

operation TAPLINE

The trans-Arabian pipeline system has been in operation since 1950 when it delivered its first oil from the fields of eastern Saudi Arabia to the Mediterranean terminal at Sidon, Lebanon. Despite the fact that transporting oil by pipeline is far less attractive now than a decade ago, the system has been able to compete with the great tankers through efficient operation-and accomplish some remarkable feats into the bargain. Not only has it delivered over three-quarters of a billion barrels of oil (a barrel is 42 U. S. gallons) to Sidon since December 1950, but as the pictures on this page show, Tapline (which is the abbreviation for Trans-Arabian Pipe Line Company) has been of considerable economic benefit to the transit countries.

1 TAPLINE'S TERMINAL at Sidon, Lebanon, is the port of call for tankers from all over the world. They lie offshore and fill their holds with oil from submarine loading lines from the Terminal. Sidon again is a bustling port as it was 2500 years ago in the days of the Phoenicians. Last year alone over 800 tankers called at the Tapline Terminal.



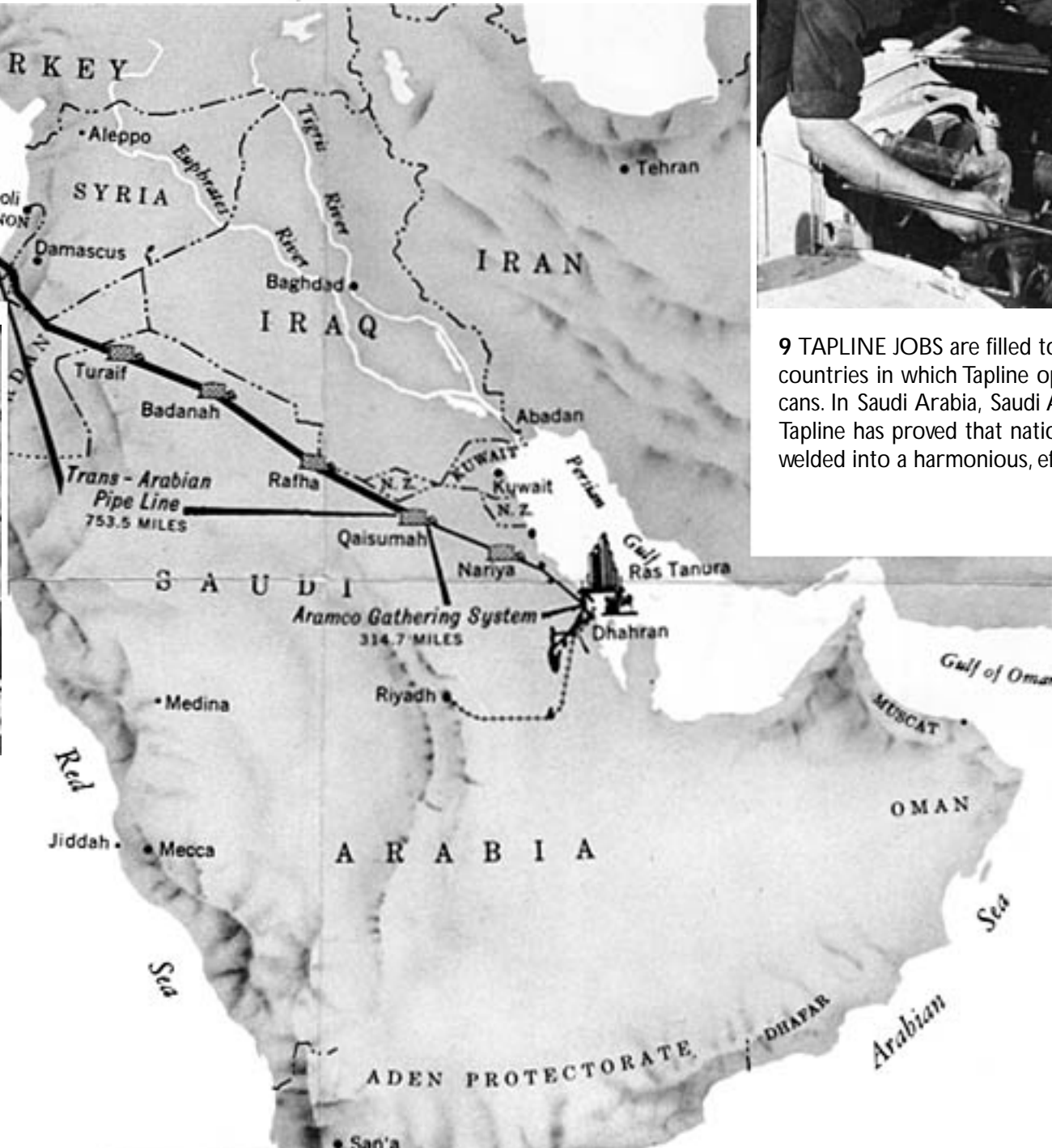
2 PUMPING UNITS force the oil along through the 1068-mile pipe-line system. The stations are complete communities located about 200 miles apart along the line. There are schools, theatres, homes, electricity, water, stores and hospitals for the people who live and work there. The long building, left foreground, houses the powerful pumping equipment. Mechanic Ibrahim ibn Mohammed, right, directs the reassembly of a giant diesel engine at Badanah station. These engines drive the pumps. Unattended, remotely controlled stations have been added along the line enabling thousands of additional barrels of oil to pass through the line each day.



3 AIRPLANES keep the people at the isolated pump stations in constant touch with the outside world. DC3's fly a "milk run" route between stations from the Persian Gulf to the Mediterranean, carry mail, supplies and passengers. The planes make an average of three round trip flights a week. Each station maintains a first class landing strip by which about 45,000 pounds of air cargo is delivered each month.



4 HIGH FREQUENCY RADIO and teletype circuits permit stations to communicate with each other and with headquarters. Pipeline patrol teams in radio equipped cars inspect the line regularly. During the seven years the thousand mile pipeline system has been in operation, it has been closed down only three days for a major break.



5 NEW WATER SOURCES developed along the right-of-way of the line have attracted thousands of Bedouin and their flocks in some cases, to such an extent that actual townsites (below) resulted.



6 NEW TOWNSITES such as 'Ar'ar have grown up around Tapline pump stations. It started with water. Then Tapline offered technical services and other assistance to people who chose to live or camp nearby. When it became evident that towns were going to develop, Tapline engineers actually laid out and planned townsites. There are schools, medical facilities, shops and homes at these towns.



9 TAPLINE JOBS are filled to the greatest extent possible with local people from the countries in which Tapline operates. Of a total 1200 employees, only 137 are Americans. In Saudi Arabia, Saudi Arabs are employed, in Jordan, Jordanians, and so forth. Tapline has proved that nationals of many countries and varying backgrounds can be welded into a harmonious, efficient work force.



8 MEDICAL AND HOSPITAL CARE for 1200 employees and their dependents is no small chore. At three of the pump stations, up-to-date infirmaries are operated while at Badanah a well-equipped hospital is maintained. Clinics for employees are also provided in Beirut and at Sidon.



7 TAPLINE BUYS IN LOCAL MARKETS wherever practicable. The purchase of equipment and commodities has been a stimulus to the local industry of the lands through which Tapline passes. At left, a Beirut business man shows samples of the clothing made in his shop to a Tapline purchasing agent, and above, mammoth sheet steel air ducts, intended for a Tapline pump station air conditioning system, are being assembled outside a Middle East factory.

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