

20th Feb 1983

- 8 Nov 1983

c/o Schlumberger
P.O. Box 487
Mubarrat
Al Ahesa
Saudi Arabia

Dear Mr. Fancitt, Thankyou for your letter of March 1982 asking details of my career with Schlumberger. I apologise for the delay - 1 year is a bit below par even for me - but working on the basis that little is better than never here's the reply. In fact, when I received your letter I had just left training school. Having spent a year in the field, I'm able to answer the questions a bit more realistically.

1. 26th Oct 1981

Al Hofuf, Saudi Arabia
Pre School Trainee

Responsibilities - none, except appearing keen enough not to get fired.

Earnings ~ £25,000

19th Nov 1981

Alexandria, Egypt (Egypt Training Centre)
Trainee

Responsibilities - as above plus passing tests.

Earnings ~ £25,000

1st March 1982

Al Hofuf, Saudi Arabia
Trainee

Responsibilities - start to run simple jobs also

Earnings - upward of £25,000

1st June 1982

Al Hofuf

Promotion to Field Engineer

Responsibilities - assigned truck and crew
Running own unit with full responsibility for jobs assigned

There is a substantial operating bonus contribution to salary so that salary tends to increase with experience. Currently in the region of £25,000. Job satisfaction throughout has been high.

2. The job turned out, in fact, pretty much as I had expected. The company literature is quite honest, but think carefully about words like challenging, demanding and exciting. It's certainly demanding to have to work 40 hours on the first, but you might not necessarily enjoy it. In the same vein, it's certainly a challenge to have to get up at 3 in the morning after two hours sleep to run a job, but that's not necessarily a bundle of fun either. And whilst the company might describe a situation at the wellsite where -
- downhole tools are suffering catastrophic failure in quick succession
- the company man's howling in your ear
- rig time is costing \$2000 per hour
as exciting, your opinion may be different.

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graduated in geology. My electronics know-how was refined essentially to A level physics and a wee cramming before the second interview. A deep understanding of electronics is certainly not necessary to perform the job of field engineer - it would only become important after four or five years when you decide which part of the company, which aspect of operations, you are going to move towards. Be warned though that if you do have a degree in a subject like geology that you will probably be expected to have some knowledge and interest in electronics, albeit on a fairly basic level.

3. Don't expect to get hot-shotted to any point on the globe at a moment's notice. If you are unfortunate enough to get posted to Saudi Arabia on your first assignment (as I was) you can look forward to two years of sun, sand and camels. On the other hand, a posting such as Saudi ~~is~~ merits a fairly generous amount of leave. In the past 12 months I've spent four sets of two weeks leave

- idling in Corsica
- caving in Austria
- hitchhiking, walking and climbing in Kashmir
- skiing in the Alps

and I have 10 weeks vacation due to start on Monday. It's a great opportunity to travel.

After 15 months with the company they will provide you with married accommodation if you require it. There are many Schlumberger locations where eligible young ladies are in abundance, and many (this is for instance) where they are not. In the case of the latter you'd have to be very lucky (or rich) to arrange a marriage on a two week set of days off. If, though, you either intend not to get married for a few years, or the matter of a partner was settled before you left home, then the job should provide any major obstacles to your private life.

4. Prospective applicants should possess pretty much the qualities mentioned in the brochures i.e.

Responsibility

Resourcefulness

Willingness to work hard etc. etc. blah, blah....

but again, read between the lines. If they want someone who's willing to work hard, it's because they intend to work him/her hard.

5. At this stage I'm not really sure which part of the industry I'll be involved in a few years hence, but I suspect it will be towards the geological rather than the engineering side.

6. The money is good and the job is often a great deal of fun. Don't be afraid to admit Schlumberger

if the salary is a major motive behind your application - Schlumberger appreciate that it's the greatest incentive they have to offer. Think carefully though about whether or not you are likely to enjoy the job. If the money is the only thing about Schlumberger that appeals to you, then you're in for a pretty miserable time. If, on the other hand, you think you'd enjoy working long hours in remote and often nasty places, then this has to be one of the best opportunities available to you as a graduate.

Best of luck to all applicants,

Tim Parker.