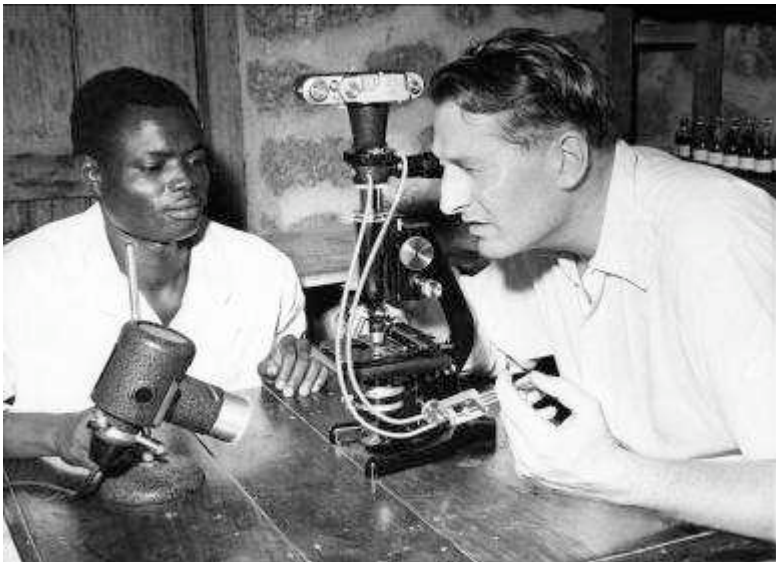




By 1955 Dr Calcott, pictured, had performed 1,456 operations, 678 of which restored sight. At the time Dr Calcott observed that "nearly 50 per cent of cases of blindness were due to cataract, which, of course, is curable."



Dr Rodger, pictured, was in charge of eye screenings in Nigeria and Ghana. It was during this time that Dr Rodger made an urgent plea for the prompt establishment of clinics and ophthalmic centres in the region. In the year 1953 alone he had performed 120 surgical operations in the northern territories of the Gold Coast.

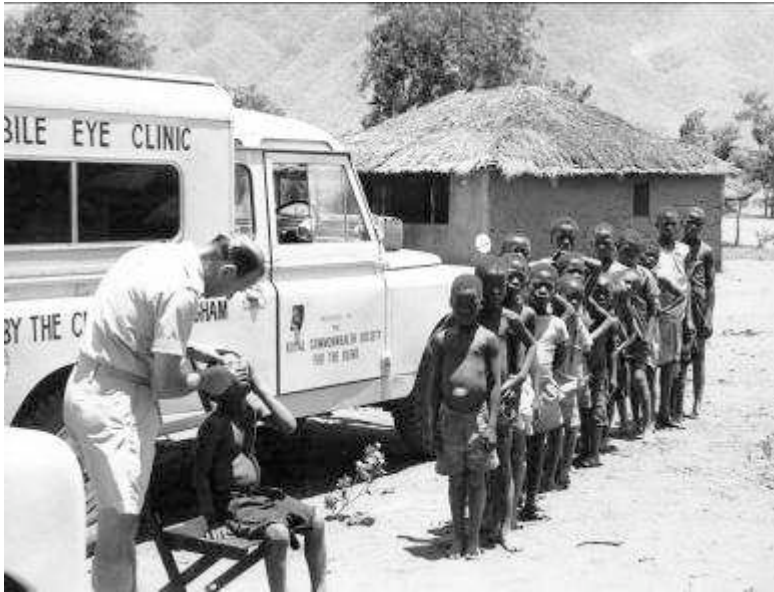


The charity was founded by the late Sir John Wilson (pictured left with his wife Lady Wilson studying a Braille world map). A school chemistry accident deprived Sir John of his sight at the age of 12, but he went on to study at Oxford before investigating blindness in the colonies on a government-sponsored fact-finding tour. So appalled by the attitudes towards

blindness that he witnessed, upon his return he established Sightsavers.



1960 saw the first mobile eye units launched in Kenya and Uganda. The trained staff used Land Rovers to travel thousands of miles to bring eye care to rural communities.



By 1964 there were nine mobile eye units operating.



In 1969 Sir Wilson instigated the ascent of Mount Kilimanjaro by a team of blind young Africans to help dispel the image of the blind person in Africa as a useless member of society.



By 1982 Sightsavers had conducted its 10 millionth eye treatment in Kenya (pictured). In the 1980s the charity also launched a revolutionary Braille production unit in Africa using computer technology to transcribe texts, thereby increasing the availability of Braille texts in East Africa.