

Tim Atiep Times

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*Fergus's bit
I'm afraid I have
been so busy with
other work that I
have had little
time to think
about what to
write about in
this issue of the
newsletter. So I
have cheated
and have edited
some extracts
from my father's
journal, in which
he recounts his
journey to Bahr
el-Ghazal to take
up his position as
ADC in Gogrial.
It is remarkable
that now in the
21st century that
the only traffic
on the river Nile
south of Malakal
is the occasional
barge laden with
relief food deliv-
ered by the UN's
World Food Pro-
gramme. I wonder
when a
steamer last trav-
elled up the Jur
River to Wau. It
would certainly
find it very diffi-
cult these days.
My father
started his jour-
nal in June '48,
when he sailed
from Marseilles
(Continued on page 2)*

A river journey 55 years ago

Monday, Sept. 20th 1948
Chugging up the White Nile at about 5 k.p.h.! A very sedate speed, but the old 'Lord Cromer' has 4 barges attached, a head wind and the current to cope with, so she is doing well. Her engine is only 180 h.p. Today is cloudy and marvellously cool. Yesterday was muggy, hot and incredibly close. I sweated continuously the whole day, so it is a nice change now. I had a good send off from Khartoum: a

"I was taking bearings....when I heard a furious buzzing noise. I took little notice till I realized that there were some bees attacking me."

lot of people generously coming to the station. Overnight. Then Kosti at 7.30 next day. The river, now at its fullest, stretches southward like a great lake, already with great bogs on each side, where it overflows its slender banks. No people live along it, except at rare settlements, and its greenness and trees are deserted. We have 5 or 6 days to Malakal, and 14 or so on to Wau. Last night there was great wind, and threat of a storm with thunder and lightning. So we tied to the bank for an hour or so, to a

stout tree. But the storm passed and the wind alone struck us. It was jolly strong, and whipped up waves.

Friday 24th

Malakal at sunset: a perfect sight. A still Nile, flowing past, carrying islands of grass and 'sudd' on its surface. The sun behind low black clouds under the horizon. Fast colours on the water. Greens, ultramarines, yellows, violets, of silky texture. Then a native canoe, with bow- and stern-paddler shoots out from the bank into midstream, and stops, and floats. The ripples widen, and it is silhouetted in a patch of green-blue water against the remnant glow of the sun. A skein of geese, and then duck fly over the western horizon. Slowly the evening falls, and the colours fade and deepen into blue, bluer, black. The night deepens quickly, and soon all is dark with above the scintillating stars. Then the mosquitoes start to bite! Sunday 26th

The river has been very narrow today, and meandering along, we have frequently bumped with banks turning corners. Progress consequently v slow. We covered many miles by river, but very few by land because of these meanders. We reached at 3 o'clock a place with the delightful name of



**STEAMING UP THE RIVER
FROM KOSTI TO WAU - A
JOURNEY OF ABOUT THREE
WEEKS.**

Yoynyang! An hour later (a mile by land, 4 by river) we reached Bentiu, district H.Q., and at the same moment along came the D.C., Rae, so he came to drinks on board, and we went to dinner at his house.

Monday 27th

What a sunset tonight! It had been a grey day, and there were very heavy black clouds towards night. But in the west, a sudden, a window seemed to be torn in the clouds right along the river (we had stopped at a wood station), and the sun, on the horizon, shone forth. To right and left was blackness of clouds, but on us, and above, were shafts of yellow light. It was a sunset of black and yellow. It lasted about 10 minutes and then the clouds closed down. The reflection on the still river was so beautiful, shimmering lights of yellow and blue-black, that I could not look away. I saw several white-eared cob during the day, and Crested

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page for Alexandria, but by the end of May '49, he resolved to discontinue the practice, apparently due to some comments made by Godfrey Lienhardt. A pity! So, I hope that everyone will forgive my shortcuts, and if anyone out there would like to make any written contributions, please do not hesitate. Meanwhile in Sudan, the peace talks ended on 21st May without making much progress. However, it is claimed that a peace deal will be ready for signing in August. I hope to have some good news on that and other developments in the next newsletter. In the Nuba Mountains the ceasefire has been extended for another six months and the peace talks are scheduled to resume on July 6th in Kenya. Let us hope.

(Continued from page 1)
Cranes. We are progressing on, and will reach Lake Ambadi tomorrow. I saw two monster crocodiles this morning. One lying sluggishly and bloatedly on the bank – an easy shot. The other was gliding lazily on the water, and was a monstrous size.
Thursday 30th
Today we twisted ourselves up the Jur River. We spent 4 hours over a crow-flying distance of 4 ½ kilometres, but I suppose this was trebled by corners. We then spent 3 hours over about ½ a kilometre. All hair-pin bends, which the barges were too long to cope with without endless juggling of wires and ropes. Tugs hooted and roared. So did sailors and 'ra'ises'. All v funny. I spent most of the day shrivelled in the sun on the roof, taking compass bearings of the few trees which are to be seen in order to complete a new map, which I was also checking. I have to get all the names of all these various clumps of trees too, so have a Dinka local and an interpreter aboard, who joined us at the change-over. Evening deafening with the croaking of frogs, zinging of insects and rushing of fans (in an en-

deavour to keep cool.) The whole Jur River and Marshes are swarming with bitterns. I saw hundreds today.

Friday, October 1st
Evening again. We have finished with the Narrows, and are now in an open River, very nice, with grass and parkland beyond. Except for fish-eagles, naked Dinka, hippopotami, etc it might well be Norfolk! I had a horrid experience this morning. I was on the roof of the barge, taking bearings, when I heard a furious buzzing noise. I took little notice till I realized that there were some bees attacking me. I have heard of bees attacking unprovoked in the Sudan, but hoped it would not happen to me! They all went for my face: I suppose 6 or so of them, and it was useless trying to beat them off. They came again and again. In the end I had to drop everything, climb down the ladder and rush to my cabin. I was stung 3 times on the face. I hope it never happens again. And where did they come from? And why did they attack me? And how did they see me on top of a barge in a river? These things are most puzzling! After that I was bitten several times by serrot flies, and

now I suppose I can expect mosquitoes tonight! We should arrive at Ghabat el-Warrana late tonight, where we must change steamers again. On the 3rd we got to Gogrial in the steamer. The river seemed to get broader and broader on the way up. It was about 200yds wide at Gogrial instead of 10yds in the narrows! Extraordinary. Gogrial was lovely. A delightful little new house on the River-bank, which pleased me not a little. My few sticks of furniture and luggage inside, and being done up. The river was right up to the bank, and the house looked as if it might flood quite easily! A sort of garden is laid out; a bath is there, though not yet installed. I was whisked off by Jack Wilson, my D.C., at once to a Council Meeting. I met all the Chiefs, and understood not a word. We all sat underneath a Uganda Flame Tree. Then saw the Prison, suk, etc and back to the steamer. Nyinakok, the Wood Station, next day. We disembarked, and I found myself sitting on a Minor Court for 2 Effendis, 'eating' Government money. After lunch, as Jack had slight fever, and wife in Wau, we motored in by lorry. Attractive road, and over ferry to Wau.

Inland Revenue - Self Assessments

From April 2004 people who complete a Self Assessment tax return will be able to nominate a charity to receive all or part of any repayment due to them.

The new scheme will have real advantages for participating charities such as the donation being paid directly to our bank account, Gift Aid Tax will be paid without our having to make a claim and we will be able to benefit from Gift Aid on anonymous

donations.

All participating charities will be listed on the Inland Revenue website after September and will be assigned an identification code. When filling in a self assessment tax return, donors will be able to enter the code of their chosen charity and the specified amount will be credited to the charity.

I hope that anyone who does self assessment will

consider the Shading Tree (Tim Atiep) for this method of donation. We will publicise our identification code when it has been issued.

The Gift Aid system is extremely important to the Shading Tree (Tim Atiep). In the last two years we have been able to reclaim nearly £2,000 from the Inland Revenue on donations, gifts and membership.

The Inland Revenue website is at www.inlandrevenue.gov.uk