

# Upper Nile Region from 1897 under Anglo-Egyptians Military Rule with Civil Colonial Natives Administrations

1900. This compares with a rate of 40-50 millimes a day for unskilled labour in the northern Sudan.

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29 The Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, 1937  
The heavy black line shows the northern boundary of the Southern Provinces  
*Steamer services to the south: All season: Khartoum-Juba; Khartoum-Meshra er Rek. Seasonal (July-October): Khartoum-Wau; Khartoum-Gambela (Ethiopia)*

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## PART 1

### No 1 - Earlier Upper Nile Region

**In October 1897** an Anglo-Egyptian army under the command of Gen. Sir (later Lord) Horatio Herbert Kitchener was ordered to **invade Sudan**. Sir Lord Kitchener with his Anglo-Egyptian badge of Sudanese army under British Military Officers Lord Kitchener initiates the role to and Control the Central Southern Sudan region up to the Nile River in Upper Nile Region.

**In September 1898, Officer Lord Kitchener** who led Anglo-Egyptians Forces from Cairo, Egypt toward Sudan with a Conquest to conquer the land, defeated the Mahdists under the command of Khalifa Abdallahi in the battle of Omdurman. And as the British thirst quest for land Control towards Sudan was highly in plan, the army under Lord Kitchener turned their focus for the Conquest Control of Southern Sudan via River Nile and River Sobat. The French forces expansionists however under Captain Marchand were already occupying Fashoda; while Belgians forces were stationed at Rejaf and Jebel Lado.

**In Ngokland (Ngok Lual Yak)** the British established a Military Outpost along River Sobat in **Wun Thony da Wiech** also known as Dolleip Hill on the confluence of the Eastern bank of River Sobat and the Nile River. While in Nasir, they occupied an old Military outpost which was for Abyssinians (Ethiopians) who encroached into Sudan territory through Sobat and Baro River. The Military Outpost Station was called Sobat Station, named after River Sobat because the Army was residing along River Sobat.

**In 1914**, a Military Outpost that was established along River Sobat by the British in **Wun Thony da Wiech** (Dolleip Hill) was moved to **Malakal**. Hence Malakal was made an **Administrative Centre** for Central Southern Sudan and became a **Provincial Capital** of Colonial Administrations.

The area remained under Military rule until **Mr. K.C.P. Struve** was appointed as the first civilian governor of Central Southern Sudan (Later known as Upper Nile Province). K.C.P. Struve, however did not rule the area independently because the military were constantly interfering with his civil administration due to territorials and provincial borders issues which were then needed to be established.

## **N0 2 - Upper Nile Region under Sudan Colonial Native Administrations rule**

### **History of 9 Districts of Upper Nile under Sudan Colonial Natives Administration**

**In early 1921**, the interest to have a Native Civil Administration was pre-plan by the British Authorities. The concept proposes that senior inspectors can become deputy governors and their duties will be more closely linked with strong ties to the Provincial Capitals; it was also proposed that inspectors can become district officers and assistant district commissioners.

During Governor K.C.P Struve's tribute system the percentage of tax on individuals was low. When K.C.P Struve was a governor in Malakal, Mr. John Lee was appointed as the first civil District Administrator for Nasir District while on Ngok Lual Yak territory Mr. Percy Coriat (Nicknamed by Ngok Lual Yak as Gier-Kuach) was a District Administrator for Abwong District which was made up of Ayod and Nyirol divisions and Locations respectively. **Abwong District** later changed its name to **Sobat District** with its Administrative Head Quarter in Malakal where it pays Tax to River Sobat Revenue Authority with its Building in Malakal town Council.

**In 1923**, most administrative chiefs with local Courts and Community Police were empowered and became a great System factor who reduced the level of raiding between **Nuer** and **Jieng (Dinka)** Communities through Administrative roles played by Native Administrations under District Administrators. **In 1926 C.A.**

**Willis** succeeded **Struve**, and Governor C. Willis created an idea of an Executive Chief **in 1928**. He reinstated the style of Executive Chief into Native Administration.

After Sudan Independent in **1.1.1956**, Upper Province was still under Territories of Native British Colonial Administrations era until **1963 to 1975** with 9 Districts in Upper Nile Region. The following were the 9 Districts of Upper Nile Province as their borders remained according to **1.1.1956**.

## **No 2 - The 9 Districts of Upper Nile Province according to 1.1.1956**

- 1 - Akobo District, Head-Quarter Akobo
- 2 - Bentiu District, Head-Quarter Bentiu
- 3 - Bor District, Head-Quarter Bor
- 4 - Kodok District, Head-Quarter Fashoda
- 5 - Nasir District, Head-Quarter Nasir
- 6 - Fangak District, Head-Quarter Fangak
- 7 - Renk District, Head-Quarter Renk
- 8 - Pibor District, Head-Quarter Pibor
- 9 - Sobat District, Head-Quarter Malakal

## **No 3 - Malakal**

**Malakal Area** before it became an Administrative town, was a vast pastures grass of land where cattle were driven to and kept during dry Season by Ngok Lual Yak people before it was Established as an Administrative town. Malakal become an Initial Administrative town **in earlier 1914** when a Military Outpost which was established by the British along River Sobat in **Wun Thony da Wiech** (Dolleip Hill) was moved to Malakal along Eastern bank of River Nile, therefore prompted the creation of Malakal as **Administrative town** and a **Provincial HeadQuarter** of Upper Nile Region.

**Malakal Area** also became a town council under Municipality of **Sobat District** which was District Administrator for Ngok Lual Yak run by Percy Coriat (Also

known as Gier-Kuach by the Locals). Mr. Percy Coriat and John Lee were the first Civil District Administrators appointed under the Leadership of Civil Governor **K.C.P Truves in 1919.**

## **PART 2**

### **No 1 - Sobat District Historical Origin background**

**Sobat District** is one of the former 9 districts of Upper Nile Region. The District was named after **River Sobat** because the area lies along River Sobat that runs from Ethiopia to the Confluence of River Nile as its end point in South Sudan. When the Anglo-Egyptians arrived, they established a British Military Outpost in **Wun Thony da Wiech** (Dolleip Hill). The Military Outpost Station was called **Sobat Station** in which the name Sobat District came from but the word Sobat itself was an Original name driven out from the River Sobat name.

### **No 2 - Upper Nile Region under President Jaffer Nimeri**

In **1976** President Nimeri **Politically divided** Upper Nile Region into two provinces and created a new Province called **Jonglei Province** out of the Old Upper Nile Region of Malakal. Four former districts of Native Administration namely Akobo, Bor, Fangak and Pibor were taken to the newly Created Province of Jonglei. Whereas the other 5 former Districts of Native Administrations namely Kodok, Nasir, Bentiu, Renk and **Sobat District** respectively remained in Old Upper Nile Province with Malakal as its Head Quarter under Municipality of **Sobat District** which was a District Administration for **Ngok Lual Yak**.

### **No 3 - President Jaffer Nimeri 2nd Political Division of Upper Nile**

Again from **1983 to 1984** the Southern Region under President Nimeri got divided into 3 Provinces. President Nimeri Curved out Bentiu District from Old Upper Nile Region Malakal and called it **Unity Province** and Renamed Old Upper Nile Province with its Head Quarter in Malakal as **Sobat Province**, the name that President Nimeri adopted was initially from **Sobat District** which Originally came from 1920s British Native Administration of **Abwong District** which was having its Head Quarter in Malakal. And the old Sobat District still retains its name which was causing Administrative conflict within Malakal Town Council between Sobat Provincial Administrations and Sobat District Administrations.

## **No 4 - President Bashir Political Administration of Upper Nile Province**

**From 1983 to 1993** Upper Nile Region remained under Provincial Administration namely: **Jonglei Province, Sobat Province and Unity Province**. Jonglei Province Head Quarter was in **Bor**, Sobat Province Head Quarter was in **Malakal** and Unity Province Head Quarter was in **Bentiu**. In 1994 President Bashir made the 3 Province of Old Upper Nile regions as **State** and abandoned the Nimeri Political idea of 3 provinces. And when CPA was signed by Dr. John Garang and Bashir in 2005, President Bashir's ideas of States were adopted by Dr. John Garang under **Protocols of CPA**.

Regards

Choldit Kiir Dau