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**B. F. E. Keeling 1880 - 25/09/1919**

**NRIAG Director 1900 – 1910**

LIEUTENANT- Colonel B.F.E. Keeling was born in 1880, and was educated at Bradford Grammar School, hence proceeding to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he obtained firsts in the Natural Science and Mechanical Science (Engineering) Tripos.

On leaving the university he was for a short time at the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, and then joined the staff of National Physical Laboratory, where most of his work was done in the department of Metrology.

In 1904 he joined the Survey of Egypt, where he took charge of the Major Triangulation and carried out the design and erection of a comparator for verifying and controlling the base-measuring apparatus. In 1905, on the occasion of the solar eclipse, Keeling had charge of all the arrangements at Aswan for facilitating the work of those astronomers who observed the eclipse at that station. Shortly after this he took over the Helwan Observatory near Cairo, and in this year and the next devoted much of his time and attention to the erection of the 30-inch reflector which Mr. J.H. Reynolds had generously presented to the Egyptian Government. From this time onwards, though his interest in astronomy and his zeal for its advancement in Egypt never flagged, geodetic and physical investigations made increasing demands upon him. Under his direction a chain of first order (geodetic) triangulation was carried for some 500 kilometers up the Nile Valley, precise levelling was extensively carried out over the Delta, and along the Valley, while in connection with this a gravity survey was executed along the Nile from the Mediterranean to Khartoum.

The amount of shipping passing through the Suez Canal and the short stay of vessels at Port Said and Suez make accurate time-signals there of great importance, and in 1906-7 Keeling took the matter in hand and recognized the existing system so that the clock of the observatory should control and actuate the time-signals given at Cairo, Port Said, and Alexandria.

In 1906 Keeling had done excellent service as British Commissioner on the demarcation of the Turco-Egyptian boundary after the "incident" at Akaba. This work became the main reason for returning of Taba to Egypt on 1988.

In 1914 his work in Egypt was interrupted by the war and he received a Commission in the Royal Engineers, being employed in France with the Survey Companies. He was wounded in 1916, but returned to France in 1917, being present at the Somme battle, the attack on Cambrai, the German attack in 1918 and our subsequent advance, where his tact and technical skill were of great value throughout the survey operations.

In the spring of 1919 he returned to Egypt to take up the directions of the Survey Department, and had already made arrangements for resuming the geodetic and other work which the war had interrupted. He died there on 1919 September 25.

Full of energy, capable in administration, and equipped with a sound scientific training, his death is a severe loss to Egypt, where his ability were fully recognized and highly esteemed.