

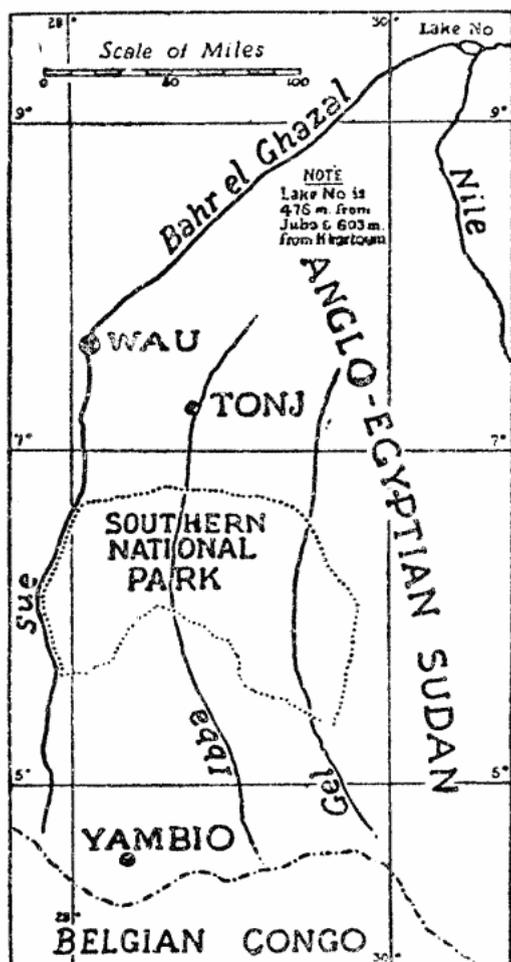
The Sudan's Southern National Park

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The Southern National Park is best reached from Juba, which is the head of navigation for the mail boats which run fortnightly from Khartoum to connect up with the Kenya and Uganda Railway's services. There is a hotel (the only one in the Southern Sudan) and also an excellent aerodrome.

From Juba to Yambio there is an all weather road and also from Juba to Wau via Tonj. Both these roads are good, but not tarred. Northwards from Yambio there is an all-season road for about 135 miles. From there onwards to Tonj there is a motor track which



is maintained by the Game Department. This track was traversed for the first time by a car in 1948 and it runs mostly through fairly thick bush country chiefly *Terminalia*—and is cleared once a year by a gang of Natives who walk along it and burn off the long grass and cut out any trees that may have appeared. This is done early in January when the little swampy streams have dried out sufficiently to allow a motor lorry to cross. The track remains passable till about the end of March, after which date the River Ibba is liable to be swollen by the early rains and to be unfordable.

The park is inhabited by a few park guards and only a handful of white people have ever visited it—probably not more than 20 in the last 20 years. The Native park-guards lead a very isolated life in small villages of about eight families, and only see a white man at the time of the annual clear-

ing of the track. They have to grow their own food, and so live much as do the Natives outside the Park. Their duties are to ensure that no Native from outside penetrates for any purpose except the annual clearing of the track. There is of course good hunting, fishing and so on and quite a lot of wild honey to be

