settlement at the pass upon A-5 there are several waterfalls fed by small brooks rising from the upper peneplain and flowing to Panna Oya (Puna Oya) a tributary of the Kotmale Oya (see No. 61). The biggest of these falls is a 109 m twin-fall of the Panna (Puna) Oya, it flows with two strings over the rock ledge, north of A-5 close to Milepost 34. A smaller fall crosses the A-5 at Ramboda village flowing down 30 m from the ledge.

63. GARANDI FALL

This is a third water course and falls close to Ramboda. On the hills to the north and above the village the Frotoft estate factory can be seen from far away. Below the factory a 100 m waterfall flows over a wall of rocks into the Panna (Puna) Oya close to Ramboda village and to A-5. The name of the brook is Girindi Ela rising from Galaha Forest Reserve on the bordering peneplain. The name 'garandi' ගරඬිය or 'garandi' ගැරඬිය is the Sinhala word for 'rat eating snake' (*Ptyas mucosus* or *Ttyas Zamenis*) which with a length of 3.5 m the biggest non poisonous adder in Sri Lanka.

At the end of the Girindi Ela, just before the mouth of Puna Oya and close to A-5 and Ramboda, there is still another 6 m waterfall of this stream. You may take No. 62, 63 a + b and 64 together as one huge fall of 270 m height with three cascades. It is possible to walk on estate paths or tracks off Ramboda village to the ledge of these falls (2-3 km).

64. VEDIMALAYA FALL

Above the Frotoft factory there is a smaller waterfall of the Girindi Ela, which must also be included in the series of Ramboda falls.

Accommodation : Pusselawa Resthouse—*Distance* 24 km

(for No. 62-64) Nuwara Eliya Hotels—*Distance*, 2 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus

Map Sheet : Hatton

65. DELTA FALL

A 60 m waterfall about 6 km east of Pusselawa and like Hellbodde Fall (No. 66) near the A-5 trunk road close to a bridge 41/5 at km-post 41. The fall rushes over 6 cascades into a broad pond, surrounded by rocks and scrub. The brook is a tributary of the Kotmale Oya.

66. HELLBODDE FALL

A 5 m waterfall by the High Level road A-5 east of Pusselawa, between Mile-post 28 and 29 below Hellbodde estate set on the margin of a gap of the second peneplain, here bordering the valley to the north. The road passes the fall at bridge 44/1.

Accommodation : Pusselawa Resthouse—*Distance* 9 km
(for No. 65-66)

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus

Map Sheet : Kandy

On the way from Pusselawa to Ramboda you may pass some more small waterfalls close to the road A-5 particularly during or after the rainy season. Most of them lack any special name. All these brooks rise from the hills north of the road, like No. 66. The second peneplain continues to the north-west with the Dolosbage mountains, divided from the Hatton plateau by the Mahaweli Ganga valley. There are a series of waterfalls at the Dolosbage area. Most of them are below 30 m in height. Their streams flow to the west or to the north, some are tributaries of the Mahaweli Ganga.

67. DIYATIRI FALL

Close to the road from Navalapitiya to Dolosbage (20 km) at the junction to Meenagalla estate and Galumutuna a 30 m waterfall plunges from a rock slab of the north-west flank of Mt. Gentry Box East (1574 m). The waters are from a tributary of the Maha Oya which flows into the Indian Ocean north of Negombo.

Accommodation : Pusselawa Resthouse

Distance : 49 km via Gampola
Kitulgala Resthouse

Distance : 44 km via Navalapitiya-Ginigathena

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus

Map Sheet : Kandy

68. AHUPINI FALL

A waterfall of about 10 m on the upper course of the Maha Oya (see No. 67, 69). At the margin of a rock ledge there is a valley-break off with a height-difference of about 120 m. Here the Maha Oya has formed a waterfall surrounded by steep walls of rock and by jungle. From Dolosbage (20 km west of Navalapitiya, 132 km from Colombo) a narrow road takes to Wevelkelle upon the Maha Oya (6 km). Along the west bank of the river there is a path down stream through tea plantations off Eplawatte to the waterfall (2 km). You may proceed to the north to Mawarella (18 km) upon trunk road A-1 (Colombo-Kandy), but this road is poor.

Accommodation : Pusselawa Resthouse

Distance : 57 km (via . . . see No. 67)

Kitulgala Resthouse

Distance : 52 km (via . . . see No. 67)

Vehicle : Car, Jeep, Coach, Bus during dry season

Map Sheet : Kandy

69. WINDSOR FOREST FALL

Descending down from Dolosbage Pass (see No. 67) into the deep valley of the We Oya you will pass Windsor Forest, a small settlement and tea estate on the way to Kelvin. During the rainy season there is a 10 m waterfall of a tributary to the We Oya, rising from the mountain-forests north of this valley (1290 m NN) (2 km off Dolosbage) This meandering road with steep hair-pin bends is scarcely motorable.

Accommodation : See No. 68

Distance : See No. 68

Map Sheet : Kandy

70. KELVIN FALL

Kelvin is the name of a tea estate west of Dolosbage (see No. 67-69). A narrow steep road, scarcely motorable, leads (5 km) to this settlement (750 m NN) between the valleys of Ritigaha Oya in the north and the valley of the We Oya in the south (see No. 74, 77, 78). The waterfall is fed by the brooks coming out of the forests east of this estate at a height of 1050 m NN, and flowing down to the We Oya, of which the valley-bottom is situated 150 m lower than the bed of the Ritigaha Oya.

Accommodation : Pusselawa Resthouse

Distance : 54 km

Kitulgala Resthouse

Distance : 49 km

Vehicle : Car, Jeep, Bus to Dolosbage

Map Sheet : Kandy

71. GANTUNA FALL

A 20 m waterfall at the northern slope of Mt. Doteloya (990 m NN) set in the jungles and forests. The end of the valley which is crowned by the fall at a height of 500 m NN opens funnel-shaped onto Gantune-Pallegama, a typical rural village upon the Gurogoda Oya north of the fall. A difficult path leads the 1000 meters through scrub and forest to the fall, ascending 300 m. The villagers call the waterfall only 'elle gedera' ඇල්ලේ ගෙදර —The 'Home-Fall'. There is a motorable road (A-21) from Bulat-kohupitiya (see No. 75) to Kegalle upon A-1 trunk-road, after 10 km passing Undugoda, where a narrow motorable road winds through rural plantations up to Gantuna (7 km).

Accommodation : Kitulgala Resthouse

Distance : 50 km

Kegalle Resthouse

Distance : 22 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach

Map Sheet : Kandy

72. WE OYA FALL

Opposite the road from Yatiyantota (on A-7, 80 km north of Colombo) up to Malalpola (13 km) upon the We Oya you will find several smaller waterfalls to this stream, coming from the north. The biggest one (20 m) is set within the We Oya Rubber Estate. Below and above the fall there is a labour bungalow. The waters rising from the Bombepola forest, north of the estate plunge from a steep rock into the rubber estate. They join the We Oya. There are roads to the bungalow and paths close to the fall.

Accommodation : Kitulgala Resthouse

Distance : 33 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus

Map Sheet : Hatton

73. KITUL FALL

By the same road as to No. 72, 74 at Malalpola, close to km-post 13 this road crosses a 15 m waterfall which plunges from a broad rock into a gorge which opens to the We Oya valley. There are many Kitul palm trees in the gorge. The brook rises from the Halgolla hills south of Malalpola.

Accommodation : Kitulgala Resthouse

Distance : 33 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus

Map Sheet : Hatton

74. OLU FALL (Lotus Fall)

Amanawela is a hamlet upon the southern bank of the We Oya, a tributary of the Kelani Ganga, rising from the Dolosbage mountains. A motorable road takes one from Yatiyantota (A-7, 80 km north of Colombo, 16 km west of Kitulgala) to Malalpola (13 km,

see 72, 73). This road (bus service) proceeds via Punugala to Amanawela crossing the 200 m waterfall which plunges with several cascades into the We Oya. Its spray sometimes crosses the bridge and the road at km-post 16. The name of the fall 'Olu Ella' ඔලු ඇලේ in Sinhala means literally 'Lotus Fall'. The last part of this road is not motorable but proceeds to Dolosbage and Navalapitiya.

Accommodation : Kitulgala Resthouse

Distance : 34 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus

Map Sheet : Hatton

75. KALUPAHANA FALL

An unimportant waterthread to the Ritigaha Oya rising from the neighbouring forests on top of the mountains. From Bulatkohupitiya (off Karawanella A-7) a road takes one into the Ritigala Oya valley to Dedugala, passing Glenella, from there is a path to Kalupahana, a small settlement above the valley, and the waterfall which is visible from Glenella (2 km).

Accommodation : Kitulgala Resthouse

Distance : 40 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus

Map Sheet : Kandy

76. RIKILLE FALL

A waterfall flowing over a rock 30 m into the valley close to the road from Bulatkohupitiya (5 km) to Dedugala in the Ritigaha Oya valley (see No. 75). The fall is fed by a brook from the northern mountains near Hunasaldeniya (600 m NN) joining the Ritigaha Oya, a tributary of the Kelani Ganga.

Accommodation : Kitulgala Resthouse

Distance : 39 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus

Map Sheet : Kandy

77. RITIGAHA-WAHARAKA-OYA FALLS

A series of cascades up to 5 m along the road to Dedugala, about 9 km east of Bulatkohupitiya, where the Ritigaha Oya valley is narrowed by a ledge of rocks and rises from 150 m NN to 300 m NN. The road winds uphill with several bends. The falls are restrained by a chain of small power stations. The feeding brooks rise from the western spurs of Mt. Doteloya (990 m NN). On the northern side of the mountain chain there is the Gantuna Fall (see No. 71) beyond the watershed.

Accommodation : Kitulgala Resthouse

Distance : 41 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus

Map Sheet : Kandy

78. RUKMAL FALL

Proceeding along the road to Dedugala uphill along a vertical rock slab, 13 km east of Bulatkohupitiya there is a 20 m foam spraying beautiful waterfall by the road. Waters rise from the south slope of Doteloya (990 m NN) and join the Ritigaha Oya. This is a very nimble waterfall. The Sinhala name 'Rukmal' refers to the *Myristica Horsfieldia*-Myristicaceae, a plant producing fragrant flowers and seeds from its trunk. At present (1980) a new motorable road from Dedugala to Dolosbage is planned.

Accommodation : Kitulgala Resthouse

Distance : 45 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus

Map Sheet : Kandy

79. HANTUN FALL

A 30 m waterfall close to some farmhouses at the border of the jungle near the Ing Oya rubber estate. 1 km behind the Girankitte Oya bridge at Kitulgala a small road takes one to the estate factory. There ask for a guide to the waterfall. It is possible to drive on a narrow road during the dry season through rubber plantations downhill to the valley from where the waterfall can be seen. From the end of the motorable track there is a path (2 km) through scrub, grassland and some paddy fields upward to the farmhouses set on a hill at the foot of the waterfall which flows in several cascades over rock ledges. The waters rise from the south-west slope of Unulugala (1321 m NN), they join the Kelani Ganga. The Sinhala 'handun' හඳුන් means literally 'sandal (-wood)'.

Accommodation : Kitulgala Resthouse

Distance : 5 km

Vehicle : Car, Jeep during the wet season

Map Sheet : Hatton

80. MANAKETI FALL

A beautiful 60 m waterfall set on the western slope of Unulugala (1331 m NN) close to the jungles. The fall is formed by the Girankitte Oya, a tributary of the Kelani Ganga which flows to the Indian Ocean north of Colombo. The brook plunges over a rockstep into a pool from where it rushes through a rock channel into another pool, bordered by steep rockwalls. Here watermarks show the retreat of the falling streams. Centuries ago the waterfall must have been about 100 m downstream falling into the other pool below.

The Sinhala 'mana keti' මන්න කැති means literally 'knife and hatchets' (මන්නය = bow-knife, කෙටෙරිය = hatchet). It is said that the villagers went to this place to wash their tools.

From Kitulgala (A-7 bridge) a motorable road (bus service) takes one to Malwatta. This road crosses the Girankitte Oya and proceeds uphill (2.5 km) to a hamlet within a rubber plantation. From here a jungle path leads to the waterfall (400 m).

Accommodation : Kitulgala Resthouse

Distance : 5 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus

Map Sheet : Hatton

81. SAMPAT FALL

One of the three big waterfalls north of Kitulgala at Ampana. Take the road to Malwatta (see No. 80) but turn left at a junction before this village. The narrow road is motorable up to Ampana, a small settlement and collecting point of the estate. Proceed uphill climbing a path through the rubber plantation and crossing a brook to some farmhouses and a shop (boutique) from where you may see the 30 m fall rushing over a rockwall, within jungle trees. There is a path close to the fall (about 45 min. walking time) which will be pointed out by the villagers. The waters (Liyan Oya) rise from a ridge which is the watershed-line between Kelani Ganga valley and the We Oya valley (see No. 73, 74). The Liyan Oya joins the Kelani Ganga at Kitulgala.

Accommodation : Kitulgala Resthouse

Distance : 3.5 km

Vehicle : Car, Jeep

Map Sheet : Hatton

82. ABERDEEN FALLS

This 98 m high waterfall of the Kehelgomu Oya, a tributary of the Maskeliya Oya is set in the area of the former Aberdeen estate. The Kehelgomu Oya flows out of the Castlereigh Reservoir near Dickoya, which is fed by the Hambantota Oya rising

from the highlands of the Walawe Basin Forest Reserve south of Bogawantalawa and northwest from Betanagala New (see No. 9). To visit the waterfall, there are two paths through scrub, one to the top from where a beautiful view of the Maskeliya Oya and the Kehelgomu Oya valleys can be seen in the direction to Gini-gathena. Just behind a farmhouse an uneasy steep path leads to the lower part of the fall, which plunges with three strings into a deep 100 square-meter pool within big rocks and boulders below a steep rockwall with caves washed out by the stream. The sound of the fall can be heard up to a distance of 500 m. From Dickoya, Norwood a very good motorable road takes to Norton Bridge (16 km), from there a small road to Green Hayes, an estate settlement. After 5 km driving from Norton Bridge there is a tiny hamlet in a palm plantation. Upward and downward of this place are paths to the waterfall. The villagers will point out the way. You can hear the fall already from this place.

The waterfall gets its name from the Aberdeen Estate in which it is situated. Aberdeen is the name of the fourth biggest town of Scotland and capital of a Scottish county, also a title in the Scottish family Gordon. There are five Aberdeens in the USA (Id., Miss., N.C., S.D., Wash.), one in Canada and one in South Africa. In former reports Lakshapana Fall (see No. 83) and Aberdeen Fall have been mixed together because both falls were set in the once Aberdeen Estate.

Accommodation : Dickoya, Upper Glencairn Hotel

Distance : 15 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus to Norton Bridge

Map Sheet : Hatton

83. LAKSHAPANA FALL

A waterfall of the Maskeliya Oya rising from the forests south of Fairlawn estate (see No. 4). An old story tells that the waters of this fall rise from Indikatupana, where once Lord Buddha sat on a rock to repair his clothes. This rock is on the path to Adam's Peak and pilgrims still stop there to sew some material with needle and thread. It is not correct however that the source of

the Maskeliya Oya is at Indikatupahana. The Maskeliya Oya wriggles through a lot of big stones before she rushes into the 126 m high fall and the pool below of a steep rockwall amidst dark green high trees. The mountains of the vicinity reflect from the smooth surface of the pool. The waterfall's name may derive from Sinhala 'lakshaya' (ලක්ෂය) = 100,000 and 'pahana' (පහණ) — stone. Another version may be 'lakshana' (ලක්ෂණ) = beautiful; and a third version supposes 'pahana' (පහන) = light. Nevertheless, the old Sinhalese name of this fall was 'vedda hiti ella' (වැද්ද හිටි ඇල්ල) (where) the Vedda-was-Fall.

The Maskeliya Oya rushes to the west, unites with the Kehelgomu Oya (see No. 82) and joins the Kelani Ganga. 13 km west of Maskeliya from the road to Norton Bridge, a small country road takes off to Murutanetenna, 2 km after crossing a dam you'll arrive at Kottalenna, a hamlet close to the waterfall which can be seen at the bottom of the valley. A steep path leads down to the pool. There is a fine view from above the waterfall from the farmhouse, as well as from the (Kitulgala) Kalugala-Aberdeen (Lakshapana)-Norton Bridge road on the opposite hillside of the Maskeliya Oya.

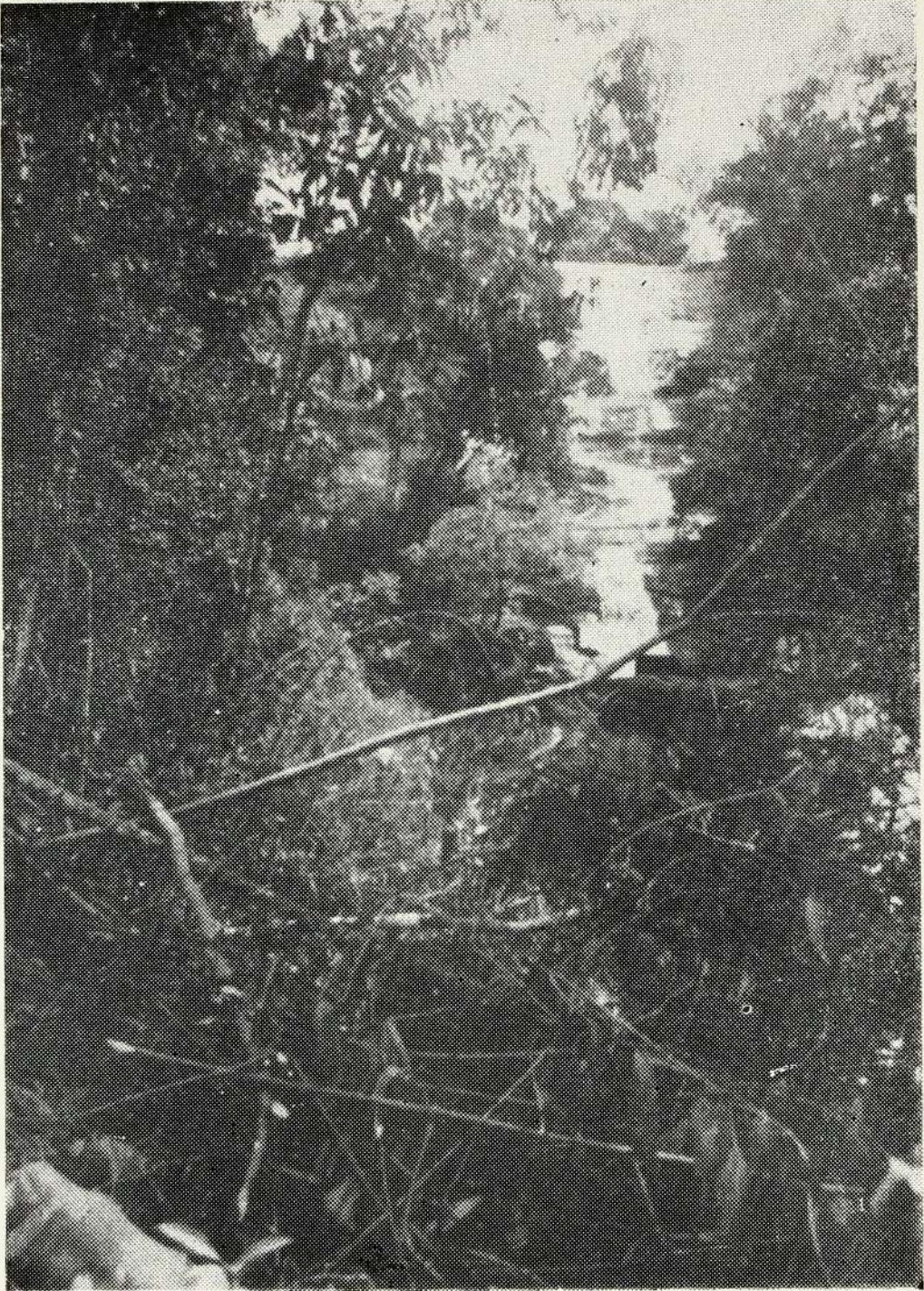
At the confluence of the Maskeliya Oya and the Kehelgomu Oya the flow of both rivers and their energy have been gradually harnessed into Sri Lanka's first and major hydro-electric scheme from which 'a million lights' (Laksha pahana) would feed Sri Lanka with her electrical energy; this may be a modern way to translate the name of Lakshapana Fall.

Accommodation : Dickoya, Upper Glencairn Hotel

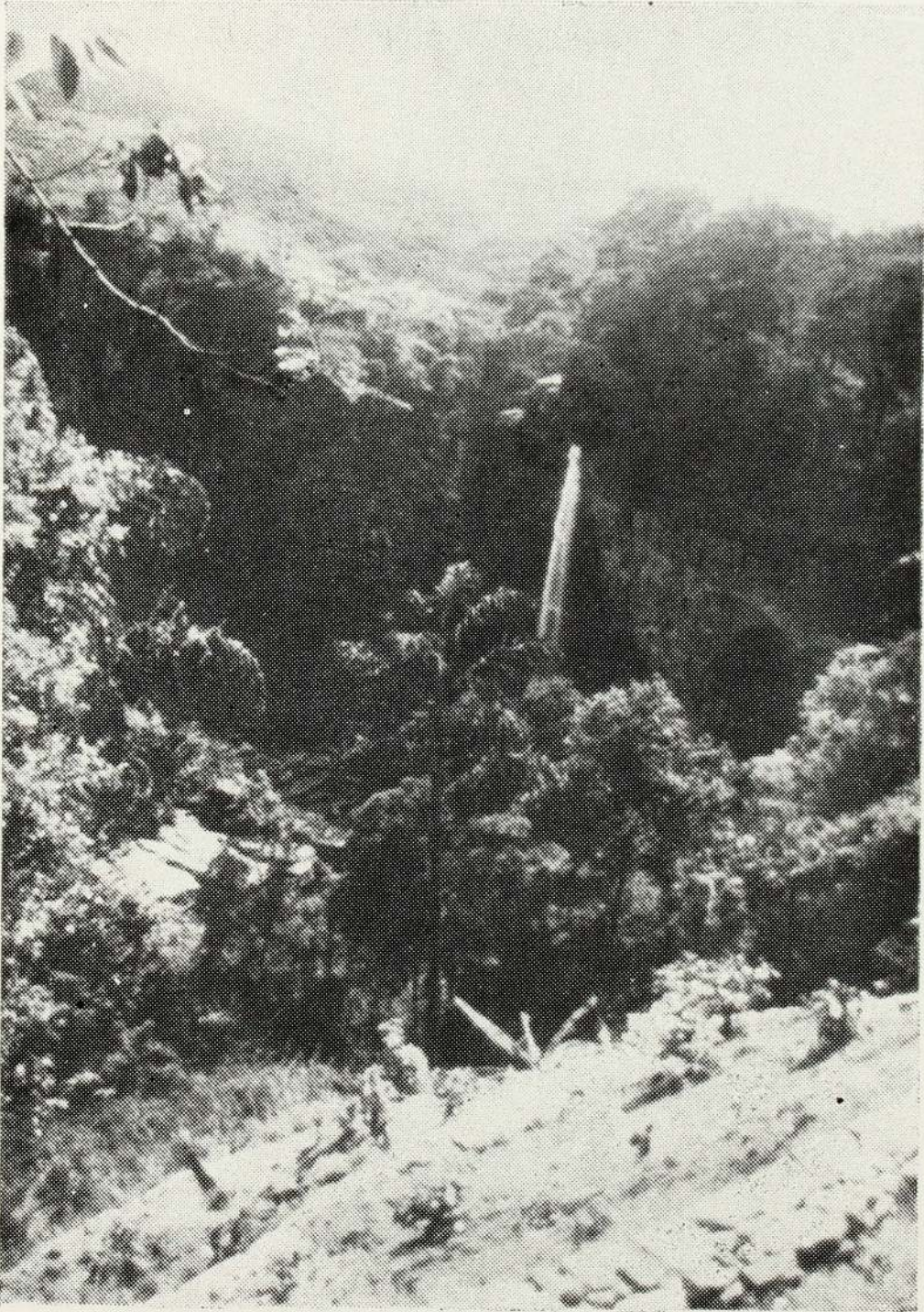
Distance : 30 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus

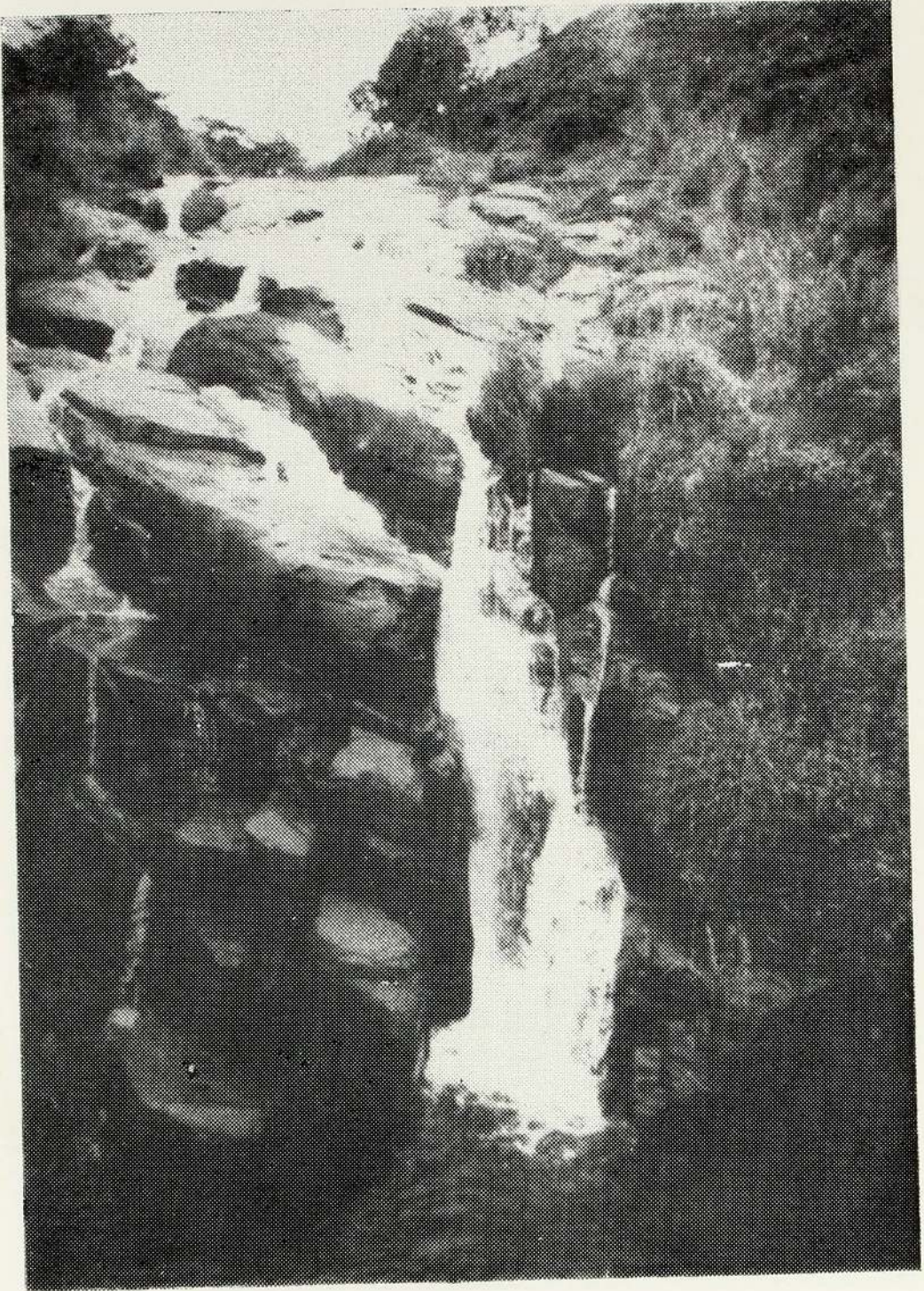
Map Sheet : Hatton



(79) Hantun Fall



(83) Lakshapana Fall



(85) Kotmale–Mahapokuna Fall



(99) Hunas Fall



(24) Duvili Fall

84. KOTMALE-MAHAKANDURA FALL**85. KOTMALE-MAHAPOKUNA FALL**

In the area of Kotmale upon Guruk Oya close to the Talawakele-Navalapitiya road there are two waterfalls of 10 m height from small tributaries of the Guruk Oya. These falls look very nice because of their cascades and their pools which are favourite bathing spots for the youngsters. The brooks rise from the hill-country south of the road. The Mahakandura fall is set close to mile-post 7, the Mahapokuna fall close to Harangale village, a little apart from the road. The names derive from Sinhala 'maha' මහ = big, great and from 'kandura' කඳුර = mountain stream, gorge; 'pokuna' පොකුණ = pond, reservoir.

The vicinity of Kotmale has been changed since my visit in November 1980 by buildings of the Mahaweli Ganga Irrigation Scheme, thus the given description might not be up to date.

Accommodation : Talawakele Resthouse

Distance : 26 km

Dickoya, Upper Glencairn Hotel 30 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus

Map Sheet : Hatton

86. NEKKAVITA FALL

Nekkavita is a small settlement upon the Magal Oya set on the hillside south of the river that flows deep downward in the narrow valley which is bordered on the north by a steep rockwall where a 100 m fall plunges into the Magal Oya. I have called it 'Nekkavita Fall' because the local people had no name for it. The waters rise in the jungles at the southern slope of Mt. Hingurangala (718 m NN). Drive on A-7 via Talduva to Deraniyagala (85 km from Colombo, 20 km from Kitulgala. Follow the Magal Oya on the north side of the valley upstream till Tamavelipalama, cross the river and proceed to Maliboda (bus service) and stop on the way at Nekkavita/Tubar to see the fall opposite the stream. It is not worthwhile seeing this fall only without combining it with a visit to other falls close to Maliboda (see No. 87, 90).

Accommodation : Kitulgala Resthouse

Distance : 20 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus

Map Sheet : Hatton

87. PUWAKMALE FALL

The name derives from Sinhala 'puwak' පුවක් = Arecanut palm (*Areca catechu*) and 'mal' මල් = flowers (pl.). The native people of the area, most are Tamils, call the waterfall 'Sita Oya Ella' සීත ඔය ඇල්ල = Cold Stream Fall. This 15 m waterfall flows with a deep humming sound into a narrow gorge and a pool encaved by overhanging rocks. The official name of the stream is 'Mandagal Oya', rising from Bambaragala (780 m NN), a flanking peak of a rockrange which separates the valley from the Maskeliya Ganga valley and its Lakshapana Fall (see No. 83) to the east. To visit the fine valley of the Mandagal Oya take the road from Deraniyagala (see No. 86) to Maliboda and cross the Magal Oya on a narrow motorable railingless bridge to Halwatura-kele. Having crossed Katirit Oya (2 km) a road leads to the left to a 'Nursery Division' on Kiriattulgala (576 m NN). Parking space at a small waterfall close to the road. Following the same direction walking through the tea plantations and passing a modest Hindu shrine of the local stream goddesses, you will come to the waterfall (1 km). In the background of the valley the Elapita Fall (see No. 88) looks out of the scrub and trees.

Accommodation : Kitulgala Resthouse

Distance : 23 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Jeep

Map Sheet : Hatton

88. ELAPITA FALL

A 20 m waterfall in the Halwaturakele valley; the Halwatura Ganga rises from the western slopes of the Udalaksapanagala (1550 m NN). From Maliboda (see No. 87) the road takes to Halwatura-kele, a small estate settlement on a hill slope, and proceeds uphill with some bends to the 'upper division' and a storehouse of the tea estate on the top of the hill. From there you get a fine view both on Elapita Fall and the Puwakmale Fall. It is exciting to hear the high pitched sound of Elapita combined with the

well tuned deep sound of Puwakmale. The distance between the two falls is approximately 500 m. Their brooks become connected at the bottom of the valley and join the Nayee Ganga, a tributary of the Magal Ganga.

Accommodation : Kitulgala Resthouse

Distance : 25 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach

Map Sheet : Hatton

89, 90. DOTULU FALLS

Set into the jungle wilderness northwest of Adam's Peak these two waterfalls of the Nayee Ganga are difficult to visit as roads and paths are missing. Only a few native people of the area may know how to visit these falls. The sources of the Nayee Ganga rise from the northern slopes of Adam's Peak with Pidurutalawa (1650 m NN) and Mahapidurutalawa (1710 m NN) as the highest mountains of this area. Only the western fall can be seen from Bambaragala hamlet above the Halwaturakele storehouse at a distance of about 1 km. The eastward fall is situated another 2 km upstream (990 m NN).

Accommodation : Kitulgala Resthouse

Distance : 25 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach

Map Sheet : Hatton

91. DEHIGOLLA FALL

A 30 m deep waterfall plunging from a rock near the Dehigolla tea estate north of the Teldeniya-Hunasgiriya road, some 100 meters east of milepost 21. This narrow road, only partly

motorable, takes one to Dehigolla Rambukpota. At a distance of 1 km from the junction there is a waterfall rising from the jungle covered slopes of the Knuckles (1833 m NN) and joining the Mahaweli Ganga via Hini Oya and the Hulu Ganga.

Accommodation : Kandy Hotels
Distance : 35 km
 Hassalaka Resthouse
Distance : 30 km
Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus
Map Sheet : Hanguranketa

92. VICTORIA FALL

Once an 11 m high waterfall of the Mahaweli Ganga, there in 1970, but now (1980) virtually non existent due to the erosion of the rock bed. For a visit take the Kandy - Teldeniya road. Off Ernstwood (18 km) the road to Mahaberiatenna (4 km) and via Victoria estate leads to the former falls (3 km). Probably the whole area is now altered by a reservoir, where the Hulu Ganga joins the Mahaweli Ganga.

Accommodation : Kandy Hotels
Distance : 25 km
Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus
Map Sheet : Hanguranketa

93. GALDOLA FALL

At the steep north-east slope of the Sinha Raja Forest there is Rakwana, a town on A-17 from Ratnapura-Pelmadulla to Galle. Right beyond Rakwana this road crosses the 100 m waterfall close to mile-post 82. The stream rises from Suriyakanda (1020 m NN) as a tributary source of the Rakwana Ganga. During very dry weather water is missing and only vertical rockwalls with boulders at their feet reminds one of the waterfalls.

Accommodation : Rakwana Resthouse
Distance : 3 km
Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus
Map Sheet : Rakwana

94. DALVEEN FALL

Below Rakwana the Rakwana Ganga meanders to the north-east through Dalveen tea estate. The stream had dug her bed into the sedimentation land up to a rocky step where the stream falls 30 m down with four cascades into a gorge within tea plantations. From the main Rakwana junction a narrow estate road leads to the supervisors bungalow and proceeds to a bridge above the waterfall.

Accommodation : Rakwana Resthouse

Distance : 2 km

Vehicle : Car, Jeep

Map Sheet : Rakwana

95. HANDAPAN FALL

The main source of Rakwana Ganga rises from the Handapan Ella Plains (1230 m NN), which is bounded to the north by the Kabaragala mountains, a chain of steep rocks of the Sinha Raja Forest where the stream forms a 200 m waterfall over a rockwall which borders the V-shaped valley. Take the road from Rakwana main junction to Kalawana (bus service), uphill within a distance of 5 km you will see the huge waterfall at the opposite side of the valley. This place is called Paluna (720 m NN), a hamlet. You have to walk down and climb up through the valley through big boulders and rocks, if you like to come very close to the fall (2 km).

Accommodation : Rakwana Resthouse

Distance : 7 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus

Map Sheet : Rakwana

96. EDANDU FALL

A waterfall of the western Sinha Raja rain-forests. The Edandu Ela rises at Tangamale Plains (1050 m NN) and flows to the west into the Kalu Ganga after having joined the Maha Ganga, the Delgoda Ganga and the Kukululu Ganga. It is not easy to visit this waterfall set within the pathless jungle. The shortest walking distance is from Beverley estate (600 m NN) north of Deniyaya (8 km) upon A-17. Another less comfortable way to see the fall is from Traquarr estate at the border of the Tangamale plains, south of the Bulutota pass upon A-17. A small estate road, scarcely motorable, off mile-post 72 (at Gilgarron estate) takes to Traquarr (4 km), from there walk pathless to the fall (3.5 km) through deep jungle.

Accommodation : Rakwana Resthouse

Distance : 27 km via Traquarr

Galle Hotel

Distance : 92 km via Deniyaya

Vehicle : Jeep

Map Sheet : Rakwana

97. RATNA FALL

The 109 m high waterfall of the Hassalaka Oya (also called Wawelobe Oya) is set on the south slope of the Velangolapatana (1010 m NN) which flanks the steep break of the eastern part of the second peneplain at the border of the dry zone. The fall can be seen from the Hunasgiriya-Hassalaka road at a distance of 3 km looking down into the Hassalaka Oya valley at the road gully 38/6. The name derives from Sinhala 'rathnaya' (රත්නය) = jewel, thus it is the jewel-waterfall. To get there take the road from Kandy via Hunasgiriya (33 km) to Hassalaka (25 km) south of the tank. Then a small road leads north to Torapitiya (5 km). There is a footpath up to Ulpotagama-Illuka and to the waterfall (2 km) which is flanked by Illukkanda (691 m NN) and its rock ranges. All the mountains are covered with dark green forests where the waterfall looks like a sparkling gem.

There is a modest resthouse at Hassalaka on the road from Hunasgiriya. After having passed 10-12 hair-pin bends (8 km west of Hassalaka) the road meets Guruluketiya Mallaketiya (bus service). From this village there is also a footpath to Torapitiya (5 km) crossing Hassalaka Oya close to an ancient Seetahoture ruins near Ududaha.

Accommodation : Hassalaka Resthouse

Distance : 7 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus

Map Sheet : Rangala

98. ABARANA FALL

At the lower part of the Walawe Ganga near Usangoda-Nonagama cross-junction (A-2/A-18). The waterfall is linked to a legend which I quote from Lala Adithiya's book *Search for Sugala*, the queen of the southern kingdom, 12th century A. D.:

'A certain king called Vijayabahu, who lived at the palace, had two sisters as consorts. As he set sail to invade a northern hostile province, he bade both sisters to take charge of government and palace. He told them, that if they had won the war, they would hoist white flags on their ships. The Prime Minister on their return suggested that although they were victorious, to test the reaction of the queens they should hoist black flags which they did. These two sisters had been counting the days until they would see ships on the horizon, bringing their king back. One day standing on Usangoda they saw the fleet approaching with black flags flying. Both pined. What is the use of our existence without our master, the king and the war are lost! they said to themselves. Come let's go and jump in the river, they decided. Gathering all the palace treasures, they reached the banks and plunged into the whirlpool at the foot of the cascade. The king on his return was told the fate of the two sister queens. A repentant king made haste to the river where he found the treasure on the bank. Taking the treasures he also plunged in, preferring death to a bleak future without his beloveds, who were both pregnant. The loss of four lives, result of a silly joke, he lamented. The king was reborn in the water as the 'Black Prince'.

The area of Usangoda has magic influences. Around Usangoda there are the rarest of herbs called 'Dalumura', found nowhere else in all Lanka. It is required as an ingredient to perform a certain devil-driving exorcism ritual, where young pregnant women are possessed by the evil influence of the Black Prince. The area of Usangoda has magic effects on animals and humans. Cattle dung does not last more than a quarter of an hour—the earth absorbs it. None could sleep a night there nor cross this plain after dusk—he is throttled in the neck or is scared away by haunting spirits. Wednesdays and Saturdays of the week are particularly inauspicious. Even at the Treasure (Abarana) Falls, visions of golden beds, jugs and ear studs appear. Anybody who dare venture to retrieve them is doomed to death from strangulation by unseen hands.

Today the whole area round the mouth of the Walawe Ganga to the Indian Ocean is irrigated. Only Usangoda (33 m NN), a hill about 800 m west from Wattawala tank, 1500 m south of Nonagama upon A-2 and close to the Indian Ocean seems untouched though you can drive there by car. The Abarana Fall is set near Pallerota. Though the fall is only 2 m high, the story mentioned above caused me to name the fall in this guide. The surrounding area where the fall rushes over a rockstep into a deep pool is quiet. It is a favourite place for crocodiles which sun-bathe on the sands bordered by scrub and huge trees. To get to this place drive from Ambalantota-Nonagama junction on A-18 up to km-post 77. From there a cart track may take you to the fall passing tobacco plantations (2 km) and finally a ford crossing the irrigation channel. Ask at a farmhouse for the correct path.

An easier way takes one from Ambalantota along the Walawe Ganga bank to the Ridiyagama tank and the Circuit Bungalow (10 km), from there leads a footpath to the waterfall (1500 m).

Accommodation : Hambantota Resthouse

Distance : 26 km

Vehicle : Car, Jeep

Map Sheet : Ambalantota

99. HUNAS FALL

This is an artificial waterfall from a tank below the Hunas tourist hotel set within a spice garden. Waters flow over a 60 m steep rockledge, coming from the tank which is fed by a brook from the northern slope of Mt. Hunasgiriya (1490 m NN) flowing as Maha Oya at Matale to Sudu Ganga, a tributary of Amban Ganga which joins the Mahaweli Ganga. Drive from Kandy (115 km from Colombo) on A-9 to Wattegama (15 km), from there in the direction of Elkaduwa. After 12 km there is a board and road sign to the Hunas tourist hotel. The narrow motorable road winds uphill through a spice garden touching the waterfall halfway to the hotel.

Accommodation : Hunas Tourist Hotel

Distance : 1 km

Kandy Hotels

Distance : 27 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus to Elkaduwa

Map Sheet : Kurunegala

JUNGLE-SET WATERFALLS

There are several large and beautiful waterfalls set within pathless jungles. To visit these falls, you have to organize a group with porters to carry your equipment with food and drinks. Foremost you must be healthy and trained for long distance walking. You may be lucky to find somebody from the area as a guide, who knows a track through the scrub and forests, and who has already been to the place which you like to see. Normally it takes 4-6 hours uneasy tracking to reach the fall. Therefore you should start in the very early morning from the nearest motorable spot. Sometimes you can see the waterfall from a remote place more easy to reach. But even there only few local people know how to go close to the fall.

38. KIRINDI OYA FALL

Don't mistake this 10 m fall for Kirindi Fall (No. 16) close to Pelmadulla. The Kirindi Oya Fall is set close to Kahatamaditta on the high level road from Wellawaya to Ella. The fall within forest and jungle is formed by the Illukarawa Oya, a small tributary of the Kirindi Oya. An uneasy track takes off from 'mile-post 8' (13 km north of Wellawaya) eastward into the jungle and following the rocky watercourse to the fall which rushes over huge boulders into a deep pool, where tall trees with hanging creepers are reflected. A visit to this waterfall may be a training for other jungle-set falls (2-3 hours). The brook feeding the fall rises from the eastern slope of Mahapitiyakanda No. 2 (977 m NN) and its forests.

Accommodation : Koslanda Resthouse

Distance : 32 km

Ella Resthouse

Distance : 15 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus

Map Sheet : Haputale

6. DIYAN FALL

7. URAN FALL

Two waterfalls, a distance of 500 m of each other within the roadless jungle of the Walawe Basin Forest Reserve, at a height of 900 m NN with sources at the southern slopes of the Meriyacota range (1806 m NN). There is an uncomfortable track from Fairlawn, Meriyacotta (see No. 1, 4,) through the jungle to both the waterfalls (3 km). Another path takes one from Rawanakanda via Walakarakanda hills up to the falls (5 km). From Balangoda to Rawanakanda there is a scarcely motorable road (jeep) (20 km). The height of both the jungle-set falls is about 20 m. Their waters flow into the Walawe Ganga near Rawanakanda.

Accommodation : Balangoda Resthouse

Distance : 25 km

Vehicle : Jeep

Map Sheet : Ratnapura

8. UDAKANDA FALL

A waterfall of the Walawe Ganga near her sources at the south-east slope of Adam's Peak. The height is about 10 m.

Drive from Balangoda (A-4) to Hunukumbura (1 km) from there to Udakanda (10 km via Hiriketiya-Welekumbura-Alankarapanguwa-Dewalegama (or from Berendeniya to Udakanda). From Udakanda there is a track (500 m) to the fall, set in the jungle.

Accommodation : Balangoda Resthouse

Distance : 13 km

Vehicle : Jeep

Map Sheet : Ratnapura

5. DOTURUGALA FALL

A waterfall (about 30 m) in the roadless jungle of the Peak Wilderness with its sources on the northern slope of Mt. Doturugala (1855 m NN). It is difficult to find the fall. The visit must be arranged very carefully with the local people at Moray (see No. 1) and at the Noorwood Estate. Drive to Moray Corfu via Maskeliya (17 km) and proceed to the 'Fishing Hut' at the very border of the jungle and tea plantation. Local people may know a narrow path through the forests to the fall. Bears are common in the area (1.5 km).

Accommodation : Dickoya, Upper Glencairn Hotel

Distance : 33 km

'Fishing Hut' (Bed Only) 1.5 km

Vehicle : Car, Jeep

Map Sheet : Ratnapura

24. DUVILI FALL (Walawe Ganga Fall : East)

The 40 m high eastward set waterfall of the Walawe Ganga within the thick jungle of the monsoon forests is to be visited from Kaltota (28 km off Balangoda). There is a narrow walking path up and down through scrub and over boulders traversing the steep slope of the valley, upstream along the river (2 km). You make your way in single file, slowly and tediously, for a false step would mean certain death. The path is on the edge of a precipice where the stream rushes through a series of big rock-boulders. You will arrive on a hill opposite the fall, where the water flows over a broad rock-step coming from a valley at a higher level. The ganga plunges into a deep pool and turns right-angled eastward to Kaltota, where the river enters the maritime plain, again turning to the south. Sometimes wild elephants prowl in this area. The name of the fall derives from Sinhalese දුවිලි *duvili* — dust.

Accommodation : Kaltota Circuit Bungalow
(make reservations with the Irrigation
Department, Colombo. (Beds only)
Balangoda Resthouse

Distance : 28 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus

23. WALAWE GANGA FALL (West)

In the upper course of the Walawe Ganga through the second peneplain (Uda Palata Korale) there are two waterfalls where the stream flows over a rock ledge bordering a deep step of two meeting valleys with different heights of their bottoms. The eastern fall is the Duvili Fall off Kaltota (see No. 31), the western fall is more difficult to visit and arrangements have to be prepared carefully. This fall about 30 m is set in the deep monsoon forest. Drive from Balangoda on the Kaltota road up to Aldora (8 km) where a scarcely motorable road (jeep only or tractor) takes to Mulgama (8 km) via Wikiliya and Watawala. From Mulgama there is a path to Kongolla proceeding to the Walawe Ganga valley behind a 100 m hill, and to the waterfall (4 km). Ask for a guide at Mulgama. Time taken is about 6 hours one way.

Accommodation : Balangoda Resthouse

Distance : 22 km

Vehicle : Jeep

Map Sheet : Haputale

34. DIYABETMA FALLS

One of the most difficult walking tours to see this jungle-set waterfall within a pathless area. Only few local people know about these falls which are about 6 km aerial-line distance south of Koslanda. From Edandawella!Gampaha on A-4, 8 km east of Koslanda takes a path along the Kuda Oya via Bulatwelgoda. Leaving this stream the right hand track takes to Wekada, a small settlement (3.5 km). This path proceeds through the parkcountry, turning to west (at a track junction keep right hand) and crossing a tributary of the Diabetma Oya near the mouth of another small watercourse (5 km) where the path meets another path coming from the south. From this point, the Diyabetma Falls are at the slope south-eastward upstream (1 km) of the small feeding brook. You have to find your way through scrub on your own within an unexplored area. There are wild elephants roaming around.

Accommodation : Koslanda Resthouse

Distance: 18 km

Vehicle : Car, Coach, Bus, Jeep

Map Sheet : Haputale

96. EDANDU FALL

A waterfall of the eastern central Sinha Raja rain forests. The Edandu Ela rises at Tangamale plains (1050 m NN) and flows to the west into the Kalu Ganga after having joined the Maha Ganga, Delgoda Ganga and the Kukulu Ganga. It is difficult to visit this waterfall within the pathless jungle. The shortest walking distance (4 km) is from Beverley Estate (600 m NN) north of Deniyaya (8 km) upon A-17 .

Another way to visit the fall may be from Traquarr estate at the border of the Tangamale plains. South of the Bulutota pass upon A-17 takes a small estate road scarcely motorable to this estate, off mile-post 72 at Gilgarron estate.

Accommodation : Rakwana Resthouse

Distance : about 65 km

Galle—any hotel via Deniyaya

Distance : 92 km

Vehicle : Car, Jeep, Bus

Map Sheet : Rakwana

Some other jungle-set waterfalls can be seen from a certain distance of a motorable road. They are described in the sequence of their number : 19, 26, 36, 37, 51, 59, 89, 90 (see there above).

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Waterfalls are one of the most fascinating of natural phenomena. Sri Lanka in comparison to its size has perhaps the largest number of waterfalls of any country in the world. They amount to nearly a hundred, some of great height and others only a few meters. Many of our waterfalls are virtually unknown and a number in fact are in jungles without even a footpath leading to them. Sri Lanka's highest waterfall, the Bambarakanda waterfall, 263 meters in height and one of the most exquisite beauty, is still known only to a few, even though it is a bare four miles off the main road from Colombo to Bandarawela.

The geographical factors which account for waterfalls are available in abundance in this country. Sri Lanka has a large number of perennial rivers fed from monsoon rains carrying large quantities of water. The central highlands of the country consist of several peneplains, the highest being over 7,000 feet in height. The peneplains have precipitous edges creating the waterfalls. The highlands are composed of one of the oldest land masses in the world and the rivers flow over the hard Archean rock without causing any erosion of the rock bed.

This book on the waterfalls of Sri Lanka is the first to discuss the subject comprehensively. It provides a guide to all the waterfalls of the country and gives the distance to each, the height of the waterfalls and directions on how to get there. The nearest accommodation available and a reference to the Surveyor General's 1 inch to 1 mile sheet is included. Reference is given whenever a waterfall is associated with any legend.

The author, Dr. Eberhard Kautzsch of Germany, has been a lover and visitor to Sri Lanka for many years. Strangely enough, he is not a geologist or a geographer but a distinguished Doctor of Medicine. He is a world authority on liver diseases, and is the author of a standard work on the subject, which has been translated into several foreign languages.



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