

BRITISH PICTORIAL PRODUCTIONS LTD.

127, Wardour St., W.1.

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BRITISH TROOPS AT CAMBODIAN WATER FESTIVAL. RONALD NOBLE.

At Phnom Penh the ~~Kmptakl~~ Capital of Cambodia, Army, Air Force and Navy were invited to witness the Famous Water Festival which has been held annually for thousands of years.

The Festival is held in celebration of the tidal waters of the river being pushed back to the sea by the flood waters, (similar to the Severn Bore, I imagine). The significance being that the floods are almost over, the water recedes to the sea and the crops are no longer in danger.

The young 24 year old king, attends the festival, and, as one canoe from each village passes the floating palace where the king lives, the village leader shouts his compliments or complaints to the King. The one day in the year when he can insult the King face to face - the only difficulty was that the King didn't listen or go close enough to hear so much so that it was impossible to get a shot of him and the canoes at the same time.

After the chiefs have belly-ached the canoes with their crews of forty oarsmen go p river to the starting post, and then race down the river like mad in pairs, the race finishing just in front of the floating palace.

This goes on for three days, and the last day the King presents cups to the winning teams. Unfortunately the presentation takes place after dark with almost no lighting. This applies also to the most interesting parts of the festival.

When the last day is over the Cambodgians return to their village happy in the knowledge that prosperity will arrive in the ensuing months and that all their complaints have had a fair hearing!

NOBLE.

Box No. 14350

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BRITISH TROOPS AT WATER FESTIVAL (Noble). 500 ft. Plus X.

Roll 1.

Crews of the Cambodian canoes massing near the palace before they go up river to race. (several shots) Paddling up river, past the crowded river side.

Note All shots going right to left are shots before the race. Village chiefs standing up shouting to the King while at the same they dance in the Cambodian *xygal*. style.

Roll 2.

Racing down the river flat out. Several shots coming head on and passing the camera; streaking down to the winning post. (Two small boats anchored mid river) There is no set starting point, they all swing round in pairs and then race for the post. Passing the winning post. Several shots. One shot of the Judge sitting in one of the small markboats. He beats the drum as the first canoe goes past the line.

Roll 3.

English troops walking along road in front of Royal Palace.
British walking through Cambodian guard of honour and down steps into floating palace.
Floating palace, S.V.
Cambodian crowd watching from banks.
Privileged spectators under awning.
General Alessandrie and Brigadier Woodford arrive.
Shot of all British sitting by water's edge, on chairs British in foreground and canoes passing in background
Young King of Cambodia with British and French General on either side.
One long shot taken in evening of the race finishing in the distance and spectators in the foreground.

Most taken in sunlight, but last roll in flat light.