



Smithsonian

National Museum of African Art

Firestone Tire and Rubber Company study
collection, EEPA 2008-013, May 31, 1943

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2011

Eliot Elisofon Photographic Archives, National Museum of African Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Eliot Elisofon Photographic Archives, National Museum of African Art
Title:	Firestone Tire and Rubber Company study collection
Date:	1943 May 31
Identifier:	EEPA.2008-013
Creator:	Firestone Tire and Rubber Company
Extent:	5 Photographic prints (black and white ; 8 x 10 inches.)
Language:	English .
Summary:	This study collection contains five 8 x 10 inch black and white publicity photographs, dated May 31, 1943, of Liberian officials, U.S. State Department representatives, and Firestone Tire & Rubber Co. personnel, taken as they toured the company's war production plants in Ohio. Each photograph has complete typewritten documentation tipped to the back. Includes images of President Edwin Barclay and President-elect William V.S. Tubman of Liberia, Brig. Gen. Benjamin O. Davis and Harvey S. Firestone, Jr.
Container:	Item 5

Administrative Information

Provenance

Donated by Janet Stanley, Warren M. Robbins Library, National Museum of African Art, 2008.

Preferred Citation

Firestone Tire and Rubber Company Study Collection, Eliot Elisofon Photographic Archives, National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Use of original records requires an appointment. Contact Archives staff for more details.

Conditions Governing Use

Permission to reproduce images from the Eliot Elisofon Photographic Archives must be obtained in advance. The collection is subject to all copyright laws.

Biographical Note

On May 31, 1942, President Edwin Barclay of Liberia, President-elect William V.S. Tubman, Brigadier General Benjamin O. Davis (then the highest ranking African American officer in the American Armed Forces) and State Department representatives toured the war production plants of the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company in Akron, Ohio. President Barclay and his delegation came to Akron from Washington, D.C., where they had been guests of President Roosevelt.

In 1926, the Firestone Rubber Company obtained a concession from the Liberian government which gave it the right to lease up to 1 million acres--roughly 4% of the entire country--for 99 years. With this leased land, Firestone created the world's largest rubber plantation at Harbel, Liberia. Exportation of rubber from the new Firestone plantations began in 1934 and rubber quickly became the backbone of the Liberian economy. When Malaysia fell to the Japanese during World War II, the Firestone plantation in Liberia became a main supplier of rubber for Allied forces.

Arrangement

Arranged by Firestone negative file number.

General

Title provided by EEPA staff.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Defense industries
- Factories
- Presidents -- Liberia

Types of Materials:

- Black-and-white photographs
- Photographic prints
- Photographs

Names:

- Barclay, Edwin James, 1882-1955
- Davis, Benjamin O., Sr., 1880-1970
- Firestone Tire and Rubber Company
- Firestone, Harvey S., 1898-1973
- Tubman, William V.S., 1895-1971

Places:

- Akron (Ohio)
- United States -- Officials and employees