

104337

ASSOCIATED BRITISH-PATHE LTD.

From HOWARD THOMAS,

Producer-in-Chief.



To MR. G. T. CUPPINS,

Editor,
Newsreel Department.

Please refer to NY/MI

14th January, 19 52

IRAQ PIPELINE

Herewith some background information which may be useful for the commentary of this story.



Enc: "Oil Production from Iraq's Basrah Concession," and small map.

To Basra and all Iraq comes now for which the people have long waited. In parts of Basra and towns of Iraq life goes on much as it has done for many centuries, the old streets and busy markets but modern Iraq is a go ahead young country. While the old style markets serve their purpose, the Iraq lives in no pipe dreams of past glories but in other ways there are changes, for instance motor cars which replace camels in the town streets. The old methods are still used to raise water for the crops, with wealth there could be water ~~in plenty~~ to bring back fertility to the desert that long ago were fruitful places. But wealth in Iraq was absent until man found oil deep below the unproductive sands. To Basra comes Nuri Pasha el-Said whose mission is to release the oil for Iraq and with it the wealth to give the country so much that is needed. From England came Mr. Gibson the head of the Iraq and Basra Petroleum Companies to join with Nuri Pasha in the dedication ceremony. Zubair is now a strange place of many wonders, from its sandy wastes, oil will begin to flow to the markets of the world at the turn of a wheel by the Prime Minister. Deep beneath the desert sand, nature has created a vast reservoir of the precious oil urgently needed to drive the wheels of the world's industry. After years of exploring and research the field was discovered by engineers of the Basra Petroleum Company who have invested many millions of pounds to render the field productive and build pipe lines to carry the oil to the sea. The turn of this wheel will set free the precious stream which will bring many benefits to the land of Iraq. Now the great moment has arrived and the Prime Minister Nuri Pasha el-Said turns the wheel and the oil starts to flow. Twelve wells have already been filled and completed since the company first found oil in commercial quantities in 1928. In this field many Iraqis have found well payed work on which a man can justly be proud. Here at Zubair it was necessary to form a two mile deep into the/pregnated sand. Each drilling costs many thousands oil

of pounds. Its a strange business to those who have known the freedom of the desert and who have suffered from its fruitlessness, from the wells the oil goes to a pumping station whence it begins to flow to Basra. The building of this great enterprise took much time but this day marks the end of one and the beginning of another phase. With the oil now flowing a lunch was given to celebrate the inauguration and Mr. Gibson told the story near to him were the American Ambassador and Jamil Bey Al Madfa'ie. Mr. Gibson told how the work was speeded up by nine months. Guest of honour, Prime Minister Nuri Pasha el-Said outlined his government's plans for utilizing the riches that oil will bring to the benefit of the people of Iraq. For many years they have waited for this day and there were those who became impatient as the years passed, now the waiting is over, they look for many benefits from this great enterprise. This is how boring is done, at the end of long sections of pipe is a cutter which bites into the earth, foot upon foot, yard upon yard. As the depth increases they pull up the pipe and fit another section. Deeper and deeper into the rocky earth the drilling goes on until the precious fuel is reached. Many Iraqis are learning to carry out this highly skilled work. From Zubair a pipe line runs 70 miles to Fao on the Persian Gulf, to this new port comes the tankers of the world aloed with the precious cargo. Great storage tanks have been built to store the tankers for drilling is only a part of the job done. To reap the rich oil harvest it must be taken to the markets of the world the tankers will carry it safely and swiftly. To Fao comes the British Ambassador to see at first hand, this great industry commence operations, many nations are participating in this enterprise and they will pour wealth into Iraq which will enable the building of hospitals and schools, and the promotion of social schemes which will help the peoples of the country to a better life. In the long by-gone days, so the stories tell, the desert was rich and fruitful to supply the people of the land now the desert once again yeilds riches through the join labour of East and West.

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C O P Y

HT/FK

12th November, 1951.

Mrs. D. Shearer,
Secretary,
Newsreel Association of Great Britain
& Ireland Ltd.

Queen's House,
Leicester Place,
Leicester Square W.C.2.

Dear Mrs. Shearer,

NEW OIL FIELD AT BASRA

We have reached agreement with the Iraq Petroleum Co., to film the ceremony on January 10th, 1952, when a new oil field and pipe line will be opened at Basra, with a potential output of 6,000,000 tons a year.

Our cameraman has been allocated the only seat available on a specially chartered plane which will be flying to Basra. At the request of Iraq Petroleum Co., however, and in view of the national importance of the subject, we have agreed to supply all other newsreels with material, for mutual release.

In view of this, perhaps any members who are interested in this story will advise us, and we will arrange to supply lavenders. It seems to be a story which we should all send overseas for the sake of British prestige. The Iraq Petroleum Company's ownership is half British, quarter French and a quarter American.

As free transport will be provided, the remaining costs are not likely to be high.

We would also like to know members views as to whether or not this material should be supplied to B.B.C. Television. In our opinion, it would be difficult to refuse a request from them, as the "National interest" agreement would apply equally.

Yours sincerely,
ASSOCIATED BRITISH-PATHE LTD.,

HOWARD THOMAS,
PRODUCER-IN-CHIEF.

C O P Y

FROM: PARAMOUNT NEWS.

13th November, 1951.

Mr. Howard Thomas,
Producer-in-Chief,
Messrs. Associated British-Pathé, Ltd.,
133-135, Oxford Street,
LONDON, W. 1.

Dear Howard:

With reference to your letter of 12th November in regard to the filming of the new oil field and pipe line in Iraq on January 10th, 1952, I should like a copy of this material.

I agree that it may be difficult to refuse a copy of the film to the B.B.C. T.V. Newsreel and in my view it should be given if asked for, and not otherwise, subject to an agreement on release date to coincide precisely with the agreed release date of our newsreel.

Yours sincerely,

E. J. H. WRIGHT.
EDITOR:

EJHW/WTR.

C O P Y

FROM: BRITISH MOVIESTOCKS, LTD.,

23rd November, 1951.

Howard Thomas, Esq.,
Associated British-Pathe Ltd.,
133, Oxford Street,
W.1.

Dear Mr. Howard Thomas,

New Oil Field at Basra

Many thanks for your letter of the 12th instant on the above subject addressed to the M.R.A., a copy of which you were good enough to send me.

We shall be glad to take advantage of your offer to supply us with a lavender of this subject, on the basis set out in your letter.

I am in agreement with the opinion you express, that it would be difficult to refuse a request from the B.B.C. for Television to be supplied with this material, but may I put forward the thought that it would probably be legitimate not to offer it.

Yours sincerely,

GORDON CRAIG.

From: Mr. H. J. Field

To: Mr. G. T. Cummins,
Mr. N. Roper.
Miss M. Pengelly.
Mr. V. Grahams.

7th January, 1952.

NEW PIPE LINE - BASRA

We had a meeting with Dr. Barber, Iraq Petroleum Co., on Thursday last and the following points were agreed.

1. Baynes will bring the film with him when he returns on Sunday, 13th January. He will be met at London Airport by an I.P.C. official and N.T.A. representative, to facilitate clearance through Customs. If there is any change in these arrangements Baynes will cable.
2. We shall service other reels wanting the story with a long out by Tuesday, 15th January, so that they may include the story in the release for Thursday, 17th January. B.B.C. Television may have the material, provided they ask for it and agree release date.
3. We shall service Pathe Journal and Warner-Pathe, who in turn will service French and American newareels.
4. It is hoped to release the special newareel in Iraq on Monday, 21st January, and for this purpose 2 x 35m.m. prints will be required by Friday, 18th January. A further 10 x 16m.m. prints will be required as soon as possible after this date. This is their total print requirement and cancels the previous order for 8 x 35m.m. prints.
5. I.P.C. will also require an English version of the section devoted to the opening of the pipe-line, and they will let us know their print requirements later.
6. It was agreed that the newareel would consist of the following stories:
 1. Opening of New pipe line.
 2. Churchill in America (latest story).
 3. Football (3rd Round Cup Tie).or
Circus (Christmas story).

with a total length of approximately 900 ft. and roughly

600 ft. being devoted to the Pipe-line story. Titles in Iraqi have been put in hand.

7. The Commentator for the Iraq version will be:

Mr. Mangasar,
c/o Iraq Petroleum Co.
Oxford Street,
W. 1.

and he will be coming in to record the Circus story as a voice test on Wednesday, 9th January at 2p.m.

If you will nominate an editor to handle this I shall be glad to discuss the whole thing with him.