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Catalogue of the papers of A. W. Polden

Date range of material:

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Preface

Creation of catalogue

WP list JH July 1998. SGML RIH June 1999. Additional catalogue entries JB June 2010.

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Introduction

Collection title: Polden, A. W.

Reference code: GB-0033-SAD

Dates of creation:

Extent: 1.5 boxes

Repository: Durham University Library, Archives and Special Collections: Sudan Archive

Creator: material relating to service in the Sudan

Language of material: English

Anthony William Polden

(1924 - 1997)

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|-----------|---|
| 1949-1950 | Veterinary Inspector, Wad Medani, Blue Nile Province |
| 1950-1955 | Veterinary Inspector/Senior Veterinary Inspector Fangak/Malakal, Central Nuer District, Upper Nile Province |

Arrangement

1. Official Papers
2. Personal Papers
3. Memoirs
4. Photographic Material
5. Miscellanea

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*

Printed references should take the form: SAD *reference number*.

1. Official Papers

- SAD.739/10/1-5 1949 Dec 29
Polden's Sudan Government contract of employment
- SAD.995/6/1-3 1953 Jun 3
Polden's Sudan Government identity certificate
- SAD.995/6/4 1953 Oct 30
Letter from Polden to D.G. Clow, Senior Veterinary Inspector, Malakal, concerning his interrogation of two Murle men about the deaths of local game
- SAD.739/10/6-8 1954 Sep 9
Establishments circular letter no.30/1954 concerning the procedure to be followed in cases of expatriate officials whose service is terminated
- SAD.739/10/9-15 [c.1955]
"Some notes on the Nuer Districts", by Polden including names of tribes and their chiefs, and note of diseases encountered in each district

2. Personal Papers

- SAD.739/10/42 1949 Dec 24
Letter from Mr. Kfoury, Belgravia Dairy, Khartoum North to a friend of Polden's father offering advice to the prospective candidate and describing life in the Sudan
- SAD.995/1/1-112 1950 Jan 10-1951 Jan 4
Letters from A.W. Polden to his parents written during his role as Veterinary Inspector at Wad Medani and, later, Fangak. The letters are chiefly of a personal nature, but also include occasional references to his work, including an inventory of items he intends to take on trek (SAD.995/1/5-7); descriptions of the trek, including his inspection of government donkeys in the Gezira (SAD.995/1/8); the landscape of Singa (SAD.995/1/9), a stopover at Roseires (SAD.995/1/10); the non-Arabic speaking inhabitants of Ingessana and his impression of the Sudanese D.C. for Sennar, Da'ud al-Khalifa `Abd Allahi (SAD.995/1/11); the landscape of Kurmuk and its role in the Second World War (SAD.995/1/12); a further trek to Kurmuk including his encounter with the Jum-Jum tribe (SAD.995/1/16-18); an account of a tribal court at Bau in the Ingessana Hills (SAD.995/1/20); a plan to evade Abyssinian currency restrictions relating to the selling of mules, and the landscape near Yabus (SAD.995/1/21-24); delivering an Abyssinian woman's baby (SAD.995/1/26); his opinions on the character of the Northern Sudanese, and the various political schools of thought associated with Sudanese independence (SAD.995/1/28-30); his dislike of Sudanese Effendis (SAD.995/1/45-49); trips to the Wad Medani *suq* to rescue mistreated animals (SAD.995/1/53-57); his arrival at Fangak to take up a new post as Senior Veterinary Inspector, sketch maps of his new station and house, a description of its organisation, as well as descriptions of Nuer clothing and mannerisms (SAD.995/1/102-105); his frustration at the railway strikes, and the nuances of Nuer language (SAD.995/1/106-109). Enclosure:
- SAD.995/1/86-88 1950 Nov 4
Letter to Polden from P. Durran, Senior Veterinary Inspector, Malakal, with advice on servants and accommodation at Fangak
- SAD.759/6/1-45 1950 Mar 10 - Aug 8
Letters from Polden at Wad Medani to his mother, mainly concerning personal and family matters but including descriptions of a visit to Kosti (SAD.759/6/1-3); account of a trek to Abyssinia to buy mules (SAD.759/6/4-14); a visit to Dinder National Park, a concert for a girls' school and the sinking of a steamer at Malakal with resulting loss of life (SAD.759/6/19-21); the effects of Ramadan on everyday life (759/6/27-29); outbreak of anthrax at the research farm (SAD.759/6/40-42); treatment of a calf with tetanus (SAD.759/6/32-37); petrol shortage, anti-cruelty inspections in the *suq* and a dog destruction campaign in the Gezira villages (SAD.759/6/52-56)

- SAD.739/10/16-27 1951 Jan 20-Feb 20
Letters from Polden at Fangak, to his mother describing his first attempt at big game shooting (SAD.739/10/22-25) and a fire in the dairy at Fangak (SAD.739/10/26)
- SAD.995/2/1-118 1951 Jan 26–1952 Jan 1
Letters from Polden to his mother written during his time as Senior Veterinary Inspector, Upper Nile Province. The letters are chiefly of a personal nature, but also include frequent references to his work with the Nuer, including his successful attempt in stopping a fight between two rival villages near Fangak (SAD.995/2/8-10); a description of his Sudanese colleagues (SAD.995/2/11-13); his work at Fangak administering cattle injections, as well as his opinions on the Nuer character (SAD.995/2/14-15); the curiosity of the Nuer towards a wireless radio (SAD.995/2/15-16); his descriptions of the wildlife near Fagali (SAD.995/2/26-30); a brief description of a Nuer cattle camp, and the Nuer concept of adultery (SAD.995/2/37-39); his opinions on Sudanisation (SAD.995/2/90-91, 111-112); and his concerns about the future administration of Southern Sudan following independence (SAD.995/2/101-103)
- SAD.995/3/1-207 1952 Jan 5–Dec 19
Letters from A. W. Polden to his mother written during his time as Senior Veterinary Inspector, Upper Nile Province. The letters are chiefly of a personal nature, but also include references to his veterinary work and life on trek, including his opinion of Dinka names, and on compensation for British officials following Sudanese independence (SAD.995/3/25-30); breaking up a tribal fight involving the Nuer (SAD.995/3/35-37); inoculating Dinka cattle (SAD.995/3/42); a District Commissioners' meeting at Fangak (SAD.995/3/50-52); strikes in Khartoum (SAD.995/3/82-83); and his opinions of the Dinka at Rom (SAD.995/3/98-102)
- SAD.995/4/1-204 1953 Jan 6-Dec 27
Letters from A. W. Polden to his mother written during his time as Senior Veterinary Inspector, Upper Nile Province. The letters are chiefly of a personal nature, but also include references to his veterinary work and life on trek, including a case involving the stabbing of Nuer cattle at Ler (SAD.995/4/4-7); the need to set up a Commission to accomplish Sudanisation (SAD.995/4/33-36); the reaction of the tribal chiefs and educated Sudanese towards self-government (SAD.995/4/36-40); his trip to Duk FadiAt to inoculate Nuer cattle following an outbreak of Anthrax (SAD.995/4/121-125); the postponement of the elections in Bor due to a large contingent of Dinka turn up armed at the polling station, and Polden's initiation in a Dinka naming ceremony including a detailed description of this ceremony (SAD.995/4/156-162)

SAD.995/5/1-184 1954 Jan 2-1955 Mar 23

Letters from A. W. Polden to his mother written during his time as Veterinary Inspector at Malakal. The letters are chiefly of a personal nature, but also describe his daily routine, life on trek, etc., and contain frequent references to Sudanisation, including riots in Khartoum and the new political system (SAD.995/5/46-51,53-54); plans to hand in his resignation (SAD.995/5/64-65); and the attack by the Nuer on the Sudanese District Commissioner for Renk (SAD.995/5/133-135).

Enclosure:

SAD.995/5/52,63 1954 Feb 23

Receipt for the private sale of ivory by Polden to Shaykh El Awad Khalifa and Shaykh Elias Basid, with related letter from the Game Warden to the Manager of the National Bank of Egypt in Khartoum

3. Memoirs

These memoirs, based on accounts in his letters home, were written in later life

- SAD.895/5/1-12 [1980s]
 "The rains and the Dinder", an account of Polden's life in Blue Nile Province from 1949-1950, including a trip to Rufa`a and Hassaheiss to inject police camels and to the Dinder National Park
- SAD.739/10/28-40 [1980s]
 "The Upper Nile from a veterinary point of view", a short memoir of Polden's life and work at Fangak, in Central Nuer District
- SAD.995/6/5-13 [1980s]
 Account by Polden entitled "A trek in the Batana"
- SAD.995/6/14-24 [1980s]
 Account by Polden entitled "Anthrax and another elephant" concerning an outbreak of anthrax amongst elephants in Malakal
- SAD.995/6/25-38 [1980s]
 Account by Polden entitled "Fangak", relating to his time as Veterinary Inspector there, with copy of a section of the 1:250,000 map showing the position of Fangak
- SAD.995/6/39-48 [1980s]
 Account by Polden entitled "Dinka initiation", concerning a Dinka initiation ceremony, arranged by Chief Deng Achol, when Polden received his bull name
- SAD.995/6/49-57 [1980s]
 Notebook with rough notes by A.W. Polden for his memoirs

4. Photographic Material

Upper Nile Province

- SAD.760/6/1-2 [1950-1955]
Polden on trek:
- SAD.760/6/1 [1950-1955]
Seated at table looking through microscope
- SAD.760/3/2 [1950-1955]
Standing by tent with servants
- SAD.760/6/3 [1950-1955]
Polden's house at Fangak
- SAD.760/6/4 [1950-1955]
Polden's servants
- SAD.760/6/5-6 [1950-1955]
Polden with lorry on trek
- SAD.760/6/7 [1950-1955]
Sentry on guard (Equatorial Corps?) before the *Sir Lee Stack* steamer
- SAD.760/6/8-13 Nuer cattle camp:
[1950-1955]
Cattle collecting for vaccination
- SAD.760/6/9 [1950-1955]
Administering ethidium bromide vaccination
- SAD.760/6/10 [1950-1955]
Nuer with song bull
- SAD.760/6/11 [1950-1955]
Nuer milking cow
- SAD.760/6/12-13 [1950-1955]
Nuer with bulls
- SAD.760/6/14 [1950-1955]
Young Nuer male
- SAD.760/6/15-16 [1950-1955]
Fishing on the River Sobat
- SAD.760/6/17 [1950-1955]
Two Nuer girls
- SAD.48/15/1-48 [1950-1955]
Series of contact prints (many duplicates of above) including:
- SAD.48/15/1 [1950-1955]
Nuer village, Central Nuer District
- SAD.48/15/2-3 [1950-1955]
Nuer boy, Central Nuer District
- SAD.48/15/4 [1950-1955]
Nuer children, Central Nuer District
- SAD.48/15/5 [1950-1955]
Nuer woman and boy, Central Nuer District
- SAD.48/15/6-7 [1950-1955]
Nuer girl, Central Nuer District

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| SAD.48/15/8 | [1950-1955] Nuer girls, Central Nuer District |
| SAD.48/15/9 | [1950-1955] Nuer woman and man, Central Nuer District |
| SAD.48/15/10 | [1950-1955] Nuer man fishing, Khor Machar |
| SAD.48/15/11-12 | [1950-1955] Nuer men fishing, Khor Machar |
| SAD.48/15/13 | [1950-1955] Nuer man fishing in the Sobat River |
| SAD.48/15/14 | [1950-1955] Nuer men in canoe, Central Nuer District |
| SAD.48/15/15-16 | [1950-1955] Nuer men offloading a refrigerator from a truck |
| SAD.48/15/17 | [1950-1955] Nuer warrior, Central Nuer District |
| SAD.48/15/18 | [1950-1955] Nuer herdsman, Central Nuer District |
| SAD.48/15/19 | [1950-1955] Nuer herdsman with cow, Central Nuer District |
| SAD.48/15/20 | [1950-1955] Nuer herdsmen with cattle, Central Nuer District |
| SAD.48/15/21 | [1950-1955] Nuer boy miliking cow, Central Nuer District |
| SAD.48/15/22-23 | [1950-1955] Nuer cattle assembled for vaccination, Central Nuer District |
| SAD.48/15/24 | [1950-1955] Nuer calf, Central Nuer District |
| SAD.48/15/25-26 | [1950-1955] Nuer cow, Central Nuer District |
| SAD.48/15/27 | [1950-1955] Tasselled song bull, Central Nuer District |
| SAD.48/15/28 | [1950-1955] Two Nuer cows (Belieth and Steer) |
| SAD.48/15/29-30 | [1950-1955] Mounted police section |
| SAD.48/15/31-32 | [1950-1955] Shilluk dance, Malakal |
| SAD.48/15/33 | [1950-1955] Shilluk warriors, Malakal |
| SAD.48/15/34 | [1950-1955] A.W. Polden with Sudanese veterinary staff |
| SAD.48/15/35 | [1950-1955] Sudanese veterinary staff |
| SAD.48/15/36 | 1952 Oct A.W. Polden's pony, "Cahore" |
| SAD.48/15/37 | [1950-1955] Veterinary camp, Central Nuer District |
| SAD.48/15/38 | [1950-1955] Steamer tied up, Central Nuer District |

SAD.48/15/39 [1950-1955]
Lion cubs

SAD.48/15/40-41 [1950-1955]
Jackal pup

SAD.48/15/42-43 [1950-1955]
Sudan Veterinary Service pick-up truck

SAD.48/15/44-45 [1950-1955]
Sunset on the Nile

SAD.48/15/46 [1950-1955]
River scene

SAD.48/15/47 [1950-1955]
Landscape, Central Nuer District

SAD.48/15/48 [1950-1955]
Tree, Central Nuer District

5. Miscellanea

- SAD.739/10/41 [1950s]
“Sudan 1955” and “1986”, two humorous verses by Polden on the handover of power
- SAD.995/6/58-61 [1950s]
Humorous verses, probably by Polden, entitled “The Maleish Bird”, “Buer Neasts”, and “Lines written in dijection [sic] at Kilo 50”