

Following a rail journey from Beira to Lion's Den, the first of 10 giant transformers goes by road to Kariba. Culverts and road bridges were shored up to carry the great weight of trucks, trailer and transformer, nearly 200 tons. A careful eye was kept on the tyres - 52 of them worth about £300. The trailer was pulled and pushed, and Interoom was used to synchronise the action of the two truck drivers and the driver of the power steering on the trailer. This was necessary when starting up, and at other times. It was so difficult and complicated as a driving job is ever likely to be. The same procedure will be repeated 9 times, for 9 similar transformers are on order. The comparatively short distance from the railhead at Lion's Den, which is near Sinola, took 4 days, and they must have been relieved when they neared their journey's end. But one of the toughest parts was yet to come, delivering the transformer right into the huge underground Power Station. From the trailer the great 88 ton transformer was attached to a sling and an overhead crane transferred it to a type of Railway boggy, which took it to its final position. Ensuring the water flow guaranteed to Mozambique new outlets have been opened high on the dam wall. Here comes the first. According to the agreement with our Portuguese neighbours, at least 10 thousand cusecs of water must be allowed to flow through at all times. So ten outlets each of one thousand cusecs are being opened up by blasting, an operation carefully completed in stages. What an impression of power we got as the flow was increased. The plugs were merely shattered and the force of the water did the rest. An interesting sidelight on the massive progress made was revealed when they blew up part of the original coffer dam. One hardly notices it against the mighty structure which will supply electric power, and control the floods which have so often devastated Rhodesia and Mozambique.

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