



WAL

**Photographs and other collections of R. E. Walker (d.1992), teacher at
Dennis Memorial Grammar School, Onitsha, Nigeria**

25 items, 1914-1979

**Presented by The Nigeria Fellowship (Rena Partridge), of which R.E.
Walker had been a member and to which they had been presented by Mr
Walker's son Robin in 1992**

**Catalogued, probably by Sue Sutton, Archivist, June 1999, the
photographs being itemised separately, probably in 2011 when transferred
to photographic folders. Introduction expanded, the photographs
rearranged and renumbered and the whole re-formatted by Philip
Saunders, CCCW Archivist, September 2018**

R.E. Walker was a teacher at Dennis Memorial Grammar School, Onitsha, the school founded by the C.M.S. Niger Mission in 1925 as a memorial to the pioneer missionary and translator, Archdeacon Tom Dennis, who had died tragically when his ship was torpedoed on his way back to England in 1917. The Centre holds substantial collections relating to the school in the collections of John Phillips, also a teacher at the school much later, in the 1950s. According to a history of the school by E. Chukuka Ezekwesili [WAL 7], he was vice-principal February 1926-April 1927. It is unknown if he returned to the U.K. in 1927 or worked elsewhere in Nigeria. The existence of two papers from much later and the fact he was a member of the Nigeria Fellowship suggests he was in Nigeria for longer, but one cannot be certain. C.M.S. archives may throw further light on this.

WAL 1 *The Church and Native Customs. An address by the Right Reverend Bishop Oluwule to the [Lagos] Diocesan Synod, May 19 1914*
1914

WAL 2 **School papers in envelope labelled 'Rough copy for Grammar School Leaflet'**

WAL 2/1 Architect's sketch and plans of the proposed Dennis Memorial Grammar School, Onitsha, torn from page of a published appeal pamphlet. [c.1919-25]

WAL 2/2 Handwritten drafts or extracts for school prospectus on catchment area for pupils, syllabus, fees, clothing and 'other regulations' [c.1925-27]

WAL 3 Typed notes on entry standards for different forms in divisions of mathematics
(carbon copies of typescript with manuscript drafts for algebra and geometry)
[c1925-27]

WAL 4 Bishop (Lt.-Col.) Ogbonyomi's Charge to the Eighth Synod of the Diocese of Northern Nigeria. Kaduna, 3 May 1979
Deals especially with tribal divisions, coming division of diocese, his interrogation before Moslem judge.

WAL 5 Pamphlet describing the Bishop Cockin Church Centre at Atta Ikedura (Imo State)
(see <http://www.bcccatta.com/bccc>), Diocese of Owerri After 1971
Marked '?1997' probably when catalogued but unclear on what basis.

WAL 6 Photographs relating to the Grammar School

These were removed from the folder in August 2011, boxed separately in a photographic archive box. Those now WAL 6/2 and WAL 6/3 were removed from the two cards on which they had been mounted (now WAL 6/2/6 and WAL 6/3/14). It is possible to detect some photos that were taken together (WAL 2/5 and 3/3-5, 8 numbered serially on back with note of number of copies needed, perhaps for trustees meeting or similar purpose) but there is little to be gained by rearranging them to reflect this as they all belong to a short date period.

WAL 6/1 A mounted photograph by J.F. Allison of Nigeria, of staff, all suited, seated and standing outside the school, labelled 'January 1926' on the back by Mr Walker in ballpoint (so many years later) and staff identified as [H.L.O. or Albert] Okechukwa, Achebe, Oli [?=Mbonu Ojike], R.E. Walker and [Rev. G.N.] Anyaegbunam [who helped Dennis in his translation of the Bible into Union Igbo] 1926

WAL 6/2 Photographs formerly mounted for display on a reused card envelope captioned at the top 'Life in the Bush'. Item descriptions below use the captions from this card and additional notes on the back.
c.1925-1927

WAL 6/2/1 'Very comfortable. 400 pineapples lining paths (as per L.H. bottom corner)' '(?)Dieleo's House (?) Igwashi'

WAL 6/2/2 'A rest house. Onicha, Olona [?names of two persons outside]'

WAL 6/2/3 'Steward cutting cook's hair'

WAL 6/2/4 'Gabriel and Godson at work!' [beating mattress]

WAL 6/2/5 A class doing P.E. outside [without caption]

WAL 6/2/6 Card on which WAL6/2/1-5 formerly mounted

WAL 6/3 Photographs formerly mounted for display on a reused card envelope individually captioned but without header caption. Labelled on the back 'Nigeria Fellowship' so presumably displayed with WAL 6/2 at one of its meetings.

- WAL 6/3/1** 'Onitsha Grammar School 1925 (Opened). North Wing (South Wing not yet built'. 'The school. Taken by Wilcock'
- WAL 6/3/2** '54 boys at Games. 1925
- WAL 6/3/3** 'Assembly Hall and Chapel'
- WAL 6/3/4** 'A Dormitory'
- WAL 6/3/5** 'A Classroom'
- WAL 6/3/6** 'Rear Verandah (downstairs)
'The lower verandah west side. Form 'A' room first on left. Form 'B' in distance on left'
- WAL 6/3/7** 'Front verandah (upstairs)' and on back 'The upper verandah West side. Form I class room on left. Office at far distance on right. The desk you can see is where I sit and correct books and do language and get in the breeze.'
- WAL 6/3/8** 'Rear of building (path leads to dormitories'
WAL 6/3/95 'Headmaster's House. 1928'
- WAL 6/3/10** 'Seniors and Scouts 1925. (Scout at right front had represented Nigeria at Wembley Exhibition 1924)'
- WAL 6/3/11** 'View from upper verandah. R. Niger in distance'
- WAL 6/3/12** 'Part of the G.S. Compound with local Elementary School, yam garden and paw-paws in front'
- WAL 6/3/13** 'Onitsha court house complete with warder and policeman'.
'The Court House on flower show day July 3rd. Observe the Prison Warder and Policeman. A jolly couple. They were awfully bucked at having their likeness taken'
- WAL 6/3/14** Card on which WAL6/3/1-13 formerly mounted

WAL 7 'A History of the Dennis Memorial Grammar School, Onitsha [1925-1975]' by E. Chukuka Ezekwesili (died 2001), Dean of Student Affairs, University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

Downloaded from www.dengrams.org/history/html in 2004 and printed on to scrap paper. It is no longer available at that internet address but a revised version is on the [school's own website](#). It is not strictly part of Walker's archive at all but has been added here for convenient contextual information. [After 1975]