

Contents

Common Acronyms	xv
Acknowledgements	xvii
Preface	xix
Introduction	1
Chapter 1. Petroleum Development (Trucial Coast) Before and During the War Years	3
1.1	Why is There so Much Oil in the United Arab Emirates?
1.2	The Search for Oil
1.3	The Red Line Agreement and the IPC, PCL and PD(TC)
1.4	A Summary of Events in the UAE up to 1939. The First Geologists
1.5	The Concession Negotiators
1.6	Lermitte, the PD(TC) New Man
1.7	And His (Her) Majesty's Government (HMG)
1.8	What Was Lermitte Doing when, on 3 September 1939, War Broke out in Europe?
1.9	Lermitte Visited the Rulers
1.10	A Concession for Fujairah?
1.11	A Dramatic Turn of Events
1.12	Every Inch to be Covered by a Concession
1.13	There Appears to Have Been War Panic in London
1.14	Williamson (Geologist) was Busy in London
1.15	Preparing for Post-war Operations
1.16	An American Visitor
1.17	Longrigg Returns from the War
1.18	The War is Over

Chapter 2. Don't Shoot the Geologist

37

- 2.1 A Large Step Back in Time
- 2.2 The Role of HMG
- 2.3 The Trucial Oman Levies (Later the Trucial Oman Scouts, TOS)
- 2.4 The IPC Office in London
- 2.5 Time for the Geologists to Return to the Trucial Coast
- 2.6 But Wait: Mohamed Ali Huwaidin al Kitbi has Something to Say
- 2.7 Jebel Faiyah at Last, or Not?
- 2.8 Why Shoot at a Geologist?
- 2.9 Geologists Resume Work at Faiyah
- 2.10 Was it Much Ado About Nothing?
- 2.11 Plans for 3 Geophysical Parties to Come to the Trucial Coast in Autumn 1946
- 2.12 The First Geophysical Survey in the North of the Country
- 2.13 Vehicles – for the Sheikhs
- 2.14 And Now We Shoot at the New Man – Welcome to Abu Dhabi
- 2.15 Back to the North Where No One Wants to Know the Ghafalah Tribe
- 2.16 The Surveyor, Fallon Does Not Find it Easy
- 2.17 Would You Believe it?
- 2.18 Another Season of Geophysical Surveys, also in Abu Dhabi Territory
- 2.19 Jackson PD(TC) is Summoned by Sheikh Shakhbut

Chapter 3. Adventures in the Sultanate of Oman

69

- 3.1 PD(TC) to Have a New Man at Buraimi /Al 'Ain
- 3.2 Bird is Engaged
- 3.3 How did Bird Equip Himself for Such a Venture?
- 3.4 Bird at Buraimi/Jahili. In Al 'Ain
- 3.5 Bird's Second Trip to Buraimi/Jahili
- 3.6 Sultan with Bird
- 3.7 But Could the Sultan Deliver?
- 3.8 Was Mr. W. Thesiger a Pest?
- 3.9 Bird Goes to London
- 3.10 The Sultan Asserts Himself
- 3.11 Bird Goes to Muscat Again
- 3.12 The Geologists Survey – for a Time
- 3.13 A Re-appraisal

- 3.14 Bird Back at Jahili

Chapter 4. Turbulent Times

107

- 4.1 Poverty, Gossip and Intrigue
- 4.2 Did the Company Help to Ease the Poverty?
- 4.3 Now a Bit of Economics
- 4.4 Longrigg Returns to Abu Dhabi After 10 Years
- 4.5 Ra's al-Khaimah, PD(TC) and a New Ruler
- 4.6 How to Make an Enemy of Your Neighbour – by Harboursing His Enemies
- 4.7 Dubai
- 4.8 Abu Dhabi
- 4.9 And How were Disputes Settled?
- 4.10 Hamriyah Sheikh Says 'Me Too'
- 4.11 More Surprises, from Abu Dhabi
- 4.12 Geophysical Party 3 Returns After the Summer 1948
- 4.13 The Outlaws in the Desert
- 4.14 The Trespassers. Aramco
- 4.15 And in London
- 4.16 Popof and the Locusts
- 4.17 Sheikh Shakhbut bin Sultan bin Zayed Receives a Loan
- 4.18 Enter Weightman by Sea-plane

Chapter 5. Drilling at Last

147

- 5.1 A New Decade
- 5.2 Choosing the Site for the First Well
- 5.3 But We Must Have One Important Matter Clear First, the Boundary
- 5.4 An Interesting Rock Structure Crosses Under the Dubai/Abu Dhabi Border
- 5.5 The Political Resident Decides
- 5.6 Let's Drill a Hole
- 5.7 The Preparations for the Oil Company Invasion
- 5.8 A Well Site Decided
- 5.9 Longrigg Comes Again to the Trucial Coast
- 5.10 Labour Problems
- 5.11 The Iraq Dimension
- 5.12 Banking

- 5.13 And Start Drilling
- 5.14 The Second Aramco 'Incursion' That was Not, and an American Visitor
- 5.15 Habits, Good and Bad, are Infectious
- 5.16 A Regrettable Incident
- 5.17 Support for the Operation at Ra's Sadr
- 5.18 Welcome Visitors from Dubai
- 5.19 The British Community was Growing!
- 5.20 Geophysical Again
- 5.21 A Bit of Petroleum Engineering
- 5.22 So to Dubai – Jebel Ali

Chapter 6. The Continental Shelf

185

- 6.1 Alarm
- 6.2 What are Territorial Waters?
- 6.3 The Waters of the Gulf
- 6.4 Groups are Consulted
- 6.5 A Quick Change in PD(TC) Policy
- 6.6 Lermite's New Instructions
- 6.7 Let's Look at the Islands
- 6.8 Skiros Tells Groups About the Threat, April '49
- 6.9 The Saudi Proclamation
- 6.10 What does Arbitration Mean?
- 6.11 Longrigg Takes Legal Advice in London
- 6.12 The Cloud Gathers, while HMG Speaks at Last
- 6.13 And Sheikh Shakhbut Declares
- 6.14 A Very Angry Sheikh
- 6.15 August in the Gulf
- 6.16 Longrigg does Some Research
- 6.17 Is Longrigg Trying to Apply Pressure?
- 6.18 Longrigg Visits the Trucial Coast Again
- 6.19 The Second Island Survey July 1950
- 6.20 PD(TC) Appoints an Arbitrator, and a New Man on the Trucial Coast. Henderson
- 6.21 Just a Minute
- 6.22 Sheikh Shakhbut Mends Fences
- 6.23 Sheikh Shakhbut Signs with Superior

- 6.24 A Surprising Development
- 6.25 A Date is Fixed, Aug. '51
- 6.26 Sheikh Shakhbut Makes International Legal History
- 6.27 And the Other Sheikhdoms?

Chapter 7. Activity on the Borderline

231

- 7.1 A Reminder
- 7.2 Bedouin Know No Borders
- 7.3 Abu Dhabi's Border with Saudi Arabia
- 7.4 Sheikh Shakhbut's Brother Sheikh Hazza Goes to a Meeting in Saudi Arabia
- 7.5 A Major Set-back For PD(TC)
- 7.6 PD(TC) is Pushing HMG
- 7.7 The Dash to Qatar
- 7.8 And in London
- 7.9 Lermite at Bahrain
- 7.10 Half the Land is Closed to the Company
- 7.11 Geophysics 1951
- 7.12 Frustration and No Decision
- 7.13 Let's Try to Apply Pressure on the Foreign Office in London
- 7.14 The Dispute Takes a New Turn
- 7.15 Muddle Among the Politicals, while Codrai and Ali Tajir Get to Work
- 7.16 Sir Rupert Hay, Political Resident, Tries to Stop Codrai and Tajir
- 7.17 The Political Resident is Instructed at Last
- 7.18 The Saudi Collection of Zakat
- 7.19 Not Much Progress
- 7.20 Sheikh Zayed and Buckmaster Go to Liwa
- 7.21 Sheikh Shakhbut is Not Worried?
- 7.22 Turki bin Ataishan Arrives at Hamasa
- 7.23 What was Going on in London?
- 7.24 Back to the Trucial Coast
- 7.25 PD(TC) Helps Sheikh Shakhbut
- 7.26 Philby and Rentz
- 7.27 Rentz the Arabist
- 7.28 The Rentz Report
- 7.29 His Majesty's Government (HMG)

Chapter 8. Exit Superior. Enter AIOC (BP) – D’Arcy

281

- 8.1 PD(TC) Instructed to Try for the Water
- 8.2 AIOC (D’Arcy or BP) Try for the Water
- 8.3 The End of Negotiations
- 8.4 Victor Hashim Returns and Offers Help
- 8.5 Progress at Dubai and Qatar while Abu Dhabi Takes Time
- 8.6 Sheikh Shakhbut Goes to India
- 8.7 London Confers. Enter CFP, Compagnie Française Pétroles (alias TOTAL)
- 8.8 Stockwell’s Second Visit to Abu Dhabi
- 8.9 Stockwell Leaves Again Empty-handed
- 8.10 Sheikh Shakhbut Wins
- 8.11 AIOC Sends Hillyard to Live in Abu Dhabi
- 8.12 How Big is the Concession Area?
- 8.13 The First Offshore Survey
- 8.14 Conclusion

Chapter 9. The Buraimi Oases

307

- 9.1 First a Word from Henderson
- 9.2 Buraimi. After Bird
- 9.3 Sheikh Zayed Goes to Ra’s Sadr
- 9.4 Bird Gives Up?
- 9.5 The Sultan and the Sheikh Should Get Together
- 9.6 The Invasion, 31 Aug. ’52
- 9.7 Sheikh Zayed’s Reaction
- 9.8 Bird in Action
- 9.9 What had Been Going on in London?
- 9.10 IPC News Item
- 9.11 The ‘Stand-still Agreement’
- 9.12 A Loan for the Man in Charge, Sheikh Said bin Shakhbut
- 9.13 The Sultan Acts
- 9.14 Sheikh Zayed Comes to Sharjah to Meet Bird and Codrai
- 9.15 Sheikh Zayed in Dubai to Meet the PR. Political Progress?
- 9.16 A Visit to Muscat that was Not
- 9.17 Turki Does Not Honour the Agreement. HMG Shows the Flag
- 9.18 HMG is Provoked into Action

- 9.19 Starvation at Hamasa?
- 9.20 A New Agreement, 30 July '54
- 9.21 Turki bin Ataishan Goes Home
- 9.22 Who Keeps to the Agreement?
- 9.23 Preparing for the Tribunal
- 9.24 Henderson's Report

Chapter 10. The Liwa Oases

345

- 10.1 Where are they?
- 10.2 Who was the First European to Visit Liwa?
- 10.3 Thesiger was First
- 10.4 PD(TC) Shows Interest
- 10.5 Hay Says No to PD(TC) and Yes to the Locust Team
- 10.6 HMG is Aroused, and Sends Viscount Buckmaster
- 10.7 The Gateway to Liwa
- 10.8 Feeling Towards the South
- 10.9 The First Car in Liwa – a Land Rover
- 10.10 The Geophysicists Go to Sabkha Matti First
- 10.11 Codrai's Next Trip to Liwa
- 10.12 The TOL are Established in Liwa
- 10.13 Codrai Goes to Liwa Again
- 10.14 Liwa Oases Surveys
- 10.15 Locusts

Chapter 11. The Return to Drilling

365

- 11.1 Frustrations
- 11.2 Another Well in Abu Dhabi Territory
- 11.3 Heseldin Visits the Trucial Coast
- 11.4 Let's Look at Murban
- 11.5 The Wrong Side of the Line. What Line?
- 11.6 Some Geophysical Work in the North
- 11.7 Fujairah
- 11.8 A Bit of Drilling Explanation
- 11.9 Well Murban 1. A Wild Cat
- 11.10 Heseldin Goes on Tour

- 11.11 Heseldin Visits Sheikh Shakhbut Again
- 11.12 Heseldin's Letter and Another Visit to Sheikh Shakhbut
- 11.13 Geophysical
- 11.14 Let's try Using Helicopters for a Gravity Survey
- 11.15 The Geologists, Among Others, are Not Satisfied
- 11.16 The Next Well – Not Murban
- 11.17 An Export Terminal?
- 11.18 The Secret

Chapter 12. The Lion is Provoked

393

- 12.1 First an Important Matter, the Flag
- 12.2 A Very Unsatisfactory Situation
- 12.3 HMG Springs into Action
- 12.4 The Right to Unrestricted Access to all Abu Dhabi Territory
- 12.5 PD(TC) Moved Quickly and Sheikh Shakhbut Comes Home
- 12.6 Now a Sad Matter, Some Politics and a Few Other Matters
- 12.7 Aramco Speaks
- 12.8 Aramco is Instructed
- 12.9 A Saudi Incursion in the West
- 12.10 Information and Misinformation
- 12.11 Where are Sufuk and Umm al Zamul?
- 12.12 Sheikh Shakhbut Under Threat?
- 12.13 Some Interesting Notes from the Files
- 12.14 The Abu Dhabi Development Company
- 12.15 Pearls
- 12.16 The Tribunal Meets
- 12.17 The Tribunal Collapses and the Lion Asserts
- 12.18 Afterwards
- 12.19 Another Very Important Meeting

Epilogue

417

Time line

419

The Maps

423

Photographs	435
Bibliography	457
About the Author	460

Contents

Appendices – Chapter 1	461
Appendices – Chapter 2	487
Appendices – Chapter 3	495
Appendices – Chapter 4	557
Appendices – Chapter 5	577
Appendices – Chapter 6	595
Appendices – Chapter 7	627
Appendices – Chapter 8	663
Appendices – Chapter 9	683
Appendices – Chapter 10	699
Appendices – Chapter 11	759
Appendices – Chapter 12	775