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*Iraq Oil in 1952*

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IRAQ PETROLEUM CO LTD

# Iraq Oil

BASRAH PETROLEUM CO LTD

# in 1952

MOSUL PETROLEUM CO LTD

IPC

BPC

MPC

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H. M. & Dr. Faisal II inaugurates IPC, 30-inch pipeline,  
Basrah, Iraq November, 1952.



## FOREWORD

In 1952 the intensive oil developments of the post-war years came to fruition. In January, the Prime Minister, His Excellency Nuri Pasha El Said, formally inaugurated the commencement of production from the Basrah concession which during the year contributed 2,133,000 tons to Iraq's expanding oil exports. In November, the Companies were honoured by the presence of His Majesty King Faisal at Kirkuk to celebrate the construction of the 30-inch pipeline from the Kirkuk field to the Mediterranean, completion of which in April enabled the year's oil exports from Kirkuk to soar to 15,116,000 tons.

In the meantime, seven years' work in the Ain Zalah field culminated in September in the commencement of production from the Mosul concession. Unhappily, the Ain Zalah field is not comparable in size or productivity with either the Kirkuk or Zubair fields, but the drilling of over one hundred wells in the Mosul concession has so far failed to reveal the presence of good quality oil in quantities comparable with the other producing fields of the Middle East.

The result of all these developments was that in 1952 production by the Iraq Petroleum Company and its associated companies rose to a total of 18.1 million tons as compared with 8.1 million tons in 1951.

Under the profit sharing agreement negotiated in 1951 and ratified by the Iraq Parliament in February, 1952, the Iraq Government's revenues from the operations of the Companies amounted in 1952 to £33 million. Under an Iraq Law of 1950, 70 per cent of these revenues are devoted to capital schemes which will increase the productivity of the soil and enrich the lives of the people of Iraq.

During the year the Companies have continued to enjoy harmonious relationships with the Government and people of Iraq, and once again have pleasure in dedicating this booklet to the personnel whose efforts have contributed to the prosperity of this historic land.



MANAGING DIRECTOR.

## Iraq Oil in 1952

ON THE 9th April, 1952, the first tanker to take aboard crude oil at Banias lay at anchor a mile off that Syrian seaport. She was the French Ship *Bagdad*, and oil from Kirkuk had been flowing along the 30-inch pipeline from Haditha no longer than a fortnight. Although the sea lines could as yet draw on but six of the projected 23 storage tanks, and far away across the desert the converging teams had several more days' work before the two ends of the 30-inch line could link; nevertheless, the *Bagdad* sailed with 21,000 tons of oil for France.

Little more than a fortnight later the tanker *Barren Hill* berthed at the Fawley Refinery near Southampton with 15,400 tons of Kirkuk oil. It was the very day—22nd April—when the two pipe-laying teams shook hands above the final weld in 165,000 tons of pipe at the 54th Mile Post from Kirkuk.

\* \* \*

The last step of a great engineering project had been made by completing 70 miles

of welding and 85 miles of back-filling in 22 days. At a cost of £41 million sterling and in 17 months, 555 miles of pipe had been laid from Kirkuk field in Iraq to Banias on the coast of Syria.

Now that the pipe is buried under the sunbaked earth and in the solid rock of Syria and Iraq, only statistics can convey



the magnitude of this task of laying the line at the rate of more than a mile a day in a ditch involving the excavation of three million tons of earth.

Begun in November, 1950, and finished six months ahead of schedule, the 30/32-inch pipe was brought in 35 ships and carried to its marshalling points in a fleet



1927  
DRILLING  
1952

ANNUAL  
FOOTAGE  
DRILLED

—25,000  
—50,000  
—75,000  
—100,000  
—125,000  
—150,000



'The Third River' in its last stages of completion

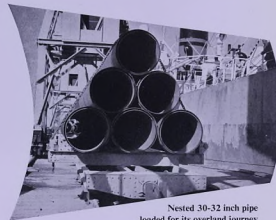
of 510 vehicles that consumed 5,600 tyres. 670 pieces of laying equipment were used, with 300 tons of welding rod, 490 tons of explosive and 100,000 rip bits, 4,000 miles of Fibreglass and 21,000 tons of tar enamel wrapped and coated the pipe, and 29 miles of photographic film were exposed in X-raying the welds. When the pressure of construction was at its greatest, over 8,000 men were employed : 90 from the United States, 300 British, and 7,000 from Arab countries. A measure of the organisation involved in keeping this force in the field is that 2½ million meals were supplied to these men, who in one month consumed 42 tons of bread, 27 tons of meat and poultry, 16 tons of rice, 50 tons of fruit and vegetables and 190,000 eggs. Wherever they worked, where the ends of the pipeline took them, they were housed in camps and



provided with all domestic facilities. Living and working in the desert areas of Iraq and Syria, the personnel experienced winter temperatures below freezing point, and in the summer, shade temperatures reaching up to 120° Fahrenheit.



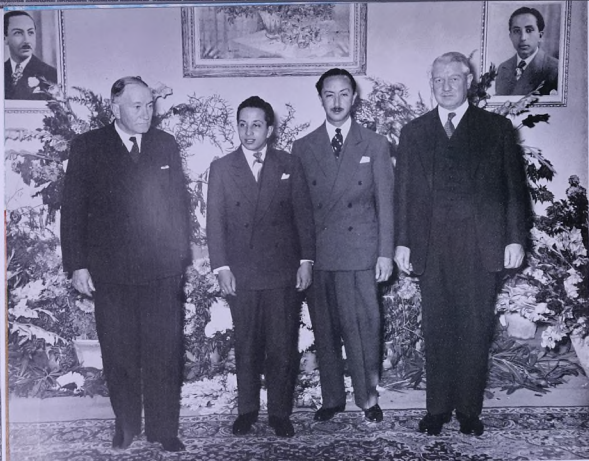
The 'English Prince' unloads the last shipment of 30-32 inch pipe at Basrah



Nested 30-32 inch pipe loaded for its overland journey



The last 30 inch joint hoisted into position before welding



Inauguration Ceremony, 18th November, 1952  
The Chairman, Admiral of the Fleet Sir John Cunningham, H.M. King Faisal II, H.R.H. Amir 'Abdul Illah and Mr. H. S. Gibson, Managing Director.

On Tuesday, 18th November, 1952, His Majesty King Faisal II accompanied by His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, officially inaugurated the 30-inch line, in the presence of the Chairman, Admiral of the Fleet Sir John Cunningham; the Managing Director, Mr. H. S. Gibson; members of the Board, and the Company's Chief Representative in Iraq, Sir Herbert Todd. In the act of turning the valve at Kirkuk which set the oil upon its long

journey to the sea, the young King performed his first official public function after his return from school in England, emphasising the importance to his country's economic future of this engineering achievement.

The oil can have travelled down the line no faster than the infection of enthusiasm among the staffs at the Line Stations, where celebrations included field sports, fireworks, parties and dancing: a spon-

taneous expression of the pride and jubilation of all concerned in the completion of the project.

Not only had a pipeline been laid, but engineers had at the same time been working on the pump stations at Kirkuk and Haditha, and at the desert pump stations of T.2 and T.4 between Haditha and Homs. From Homs the pipe is reduced to 26 inches in diameter for the down-hill gradient into Banias.

The new terminal at Banias was the scene of another inauguration ceremony, performed by His Excellency the Chief of State and Prime Minister of Syria, Brigadier-General Fauzi Selo, and in the presence of the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of State and Chief of Staff, Colonel Adib Shishakli, the Chairman,

members of the Board, and the Company's Chief Representative in Syria, Mr. Suleiman Mudarris.



From a quiet and leisurely little fishing town, lying along the shore of a small bay beneath the towering mediaeval fort of Markab, Banias has become within a couple of years a major Mediterranean port, able to handle 37,000 tons of oil a day.

In the background the farm of gleaming silver-coloured tanks is to provide an



One of the BPC transmitters at Makinah



Preparing a noon meal at K.3 Pump Station Mess

## 30 INCH PIPELINE

Began in November 1950  
and completed in  
April 1952.



510 vehicles in the Transport Fleet.  
670 pieces of pipe-laying equipment.  
555 miles at the rate of more  
than one mile per calendar day.  
50 million ton-miles of rail  
and motor transport.

23 storage tanks with a total  
capacity of 500,000 tons  
under construction at  
BANIAS TERMINAL.



Over 2,250,000 meals  
were supplied to the  
pipe-laying teams.  
At the peak, monthly  
consumption reached 42 tons  
of bread, 27 tons of meat  
and poultry, 16 tons of rice,  
50 tons of fruit and vegetables  
and 190,000 eggs.

165,000 long tons  
of 32, 30 and 26 inch  
steel pipe.



29 miles  
of  
X-ray film.



4,000 miles of  
Fibreglass.

21,000 tons  
of tar-enamel  
coating.



CAPACITY  
14,000,000 tons  
per annum

BANIAS TERMINAL  
with 6 sea-loading  
lines, to feed six  
tankers lying  
one mile off-shore.

PERSONNEL employed at  
the peak of construction  
7,000 from the Arab countries.  
300 from Britain.  
90 from the United States  
of America.

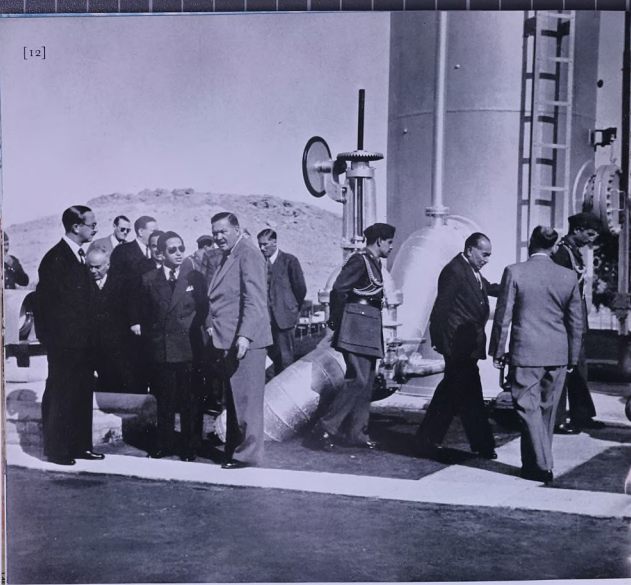
### STORES

40,000 items were carried  
in the spare parts and general section.  
11,500 tons of materials,  
300 tons of welding rod,  
490 tons of explosive,  
5,600 tyres and 100,000 rip bits.



TRANSPORTING THE PIPE

35 ships from  
American ports  
to Tripoli and Basrah.



H.M. King Faisal II and the Royal Party inspecting a degassing station at Kirkuk

initial storage capacity of 575,000 tons in 23 storage tanks. In the Company's industrial area between farm and sea are the administrative centre, the main workshops, a power house, stores, the transport yard and accommodation for the staff.



When the year opened, the work of construction was well up to schedule and it could be reported as early as January that, as soon as oil came through, the tank farm would be ready for it. An essential

adjunct is a harbour for the shelter of small ships, on which bad February weather retarded progress. It was not till the autumn that good progress could be reported, although a quay for lighters was ready in August, when four sea-lines and ten storage tanks were in operation and work had been started on the loading-pump generator house. By the summer four blocks, each of four maisonettes, were well in hand in the new residential area. According to the original programme, Baniyas Terminal was not expected to begin operating till September, 1952, yet during that month as many as 74 ships were already being loaded with a total oil tonnage of 1,100,000—closely approaching the target of 1,200,000 tons a month—and by the 1st October nearly 4 million tons had been exported.



At the lathe—



—and at the bench thorough maintenance keeps oil flowing



CRUDE OIL  
PRODUCTION  
IPC • BPC • MPC  
1952

(In long tons)





The commissioning of the 30-inch line in April made possible a 95 per cent increase in oil production from Kirkuk as compared with 1951, itself a record year. Production from the field totalled 15,552,715 tons during the year, necessitating modification and extension of the four degassing stations on the Baba Dome from which the whole of the 1952 production was drawn. To sustain the December rate of production, equivalent to an annual rate of 20 million tons, it will be necessary to spread produc-

tion over both the Avahah and Baba Domes. In preparation for this two degassing stations, Saralu and Sarbashakh, have been installed on the Avahah Dome, the first of which was completed and the second approaching completion at the end of the year. North of the Lesser Zab the Avahah Pump Station has been located to transfer crude oil from the Saralu and Sarbashakh degassing stations to the process plant at Baba Gurgur. This was 90 per cent complete at the end of the year and the 24-inch pressure crude line from the pump station to the process plant was complete except for the Zab River crossing.

Other major construction projects at Kirkuk, completed or approaching completion at the end of the year, were the new airfield, the bridge across the Lesser Zab, a 500-man mess at Baba Gurgur and extensions to K.1 hospital. By the end of the year the new Technical Centre at Arrapha was three-quarters complete.

The Kirkuk process plant stabilised 4,198,000,000 gallons of crude oil and the following quantities of refined products were produced for internal distribution in Iraq :

<i>Benzine</i>	.. ..	3,080,000	gallons
<i>Kerosine</i>	.. ..	2,680,000	„
<i>Gas Oil</i>	.. ..	3,430,000	„
<i>Fuel Oil</i>	.. ..	29,600,000	„

In addition, 6,083,000 gallons of kerosine and 40,000 gallons of gas oil were

produced and delivered for Iraq consumption at K.3 Station.

In the Kirkuk field a deep test well was drilled to a depth of 10,523 feet and was still in progress at the end of the year. A test well at Chemchemical was drilled to a depth of 6,116 feet where it was suspended without oil being found. Another test well, at Khor Mor, was in progress at 3,353 feet at the end of the year. Total footage in the I.P.C. concession was 16,676 feet, bringing the total footage drilled in the concession since the commencement of operations to 388,808 feet.

During the year 80 houses were completed on the Arrapha Estate, 16 in the Iraq State Railways Camp and 6 at K.1 Station.



A department was formed to deal with applications from personnel wishing to build their own houses under an assisted home ownership scheme. 371 applications were dealt with, of which 211 were for the building of new houses. At the end of the year 16 houses had been completed under the scheme and 12 others were under construction. Extensions were completed to a further 22 houses and 8 houses were purchased under the scheme.



Company-trained men ...



... display many different skills



in different technical fields



Their Excellencies Brigadier-General Fauzi Selo and Colonel Adib Shishakli with Sir John Cunningham at the Banias Inauguration Banquet



The IPC medical services maintain three hospitals and eleven clinics where patients are sent for treatment and observation, and twenty-three dispensaries.

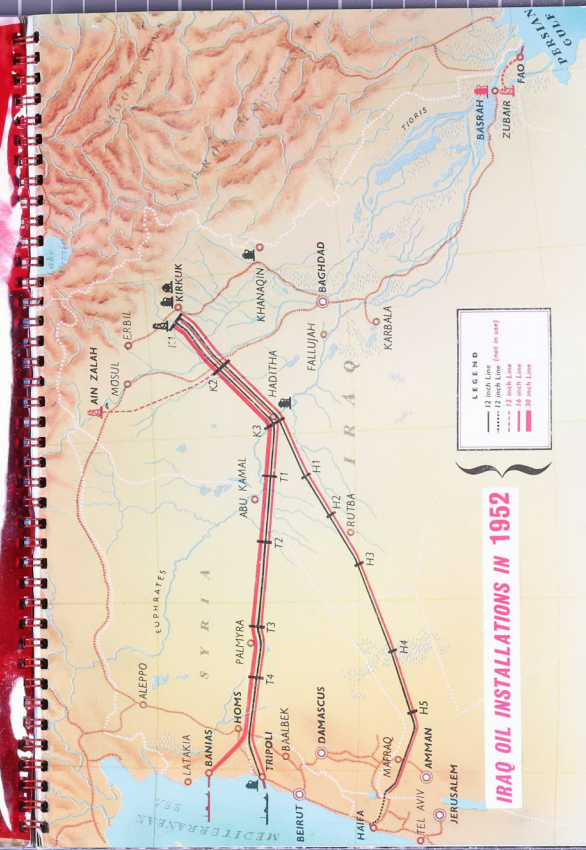
Rather more than 4,000 persons were admitted as in-patients, totalling among them 43,254 'hospital days.' At the Com-

pany's clinics and dispensaries 127,128 out-patients received attention and were given 281,997 treatments. During the year 28,000 vaccinations and inoculations were carried out as part of the Company's preventive medicine campaign, including 15,000 routine medical examinations.

The aerial transporter carries a load of 30 inch pipe across the Tigris at K.2 Pump Station



1 MILLION 2 IN 1942



## Basrah Petroleum Company

THE YEAR 1952 began auspiciously with the formal opening of the Zubair-Fao pipeline. The inaugural ceremony of turning the wheel in the Zubair Pump Station was performed on 10th January by His Excellency the Prime Minister of Iraq, Nuri Pasha El Said, who had been welcomed at the



Makinah Depot in Basrah by Mr. L. J. F. Teyssot, General Manager of B.P.C.

In the course of his reply to the Iraq Prime Minister's inaugural speech, Mr. H. S. Gibson, Managing Director of the Company, said "We are grateful for the efforts of our personnel of all grades and for the co-operation of local Government officials which have made this achievement possible. This, however, is only a stage in the development of the Basrah Petroleum Company. It is our intention to continue our efforts so that by the end of 1955 the rate of production will be 8,000,000 tons per annum. . . . To all our personnel, Iraqi or foreign, it is an incentive, and a source of deep satisfaction, that the fruits of their labours will so benefit the peoples of this historic land."

The following day, after an evening spent in celebrations, the guests toured the installations at Fao and went aboard the tanker *President Meny*, a name that happily commemorates a former President of the Compagnie Francaise des Petroles and a Director of the Iraq and Basrah Petroleum Companies.

Fao, the port at the mouth of the Shatt-al-Arab, is linked with the Zubair field 70 miles away by a 12-inch pipeline. At Fao, pumps capable of loading at the rate of 2,000 tons an hour supply the two oil-loading jetties (there will be four eventually), at which the tankers can tie up snugly. There are also a power house with three 640 kVA generators, a water-treatment plant with a daily capacity of 120,000 gallons, a boiler house supplying the tankers with steam, and workers' living-quarters.



Prior to the commencement of production, twelve wells had been completed in the Zubair field and five more were being drilled. They are about four times as deep as the wells in the Kirkuk field and the oil



sand, lying two miles below the surface is one of the deepest oil producing reservoirs in the world.

Five drilling rigs continued throughout 1952 in active operation in the Zubair field. During the year, 109,203 feet were drilled, ten wells were completed and six were in progress at the end of the year. Sixty-seven miles of pipe for a new 24-inch pipeline had been received from British

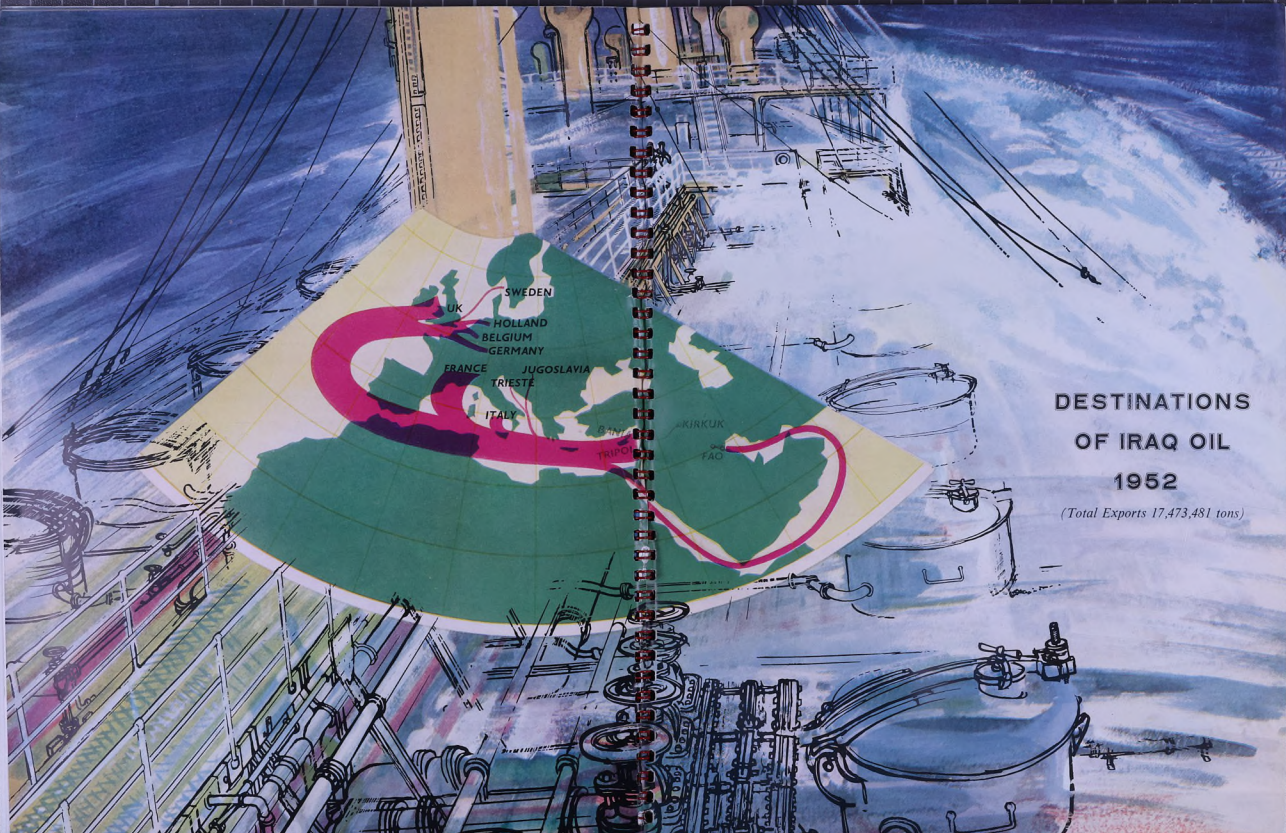
manufacturers by the end of the year, so that a little less than 10 miles of the order remained to be delivered.

In December the first consignment of tank materials arrived for the expansion of production to a rate of 8,000,000 tons a year. Preliminary work on the third jetty at Fao, begun in August, continued actively.

The average daily production of oil in January of 1,974 tons had risen by December to 8,150 tons, and the reservoir gross cumulative total from 206,159 tons at the end of January to 2,353,146 tons at the end of the year. Exports from Fao, which in January were 54,282 tons, had by December risen to a monthly rate of 216,344 tons.



Part of the Tank Farm at Fao



**DESTINATIONS  
OF IRAQ OIL  
1952**

*(Total Exports 17,473,481 tons)*





Basrah Terminal under construction

In the Zubair field development continued: 60 kilometres of road were constructed and by the end of the year 18 houses were completed and 38 more were complete except for plumbing.

During the year the Company co-operated with the Posts and Telegraphs Department in the installation of an automatic telephone system for the Basrah area, and in the reconstruction of the telephone route from Basrah to Fao.

The Company's health services continued to expand during the year.

Nearly 1,000 cases were treated in the hospital and the two clinics and three dispensaries maintained by the Company were attended by 19,564 out-patients, who received a total of 40,912 treatments.

Routine examinations numbered 2,283, and 6,729 vaccinations and inoculations were administered.

### Mosul Petroleum Company

AFTER MANY disappointments, the first tentative exploration having been carried out in Northern Iraq during the 1914-18 War, oil began to flow from the Mosul Petroleum Company's field at Ain Zalah on September 10th, 1952.

In 1925 concessionary rights covering the provinces of Baghdad and Mosul were granted to the Turkish Petroleum Company, and drilling operations began in April, 1927. Test wells were drilled at Qaiyarah and oil was discovered on October 13th, 1927. It was, however, of heavy asphaltic type with a high sulphur content which it has not been practicable to produce. In 1929 the name of the T.P.C. was changed to Iraq Petroleum Company Limited, and in 1935 it surrendered the portion of its concession lying to the west of the Tigris. A concession over the whole



Cleaning the 12-inch Ain Zalah line before coating and wrapping



Testing for faults in the coated and wrapped line



One of the 30-inch line manifolds



Regulating the oil-flow at K3 near Haditha

Some of the stores and equipment  
used on the 30-inch project

of Iraq lying to the west of the Tigris and north of latitude  $33^{\circ}$  was acquired in 1932 by the B.O.D. Company, but reverted to the Iraq Petroleum Company group of companies in 1935. Light oil was discovered at Ain Zalah at a depth of 5,100 feet in 1940, but as a result of the Second World War operations were suspended early in 1941.

Up till that time a total of 93 wells had been drilled in the concession at Qaiyarah, Khanuqah, Mishraq, Najmah, Jawan,

Hibbarah, Sadid, Qasab, Adaiyah, Alan, Gusair, Makhul, Awasil, Butmah, Nafatah, Qalian, Hit, Anah, Abu Jir, Ain al Naft and Ain Zalah. It was, however, only at Ain Zalah that workable production was discovered.

Since the war 14 wells have been drilled in the Ain Zalah field and test wells at Mushorah and Butmah.

Delivery of pipe for the 135-mile 12-inch pipeline from Ain Zalah to K.2 Station on the main Kirkuk—Mediterranean pipeline





**PERSONNEL  
SERVICES  
1952**



**CANTEENS**  
Three-and-three-quarter million meals were served in the Companies' canteens

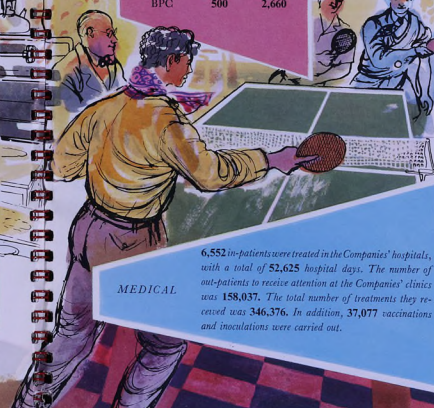


**HOUSING**  
378 housing units for personnel were completed or under construction at the end of 1952



**EMPLOYMENT**

	Clerical and Supervisory	Other
IPC	2,744	12,017
MPC	132	714
BPC	500	2,660



**MEDICAL**

6,552 in-patients were treated in the Companies' hospitals, with a total of 52,625 hospital days. The number of out-patients to receive attention at the Companies' clinics was 158,037. The total number of treatments they received was 346,376. In addition, 37,077 vaccinations and inoculations were carried out.





Building the Lesser Zab River Bridge

system commenced in January and was completed in April when stringing of the pipe began. In the meantime, work was in progress on flow lines, flow tanks and the pump house at Ain Zalah, but was considerably impeded by 6 inches of rainfall during February. Good progress on line construction was made during May when 53 miles were completed, lowered and back-filled. In June, 45 miles were laid and the whole line was completed on

July 29th, some six weeks ahead of schedule. The field installations were completed and tied in by early September when production of oil began. Filling of the flow tanks and suction tanks was completed by September 15th and pumping of crude oil to K.2 began on September 16th.

Total production of oil by the Mosul Petroleum Company during the year was 281,977 tons and exports amounted to 223,817 tons.



Homes and recreational centres built for employees in the Companies' areas



Situated in the hilly country in the north of Iraq, Ain Zalah is much less accessible than either the Kirkuk or Zubair fields, and most of the 900 Iraqis who work there were recruited from the surrounding villages. Accustomed to agricultural pursuits, they had to be trained in the many technical and semi-technical duties of a busy oil field. Some 50 British and American personnel assist in running the field and in training the technicians.

Ain Zalah is a camp rather than a residential town, for many of the workers prefer to live in the villages from which they are brought in daily by Company-operated motor vehicles. Some 350 workers from Mosul are taken home at weekends. Social services are highly developed, a fully-equipped restaurant serves about 400 meals a day, a cinema gives shows two or three times a week and a lending library offers Arabic and English books, news-

papers and magazines. Football, tennis, volley ball, basket ball and swimming are organised by an Iraqi Sports Committee, and a new club with its own swimming pool is under construction.



MPC medical services carried out 1,092 routine medical examinations during 1952, and the two clinics and two dispensaries administered 1,909 vaccinations and inoculations.

There is an up-to-date hospital at Ain Zalah which treated 594 in-patients over a total number of 2,941 'hospital days.' The Company's clinics and dispensaries treated 11,345 out-patients who received 23,497 treatments.



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The French tanker 'Banglad' sails with the first load of crude from Banias

