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Catalogue of the papers of G.W. Power

Date range of material: 1925-1973

Durham University Library
May 2024

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Preface

Creation of catalogue

wp JRH 1999. EAD JRH October 2005

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[ark:/32150/s14t64gn19g](http://n2t.org/ark:/32150/s14t64gn19g)

Introduction

Collection title: Power, G.W.

Reference code: GB-0033-SAD

Dates of creation: 1925-1973

Extent: 1 file; 1 video

Repository: Durham University Library, Archives and Special Collections

Creator: Power, G.W.

Language of material: English

G.W. Power

(fl. 1925 - 1984)

1925-1949	Sudan Government Railways and Steamers
1925-1933	District Engineer serving at Kassala-Gedaref Railhead, Survey, Gebeit, Kassala, Abu Hamed, Kosti, Khartoum
1934	Harbour Engineer, Port Sudan
1935-1940	District Engineer, Kassala and Khartoum
1941-1945?	New Works Engineer, Atbara
1946-1949	Establishment Officer, Personnel Section

Accession details

Presented by Power, 1979-1984 and by Dr P. Auchterlonie, 1999

Arrangement

1. Official Papers
2. Photographic Material
3. Maps
4. Newspaper Cuttings
5. Printed Material

Form of citation

Material in the Sudan Archive is given a reference number, which is unique across the collections of papers. Usually it is not necessary to give the name of the person or organisation within which collection the item is found, although it may be convenient to do so.

The short form of citation should be GB-0033-SAD.*reference number*

Most printed references take the form: SAD.*reference number*.

To order items in the searchroom, use the collection reference code(s), derived by removing the repository code (GB-0033-), followed by the reference number. Citing the section of the finding aid is useful.

1. Official Papers

(i) Education

SAD.783/10/1-21 1944-1949

Minutes of the first, second and tenth meetings of the Council of the Gordon Memorial College, held 15 Nov 1944, 5 May 1945 and 14 Dec 1948

SAD.783/10/22-23 1947

Notice by A.B. Theobald on entry into Gordon Memorial College

SAD.783/10/24-29 [ca. 1950]

Gordon College memoranda on policy as to future expansion, admission of non-Sudanese students, teaching staff, re-organisation of the diploma courses and School of Arts Law School

(ii) Railways

SAD.783/10/30-65 1925-1929

Sudan Government Railways and Steamers annual reports (abridged):

SAD.783/10/30-40 1926 Mar 9

Report for 1925

SAD.783/10/41-53 1928 Mar 20

Report for 1927

SAD.783/10/54-65 1929 Mar 8

Report for 1928

2. Cinefilms

SAD.Video 18

[ca. 1931-1949]

VHS video copy of original cinefilms taken by G.W. Power during his Sudan service. The films, with some original captions, were edited on to video and a commentary added by G.W. Power. The film is mostly in black and white, interspersed with short pieces in colour.

Construction of the railway from Kassala to Sennar

Travelling along railway track, past the site of a future station; approaching campsite at railhead where new track is being laid; water tank on railway; 2,500 Egyptian *fellahin* workers; on one side of the track Sudanese workers are carrying construction material while on the other Egyptian workers are carrying rails; British engineers supervising the work; Sudanese foreman (in white); clearing bush
Khartoum

G.W. Power's Model T Ford (bought for £5); travelling along the Embankment; *saqiya* on bank of the Nile; Khartoum zoo; Gordon Avenue; Gordon statue, cathedral in background; Kitchener statue and War Office building; [short section in colour] boats on Nile; grounds of Sudan Club; [reverts to black and white] flying boat landing at Gordon's tree (about 7 miles from Khartoum); passengers being brought ashore by ferry

Arrival of Governor-General

Troops marching out from barracks; arrival of Governor-General in white train; guard of honour; Governors dressed in white in background; Sir John Maffey inspecting guard of honour before driving off past the Wellcome Tropical Research Laboratories up Victoria Avenue; 5 Gladiator planes flying past in salute; half company of British troops form guard of honour

King's Day, Khartoum

Parade marching past the Governor-General and Bishop Gwynne; Khartoum *suq*; barber at work; construction of White Nile dam, built 1932/33; stone dressing; stone quarried at Jebel Silitat; view of dam and lock, 3½ miles long; travelling up White Nile on boat; *suq* scenes, Omdurman; silversmith

Rail journey, Khartoum-Port Sudan

"Prairie" type locomotive in Khartoum station; leaving for Port Sudan; travelling by train across the Blue Nile bridge; working a hand windlass over a new well at Silitat; bull teams treading millet near Kadaro; train approaching Kadaro, first station after Khartoum en route for Port Sudan; Jebel Gerri; Shendi station; inspection trolley; basket sellers at Mutmir station

Port Sudan

Dhows in Flamingo Bay (15 miles from Port Sudan); fish swimming in Red Sea; King's Day sports, Port Sudan, 17 Jan 1934; [break] British and Egyptian flags flying at sports; British Medical Officer winning long jump; canoe; view of harbour

Interval during which G.W. Power is seen sitting looking at a book on the Sudan. He describes the next section of the film which covers the south, starting from Kassala in 1935.

Kassala, 1935

During the Italian war in Abyssinia; sending supplies through Kassala; *saqiyah* in garden; watering cattle; River Gash in spate, Jebel Kassala in background; camels crossing the Gash; carrying supplies from the railway across the Gash to the town; Dead Sea apple plants growing along the bank of the river; sowing *dhurrah* near Kassala station, behind G.W. Power's house; 5 seeds dropped in each hole; stick with peg used to make a conical hole for the seed; Hadanduwah mock fights; plate workers working on railway maintenance near Kassala; handling dom nuts for export at Derudeb (the nuts were exported to Marseilles for use in making buttons); Arabs at well at Derudeb; building *hafirs* to store water at Khashm el Girba, 1935; Arabs trekking in the Butana; sim sim oil mill near Qala 'en Nahl; crushing grain to get oil out; Mrs. Power by railway bridge over the Dinder; railway bridge over the Rahad; Mrs. Power on mechanical trolley; commemorative tablet at site of the railway linkup between Dinder and Es Suki, Feb 1929

Journey south to Juba

Sawmill at Launi on the Blue Nile; cattle dragging felled trees on trolleys to saws to cut into railway sleepers (sunt wood); off-loading sunt sleepers (each weighing about 160 lbs) from Launi at Es Suki; market scenes; Blue Nile; men in canoe; *dhahabiyah* towing *gyassa*; Rahad bridge; travelling by rail across swampy ground from Rahad; grass has to be cleared each season as it reaches 12 feet high; repairing washouts on the railway in 1935 near Hamadnallah; Sennar dam and Blue Nile; White Nile bridge near Kosti; *falluka*; steamer and barges; Kosti foreshore (lost after the construction of Jebel Auliya dam; *suq* at Kosti, 1932-33; silversmith at work; D.C.'s garden on the banks of the White Nile; building the quay wall at Kosti in 1937; Baqqarah Arabs riding bulls bear El Ein, Kordofan (the station before the railway terminus at El Obeid); through the *sudd* en route to Juba on board the MV *Melika*, Jan 1949; Nuer picking mangoes at Shambe; river views, canoes, etc.; D.C.'s garden at Bor; British child and pets; Shilluk cattle on riverbank; crocodiles; Nuer on riverbank; sawing and moving mahogany railway sleepers near Juba; British women; Yei; steamer; elephant herd and other scenes from the deck of the MV *Melika*; villagers in *sudd*; elephants in *sudd*; ferry at Bentiu on the Bahr el Ghazal; landing at Yong Yang mission station; *ambach* raft Interval during which G.W. Power describes the film shown so far as documentary evidence from his life in the Sudan. He married in 1929 and his wife joined him in the Sudan. In 1931 they bought a cine camera and from then until 1949 they recorded scenes illustrating their personal lives, as well as G.W. Power's official duties. The following scenes are of a more personal nature; G.W. Power and Mrs. Power feature frequently. There is no commentary, but there are numerous titles.

Sudan 1931-1939; a pictorial souvenir

Gordon statue, Khartoum 1931; Khartoum zoo; picnic breakfast on the banks of the Nile near Soba with "Jebels" and "Elk" (dogs); motorcar; herd of goats; Khartoum races, military band playing;

Omdurman bridge; *fallukas*; steamer; G.W. Power's garden at Khartoum-G.W. Power and Mrs. Power with dogs and child; river picnics on the Blue Nile with Mabel and Dorothy Byford, the Browns, Crandle, Elk, the Furzes, the Henrys and the Pattersons; *saqiyah*; Mrs. Power and syce with "Brandy" and "Soda" (horses) at Kassala; station; pounding millet near house in Kassala; flowers in garden; tenicoits in the garden at Kassala with Rod Graham and the Birnies and Hoggs; lion cub; horse rolling in dust; pony and cart in garden; swimming pool at Sennar and the dam; G.W. Power and Mrs. Power climbing rocks; view from top; travelling house and motor inspection trolley at Gebeit, Red Sea Hills; Shendi; Nile at Mutmir; rolling stock in station at Port Sudan; tennis at the Red Sea Club, Port Sudan and harbour scenes; diving board at Port Sudan swimming pool; house and garden at Port Sudan

Homeward bound via the Red Sea, 1936

Picking up shipwrecked Italian sailors; boat drill; Suez canal and Anzac memorial; [short section in colour] Port Said harbour and harbour front buildings, the old *Mauretania* in the background; [reverts to black and white] coaling ship in Port Said; tug towing small boat; [colour] passing through the Strait of Messina; Stromboli, from the ship; [black and white and colour] shipboard life and Sunday crew inspection; Marseilles, unloading cargo from ship; docks

Homeward bound down the Nile from Wadi Halfa via Egypt, Majorca, Spain and France

[Black and white] Wadi Halfa from the steamer; banks of the Nile; Abu Simbel; Philae, Elephantine Island and Aswan; Cairo railway station; Alexandria, ships in harbour; Naples; leaving the SS *Pegu* at Palma, Majorca; with Uncle Egbert at his hotel and town scenes in Majorca; to Soller and back by car; horse and plough; Barcelona; Carcassonne-women washing clothes in river, street scenes and castle; market at Toulouse; train journey; arriving home

3. Maps

SAD.783/10/73[MP] [ca. 1930]

Sudan Government Railways map S.5.149 by G.W. Power, Bankhead
Engineer, of the Kassala-Sennar railway extension, built 1926-1929

4. Newspaper Cuttings

SAD.783/10/66-68 1928 Mar 13

Part copy of *The Times East Africa and Sudan Number*

SAD.783/10/69-72 1973 Mar 27

The Times special report to mark the state visit of President Numairy to Britain

5. Printed material

Separated printed material now in Durham University Library

Printed material deposited with collection; now integrated into the library's printed collections and catalogued on the Open Public Access Catalogue