



SUDAN STUDIES

Number 39 January 2009

ISSN - [0952-049x]

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The Sudan Studies Society of the UK was founded in 1987 to encourage and promote Sudanese studies in the United Kingdom and abroad, at all levels and in all disciplines. SSSUK is a registered charity (no. 328272).

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EDITORIAL

I am sure that we are all hoping that 2009 will see a peaceful solution to the Darfur crisis and a satisfactory implementation of the CPA (Comprehensive Peace Agreement).

In the light of my comments in *Sudan Studies* 38, I am pleased to be able to include 'Appreciations' for the lives of **Mary Bassiouni** by her husband, David, and for **Professor Muhammad Gaddal** by Ahmad Sikainga of Ohio University in the USA. Readers may also have seen in *The Times* on 6 November 2008 an Obituary Notice for **Ahmed al-Mirghani** who died of a stroke aged 67 on 2 November 2008. He was President of the Sudan from 1986 to 1989 only to be removed in that year by Omar al-Bashir. Thereafter, he spent many years in exile, mainly in Egypt and Saudi Arabia, only to return back to Sudan in 2001. His great-great grandfather had established the Sufi Khatmiya Sect and politically Ahmed was the leader of the DUP (Democratic Unionist Party). He said that he was returning in order to help in reconciliation between Sudan's various antagonistic factions. Another Obituary of interest appeared in *The Times* on 26 August 2008 of **Richard Stanbury**, one of the 'Bog Barons'. He died on 29 June 2008 aged 92. In all he served in nine Districts as District Commissioner over 13 years from 1937, before being invalided out through ill-health. He had a deep fondness for the southern Sudan, especially for the Dinka, even though he once described life as a 'Bog Baron' as 20% fun and 80% illness and discomfort. After the Sudan he entered the British Diplomatic Service.

This issue contains an interesting range of articles by a very diverse group of authors and covers a wide historical period. The first is about a Sudanese Officer who worked with, and for, Emin Pasha in Equatoria in the 1890s, and is by **Ibrahim Soghayroun**, who is currently Professor of African and Middle East History at Sultan Qaboos University in Oman. He was formerly on the staff

of Khartoum University. Two other papers are concerned with the late 19th and the early years of the 20th century. The first is about the exploits of a British warship HMS *Dolphin* at Suakin and in the Red Sea in the 1880s and is by **Gordon S Milne**. Professor Milne joined the British navy and did his initial training on *Dolphin* which was part of Leith Nautical College in Scotland. He had to give up a naval career and turning to other things, he eventually became Honorary Professor of Land Economy at the University of Aberdeen. The second is about a British engineer, Ralston Kennedy, who was in charge of much of the planning and early development of Port Sudan. The author **Colin Paterson** was, until his retirement in 2002, a Reader in Medicine in the University of Dundee: Ralston Kennedy was his great uncle. Next is an article by **Mustafa M Khogali**, Professor of Geography in the Faculty of Education of the University of Khartoum, who also works with the International University of Africa on Disaster Management, and is about the future of Kassala Town. There is also an important article on the contemporary use of English in higher education in Sudan by **Muhammad Al Busairi** who is a professor of English, Linguistics and Translation in Khartoum University and former Head of the English Department and Linguistics Department of Khartoum University.

Under **SSSUK Notices** you will find some preliminary details about the forthcoming **International Sudan Studies Conference being held in South Africa in November 2009**. Further details will appear on our web-site as they become available (<http://www.sssuk.org>).

We will, of course, still hold our Annual AGM and Symposium in London on Saturday, 26 September 2009. This is a must date for your new diary!

Among the SSSUK notices you will also find a summary of the enquiry made of members by **Andrew Wheeler** on the future

development of the SSSUK. Your Committee has been carefully considering his findings. Andrew was also elected Vice-Chair at last October's AGM.

Michael Medley has gone to Thailand and has resigned from the SSSUK Committee. We wish him well and thank him warmly for his contributions to the SSSUK. **Dan Large** was elected at the AGM in his place. Dan is Director of the Africa-Asia Centre, a collaborative venture between the Royal African Society and the School of Oriental and African Studies. He is also the founding director of the Sudan Open Archive (www.sudanarchive.net). Members may like to be reminded that a lot of useful information about current events in the Sudan can be found on the Rift Valley Institute's web-site (www.riftvalley.net), including a copy of the Abyei Report.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

A gentle reminder!

Subscriptions are now due for 2009. If you have not already done so please ensure that these are sent to Adrian Thomas. His address is on the inside of the front cover.

Subscription rates were increased at the last AGM. The new rates can also be found in the inside of the front cover. If you pay by Standing Order, please ensure that you inform your bank of the new rates.

Mary Nura Bassiouni: A Life of Principled and Selfless Public Service

Born in Juba, Sudan, on June 12, 1946, Mary Nura Bassiouni was a national icon, a pioneering politician, and a devoted humanitarian. She pursued a life of selfless public service, embodied principled and progressive leadership and fought for the empowerment of women. She believed in the unity of South Sudan. She was equally successful as a devoted wife, a doting mother, a community activist, a banker, a parliamentarian, a national political leader, a public figure and an international humanitarian.

Prior to entering the political arena, Mary started her career in the banking world. She became the first Southern Sudanese woman to be employed by an international bank after Barclays Bank conducted an extensive search for highly qualified women. She continued to fulfill her duties at the bank even while she was a community leader and a rising political figure.

As a public figure, Mary fought for the rights and liberties of Southern Sudanese and all Sudanese. She joined the Southern Front as a youth leader and quickly became one of its most vocal and passionate leaders. Despite exile in Uganda, she returned to her homeland to champion the cause of Southern Sudanese and women. She became the first President of the Sudanese Women's Union, was twice re-elected into the newly established Southern Regional Parliament. She established the Multi-Purpose Sudanese Women Centre in Juba.

As a national political leader, Mary strived for the empowerment of Southern Sudanese in the context of national harmony. She became a member of the Sudanese Socialist Union (SSU) and the Politburo, then the highest political organ in the country, and then became the first Southern Sudanese woman to serve as Minister of Internal Affairs in the cabinet of President Jaafar Nimery. While representing her Southern

Sudanese constituency, Mary also championed a variety of national and international causes.

In her capacity as a leader and a female icon, she represented Sudanese interests in conferences, seminars and workshops throughout the African continent, the Middle East and Europe. It was during this time that she took a courageous and principled stand against the proposed imposition of Sharia Law in the Sudan because of her commitment to national harmony. She refused to compromise her principles and integrity and subsequently left the government and went into exile.

After leaving Politics, Mary continued to champion the Southern Sudanese cause and took on a range of humanitarian (economic, social and women's empowerment) issues by working with the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children, Advocates International, New York Association for New Immigrants and other organizations. A graduate of St. Teresa's Teachers' Training College, Kator, Mary also obtained a Bachelor of Science (B.Sc) in Business Administration from Pacific Western University, and won numerous leadership awards from the Women's Commission, the New York Association for New Immigrants and other global organizations.

Mary N. Bassiouni is survived by her husband, Dr. David Bassiouni, and her children, Emile, Aida and David, Jr. Her legacy lives on in the Mary N. Bassiouni Foundation, which is dedicated to continuing her unfinished mission of empowering Sudanese women, especially Southern Sudanese women, and advancing the cause of the Southern Sudanese community. Mary N. Bassiouni cared deeply for the most disadvantaged members of society, especially women, and her legacy of selfless public service, uncompromised principles, progressive values and female empowerment will continue to inspire and embolden future generations.

Mary died in New York on 12 August 2008

David Bassiouni

**Professor Mohammad Sa'id Al-Gaddal,
1935-2008**

On January 6, 2008, Muhammad Sa'id al-Gaddal, the prominent Sudanese historian and activist, passed away in Khartoum. He was a professor in the Department of History, University of Khartoum, where he had been teaching for several decades. His sudden death was mourned by relatives, friends, students, and colleagues in the Sudan and around the world as a deep personal and professional loss.

Gaddal (as he was called by his friends) was a renowned Sudanese intellectual, a dedicated activist, and a prolific scholar who authored dozens of books and articles on various aspects of modern Sudanese history, politics, and culture. He held a B.A., an M.A., and Ph.D. in history from the University of Khartoum as well as an M.A. in education from California State University at Fresno, USA. During his long teaching career, Gaddal taught at the Teachers' Training Institute in Omdurman, the premier institution which produced generations of high school teachers in the Sudan, the University of Khartoum, and the University of Aden in Yemen. He was an inspiring and intellectually stimulating teacher whose engaging style, intellect, and wit gained him enormous popularity among the students. He initiated many students into the discipline of history and maintained a life-long friendship with them.

Gaddal devoted most of his academic career to the study of the Sudanese Mahdiyya (1884-1898) and he was undoubtedly an authority in this important field of Sudanese history. What distinguishes Gaddal's scholarship and sets it apart from other writings on the Mahdiyya was the innovative way in which he combined the Marxist theoretical framework with modern historical methods and his ability to place the Mahdist revolution in the context of the transformation of Sudanese society in the



nineteenth century and to discern the social, economic, and ideological forces that produced this revolutionary movement. Among his numerous works on the Mahdiyya are three books: one on the relationship between the Mahdist state and Abyssinia; the second is a social and intellectual profile of the Mahdi; and the third is a study of the economic policies of the Mahdist state. The latter is a thoroughly researched, meticulously written, and brilliantly argued book. It is a vivid testimony to Gaddal's analytical skills, rigour, and savvy historical insight. Gaddal argues that the study of the economic policies of the Mahdiyya is important not only for understanding the structure of the Mahdist state, but also for providing important insights into the social and economic basis of the movement itself.

Gaddal's interest in the history of the Mahdiyya was part of his larger intellectual project. Throughout his career, he was concerned with the question of social and political change in contemporary Sudan, particularly the role of religion in Sudanese society. These themes were the primary focus of his earlier writings as well as his subsequent studies on Islam and politics in the Sudan and the history of the Sudanese left.

Gaddal was part of a unique group of academics who combined scholarship with political activism. He was for a long time, a leading member of the Sudanese Communist Party. As a scholar, Gaddal considered his duty to not only write history but also participate in its making, and he paid a high price for his defiance and unrelenting critique of the authoritarian regimes that dominated Sudanese politics since independence. He was dismissed from his job and detained in 1971 in the aftermath of a failed Communist coup, and again in 1991 by the current Sudanese regime. He spent most of the early 1990s in exile in Egypt and Yemen, but subsequently returned to the Sudan where he resumed his teaching position at the University of Khartoum.

In a sense, Gaddal was a whole person who embodied many qualities. He was a serious scholar, an unrelenting activist, a celebrant of life, and a convivial human who maintained a vast network of friends and colleagues and became an icon in Khartoum's social circles. Nothing gave him more pleasure than entertaining people from all walks of life at his home in Khartoum. His friends will never forget his hospitality, restlessness, sarcasm, and his incredible sense of humour. Gaddal's legendary social gatherings provided a pleasant reprieve from the drudgery of daily life and the austere social environment that has prevailed in Khartoum in recent years, and in that regard his friends are all grateful to him. Gaddal leaves a huge personal and intellectual legacy and we hope to remember him not only by his writings, but also by following his path and pursuing the fields of historical inquiry he first ploughed.

Ahmad A. Sikainga

**SELIM BEY MATTAR:
COMMANDING OFFICER OF EMIN PASHA'S TROOPS
IN EQUATORIA PROVINCE**

**Some historical notes relating to this officer and his troops in
the aftermath of the Mahdist Revolt up to the time of their
enlistment by Captain Lugard into service with the Imperial
British East Africa Company in Uganda in 1891.**

Ibrahim Soghayroun

EQUATORIA AND THE MAHDISTS

The outbreak of the Mahdist revolt in the Sudan had its effects on Equatoria Province and in particular on the Sudanese garrisons lying to the north of Lake Albert in the northern districts of modern Uganda (Figure 1).

The Mahdi appointed Karam Allah Muhammad Kurgusawi as Amir of the Bahr al-Ghazal and sent him south at the head of an army of several thousand men to take possession of Lupton's province and of Equatoria. On the march south, Karam Allah's army caused wholesale desertions from Lupton's garrisons and gained support from the Dinka against whom Lupton had recently been fighting. In a last letter to Emin Pasha, Lupton announced:

*"It is all up with me here, everyone has joined the Mahdi, and his army takes charge of the Mudireh [Province] the day after tomorrow... Look out you, some 8,000 to 10,000 men are coming to you well armed".*¹

When the news arrived of the fall of Amadi in March 1885, Emin decided to withdraw to the south, from where communications with Egypt via Zanzibar might be possible². When he did so, he encountered the opposition of his garrisons. Despite the arrival of

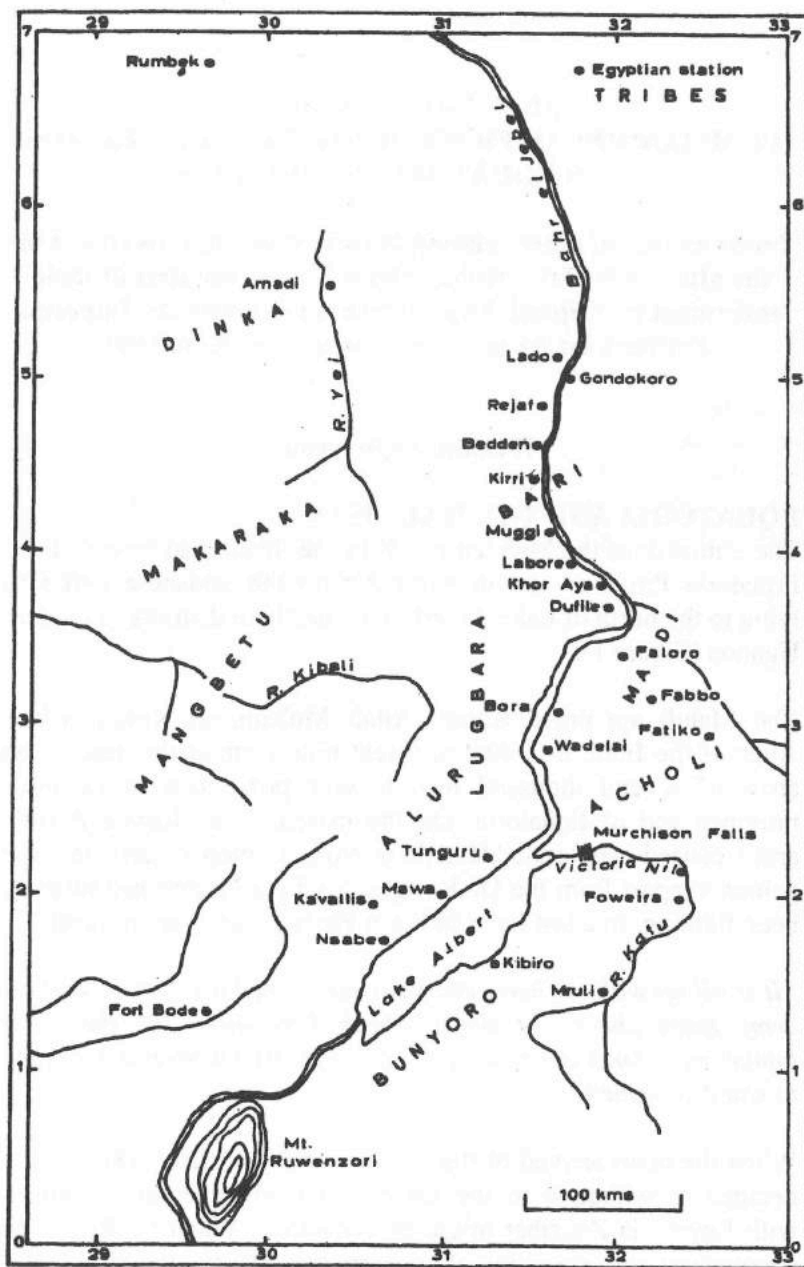


Figure 1: Equatoria under Egyptian Rule

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Karam Allah's ultimatum, Emin's soldiers refused to move with their numerous dependents, and regarded the whole idea of a new route of communication with Cairo via Zanzibar with the greatest suspicion. To them, the only route to Cairo lay to the north, via Khartoum. The intensity and persistence with which the garrisons in Equatoria clung to the belief that the Khedive's government still existed in Khartoum and that it would not abandon them, was one of the most remarkable and important features of the situation in Equatoria during the next few years.

The Sudanese troops of Emin, remote in Equatoria, seemed to have been totally ignorant of the Mahdist cause. According to Basili Boktor:

*"The troops in the Equatorial Province when they first heard of the Mahdists, thought that it was a political question, they never thought that the question of religion was involved at all. The black troops never took part in that movement. They said: 'The Mahdi is an impostor, and if he comes we will fight for the government'".*³

But by 1888, Emin's position had declined steadily, especially after the arrival of Stanley's expedition to rescue him. Not only had his orders been repeatedly disregarded, but the news which he had received and attempted to explain concerning events in Egypt had come to be doubted amongst his own men, all of whom were, Jephson noted, devoted to 'Effendina' (the Khedive). This devotion to the Khedive was strongest, not amongst the Egyptians, but amongst the Sudanese soldiers who had never visited Egypt and who regarded the Khedive as a remote 'person in the clouds.'

*"They are told he is their Sultan and that the flag that they are so fond of displaying on every occasion is his, but to them he is only a mythical person who sends them fine words, but through all these years has neither helped them nor sent them their pay"*⁴.

REBELLION OF EQUATORIAL GARRISONS AGAINST EMIN PASHA

Amongst Emin's officers, Stanley and Jephson appeared as the European agents of an English conspiracy to which Emin himself was a party. Their objectives were obviously not in the interests of the Khedive or the garrisons themselves and they seemed determined to bring about the evacuation of the Province and to sell the soldiers '*as slaves to the English.*' The garrisons refused to believe that the Egyptian government could possibly wish to evacuate Equatoria and Emin came to be regarded as a traitor to the Khedive⁵.

The fear of being sold to the English perhaps reflects the prevalent atmosphere of an Islamic society versus a Christian power. Among these rebellious officers were Sulaiman Aghā and Fadl al-Maūlā who entered into active collaboration with the garrisons at the neglected eastern stations of Fabbo and Fatiko urging them to join in '*resistance to the Christians*' and to prevent '*the evils which the Pasha was about to let loose on the Province*'⁶.

Fadl al-Maūlā's followers, consisting of those already most compromised in the rebellion against Emin were adamant in their resolution not to withdraw from Equatoria and declared that it was better to surrender to the Mahdists than '*to infidels like the English*'.⁷ Finally, "*Fadl al-Maūlā had suborned the greater part of the troops and with them, possessed himself of all the ammunition and left Wadelai for the hills*"⁸. Thereafter, he went on to negotiate with both the Belgian officers of the Van Kerckhoven expedition and the Mahdists before he was killed in a skirmish near Wadelai in January 1894⁹.

SELIM BEY MATTAR

He was the most famous and respected officer of the Sudanese troops in the last quarter of the 19th Century in Equatoria and Uganda. He was their commanding officer when an agreement was

reached with Captain Lugard enlisting these troops to enter the service of the Imperial British East Africa Company. His personal qualities and his military status made Selim Bey the undisputed leader of the Sudanese in Uganda and he was to play a prominent role in the affairs of both Equatoria and the history of the Muslim Community in Uganda¹⁰.

The Khartoum Central Archives provide us with a report on the arrival in Cairo of twenty-one officers and non-commissioned officers with their families from Equatoria in June 1892. This report includes some information relating to the biography of Selim Bey. In the statement of Muhammad Abbas regarding Selim Bey the following was mentioned:

"Originally from Nuba [Nuba Mountains of Southern Kordofan]. He was born at Kabushiya in the Muduria [Province] of Berber. His father's name was Mattar, who was a Shawish [Turkish sergeant] in the military service of Muhammad Ali Pasha."

In Ibrahim Pasha's time Selim Mattar is recorded as in his service as a soldier and had been promoted to the rank of *Ombasha* [Corporal], proceeding thereafter to Et Taka [Eastern Province of Egyptian Sudan] wherefrom he came to Cairo and then on to Khartoum. It is a mystery where Selim Mattar went after leaving Khartoum.

"An informer saw him in Equatoria in the rank of Yuzbasha [Captain] and stayed with him joining the same company up to the time when Selim Bey was promoted to the rank of Kaimakan [Colonel]. Selim Bey had no other children besides the girl now in Cairo, and had two Egyptian wives; the two women are now in Equatoria, one of whom was granted a baby girl which had died. The narrator of this story is Shawish Osman Gabir. 11.12.94".¹¹

Selim Bey as viewed by Contemporary Europeans in Equatoria:

Several Europeans who visited Equatoria with different aims and in different capacities were highly impressed by Selim's personal qualities. He was described in congenial terms by all Europeans who met him. In Kodj, one of the military stations, Rev. C.T. Wilson, a member of the Church Missionary Society, had met Selim Bey who was the *Mudir* and Commander of the Station. He described him as "...a very quiet man and very devout who seemed to be always at prayers" ¹². R.W. Felkin, another Christian missionary, also described him in similar identical words: "... a very quiet man, and devout" when he met him as governor of Murli under Gordon as governor of Equatoria Province ¹³. A.J. Jephson, one of the European Officers of Emin Pasha, described Selim Bey as a "great, easy-going Sudanese, well over six feet tall and enormously fat and broad"¹⁴.

As to Captain Lugard, he described Selim as:

*"a man of considerable character..... Selim, however, touched no kind of liquor, nor did he smoke. He was a man, too, of much determination, as had been proved by the independent line he had taken in the troubles of the Sudan, and more recently with Emin"*¹⁵.

In an appraisal of Selim Bey and the Sudanese troops who were enlisted in Uganda, Captain Williams wrote the following remarks in a private letter to Captain Lugard:

*"I always found Selim Bey most straightforward and amenable ... As regards the men.... These men were our strength and the Waganda knew it; ... No person is as competent to judge of these people as I am and my belief in the men was justified by their behaviour"*¹⁶

Selim Bey, the Stanley expedition and his First Encounter with Captain Lugard of the Imperial British East Africa Company in 1891:

Selim Bey was the only senior officer who remained in contact with Emin and wished to join the Pasha and leave the country with him when Stanley's expedition to rescue Emin returned ¹⁷. By so doing, Selim Bey had been deposed from his position as commander of the troops and Fadl al-Maūlā had promoted himself to the rank of Bey ¹⁸. It was the intention of Selim and his party to stay at Wadelai long enough to assemble their families before setting out to rejoin Stanley and withdraw from Equatoria with the expedition.

On 26 March, 1889, a letter arrived at Kavallis from Selim Bey in which he declared that he was proceeding with the evacuation as he had promised, but that he was experiencing great difficulties. On receipt of this letter, Emin told Stanley that Selim Bey could not possibly accomplish his task by 10 April, the date Stanley had set for the departure of the expedition, and begged him to allow a little more time. Stanley and the European officers, who were highly suspicious of Emin's troops, refused to consider any further delay, and so it was decided that the expedition would depart for the coast on 10 April whether Selim Bey and those accompanying him had arrived at Kavallis or not ¹⁹. At Wadelai, Selim Bey's position had rapidly declined in the face of the party of Fadl al-Maūlā as shown above. Selim Bey and his followers, consisting of some 200 officers, soldiers and clerks, now withdrew to Mswa. Hence, however, they learnt that Stanley's expedition had already left. On 22 April, Selim wrote to Stanley begging him to wait for his arrival. Stanley replied that he was not prepared to wait any longer, but that after crossing the Semiliki River, the expedition would travel slowly and this would enable Selim Bey to overtake the expedition if he were determined to do so ²⁰. This was the last communication that passed between Stanley's expedition and Selim Bey.

SELIM BEY AND THE ENLISTMENT OF EMIN PASHA'S TROOPS INTO SERVICE WITH THE I.B.E.A. COMPANY IN UGANDA, 1891

The response of Stanley made Selim Bey to face a critical situation and to be in a really difficult position. He had almost no ammunition and so, was unwilling to risk a march after Stanley's expedition through a country which the depredations of Stanley's party had rendered very hostile. He could not return to Wadelai which was in the hands of Fadl al-Maūlā. With a body of 90 soldiers and many women and children, he established himself at Kavallis. Here he planted the Egyptian flag and hoped that relief would eventually be sent to him from the coast. Since his coming to Kavallis, more and more men had come down from Equatoria Province to join Selim Bey.

In August 1891, Captain Lugard arrived at Kavallis. He was greatly impressed by Selim Bey and his garrison of devoted men and highly critical of Stanley's expedition and the way it had abandoned Selim Bey. Lugard noted:

*"It was a sight to touch a man's heart to see this noble remnant, who were fanatical in their loyalty to their flag and their Khedive, scarred and wounded, many prematurely grey, clad in skins, and deserted, here in the heart of Africa, and I do thank God (as I said in my speech) that it has fallen to my lot to come to their relief as well as that I have been able to secure so fine a body of men for the Company's service"*²¹.

Selim Bey and his garrison welcomed Lugard warmly, but at first they refused to entertain the idea of enlisting under MacKinnon's Company, declaring that their loyalty was to the Khedive. When Lugard explained that the Khedive's permission would first be requested, Selim Bey and his men eventually agreed to withdraw with Lugard to Uganda. Captain Lugard at once wrote to the

Khedive asking permission to enlist them in the service of the Imperial British East Africa Company in the following:

"I found Selim Bey and his officers apparently most loyal to your Highness and to the flag which they have served for so many years. They assured me they would uphold that flag to the death.... I informed Selim Bey of the cordial friendship and alliance which happily exists between your Highness and England, and I proposed to him that he should with his men enter the service of the British (if that enlistment should meet with the approval of the Imperial British East Africa Company) and release himself and his men from the present state of destitution and trouble. I assured him your Highness would view such an enlistment with approbation. In consequence, he and his men have agreed to join I.B.E.A. Company, but have requested me to write to your Highness to ask your permission for the permanent enlistment in the Company's service of such men as may be fit for further employment. I therefore beg your Highness will consent to their engagement under the British, and will notify to Selim Bey your permission as soon as may be possible" ²².

As to the number of the Sudanese troops, their wives, families and slaves, who had been safely brought down from Kavallis to Uganda, they were counted with the following results:

Men.....	2,085
Women.....	3,065
Girls.....	1,484
Boys.....	1,358
Missing.....	14
TOTAL.....	8,006 ²³

Captain Lugard established a chain of posts about two days' march apart, and settled the majority of his new troops in them. Several British officers were posted to command the Sudanese; and in

1895, by means of enlisting the grown-up followers and boys, the number of companies was brought up to seventeen. They were scattered over Buganda, Toro, Buddu, Busoga, and called the 'Uganda Rifles'²⁴. The final settlement of these troops in different parts of Uganda would have far reaching political and social results in the modern and contemporary history of Uganda.

In the meantime Selim Bey Mattar had died on 20 August 1893.

FOOTNOTES

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6. CASATI, Maj. G. (1891), *Ten Years in Equatoria*, (Translated by Mrs. J.R. Clay), Vol. II, London, 171-172.
7. STANLEY, H.M. (1890), *In Darkest Africa*, London, Vol. II, 127.
8. KHARTOUM CENTRAL ARCHIVES: Cairint 1/35/205. *Report on the Arrival in Cairo of 21 Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers with their families from Equatoria via Mombasa, June 1892*, Sudan Intelligence Report No. 3.
9. KHARTOUM CENTRAL ARCHIVES: 1/35/205 *Report of the 21 Officers, etc., from Equatoria*: Cited above.
10. For further details see my article, 'The Influence of Sudanese Muslims in Uganda from North of the Great

- Lakes' in *Islamic Civilization in Eastern Africa: Proceedings of the International Symposium held in Kampala, Uganda 15-17 December 2003*, under the auspices of the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture, Istanbul, Turkey and the Islamic University in Uganda. (Istanbul, 2006), pp. 89-97. See also SOGHAYROUN, I.E. (1980), *The Sudanese Muslim Factor in Uganda*, Khartoum University Press.
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HMS DOLPHIN AT SUAKIN, 1885

Gordon Milne

The name *Dolphin* ceased to be used for the former Royal Navy Submarine Depot Ship, school and shore establishment at Gosport when it reverted to Fort Blockhouse under the control of the Army on 30 September 1998 and co-incided with the handover of a painting, commissioned from Mr Thomas H Shuttleworth of Liverpool of HMS *Dolphin* in action at Suakin in 1885 (Figure 1). A signed print went on display in the Royal Navy Submarine Museum, Haslar Jetty Road, Gosport, early in 1999.

HMS *Dolphin* was designed by Sir Nathaniel Barnaby, Chief-Constructor to the Admiralty, built in Middlesbrough by Sir William Raylton Dixon and launched on 9 December 1882. She was a composite screw sloop with sails. She was constructed of 4-inch mahogany, sheathed with two inches of teak and covered below the waterline with heavy gauge copper plating and her hull was heavily re-inforced at bow and stern. She had a length of 157 feet (48.3 metres), a beam of 32 feet (10 metres), a draught of 14 feet (4.3 metres) and a displacement of 925 tons. Her single shaft horizontal compound steam engine (HCE) by R & W Hawthorn gave her a maximum speed under machinery of 11.3 knots. She had a complement of 113, and was armed with two 6-inch Breech-Loading Mark II and two 5-inch BL Mark I guns, one light gun and 3 machine guns.

Little is known of the service of *Dolphin* from her launch in 1882 until Commander Sydney Eardley-Wilmot RN (later a Rear Admiral) took command in May 1884. She was then lying at Sheerness preparing for service with the Red Sea Division of the Mediterranean Fleet. Eardley-Wilmot writes of *Dolphin*:



"She had not powerful engines but carried sails as a barque, even studding sails. Knowing the latter would be of little use I applied to have them removed and to have their equivalent weight in a two-barrel Nordenfolt machine-gun. The sail mania still prevailed..... Fortunately we had in Sir Cooper Key [First Sea Lord] a very able and progressive officer. He approved and I got my extra gun" (Eardley-Wilmot, 1927).

Another of Eardley-Wilmot's innovations which proved useful at Suakin was a searchlight and as a result *Dolphin* became known as the 'Moonshine Ship'.

On 26 June 1884 *Dolphin* left Sheerness and called at Portsmouth, Plymouth and Gibraltar, arriving in Malta on 21 July 1884. Commander Eardley-Wilmot was then ordered to leave for Suez where *Dolphin* arrived on 11 August 1884 together with HMS *Sphinx*, *Condor*, *Starling* and *Carysfort*. Here Eardley-Wilmot was taken into hospital because of trouble with an old leg wound and he rejoined *Dolphin* at Suakin on 30 January 1885, just four days after the Mahdist forces had captured Khartoum and killed General Gordon.

ARRIVAL AT SUAKIN

In 1885 there were three passages through the reefs into Suakin: a north, a south and a mid-passage. *Dolphin* used the mid-passage, a difficult 30 miles to pass through, and arrived on a very hot morning with the air thick with a hot haze. The buoyed navigation channel to the harbour was very hazardous. It was three-quarters of a mile in length (1.2km) and opened into a lagoon or bay in which are two islands. Vessels up to 400 tons could moor alongside Quarantine Island which was a depot and starting point of the railway. On the second island lay Suakin Town, connected by a causeway, built by Gordon, to the Arab town of El Geyf situated on the mainland.

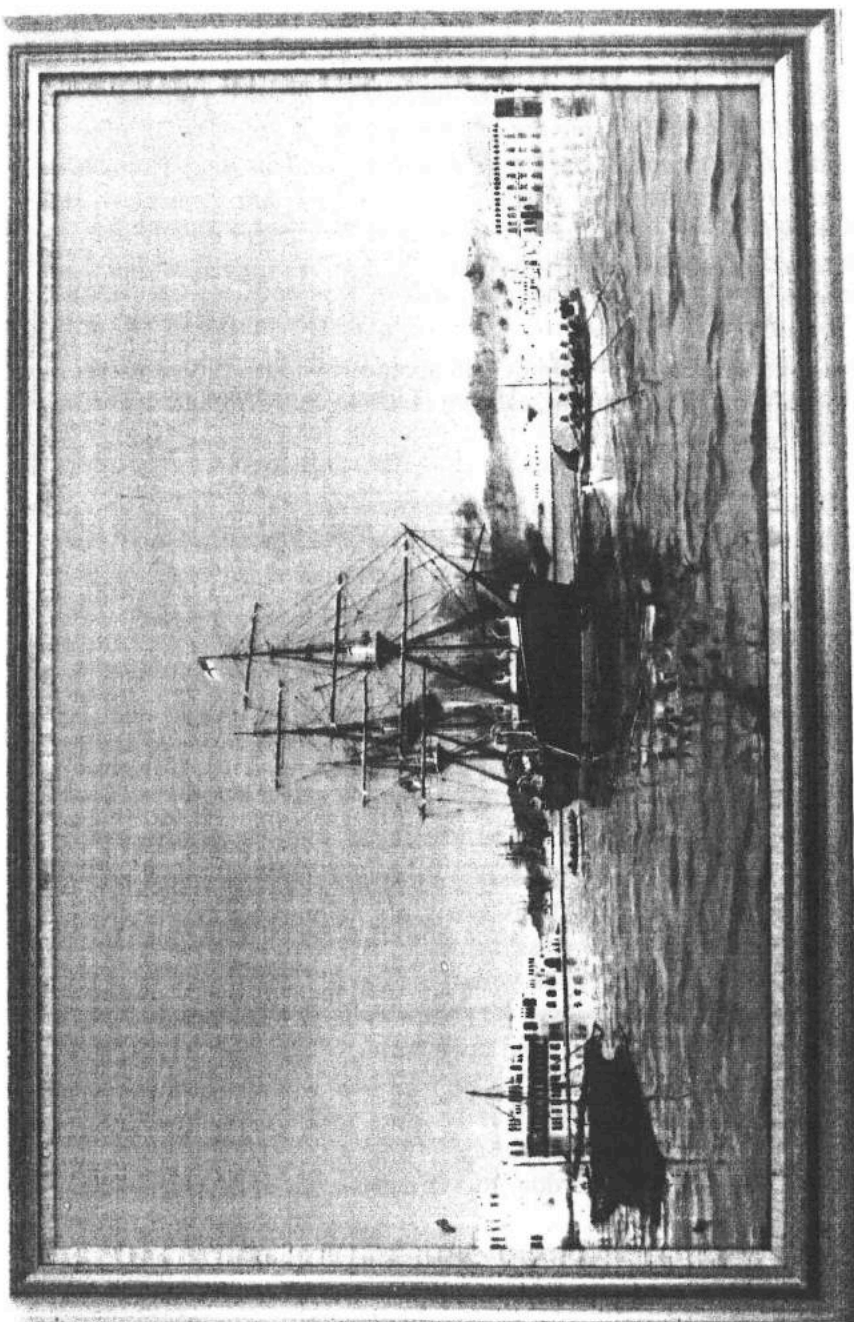


Figure 1: HMS Dolphin at Suakin, 1885

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As can be seen from the accurate depiction in the painting the town comprised low, flat-topped buildings of ordinary Eastern style down to the water's edge. There not being any wheeled traffic there were no roads. On the mainland the buildings included mosques, other buildings and barracks, beyond which lay the Sudanese town made out of huts fashioned out of coarse grass matting spread over a framework of stout sticks. Outside this were the earthworks and defences around the entire area and built between 1881 and 1885. In parts high walls of coral had been built (Figure 2).

HMS DOLPHIN AND THE SIEGE OF SUAKIN, 1885

The defence of the town was the overall responsibility of the C-in-C East Indies, Rear Admiral Sir William Hewitt and, needless to say, sailors and marines as well as British, Indian and Egyptian troops were involved. In February 1885 General Graham was appointed to command the troops. The British Government approved the recommendation from Hewitt and Graham to land British troops to give effect to the Proclamation calling upon rebel chiefs to come in, otherwise the force would march on Osman Digna's camp if the Proclamation was ignored.

Dawn broke on Sunday, 8 March 1885 and as the military marched along the field railway from Suakin which reached 18 miles (29km) inland as far as Otao. *Dolphin* opened fire at groups of the enemy five miles (8km) away in the desert. The railway was intended to link Suakin with Berber but never proceeded beyond Otao and was subsequently abandoned.

Water was always going to be a problem if the railway was to reach Berber and experiments were carried out at Aldershot to see if condensed water from Suakin Bay could be pumped up the 3,500 ft (1060m) to cross the Red Sea Hills. These were abandoned because the water would be at boiling point and "*cost per quart about the price of the choicest brands of celebrated vintages*"!

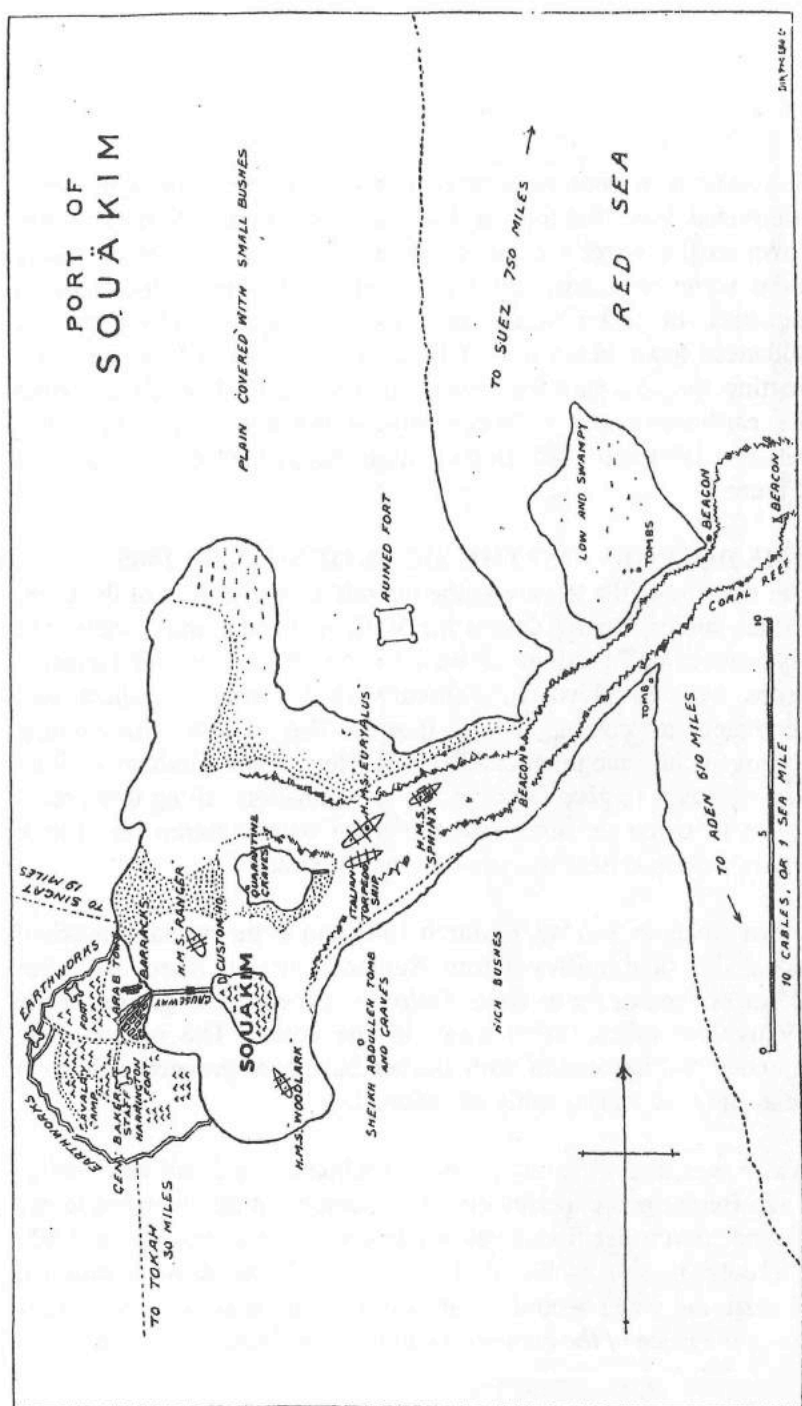


Figure 2: Suakin Harbour, 1884
(Source: Illustrated London News, 1884)

At night, terrific fire opened up all along the line of British troops and to add to the weird appearance *Dolphin*, which was lying two miles from the front line, threw the electric light from her searchlight far and wide across the country making everything which came under its rays as bright as day. There was a certain downside to that use of the searchlight as the Army commanders found that not only did it illuminate the enemy positions it also lit up the British troops and made them easier targets!

The defending troops were encamped outside Suakin whilst a large force of hostile Arabs and Hadendowa had assembled some few miles away. Small parties from this force raided at night and sniped at the town, the ships and the army camps. It was in this theatre of activity that Eardley-Wilmot's searchlight came into its own. Instructions were sent from shore to ship to direct the light first in one direction and then in another as Arabs were sighted waiting the chance to rush a tent. One noted Emir was a fatality of the gunfire accurately aimed under the light from *Dolphin*. So effective was the accurate firing by *Dolphin* that Osman Digna, who was directing the enemy campaign, ordered his chiefs to capture the ship. However, Osman Digna did not lead the expedition for that purpose and the attack on *Dolphin* did not come off. On 15 March 1885 Osman Digna's camp was burned and the successful British troops returned to Suakin.

Eardley-Wilmot records that in the addition to his searchlight being of significant military use it was to prove its value in the search for good water.

"Want of good water was a source of great anxiety at Suakin in view of the considerable army there. A few wells existed with brackish water only suitable to supply the animals. We had to rely on distilling ships, and locate depots of water in different places. The Commodore placed me in charge of this, and as much of the filling of cans, skins etc., took place at night, I lit the depot with

electric light, using my dynamo and a cable to the shore. Then about a thousand camels were made to lie down close together to be loaded. To facilitate this I turned the searchlight with divergent lens onto the mass of animals. It was a curious sight to see all the camels turn their heads towards the ship as the light came on them. This collection of water carriers was for an expedition starting at daylight on March 22nd to go to Tamai some miles off. The ships provided a small Naval Brigade of Gardner machine guns and thirty-four men. I contributed two of these guns and nine men under my First-Lieutenant Seymour. They landed the evening before and started the next day under Sir John MacNeil”.

He goes on:

“Curiously enough that morning my signalman from aloft reported a large force of Arabs proceeding to the left in the direction the expedition had taken. I got off two shots, the first of the day”.

He then gives an account, as he saw it, of the battle that day:

The battle of Tofrik..... nearly led to a disaster, as the Arabs attacked in great numbers while our men were cutting brushwood in a small redoubt and removing some of the sand bags when a hoard of Arabs came over the top with the result that Seymour and four men [from Dolphin] were killed. I much regretted Seymour's death. He had kept the ship going so well during my time in hospital. I hoped this service, if he survived, would have given or helped his promotion. Riderless horses coming into Suakin gave us the first intimation of an attack, but particulars reached us later”.

Sir John MacNeil reported British casualties 149; camp followers 176; and camels 501 (Preston 1967:257). Eardley-Wilmot's conclusion on the 1884-85 activities in connection with Egypt and the Sudan was, *“Egypt in those days cost us many lives and much money”.*

In April 1885 Eardley-Wilmot and HMS *Dolphin* were recalled to Malta, only to return again to the Red Sea in November 1885.

"I returned to the Red Sea to look for slave dhows. In one harbour, now Port Sudan, a girl swam off to the ship and asked for protection from her owner, an old woman who followed her in a boat. On explaining to her that the slave was free under the British flag, she indulged in some strong language and departed. Freed slaves were sent to Aden, trained and educated there. This one wanted to stay on board and be my personal servant. Quite impossible!"

On 6 August 1886 Eardley-Wilmot returned to England having relinquished command of HMS *Dolphin*, but *Dolphin* revisited Suakin in 1888 and 1891 and was in action again. Osman Digna continued his skirmishes around Suakin from his Headquarters at Tokar. Colonel Holled Smith, the Governor of the Red Sea Littoral, decided to attack him and on 27 January 1891 captured Handoub. He then advanced on Tokar and in that operation was assisted by the officers and men of *Dolphin* which was now under the command of Horatio Nelson Dudding. On 19 December 1891 Osman Digna was finally defeated and fled.

The siege of Suakin in 1885 was the single most important action in which HMS *Dolphin* appears to have taken part. She remained in the Mediterranean Fleet until 1896 when she was paid off at Sheerness having been stripped of her machinery and guns. In 1924 *Dolphin* was purchased by Sir Donald Pollock and Lieut Commander J M Robertson and after many adventures it arrived in Leith where it was cleaned and repaired before being taken to Rosyth for refitting with items salvaged from the scrapping of the battleship *King George V*. She was now towed back to Leith. Thereafter, the ship itself had various adventures until it was taken over in 1944 as part of Leith Nautical College. Finally in 1977

Dolphin was towed to Bo'ness for demolition in the yard of P & W MacLellan.

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RALSTON KENNEDY AND PORT SUDAN

Colin Ralston Paterson



Figure 1: Macdougall Ralston Kennedy

After the Reconquest of the Sudan in 1898 the Governor-General of the new Anglo-Egyptian Condominium was initially Horatio Kitchener whose leadership of the campaign to defeat the Mahdist forces made him a national hero. He selected his staff with the greatest care. He gave them to understand:

“that he trusted them implicitly, that every order must be executed with the utmost dispatch, that serious failure probably meant removal, and that no close inquiry would be made into ways and means, provided that the desired end was attained honestly, rapidly and, above all, cheaply” (Sandes 1937).

A small group of dedicated British officers and administrators achieved a great deal in a very short time. One of the most significant developments was the foundation of Port Sudan on the Red Sea coast. While this was, and remains, a great asset to the Sudan the archives reveal something of the personal strains between those involved. This

paper explores the less well known background of some decisions that have had their effects to this day.

A high priority of Kitchener and his administration was the rebuilding of Khartoum. Particularly urgent was the palace of the Governor General to make it clear that the new administration intended to stay. The first engineer appointed by Kitchener was Lieutenant George Gorringe (later Lieut-Gen Sir George Gorringe). He was summoned by Kitchener in November 1898 with a telegram which read, *"Proceed at once to Khartoum to start rebuilding. £20,000 available. Commence with Palace"* (Sandes 1937).

By January 1899, 2,000 men were engaged in brick-making. By February all the streets had been laid out and 7,000 trees had been ordered.

In August 1899, Lieutenant Macdougall Ralston Kennedy RE joined the team of engineers (Figure 1). He had won a DSO as the engineer in charge in an engagement at Kandia in Crete in 1898. He, too, worked closely with Kitchener. On one occasion he was directed to plan a building and, having worked most of the night on the drawings, submitted it to Kitchener for approval the next morning. Kitchener examined it, opened a drawer and said *"This is my idea"* as he produced a drawing on which he, too, must have worked for many hours (Sandes 1937).

In December 1899, Kennedy succeeded Gorringe with the departure of the latter to be ADC to Kitchener in the South African campaigns. In fact, Kennedy was only Acting Director of Public Works; his formal title was Superintendent Engineer. He was appointed Director of Public Works in April 1904. The work of rebuilding continued at a remarkable pace. The Palace, built to a large extent on the foundations of the one occupied by Gordon, was partially occupied by Kitchener in the autumn of 1899. Government offices were opened in 1901.

As early as 1901, the Condominium Government, now led by Kitchener's successor, Sir Reginald Wingate, proposed a railway line

from the Nile at Atbara to Suakin on the Red Sea coast. Suakin was an ancient port town greatly used for the export of gum arabic and for the embarkation of pilgrims heading to Mecca. It was hoped that, with the railway, the export of new cash crops such as cotton would be greatly facilitated.

In 1903 Kennedy was asked to review the line of the proposed railway and to report on the work already in progress at Suakin. He travelled down the Red Sea from Suez on a pilgrim ship whose captain told him of the problems he would find at Suakin. He also told Kennedy of a much better harbour some 35 miles (56km) to the north at a place known as Sheikh Barghuth after a religious leader whose tomb was there. He agreed to show it to Kennedy who was impressed with its potential. In contrast, what he found at Suakin confirmed all that he had been told. Suakin was on an island in an inlet whose connection to the sea was by a narrow and tortuous channel. The inlet was so small that ships of more than 5,500 tons could not enter. At most, five or six ships could be accommodated and there was insufficient space to allow them to turn round. For Kennedy, the problems were illustrated on one of his visits by seeing a steamer run aground.

Apart from its deficiencies as a harbour, Kennedy also noted the limitations of the town, a crowded island with many ancient mosques. The adjacent mainland, apart from one area already used by the railway engineers, had many quarries which would need to be filled in. In short, he could not see how a modern port could be built without great expense. In contrast, the inlet at Sheikh Barghuth was wider and deeper with ample space for ships to turn round. The surrounding land was almost uninhabited so that land acquisition for the port and city would not be costly.

Kennedy was not the first to comment on the problems of Suakin. As early as 1874, two Royal Engineers lieutenants, W H Chippendell and C M Watson, while waiting there for camels to take them over the desert, looked around. Chippendell wrote later,

"One question in particular drew our attention and that was 'why Suakin was chosen for a harbour?' Nobody knew. The entrance is so

blockaded by coral reefs that no ship can attempt to enter at night" (Figure 2).

He was also aware, both from the charts and from the captains and pilots, of the existence of the more commodious harbour to the north (Chippendell 1874)

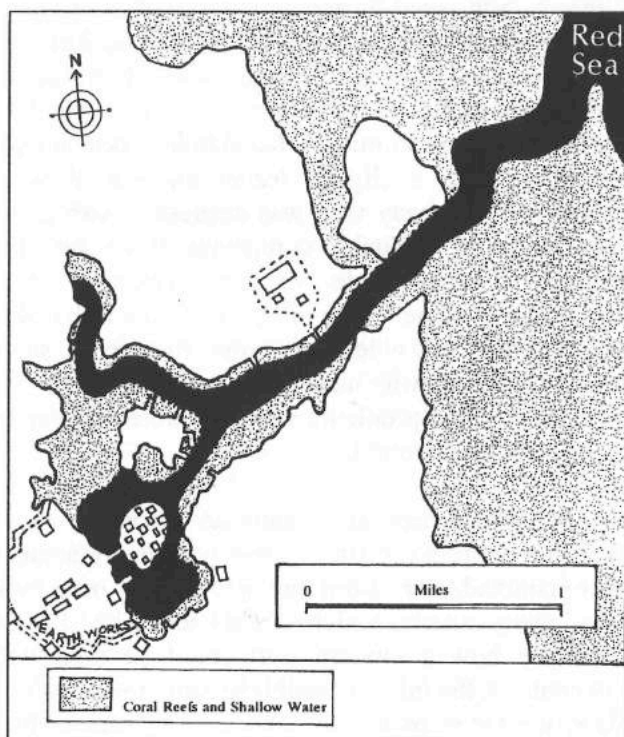


Figure 2: Suakin Harbour about 1901

(Redrawn from a chart published in 1946 in *Western Arabia and the Red Sea*, Geographical Handbook Series BR527: Naval Intelligence Division).

In 1904, Wingate ordered Kennedy to ascertain the practicality of widening and straightening the channel into Suakin harbour. He reported that this was feasible but, even if completed at a substantial cost, the other disadvantages remained. In his report in April 1904, he

spelled out at length the drawbacks of Suakin and the potential of a totally new port at Sheikh Barghuth. He confirmed that he had, "*as instructed, prepared plans for the laying out of Suakin Town and for the government buildings required; but, before any expenditure is incurred, I venture to suggest that the question of Sheikh Barud should be gone into by a committee....*" (Sandes 1937).

Wingate remained undecided. In part this was because he believed, wrongly, that the Royal Navy preferred Suakin. In part, he may have felt trapped by undertakings he had previously given to the merchants of Suakin that their prosperity would be assured by the new railway terminus. In part, he might have felt that the work on the railway was too far advanced to allow for a change in plan. As early as 1901 Suakin had been described as a boom town (Perkins 1993).

Kennedy urged Wingate to appoint a commission, including naval experts, to examine the two sites. Wingate remained undecided and eventually, in exasperation, Kennedy sent his report to Wingate's superior, Lord Cromer, in Cairo. A commission was then appointed but Wingate never forgave Kennedy for his very irregular action. The enmity coloured all their subsequent contacts (Gwynn 1956). The Commission of Enquiry consisted of three engineers and a Royal Navy captain. It reported in October 1904 and found strongly in favour of Sheikh Barghuth and pointed out that transfer of the terminal would not delay the completion of the railway link to the Nile. The railway would in any event take three to four years whereas the port could be functioning within 18 months of a decision (Gedge and others 1904).

While Kennedy welcomed the report he had concerns about the details of the commission's proposals (Kennedy 1904). He was concerned about the size of the new town as sketched out; it was only "*5 ½ times the area of the Palace gardens, Khartoum*". He advised that the area for the town should be at least four times greater. He was anxious to ensure that adequate space be allowed for future expansion and supported a proposal that the building line should be no nearer than 140 yards from the quay wall. These concerns were incorporated into the definitive plans for the port which were drawn up by Kennedy in about two weeks.

Kennedy was also particularly concerned about the commission's proposals for a water supply. It envisaged a series of wells connected by galleries to flow into a central collecting well from which water would be piped. Kennedy thought, on the basis of what was known already of wells at Sheikh Barghuth and at Suakin, that the water was likely to be more or less brackish. He advised a trial of deep borings to obtain purer water or, failing that, the use of wells further inland.

Work began in January 1905 mainly under the supervision of the Royal Engineers with substantial oversight by Kennedy as Director of Public Works. In May the Port Sudan post office was opened and by the end of

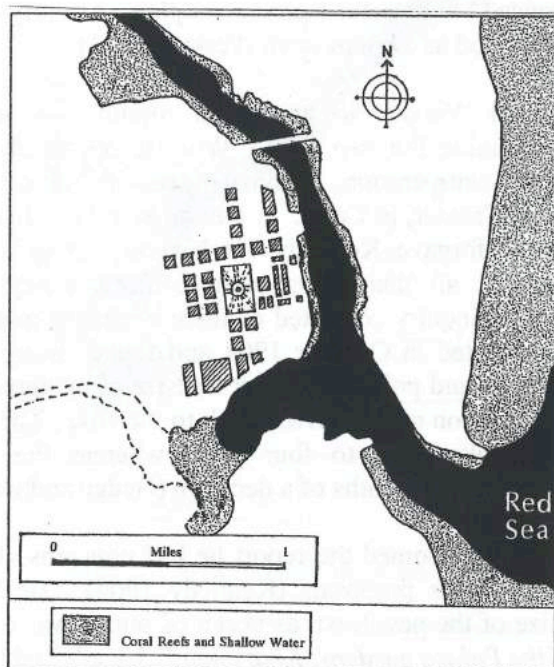


Figure 3: Port Sudan about 1907

(Redrawn from a chart published in 1946 in *Western Arabia and the Red Sea*, Geographical Handbook Series BR527: Naval Intelligence Division)

the year the population had risen to about 2,000. A year later the figure was said to be 4,300 including Egyptians, Arabs, Ethiopians, Syrians, Persians, Italians and Greeks as well as many Sudanese. The new port was by then called Port Sudan, names such as Port Wingate or Port Cromer having been declined by both men.

Port Sudan was in use from 1906 onwards (Figure 3) but was not formally opened until 1st April 1909 when the Khedive of Egypt, Abbas Hilmi II arrived in his official yacht, breaking a line of streamers across the harbour mouth and was greeted by a twenty-one gun salute (Figure 4). The formal proceedings included speeches by Wingate and Kennedy. By this time Port Sudan had a fair number of buildings including a stone-built customs house, a post office, a school, a hospital, a wooden mosque, a Greek church, and a Roman Catholic mission and school. A Port Sudan Sports Club had been formed in December 1906 and a public garden was laid out in 1908 (Figures 5 and 6).

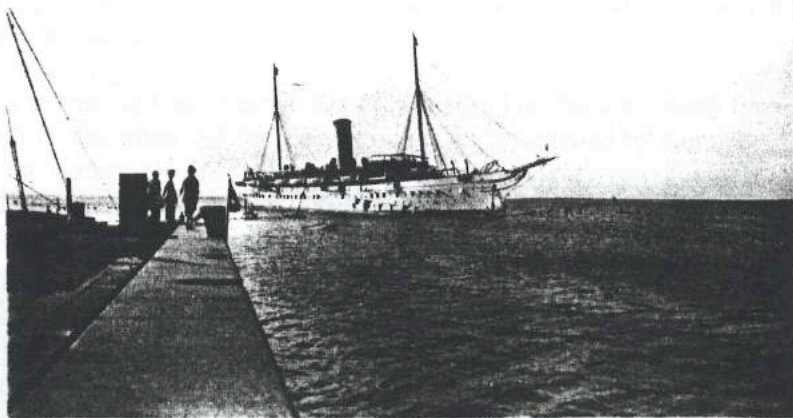


Figure 4: Arrival of H H The Khedive in his yacht *Mahrussa* to open Port Sudan, April 1909.
(Courtesy of Brian Jones)

The summer months were extremely trying for Europeans and Sudanese alike at Port Sudan, many westerners contracting dengue fever.

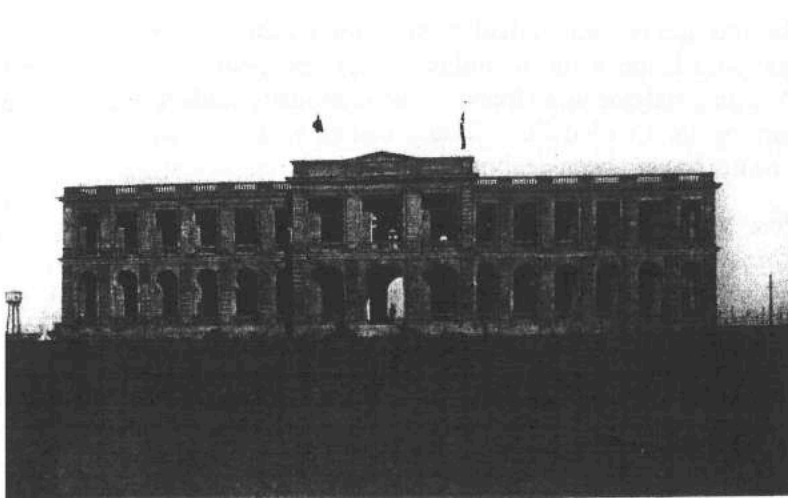


Figure 5: The Government Building, Port Sudan, c1907
(Courtesy of Brian Jones)



Figure 6: Port Sudan Harbour c1907
(Courtesy of Brian Jones)

Kennedy urged the creation of a hill station, found a site in a verdant area of the Red Sea Hills at Erkowit at a height of 1,335 metres (4,000 feet) and laid it out as a resort, including tennis courts and a golf course.

At the same time, efforts were being made to undermine Kennedy's position by his colleagues in the Governor General's council. An enquiry by Sir Hanbury Brown was initiated after allegations that Port Sudan was being built on an extravagant scale and that funds intended for military works were being used for civil purposes. Kennedy had kept meticulous records both of expenditure and of the authorisation for each project. He was exonerated. The Sudan Archives include a letter from Lee Stack (then Sudan Agent and Director of Military Intelligence) to Wingate regretting this. *"To put it briefly the report exonerates Kennedy as an engineer but rather blames him for want of judgement and capacity for getting on with other departments, more or less the defects of his qualities we all know"* (Stack 1909). Proposals to reorganise the Public Works Department to make Kennedy's post no longer required were advanced but came to nothing. He remained in post for a further nine years.

One recurring issue during this period was Port Sudan's need for water both for the town and for the shipping. As anticipated by Kennedy, most of the water obtained from wells near the town was *"too unpalatable for Europeans"* (Hebbert 1931). Better water was obtained from wells and reservoirs some five miles inland at Khor Mogg; it was transported into the town in railway tankers. Deeper wells near the town were tried but it was found that the deeper they went the saltier the water. As early as 1905 Kennedy's colleague, Captain Henry Kelly, the resident engineer for Port Sudan, had been investigating the nearby foothills and discovered a perennial stream at Khor Arbaat which could provide enough good water not only for Port Sudan but also to allow an irrigation project. Kennedy insisted that Port Sudan needed some 2,000 tons of water daily but his plans for a dam and later for a weir with a pipeline down to a reservoir were rejected on the grounds of cost. In 1911 a greatly reduced scheme again failed to secure funding.

Ironically, the increasing need for water meant that Kennedy's estimate of needs was later regarded as accurate and his scheme was adopted in 1921 after he had left Egypt. In 1931 the then divisional engineer H E Hebbert commented, *"The one regret is that Capt Kennedy's modified scheme was not approved instead of the piece-meal construction actually adopted. It is apparent that this ultimately led to far heavier expenditure than would otherwise have been incurred"* (Hebbert 1931).

From 1916 to 1920 Kennedy was increasingly at odds with other members of the administration. He questioned the accuracy of figures put forward by Sir Murdoch MacDonald, adviser to the Egyptian Ministry of Public Works, to justify the assertion that the building of a dam on the Blue Nile at Sennar would not affect Egypt. This controversy, in which Kennedy was supported by Sir William Willcocks, the engineer responsible for the first Aswan dam, led to charges of criminal libel and his departure from Egypt (Collins 2000, Paterson 2007). He died in 1926 at the age of 51.

Why was his career so stormy? He was respected and admired by his staff. Colonel Ernest Mackintosh said that *"no officer could have been a kinder, more considerate and more resourceful boss"* (Barrington 1959). Kennedy clearly got on well with Kitchener but Sir Reginald Wingate seems to have been a different personality, less secure of himself perhaps. The events surrounding the choice of the site of Port Sudan left a lasting mark on their relationship. Colonel Mackintosh, who later became ADC to Wingate, described how Wingate and Kennedy did not get on but he got on well with both (Barrington 1961).

The Sudan Archives contain many of the letters between Wingate and MacDonald between 1917 and 1920 when Kennedy and Willcocks were facing prosecution (eg MacDonald 1920, Wingate 1920). One is particularly revealing; in it MacDonald wrote in response to a commentary by Kennedy on the Gezira scheme:

"I am sorry I must refuse to comment on [these papers] as the tone of the correspondence is such that no self-respecting man should answer. I am sure that you will be glad I am taking this line and that it is the

procedure that you would expect me to follow, more especially as I know your own opinion of Kennedy” (MacDonald 1917).

It seems that on his many visits to the Sudan, MacDonald regularly dined with Wingate and that, as early as 1914, Wingate was “*much struck by MacDonald’s readiness to fit in with the Sudan Government’s requirements*” (Tvedt 2004). When Wingate’s biography was written by his son the credit for the choice of the site of Port Sudan went to Wingate (Wingate 1955). When Wingate was awarded a baronetcy in 1920 he took the title ‘... of Dunbar and Port Sudan’. This must have hurt.

In the 1950’s Kennedy’s daughter asked a historian, Michael Barrington, to write a biography to redress the balance. He asked her to search her attic for any documents but she was able to find only a few. He felt that there was insufficient material for him to use. He passed this material to the Sudan Archive at the University of Durham but with it included commentaries of his own. He commented that “*it has become customary to describe Port Sudan without any reference to its designer and creator, Captain Macdougall Ralston Kennedy*” (Barrington 1956). He concluded that Kennedy’s achievements had been seriously underrated and that “*all Kennedy’s laurels were placed on Wingate’s head*” (Barrington 1961).

Acknowledgments

I owe a great debt to Mrs Jane Hogan and her colleagues at the Sudan Archives of Durham University for access to most of the research material summarised here and for the supply of some of the illustrations. I thank Dr Donald Emslie-Smith for comments on the paper in draft. I thank Mrs Netta Barrett for the charts of Suakin and Port Sudan and Brian Jones for photographs of Port Sudan. I thank Ms Kirsteen Bovill for excellent secretarial help.



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THE FUTURE OF KASSALA

Mustafa M Khogali

Kassala Town is located between latitudes 15° 24' and 15° 26' N and longitude 36° 28' and 36° 63' E at the head of the Gash River Delta. Originally, the settlement was on the eastern side of the river whilst on the western side there were the two villages of Gharb El Gash and Banat (Figure 1). The Gash is generally referred to as a river, whilst in fact it is a torrential seasonal *khôr* that flows regularly between mid-June and mid-September. For the rest of the year it remains dry. The river takes its water from the rains that fall a short distance from Asmara on the Eritrean Plateau. The annual rainfall there fluctuates widely between 400mm and 750mm, and this is reflected in the discharge of the river which varies from over one milliard cubic metres to less than half that amount. The height of the Plateau is from 2,000 to 2,500m above sea level, but as the river enters the Sudan Plains its altitude drops to about 600m and there is a further drop to 350m at Kassala Town in a distance of 35km. As a result, the speed of the current is reduced and the river begins to drop its load of sediment. It is thought that in the past there was a deep depression north of the town and that at one time the Gash used to flow into the River Atbara (Barbour 1961:129). The Gash now ends in a wide delta of some 300,000 *feddans* (1 *feddan*=1.038 acres=0.420 hectares), but the part annually under flush irrigation fluctuates between 10,000 and 40,000 *feddans*. At the end of the delta there is an area called '*Gash Die*' (where the river ends and "dies"). This is good grazing ground and it is used by nomadic tribes who stay there for more than six months of the year.

The Gash Delta is under the cultivation of long staple cotton and *dura* (*sorghum vulgare*). The idea of using the delta in this way goes back to the Turkiya (1821-1885) but it was only in 1923 that the Gash Delta scheme began to materialize, and a branch railway



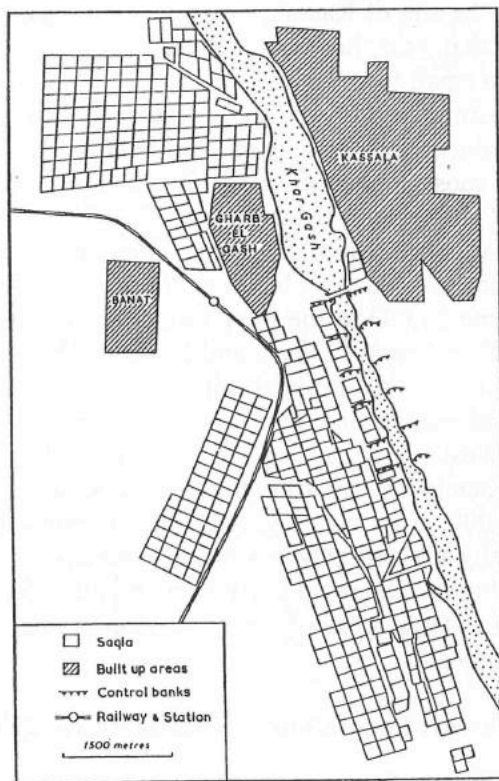


Figure 1: Kassala Town, 1940

line was extended from Sennar via Kassala to Port Sudan. Unfortunately, in recent years the railway has failed to operate due to worries about the safety of the Sennar Dam across the Blue Nile.

Before 1840 the site of Kassala Town was only used for nomadic camping. In that year, however, it was decided to use it for the founding of a small town, mainly for strategic reasons. The site is very near to Eritrea and it was, and still is, protected by the Kassala Mountains which could be used for defence. By 1882 it had become the most important place in eastern Sudan, with the exception of Khartoum (Mackinnon 1948:715). Yet the town remained small, like most of the towns of the Sudan in the first half of the 20th century. Its population at the Sudan's first census in 1955 was some 26,000 in the town proper on the east bank and a further 15,000 in Gharb El Gash and Banat on the west bank. The population was, and is, of mixed origin being composed mainly of Hallanga, Hadendowa and other Beja; westerners coming from Darfur and West Africa; as well as northern Sudanese, including Shagaiya, Danagla etc. By 2005 the town's population had grown to over 300,000, with males greatly outnumbering females, and roughly equally divided between the western and eastern sides of the river (Table 1). The rapid expansion on both sides of the River Gash has led to large areas of the *sagia* farms being converted for residential purposes.

Table1: Population of Kassala Town, 2005

Sex	East of El Gash	West of El Gash	Total
Males	90,925	93,731	184,656
Females	64,992	66,999	131,991
Total:	155,917	160,730	<u>326,647</u>

Source: Bureau of Statistics, Kassala



Kassala has some important advantages that have enabled it to develop and increase its population, and these include its position as a border town with important trading activities with Eritrea (including smuggling!). The surrounding area has a rich potential in water and soils. The Gash River annually enriches the underground water sources which are used by the urban population and the owners of the *sagia* farms. The water table is near the surface at a depth of 5-7 metres during flood periods, though the depth increases during the dry season. For this reason the water in the past was lifted by *sagia*, hence the collective name for the farms. Now, however, pumps are used, but the people still keep the name. The soil is fertile and renewed every year. The farms are small, from 5 to 7 *feddans*, and are devoted to the production of expensive crops, mainly vegetables and fruits, such as bananas and mangoes, and recently poultry has been introduced. Such products, making use of the national road linking Port Sudan and Khartoum via Kassala Town and Gedaref, find good markets.

Though the town has no official link with the Gash Delta Scheme, except in that it is the main market for it, Kassala Town is important to it in other ways. It is the commercial and administrative capital of the *Wilaya* (Province) of the same name and as such it enjoys the presence of government offices, offices of some NGOs and offices of some specialized agencies of the UN and other international Aid organisations. In addition, there is the Kassala University and many schools for general education.

Since its foundation in 1840 Kassala Town has had a unique history:

- It was founded as a garrison town
- It was captured by Mahdist forces in 1885 and held until 1894
- It was invaded by the Italians who had colonized Eritrea and it remained in their hands until 1897

- At the end of 1897 it was captured by the Anglo-Egyptian forces, and was thus returned to the authority of the Sudan Government.
- In 1940 it was captured by the Italians and remained in their hands for several months before being retaken by Sudan Government forces.
- In the 1990s some Sudanese insurgents who had taken refuge in Eritrea took part in skirmishes around and into the town in their campaign against the Sudan National Government.

At the moment, however, the existence of Kassala as a town in its present location is much more seriously threatened by the repeated floods of the Gash than by military or political disturbances. The Gash is famous not only for its floods but also for changing its channel. Floods are not a recent phenomenon but since the establishment of the Gash Delta Scheme in 1927, the information became of increasing importance, especially for the town. Table 2 shows that since 1927 there have been 13 years in which high floods caused damage to the urban area and the nearby agricultural lands.

Table 2: Years of High Floods on the River Gash at Kassala Town

1931; 1933; 1936
1975; 1977
1985; 1988;
1992; 1995; 1998
2000; 2003; 2007

Source: Various reports; 2003 & 2007 fieldwork

The official policy to curb the floods is based upon two strategies, and these have been put into practice since 1926.



Firstly, to build earth embankments parallel with the main channel to prevent the high water flooding the urban and agricultural lands; and secondly, to build 44 spurs, somewhat perpendicular to the flow of the river, to restrict the flow to the middle of the channel, and thus to prevent the river from changing its course and at the same time to act together with the embankments to prevent flooding (Figure 2).

This policy has proved to be of little use as flooding has continued to occur. Several reasons can be cited. First, the embankments are made of the local soft earth which is very vulnerable to the force of running water and to rats digging holes in their bases. As the water rises in the bed of the river the force of the current enlarges these holes and creates pipes over which the upper layers of the embankment become weak and collapse. The narrow breaks in the embankments soon widen to 20 metres or more and the water rushes violently into the built-up areas and farms. In the really high floods the river simply overtops the embankments and within minutes many break points are created. It has been estimated that the high flood of 2003 destroyed completely 10,058 houses whilst a further 4,562 were partially destroyed. In addition, many of the installations for services such as water and electricity were flooded and put out of action.

Secondly, the spurs proved of very limited use as they did not prevent flooding as they too were overtopped, like the embankments by the high floods. Out of 44 spurs suggested only 36 have been constructed. They had some success in slowing the current between every two spurs, but this led to the deposition of some sediment and some small areas of *gerf* land were created. The idea behind the construction of the spurs was to deepen the bed as it was thought that restricting the flow to the middle of the channel would strengthen the current and allow the water to erode the bed and remove the sediments within it. With time it was thought that the bed would be deepened and be

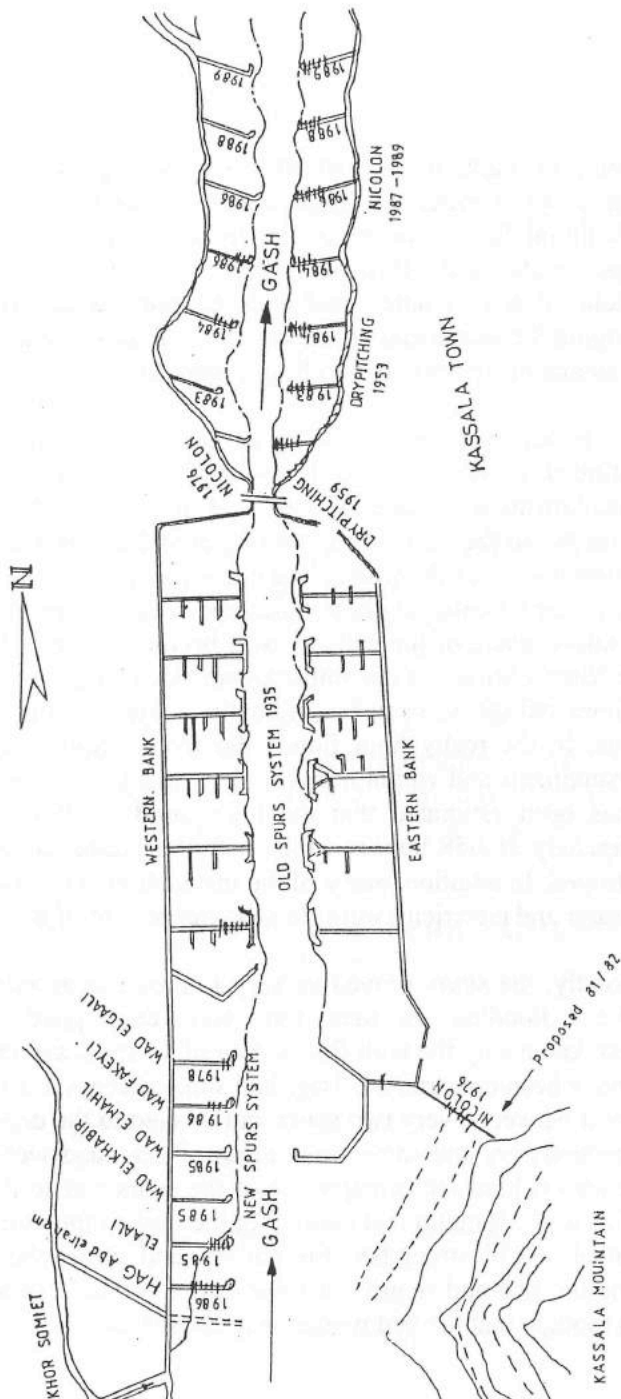


Figure 2: Protection Works at Kassala

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capable of carrying more water instead of allowing it to overtop the embankments, but no deepening of the river bed has been observed.

It seems that the idea was not scientifically sound for two main reasons. First of all, the river arrives at Kassala Town already heavily saturated with silt and is incapable of carrying any more. Secondly, if some deepening does occur the river bed opposite Kassala becomes lower than the delta creating a temporary lake which is soon silted up again.

Two main suggestions have been made to help alleviate the situation, but each has its shortcomings. First, the *khors* on the western side of the river could be used as a safety valve during high flood times. This suggestion goes on to say that if the *khors* are not enough, canals should be dug to assist this purpose. Secondly, dig mechanically to remove the silt from the bed in the hope that a deepened bed would alleviate the flooding. Neither of these suggestions is accepted. The farmers of the Gash Delta want all the waters of the river to ensure successful cultivation and to expand the irrigated area and the rich grazing lands of the 'Gash Die'. Further, digging canals or removing silt from the river bed by mechanical means is a very expensive undertaking and both are beyond the financial and technical abilities of the government. In addition, removing silt from the bed would have to be continued every year as more silt will be arriving from Eritrea.

It is therefore to be concluded that the Gash flood is a permanent problem which has no solution under the present technical and financial abilities of the government. The very salient point to be remembered is that the river every year carries huge quantities of silt, measured as between 5kg and 10kg per cubic metre. This means that the level of the river and its bed are continuously raised. The gravity of the contemporary problem becomes clear

when it becomes known that the present level of floodwater is higher than the ground surface of the town. Raising the embankments is no solution because there are no limits to the rising height of the bed, but there are limits to the raising of the embankments. Even if raising the embankments is theoretically possible overtopping is still a possibility.

Accepting the notion that the problem of the Gash flooding at Kassala Town is a permanent one about which rather little can be done, is there a solution? One might be to divert the Gash away from its present course which would create a whole set of new problems. The last remaining solution is to remove the town to higher ground. Naturally, the people of Kassala, having strong and positive sentiments for their town, would reject the idea. At present, the government is hesitant, not only to accept this solution, but also does not dare to discuss it, and the construction of more government buildings is going on. If, however, the government would accept this proposal, the opposition of the people to it could be overcome in a gradual manner. The government in that case should act first by removing its offices and market places to higher ground. It is only then that the people would sadly accept the death of their old town and its rebirth in a more stable and safe location.

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THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AT TERTIARY EDUCATION LEVEL IN SUDAN

Muhammad Al-Busairi

New university entrants come with poor English or with no English at all. Most of them can hardly write a brief paragraph in simple English and even one in four university entrants is unable to construct an elementary sentence. Almost if not all had never read a single book, not even a single short English story during their secondary school life. They come to the university with the expectation of improving their English. However, even at the end of their fourth year (perhaps except for the outstanding students estimated at an average of 5% of fourth year students) first year errors still crop up. This is natural since students might have never had the chance to practice writing except in the final exams. Even if they had ever practiced writing elsewhere, they would never have had the chance to correct their errors or even to know what type of errors they had made. Furthermore, during the last decade it has been observed by M.A and even Ph.D. thesis examiners that only 10% of the candidates are performing to the expected standard in English.

The crisis is twofold. Reading is practiced during class hours and students might never have had the chance to practice writing in the classroom or outside.

In the preliminary years language courses aim at developing their skills by exposing students to unauthentic, long, boring passages followed by exercises on usage rather than on use. These are presented in the form of handouts, each referred to as an *ash sheet* and no books are assigned for outside reading. In literature courses, the set play, novel, or poem or poems are read and explained in class by the teacher. In the linguistic courses the majority of students depend on handouts or lecture notes (*ash sheets*). The word 'book' has disappeared from students' vocabulary.

For preparing for examination, the majority of students use *ash sheets*. These are then memorized for reproduction during the examination. The only one examination given at the end of each course tends to test what has been covered in lectures, so the student's task is to learn the material. If at the end of a course of instruction students could demonstrate that they knew the material, then they received high grades. Low grades were, always, simply the result of truancy or laziness. Students are not encouraged to refer to a range of different sources but to wholly depend on lecture notes and handouts. This behaviour, of lecturers, may be because all of them have no time to read due to the fact that they have to work in at least two universities or more to earn a living. Examinations are marked for content and no feedback of any sort is given to students after examinations.

More troubling is the relative lack of writing activities and exercises. Writing, if at all, is less provided for than reading. The less importance given to writing may be justified by the relatively limited occasions upon which one needs to write in English. However, occasions may arise, even if infrequently, when to communicate intelligently in English is fairly important, or even essential. Neither students nor teachers perceive the need for writing. However, just as oral production and discussion, may greatly improve the accuracy and coherence of what one writes, so writing may have a beneficial effect on one's oral production. It may also be a valid way of assessing one's reading comprehension. Furthermore, students need writing for their studies (M.A and Ph.D.). They need writing activities which provide practice in selecting and organisation of data, posing problems, and drawing conclusions. They need the ability to use English in synthesizing information obtained from more than one source into a single conceptual framework.

The English Department at Khartoum University, the oldest university in the country, has been offering almost the same

most challenging English literature and language syllabuses which have produced generations of well-versed students in the skills of speaking, reading and writing for more than four decades. The English literature programme has stayed almost the same. However, improved updated and more challenging linguistics courses were introduced by the University of Khartoum and new universities established afterwards followed suit and almost doubled the number of English courses. However, since the middle of the 1960s standards of university students started to decline steeply. Teachers feel that students are less prepared for university in general. They perceive the students to have a much lower mastery than former university entrants.

CAUSE OF DECLINE:

The successive drop of standards in English at the tertiary level and at schools has been the concern of parents and all those involved in the process of education. In an attempt to discover the reasons behind this drop, attention has been centered on external factors such as syllabuses, teacher training, expansion of education and recently Arabicization.

Arabicization

Arabicization or the gradual replacement of English by Arabic as the medium of instruction in the secondary school stage started officially in 1965 and by 1969 it had taken its full momentum. English, however, continued to be the medium of instruction at the tertiary level till 1990. This situation led to the duality of the medium of instruction in education and was linked with the concurrent decline in the standards of English in the secondary schools.

Among the different factors which contributed to the decline much of the blame was placed on Arabicization. For instance, Professor Macmillan (1970), Head, English Department, University of Khartoum attributed the drop in English standards, as reflected by the results of the Sudan School Certificate during

the period 1963 to 1969, to Arabicization. Furthermore, Andrews (1984:174) attributed the falling standard of English among school leavers to the reduction of exposure to English which was an inevitable consequence of Arabicization in schools (Yassin, 1999:30).

It is true that the period which followed Arabicization of the secondary stage witnessed a successive decline in the standards of English as reflected in the secondary certificate examination results. However, the decline in standards of English before 1969, when the first batch of secondary school students who studied all their subjects in Arabic, cannot be traced back to the effect of Arabicization as Macmillan and Andrews attest since it started before the implementation of Arabicization in 1965. The period between 1949 and 1955 witnessed a steady sharp decline. This period was followed by a period of improvement extending from the year 1956 to 1960. Suddenly the standard dropped sharply in the years 1961 and 1962, but regained its position in 1963, 1964 and 1965.

Arabicization, which was started in 1965 at the secondary stage and implemented at the tertiary level in 1990, had a great impact on the status of English in the Sudan. However, Arabicization is not to blame. It seems that different factors contributed, in one way or another, to the falling standard of English. Among these factors were the ambitious expansion of education and the large shortage in well-qualified and trained teachers of English.

Expansion of Education

Education witnessed a large expansion in the period following independence in 1956. According to Yassin (1990:27), during 1970's, the increase in the intake reached 125% in the primary stage, 194% in the intermediate stage and 143% in the secondary stage. As for expansion in higher education the total annual increase in intake was 119.9% in the academic year 1990/1991 and 75% in 1996/1997 compared with the number of students admitted to universities and higher institutes of

education in 1989. Moreover, the number of government universities has increased from 6 in 1989/90 to 23 by 1996/97.

Expansion in education, though desirable, has had devastating effects. The rapid increase in the number of school entrants exhausted the human and financial resources of the Ministry of Education to the extent that the schools failed to provide everyone in the mass of new entrants, even with seats, so it had become usual to see school children carrying seats in the morning from home to school and back home at the end of the school day. The Ministry failed to supply schools and universities even with chalk let alone stationery and other necessary equipment. And cleanliness of schools and universities has become a luxury. Spending on student hostels was curbed. Consequently, students were deprived of the only means of subsistence and had to work to earn a living.

Truancy prevailed among university students and many of them used to show up only at the end of each semester to take their exams which they prepare for from lecture notes and/or other handouts given by teachers. Truants were neither punished nor even asked about the cause of their absences since taking attendance seemed impossible with such large classes.

Expansion had also resulted in reduction in the number of lectures of English. The weekly three one-hour lectures were reduced to only one two-hour lecture weekly. As a result, course teachers come to meet their students only once a week instead of three times.

Concurrent with the expansion of education another development which has had a great impact on the status of English was the introduction of a new ladder of education (6+3+3) for the elementary, intermediate and secondary school levels, respectively, to replace the old educational ladder (4+4+4). This has decreased the number of years of English formal learning by two years since each of the intermediate and

secondary stages was reduced from 4 to 3 years. Furthermore, after 1990 the three-level educational ladder (6+3+3) was replaced by a new one with only two levels (8+3) by amalgamating the primary and intermediate stages into the basic level. This led to the reduction of general education to 11 years instead of 12 years. However, it gave English an extra year since it was decided that formal instruction of English was to start from the 5th form in the basic level.

Teachers of English

Most drastically, expansion in education has outstripped the supply of qualified teachers creating an unavoidable damage to the quality of education in general and to the standard of English, in particular. It contributed to lowering the teaching profession through diluting it with less educated, untrained and inexperienced teachers whose speciality was not English. They were graduates of other faculties or graduates of Arts majoring in other subjects (e.g. History, Psychology) rather than English, and where their degrees were not good enough to qualify them for a job in their fields of specialization. Their only qualification for English teaching was that they studied their major subject through the medium of English (Andrews, 1984:173).

After independence in 1956 it has become extremely difficult to attract and retain well qualified teachers. The need for nationals, after the British departure, to take leading posts in different ministries and to provide ambassadors and envoys to represent the country abroad was incessantly felt. Consequently, many of the best qualified teachers forsook the teaching profession for such prestigious and lucrative jobs. Later, many qualified teachers migrated to the oil-producing Gulf countries or engaged in private business for better income and better work conditions.

Migration to Arab oil-producing countries and, after 1990, to the United States, Australia and Malaysia caused a huge drain to the teaching force, especially of universities' staff. The bulk of the teaching force came to be made up of teaching assistants who

were fresh graduates of the same university and at best, graduates of the High Teachers' Training Institute which was founded in 1962 to cater for secondary school teachers' training. It was promoted to faculty status affiliated to the University of Khartoum in 1974. Both groups of recruits are the product of the deplorable situation of general education, and of English. Thus, much of the damage to the educational quality, in general and to the standard of English in particular, is attributed to them.

Attitudes and Motivation

As we have seen from the above discussion it seems that attention has always been centred on external factors as contributing to the decline of standards in English. Students and teacher's attitudes, motivation and needs have been almost forgotten. Both students and teachers are instrumentally motivated. Their orientations are purely utilitarian. Students learn English with the purpose of getting a teaching job for the vast multitude of Arts and Education graduates; they will not get the sack by the changing regimes. Their sole orientation is to obtain a B.A. or B.Ed. Degree in English. Thus, the overriding motivation to study English is connected with English course final examinations.

CONCLUSION

Can this examination-type motivation be modified or could it be replaced by an entirely different sort of motivation? In answering this question, I think a modified examination-type can be utilized to the utmost by teachers. The reading and writing crisis that I have just described is seen to be resulting from student over-enrolment, shortage of learning facilities, overloaded, underpaid and poorly trained teachers who are uncertain of their knowledge, and from the traditional style of teaching in our universities which is largely teacher centred and based on the lecture method.

I think the crisis could be overcome, if:

- Appropriate numbers only of students were admitted and class size reduced to 25;
- Adequate resources were provided;
- Students were encouraged to do their research in the library, rather than relying on handouts;
- The lecture method was changed to a more student centred style;
- Teachers had more time to develop themselves;
- Massive fusion of funds were diverted to education and to raising teachers' standard of living and salaries raised to at least two-thirds of their counterparts in the Gulf countries; and
- Grades given to continuous assessment quizzes and tests constituted more than 50% of each course final grade.

If the government really believes in the value of education for the development of this nation, the effective way of showing it, would be by respecting the teaching profession, and by investing in education by diverting massive funding to it.

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SSSUK 22nd AGM AND SYMPOSIUM, 2008

It was a nice morning and a nice feeling to arrive safely on time. The place was packed with members and non-members who arrived from abroad and different places in the UK. They were chatting and some were happy to be there and enjoy the day. It was different for me after 7 years being Deputy Chair and 3 years as Chairman of SSSUK. I was more relaxed and was able to talk to more people. It was also emotional for me when so many individuals thanked me personally for my leadership. Thanks to all of you again for your support.

The meeting started slightly late with general announcements about the rules of the house. New President of the Society was introduced by the Chair. With sadness Mr John Udal paid tribute to Professor P M Holt and Mr Brian Carlisle and a minute of silence was observed by all members.

Sharath Srinivasan was our first speaker in session one. He gave a presentation on the dilemma of confrontation and cooperation: *Politics in Sudan during ICC v Bashir*. It was a huge topic, but I think he tried his best to tackle some of the issues and answer some of the questions. Anita Fabos spoke about 'Brothers' of the Nile: *Are the Northern Sudanese in Egypt Refugees?* She gave a good analysis about the situation of Northern Sudanese in Egypt. Perhaps Anita or someone else should enlighten us about the situation of Southern Sudanese refugees in Egypt. I think some members were keen to know more about that.

A Progress Report on the 8th International Conference in South Africa was moved to the AGM. All members attended the AGM. Reports were given by the Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and our Editor. New Officers were elected.

Our new Deputy Chair, Rev. Dr Andy Wheeler, gave a summary of questionnaire responses from the AGM 2007. The

questionnaire was important for our members to express their opinion about the future of the society and I strongly encourage that.

Lunch with Sudanese food is a huge part of SSSUK. It brings back memories of living in the Sudan and sharing Sudanese food and cultures such as weddings and naming of babies etc. Members and non-members enjoyed their lunch thanks to our top Sudanese cook. I was afraid that some might go to sleep after eating *ful*, but they remained awake to enjoy the taste of *ful* in their mouth.

After lunch Bernadetta de Alessi gave a presentation on: *Is the Sudan People's Liberation Movement becoming a political party?* Again, this is not a simple topic and people have different opinions, but at least she tried to give a broad picture of the situation in the South. Our second speaker, Sara Pantuliano gave a presentation about *Abyei, and the Missiriya* and Douglas Johnson, a *Glance at the Abyei 'Roadmap'*. Both topics were very interesting, but there was so much information to digest in a very short period of time.

It was good to have a coffee break at that point because people have established new relationships. Addresses and other information were exchanged. And some people were saying goodbye and preparing to leave. One of my new friends gave me her card and said to me 'see you again in a year's time'. I think it was wonderful to see people going home happy.

Nick Brooks came next. His topic was *The Impact of Climate Variability*. Although it was not specific to the Sudan, it was very interesting and very relevant.

Our last, but not least speaker, was Ibrahim El Salahi, the President of SSSUK who concluded the day with his warm therapeutic art work that he presented. It was emotional for many people.

In the future we need to tell our members about any progress in the country whether in the South, North, or elsewhere. The day was successful thanks to all contributors, participants and executive members. I think in the future we should enlighten people about any progress in the country rather than concentrating so much on negative things.

Suggestion

In the future we could have Sudanese music in the background, in the morning. We could have Sudanese food for lunch, as usual. We could also have traditional dancing to give a flavour of Sudanese culture.

Anisa Dani



THE FUTURE OF THE SSSUK

A Summary of Responses to the Questionnaire

Your Committee has had a preliminary discussion on the results of Andrew Wheeler's survey. A few comments follow:

- The Society should have a clear 'academic' purpose but should be for **ALL interested in Sudan**. There are many people with a strong interest in the Sudan who have been involved with NGOs and other organizations, but have not become members: we should try to attract them.

The SSSUK Committee discussed this and as a result articles about us are to appear in the Sudan Church Association's *Sudan Church Review* and in the *Newsletter* of the Sudan Study Group (Philatelic society). Other suggestions please?

- Strong call for meetings to be held in other parts of the UK besides London. These might be cultural as well as academic events.

The Committee discussed this and is much in favour, but volunteers from the membership are required. The Committee needs assistance.

- The Society could commission papers or lectures on current issues from leading figures in Sudanese affairs.

The Committee agrees, but again requires help from the membership in indentifying issues and speakers. We do try to do this through our Annual Symposium and publishing papers given there in *Sudan Studies*.

- We could use the web rather more.

Agreed. Again this requires assistance from the membership. Any volunteers please?

Conference Announcement

8th International Sudan Studies Conference

*The Future of Sudan to 2011 and Beyond:
African Dimensions of Peace, Stability and Justice*

25-27 November 2009

Unisa, Pretoria – City of Tshwane, South Africa

The 8th International Sudan Studies Conference will be sponsored by Unisa (the National University of South Africa) and will be held on 25-27 November on the Unisa campus, Pretoria, City of Tshwane, South Africa. The main conference theme is 'The Future of Sudan to 2011 and Beyond: African Dimensions of Peace, Stability and Justice'. As in previous international conferences, all aspects of the study of the Sudan are welcome and will be covered.

The Conference Coordinator is Dr. Samba Mboup, to whom all enquiries about conference arrangements should be addressed, at Mboupsb@unisa.ac.za

SSSUK members wishing to propose papers or panels should send all proposals (including paper/panel titles and a one page abstract) to the SSSUK Chair, Douglas Johnson at [<douglas@wendoug.free-online.co.uk>](mailto:douglas@wendoug.free-online.co.uk).



Sudan Studies Society of the United Kingdom
Minutes of the 21st Annual General Meeting
Khalili Lecture Theatre, SOAS, University of London
8th September 2007

Dr Anisa Dani called the meeting to order at 11.50 and welcomed members to the 21st Annual General Meeting of the Sudan Studies Society of the United Kingdom.

1. **Apologies** were received from: Mr Jacob Akol, Ms Joan Hall, Dr Douglas Johnson.
2. **Minutes of the 20th AGM on 9th September 2006**
The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the 20th AGM on 9th September 2006.
3. **Matters arising from the 20th AGM on 9th September 2006**
There were no matters arising from the minutes
4. **Chair's Report**
Dr Anisa Dani thanked David Lindley for his support over the last 3 years and for his work as Hon Treasurer over the past 9 years. She also thanked Dr Zaki el Hassan for all his support as Hon. Secretary and noted that he had been very efficient.
She noted with sadness the deaths of Professor P M Holt and Mr Brian Carlisle.
5. **Secretary's Report**
The Acting Hon Secretary David Lindley said that he had concentrated on consolidation of the membership and providing support for Ms Gill Lusk for the AGM/Symposium. At the start of 2007 there were 182 members. Since then 2 had died, 3 had resigned and 13 had been deleted from the list for non-payment after 2 years. There were now 164 paid up members.
The Acting Hon Secretary then added his thanks to Dr Zaki el Hassan for his great efforts in keeping the membership up to date and keeping it informed and the continued development of our Web Site.
6. **Treasurer's Report**
The Hon Treasurer David Lindley said that the main purpose of his report was to present the Accounts for 2007 (unsigned copies of the Accounts were distributed to members). The regular auditor had been unable to audit them due to illness. A new auditor had been found who would audit then in time for the November Committee Meeting and they would then be published in SS36.
He reported that the balance on 31-Dec-06 as £6162-14 producing a deficit for the year of £1161.
The deficit resulted from support for post-graduate students giving papers at Bergen (£1800) and increasing cost of the AGM/Symposium.



Current balances on 3-Aug-07 were:

Reserve A/c	£4911.31
Current A/c	£1871.75
Total	£6783.06

The Accounts were approved by members attending the AGM.

7. **Editor's Report**

The new editor Dr Jack Davies presented his first report by encouraging Sudanese members and their friends to write articles for *Sudan Studies*. He said he would do his best to produce two editions a year at regular intervals. He called for volunteers for book reviews.

8. **Election of Officers:**

Chair:	Dr Douglas Johnson	Proposed: David Lindley Seconded: Gill Lusk
Hon Secretary:	Ms Gill Lusk	Proposed: Peter Woodward Seconded: Anisa Dani
Hon Treasurer:	Mr Adrian Thomas	Proposed: David Lindley Seconded: Peter Woodward
Exec. Committee:	Dr Cherry Leonardi	Proposed: Jane Hogan Seconded: Michael Medley

All were duly elected.

9. **AOB:**

9.1 Mr Michael Medley proposed a **vote of thanks** on behalf of all present for the excellent work that Dr Anisa Dani had done over the past three years. The motion was carried.

9.2 The Rev Andrew Wheeler presented a paper on the *Future of the SSSUK*.

He suggested that we should have an informal discussion about who we were and where we were going.

He produced a set of four topics about which he asked for ideas:

1. How to widen the circle of members
2. Activities such as enhancing IT/Web activities
3. Membership not well engaged with committee activities
4. Other societies and networks

The 21st AGM was brought to a close at 12.25



Sudan Studies Society of the UK: Accounts for 2007

<u>INCOME</u>	2007	2006	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	2007	2006
Membership dues	1,501.78	1,225.41	Printing	294.04	350.31
Back Membership dues			Secretarial Expenses	322.60	367.58
Future Membership dues			Committee Room Hire	400.00	
Sale of Publications and CDs	10.00	10.00	Committee Travel	70.30	69.20
Interest on Bank Accounts	117.66	79.87	Repayment of Fees	52.00	25.00
Donations	30.00	615.00	Support for International Conference	200.00	1,799.60
2006 AGM/Symposium		825.00	2006 AGM/Symposium	1,532.10	1,304.75
2007 AGM/Symposium	749.60		2007 AGM/Symposium	2,871.04	3,916.44
			Surplus/Deficit for the Year	-462.00	-1,161.16
Total	2,409.04	2,755.28	Total	2,409.04	2,755.28

<u>ASSETS</u>	2007	2006
Bank Balance on 1st January	6,162.14	7,323.30
Bank Balance at 31st December	5,700.14	6,162.14
Deficit	462.00	

Adrian P. Thomas
A P Thomas 29.12.08
Honorary Treasurer

I have examined the accounting records kept in relation to the above period and certify that this income, expenditure and assets statement is in accordance with them.

J A Sowden
J A Sowden
Chartered Accountant



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Notes for Contributors

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Manuscripts are not normally returned to authors, but original material such as photographs will be returned.

It is helpful to have, very briefly (2 to 3 lines), any relevant details about the author – any post held, or time recently spent in the Sudan

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