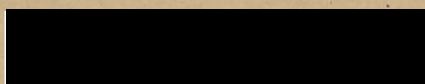




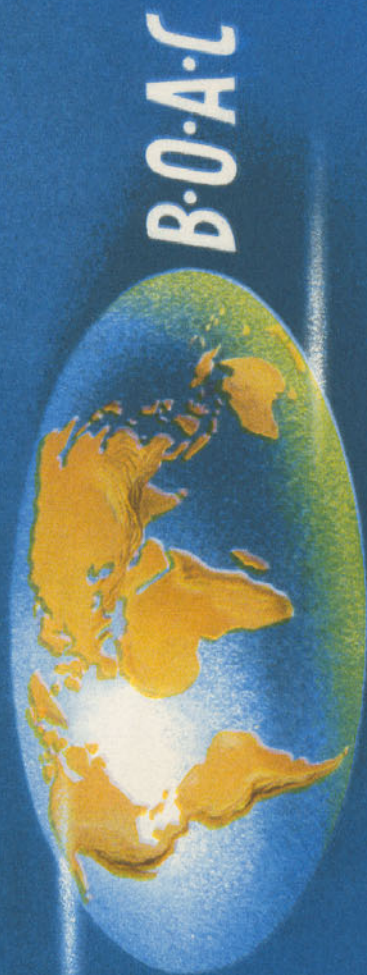
TESSA GOLDSMITH

28, LAWN ROAD,

LONDON, N.W.3.



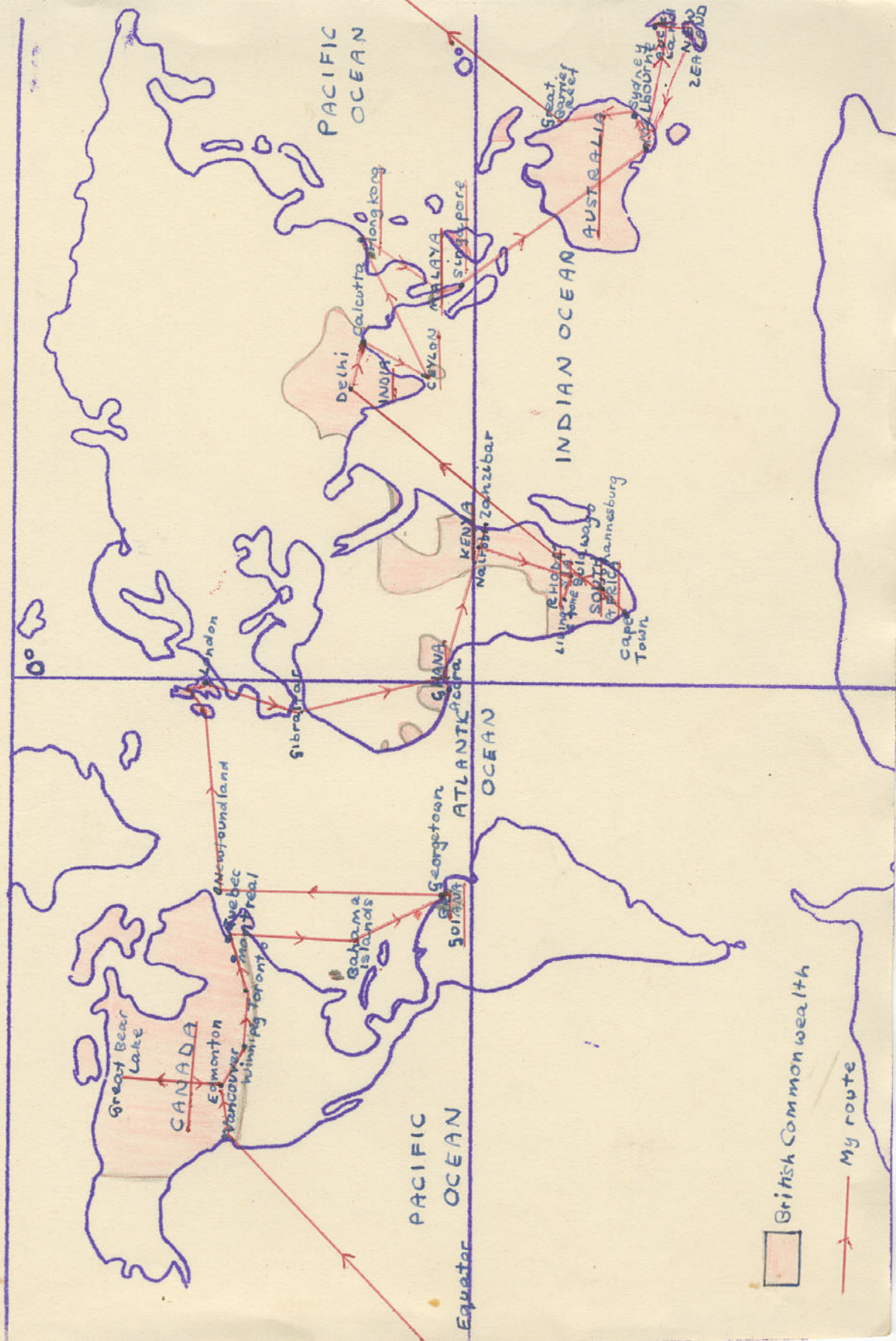
SOUTH HAMPSTEAD HIGH SCHOOL.



B·O·A·C



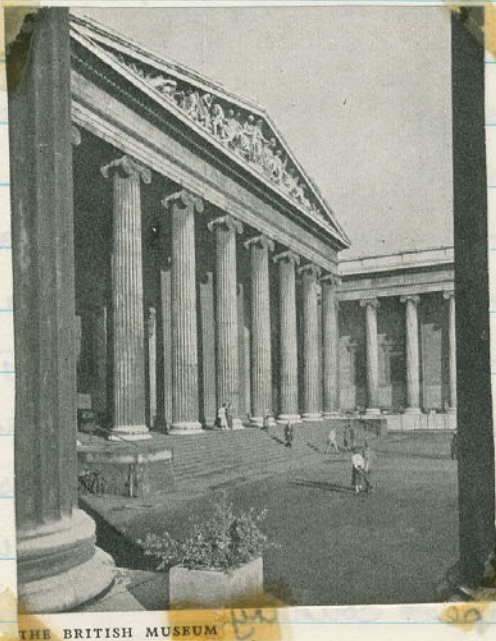
MY JOURNEY



AROUND THE COMMONWEALTH IN EIGHTY DAYS.

I have often dreamed about this journey, and hope that one day I shall make it. Unlike Phileas Fogg my aim will not only be to manage the journey in the allotted time, but to see as many interesting and varied places as possible. The Commonwealth is vast, it girdles the earth, and contains almost all types of regions. A journey round the Commonwealth would therefore also be a journey round the world, and that is the journey I would make.

I flew off in July from London, my home town.



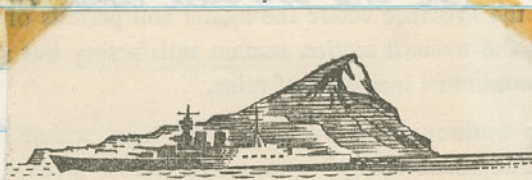


MARBLE PARK CORNER and APSLEY HOUSE, now the WELLINGTON MUSEUM

APSLEY HOUSE IS KNOWN AS
NUMBER ONE LONDON.



London's New Air
Terminal



GIBRALTAR

Before landing at Gibraltar I got an interesting aerial view of this solitary lion-shaped rock, commanding the narrow straits, important and interesting because of its position. I saw the fortress and the Moorish relics, played with the little Barbary Apes, and left late at night for West Africa (Moorish relics are few in the Commonwealth).

In the early morning I saw the thick mangrove forests and the surf in the coastal waters of Ghana, broken only round Accra, its capital, where a modern harbour has been constructed. I was interested to see how this newest member of the Commonwealth was finding its feet as an indepen^{dent} country.



YOUNG
AFRICANS
IN
TRAINING

I saw the modern town and its surroundings, and took a coach trip into the countryside. Amidst the tropical greenery nestled villages with thatched roofed huts, buzzing with lively natives. Nearby were cultivated patches where the inhabitants grew their food - cassava, yams, sugar cane, ground-nuts, maize and some rice. There were also cocoa plantations; natives were busy picking the pods, their small source of income. I was shown a model government farm, established to show the natives how to produce better quality food cocoa.



Sleeping in Ghana, the necessary mosquito nets were a novel experience.

~~Unfortunately I had no time for Nigeria.~~

I arrived at Nairobi, Kenya, in the evening, after having seen some interesting views of the great rift valley of Eastern Africa from the air. I visited this country chiefly because of the abundance of wild animals, famous all over the world.

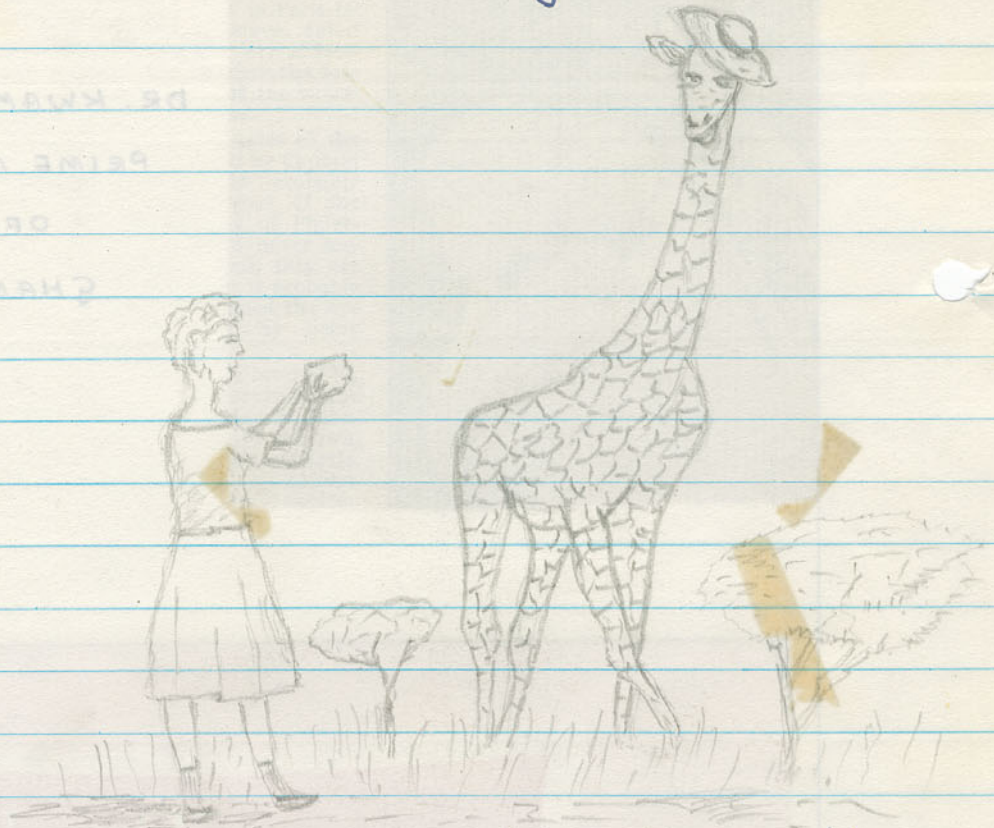


DR. KWAME NKUMAH
PRIME MINISTER
OF
GHANA.



NAIROBI

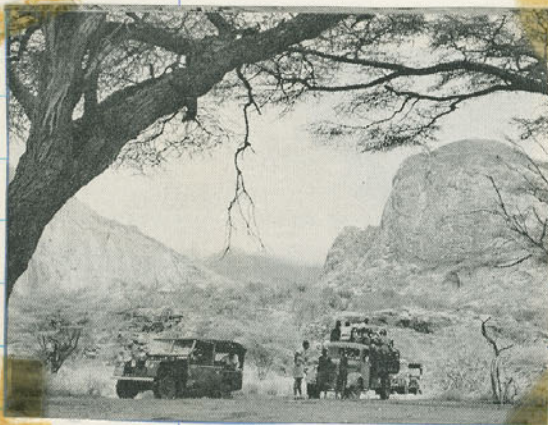
I set off at dawn on Safari, to watch the hunting and to shoot animals (with my camera)



It was an enormous expedition; the Englishmen were accompanied by professional hunters, gun-bearers, porters, and cooks. As we went across the plateau we at first ~~past~~ passed native villages around which cattle grazed and crops grew. There were estates of Europ belonging to Europeans, where native workers grew cotton, maize, coffee on the slopes, and sisal hemp nearer the coast.

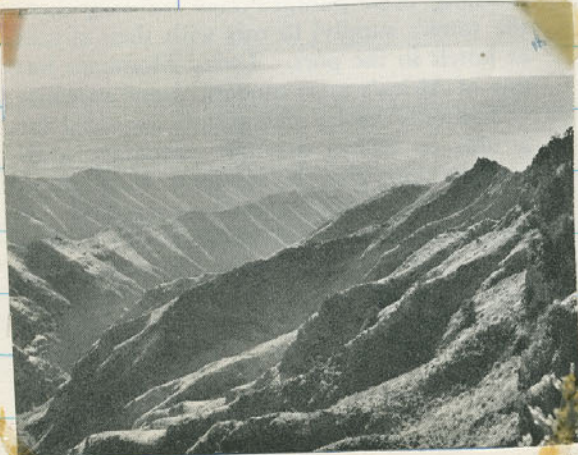
Next day the country became more desolate, and

there was high grass. Soon we could spot wild animals - lions, elephants, giraffes, zebras and others.



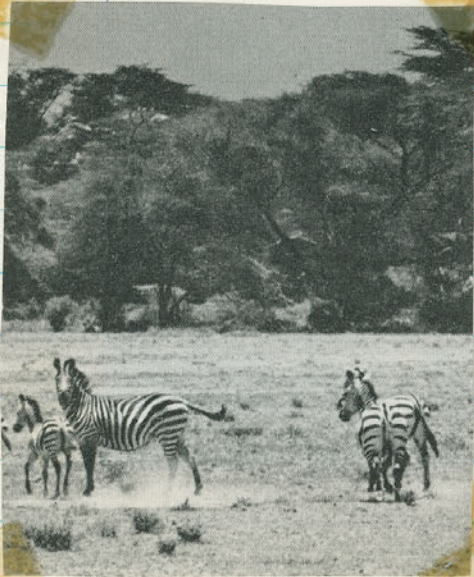
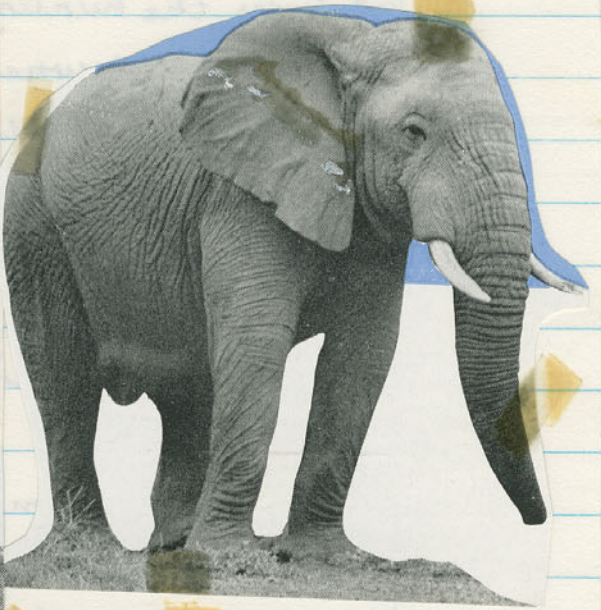
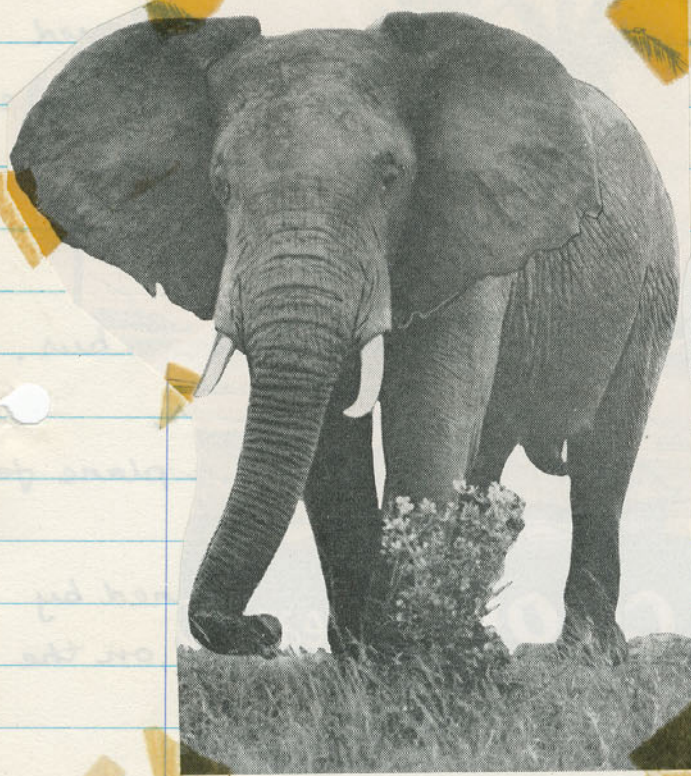
ON SAFARI

THE EDGE OF THE RIFT VALLEY





LIONESS



Although I must admit I felt a little scared at times, the hunting was the most exciting experience of the whole journey. I bought a lion skin from a hunter to show off as my catch.

Regretfully I left the group at a fairly large settlement and returned to Nairobi by local bus.

A day at Zanzibar among the mosques, cloves and Arab dhows, and then aboard a plane for Rhodesia.

By train from Bulawayo, the city planned by Cecil Rhodes, I went to the Victoria Falls, on the Zambezi, near Livingstone

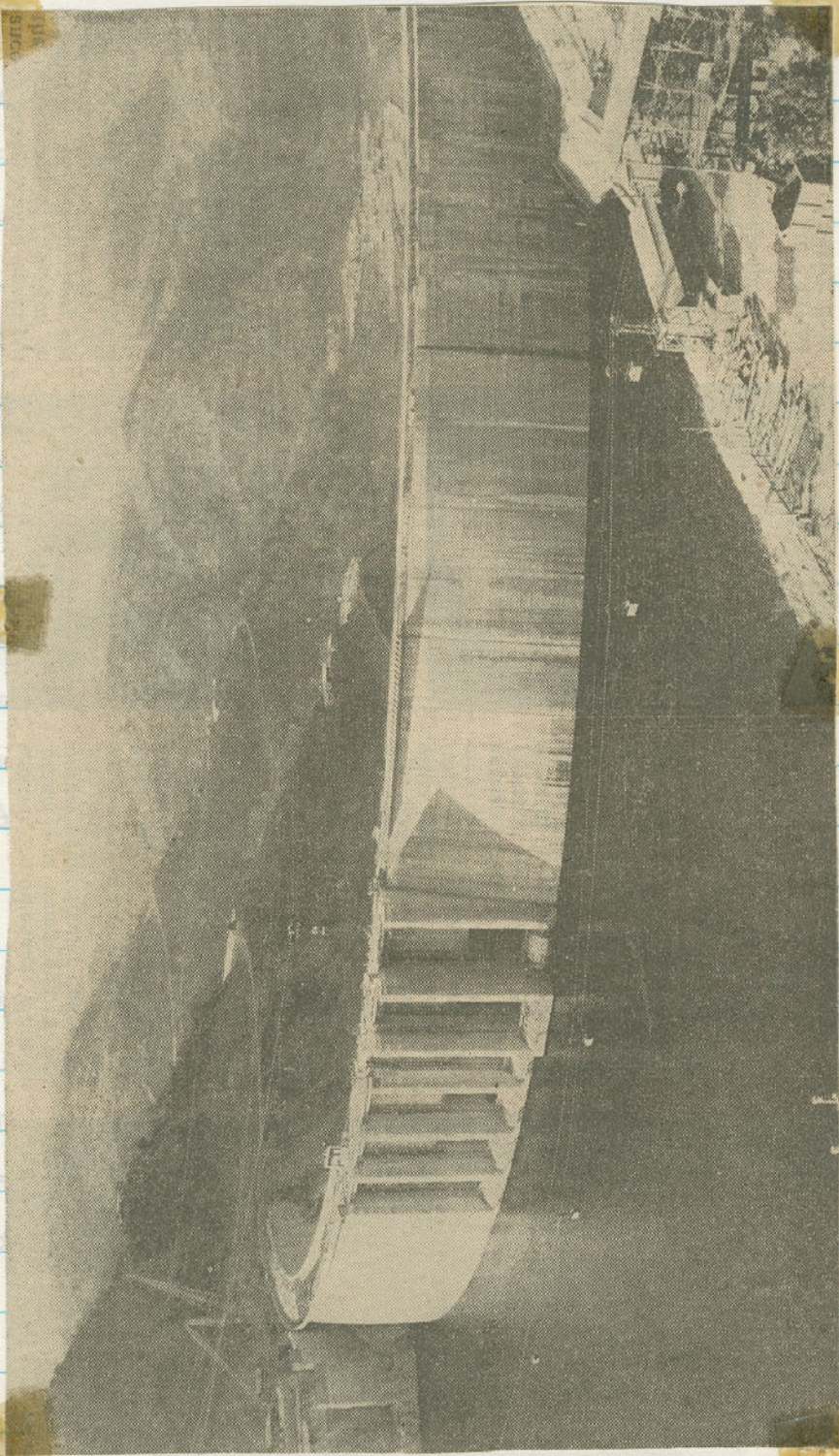


As I peered down from the island that overhangs their brim, into the deep chasm, I felt tiny and frail. I thought of Livingstone, the first white man to see this gigantic spectacle.

I went also to Kariba, 250 miles down river, where the tremendous project for harnessing the waters of the Zambezi was nearing completion. Many methods had been used in Operation Noah, to save the animals from the flood caused by the diverted river. The rhinoceri were shot with hypodermic needles from guns, and, when they were dazed, injected to make them senseless, and dragged through the water, tractor tynes keeping their heads up.

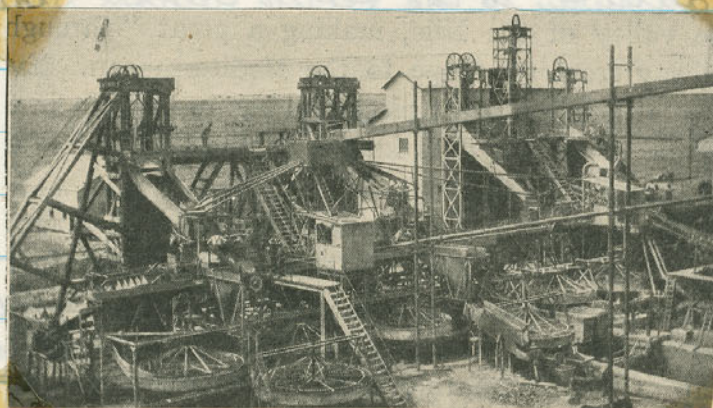


SIR ROY WELENSKY
PRIME MINISTER
OF THE FEDERATION
OF RHODESIA
AND NYASALAND.



KARISA

On the train again, I was speeding through the South African Veld, undulating country. Farms, kraals and mining centres, bushes and baobabs seemed to fly past. I passed the 'Golden City' - Johannesburg; Witwatersrand, the gold-mining area round it; and Kimberley, the diamond town.



A DIAMOND WASHING PLANT AT THE DE BEERS MINES.

Then there was the Mediterranean type area, with its fruit farms. Then I was near Cape Town, admiring the flat 'Table Mountain' with its white tablecloth of mist.

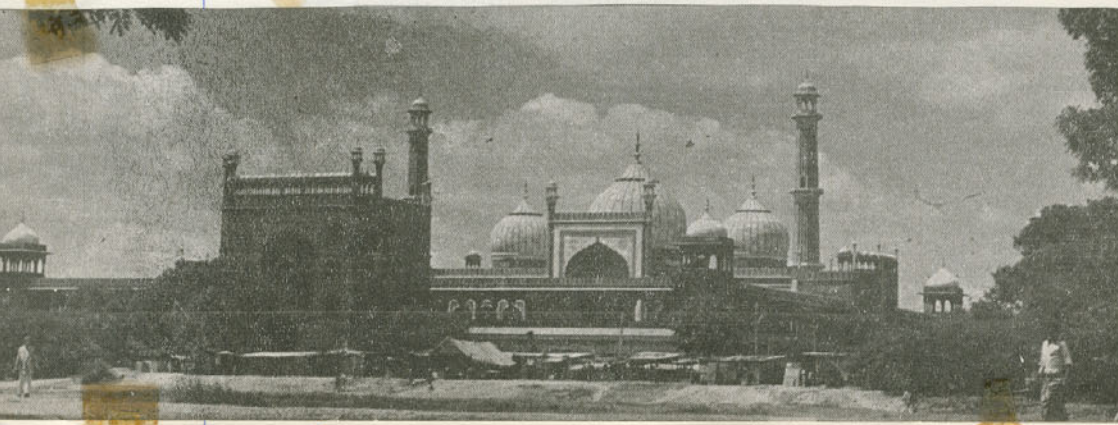


CAPETOWN

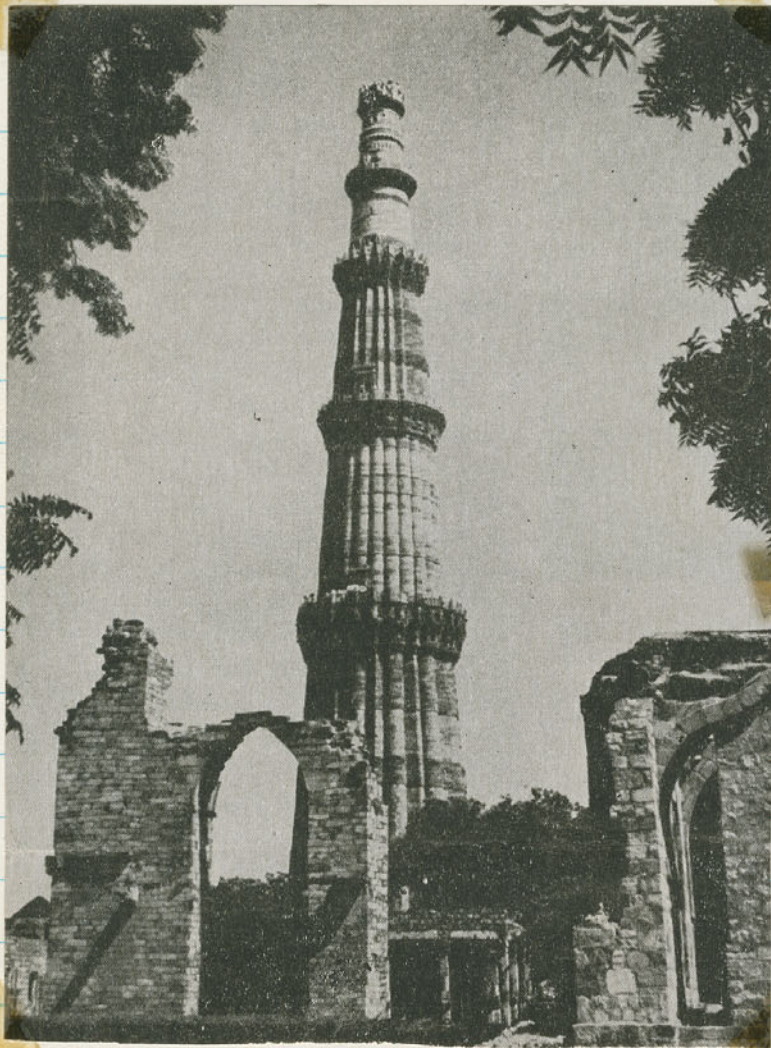
Before long I was aboard a plane, saying farewell to the 'Dark Continent.'

I had arrived at Delhi, India, a city full of echoes of India's varied culture, a text book of Indian history, a famous capital before Alexander's days, gateway to the fertile Ganges plains, centre of the road and rail network of India; a worthy capital for a mighty country.

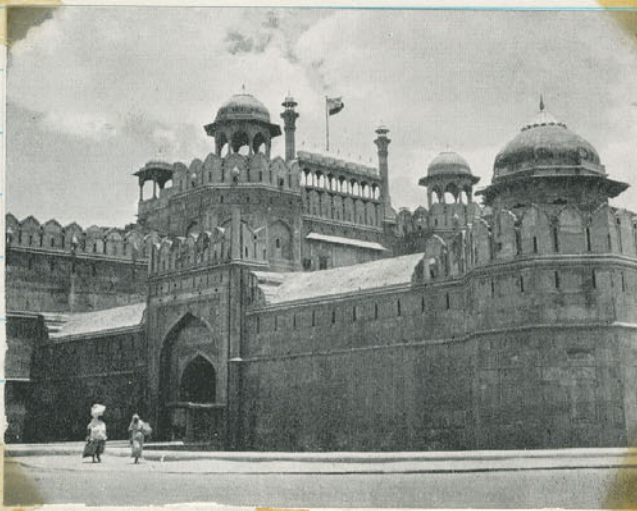
I enjoyed wandering round, soaking in its exhilarating atmosphere. I saw the Qutb Minar, one of the highest stone towers in the world. I saw the remains of a magnificent mosque, ^{probably} ~~perhaps~~ the oldest in India - the Qutub al Islam. I saw the Red Fort, built by Shah Jahan, once said to be 'the most magnificent palace in the East, perhaps in the world'. I saw Delhi's Cathedral Mosque, Jama Masjid, the biggest and loveliest in India.



Jama Masjid :
Built by Emperor
Shah Jahan,
Jama Masjid is
the most beautiful
mosque in India.
Its slender
minarets of
marble and red
sand-stone and
striking domes
are typical of
Mughul architecture.



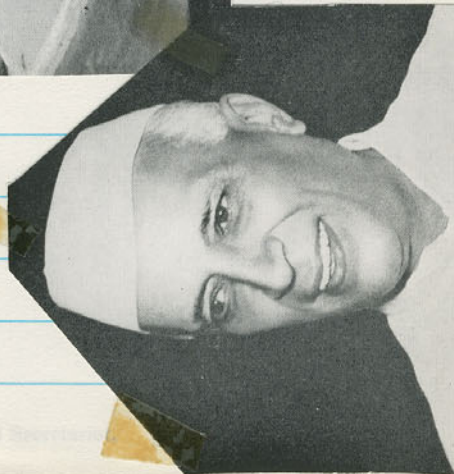
The
Qutb
Minar.



The Red Fort.

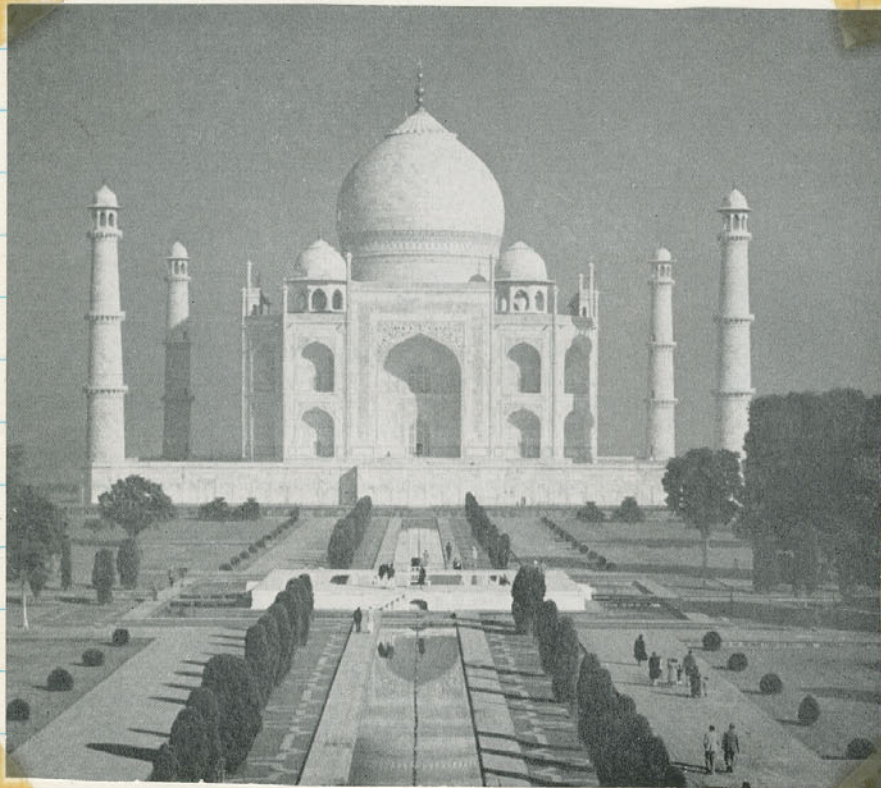


Houses of Parliament, New Delhi



Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru,
Prime Minister of India

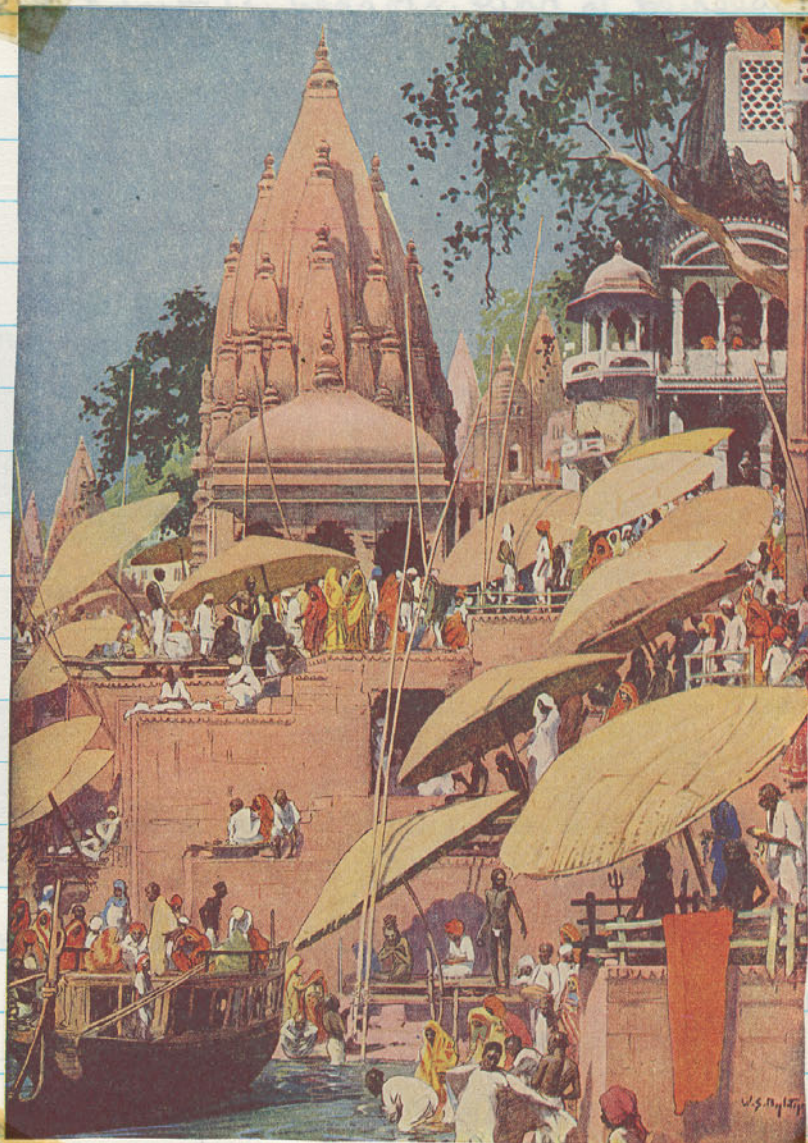
I then took a train across the great plain of Northern India. I stopped at Agra, to visit the Taj Mahal, built of pure white marble, with a golden dome, surrounded by lakes, fountains and gardens. It seemed to have stepped straight out of a fairy tale.



THE TAJ MAHAL AT AGRA, BUILT BY SHAH JAHAN IN MEMORY OF HIS WIFE.

Soon I was at Benares, holy city of the Hindus, where they pilgrimage to worship and bathe in the sacred Ganges. It is a colourful, lively city; the

was teeming with devout pilgrims, although it was the rainy season. There I learnt a little about Hindu cults and religion.



BENARES

Then on through the Bengal. Here were fairly prosperous ~~+~~ villages, spread out among fields of rice and sugar cane. Oxen and buffaloes were used for farm work, irrigation canals intersected the fields.



Paddy sowing

Paddy is another word for rice.

Soon the train pulled up at Calcutta. Here I visited the noisy, fly-infested native bazaar, where Indians bargained and argued at the open stalls, and hawkers cried their wares. Cows, sacred to the Hindus, munched goods from the stalls undisturbed. Even in the modern part of the city the traffic would stop and wait when a cow fancied a rest in the middle of the street.

I paid lightening visits to Ceylon where the tea comes from, and to Hong Kong, the last British hold in China with an exciting Chinese atmosphere, worth a detour if only for the rickshaw ride. I looked in on the rubber plantations of Malaya, and on Singapore, a great port, and formerly an important naval base where now several races live in co-operation.



TEA PICKING
IN CEYLON



HONGKONG has three million Chinese. Enormous blocks of apartment houses (as in the background here) are being built for the people.