THE NATIONAL RAILWAY MUSEUM OF SIERRA LEONE

STEVE DAVIES MBE
So what did we achieve?
A new National Railway Museum... in Sierra Leone

Like the experience of many other former colonies, the history and economic development of the West African state of Sierra Leone is intrinsically linked with the building of narrow-gauge railways. In the case of Sierra Leone, the coming of the 26-in gauge railway from the late 19th century marked the beginning of the sustainable development of much of the interior of the country, making the key market of Freetown capital. Freetown, succeeded to a growing number of farmers and miners, inevitably reinvigorated the railway system. However, in the mid-1960s with final closure of the entire system in 1974, the railway continued to operate as long as there was a lack of income. The railway eventually suffered from the civil war of 1991, and a further selection of stock was sold in the former carriage and carriage co-operative. A further selection of stock was sold, and the former carriage and carriage co-operative was taken over by the National Railway Workshop at Freetown on Freetown's eastern edge with a view to its future.

Most copper and brass was stolen, but No. 73's wheels were covered in thick layers of paint, it is perhaps one day forming the basis of a museum.

However, events conspired to thwart this ambition, and the collection was progressively 'chopped' as refugees came and went with the ebbs and flows of civil war. Some 16,000 displaced persons were estimated to be living in the railway works at the height of the conflict. Anything firmly bolted down was clearly going to be fair game for people living below the poverty line. So the collection rusted, and 50 years of rust, accumulated dirt and grime combined to create a pretty mechanically sight for the casual visitor.

Collection survived just prior to deployment last September, I conducted some research on what might be found in Sierra Leone to illustrate my railway interests. A 26-in gauge system, still largely intact, served the area's industry, closing in about 1927. A 26-in gauge railway served the European.

Words and pictures by Colonel Steve Davies MBE

Scott: my..., in West A

As a group of African railways, it undertaking training at York, this describes his pride in being on the launch of Sierra Leone's own Freetown. By Andrew Scott

Dining, helping to keep an out-of-date map on the front of the African coast, with the banana's not bearing down and the market down, was not something I would have on the agenda when Colonel Steve Davies invited me to join in the launch of the new railway museum in Freetown. Luckily, although the Sierra Leone army, whose base it was, was not having a good week, Steve's mobile phone did its work and it wasn't long before a police launch turned up to rescue us.

Using this unusual occasion, it had been a totally fascinating few days. Elsewhere on these pages, Col Davies tells the story of how he modernised the remnants of Sierra Leone's former 26-in gauge system. His heart of 15 local fads had done an amazing job in modernising the former carriage works building, where the collection was housed, and to giving a
Museum helps African state back on track.
‘Without this, we would have no museum, no jobs and no pride’
AFRIKAS GEMS visits Sierra Leone National Railway

By Abu S. Tarawalie

The Afrikas Gems Marketing Company is in Freetown for an on-spot assessment visit of the National Railway Museum of Sierra Leone.

According to the Service Representative of the company, Mr. Patric Tucker, the visit will afford the visiting team the opportunity to have literature and information about the Sierra Leone National Railway collection, which he said has now been known internationally as one of heritages of Sierra Leone's heritage.

Mr. Patrick Tucker told this press that the museum has been internationalised and has many potentials that can help to attract tourists to Sierra Leone.

He stressed that the Executive Director of the company, Mr. Desmond Bishop has developed much interest in the company to closely work with the management of the museum.

After his tour with the Head of the National Railway Management, Col. Steve Davies, Member of the British Empire (MBE) stated that tourists should find pleasure in coming back to Sierra Leone and should not entertain any fear because tourist offices have been re-established in Sierra Leone.

Olivette Barmette, also a service representative, told this press that the company caters for tourist internationally and nationally.

The Tourist Company she said offers city, mountain and Peninsular tours etc. She concluded that "peak season starts from October to April each year because this is the time tourists..."
Railway Museum Staff Off For Training In The UK

By Abu S. Tarawalie

Three members of staff of the Sierra Leone Railway Museum in Freetown recently departed Freetown for training in the United Kingdom. The Department of Culture, Media and Sport is sponsoring Ibrahim Kuyateh, Mohamed Jabbie and Daniel Mattia for the training programme.

The Head of Management of the Sierra Leone Museum, Col. Steve Davies (MBE) and Adviser at the Ministry of Defence in Sierra Leone said the UK poured 20,000 pounds sterling to train the museum staff. He said the purpose is to help put in place a management structure to run the museum.

He noted that Andrew Scott and Richard Hartman were both instrumental in making the training programme a reality. He said: “Andrew is Head of the UK National Railway Museum. Michael controls UK government museum funding and was raised in Sierra Leone in the ‘90s.”

The training is currently taking place in York National Railway Museum; North WACES working of the Sierra Leone Train in the Welshpool, and Llanfair Light Railway, Hull (twinned with Freetown), Pickering – Driving and firing steam locos operating the flying Scotsman, the world’s most famous train.

Col. Davies stated that the aim of the training is to:

- Foster a broader interest and awareness of railways and to improve customer/visitor-handling skills in order to enhance the experience for visitor to the Sierra Leone Railway Museum.

- To acquire technical knowledge to assist in the restoration of the Railway stock.

that the project deserves to succeed, adding that international visitors to the National Railway Collection of Sierra Leone can expect a very warm welcome from the most friendly people. He recalled that as the older generation holds very fond memories of the railway; by contrast, the majority of Sierra Leone’s youth have never seen a train at all, so there were two distinct motives for wanting access to the shed. Col. Davies stated that

His Excellency President Kabba has been a stalwart supporter of the project from the opening ceremony, which was held on Saturday the 12th of March 2005. He said that the Head of the UK’s National Railway Museum Mr. Andrew Scott was part of that ceremony including the British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, and the American Ambassador to Sierra Leone who later took a cup of tea to the Queen’s Coach.
Railway Museum Staff Train in the UK

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Railway Museum Workers with the UK

UK’s National Railway Museum - Ibrahim Kuyateh, Daniel Mattia, David Lammy MP, Minister for Culture Col. Steve and Richard Hartman UK Museum Scribe

The Museum is located at Cline Street adjacent to the former National Workshop. Opening times are: Tuesday to Sunday 10:30 am-5:00 pm. Admission is free.

The National Railway Collection staff is currently running the first public youths that participated, and the IMATT Chief of Staff Ltd. Col. James Galven a Member of the British Empire (MBE) witnessed the second ride.

The ‘Pump Trolley’ was a simple, locally manufactured vehicle for getting tank inspectors or railway permanent Repairs and welding have repairs to working condition example originally worked in

The total figures during National Railway Collection two months of operation exceeded 10,000 Pounds. The
A train is a means of transportation that carry people and goods through the rail from one place to another. (Example)

The General Manager's Coach was built in Freetown in 1956. It was the Sierra Leone Railway general managers carriage.

2) The Royal Coach was built in Freetown in 1961 for the State Visit of her majesty Queen Elizabeth II. This coach was constructed in 1961 to convey the majesty, the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh during their final visit before the granting of independence. This coach was painted white to reflect the heat of the sun.
John is a boy

Hudson (123)

Clarke engine (diesel)

mechanical locomotive

built in 1954

Daisy is a girl

The name of my

brother is Denis

in 1850

and the ball

he is my dog

red ball,

Marriage during the

Colonial time.

The Royal Coach

was built in 1861 for the

visit of Her Majesty

Queen Elizabeth II,

and the Duke of

Edinburgh during their

final visit before the

granting of independence.
Beyer, Peacock & Co Ltd
7717
Beyer Garratt Locomotive
British Patent No 286702-846A
Type 4
2001-2002 Tractive Effort 17,470 lbf
1958-1959
Manuf. Tested 1959
Beyer, Peacock & Co Ltd
7717
Beyer Garratt Locomotive
British Patent Nos 647476 - 647480
647519
Sierra Leone Patent Nos 7/E87645/51 9/E87646/51 - 8/E87644/51
Manchester, 1955