

Preface

This is the third and much belated instalment of the history of the Uganda Forest Department.¹ The reason for the resumption in 1998, after so long a gap, was the centenary of the Department in that year; after consultation George Webster offered to bring the account forward to 1965, the year when he retired from the service. This offer was accepted by the Commissioner of Forests, Uganda.

The great bulk of the extraction, compiling and drafting of this history has been the work of George Webster, while Henry Osmaston's contribution has been mainly at the editorial and publication stages, including typesetting the whole text and the tables.

We had hoped that the history would be continued from 1965 by George Webster's successor as Chief Conservator of Forests, Martin Rukuba, but tragically he died in a motor accident in 1998, before he could be approached.

George Webster²
Henry Osmaston³

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- 1 The earlier instalments were *A History of the Uganda Forest Department, 1898–1929* by N.V. Brasnett (*Forest Department Bulletin* No 3, 1951) and *A History of the Uganda Forest Department, 1930–1950* by I.R. Dale (*Forest Department Bulletin* No 4, 1955).
 - 2 George Webster was recruited to the Uganda Forest Department as Forester in 1937, after five years service in the UK Forestry Commission, and served continuously until his retirement in 1965, having been Chief Conservator of Forests for the previous three years.
 - 3 Henry Osmaston served in the Uganda Forest Department from 1949 to 1963 in most districts of the country and also as WPO. He is currently advising the Uganda Forestry Department on natural forest management.

At the date of publication of this history, 2003, Webster and Osmaston are aged, respectively, 90 and 80, testimonies to the benefits of an outdoor life in Uganda.