“IT’S WAR, DON’T COMPLAIN!”
ENQUIRIES INTO AFRICAN MEDICAL SERVICES DURING WORLD WAR I

DR ANNE SAMSON, 24 MARCH 2018

http://samilitaryhistory.org/vol042jm.html
**Kirkpatrick Complaint**

**Conditions German East Africa Feb-Oct 1916**

Enquiry Jan-March 1917

**Pike Report: 2 parts**

(avail: http://gweaa.com/home/medical-project/medical-archive/)

**German East Africa (Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi)**

Report dated 18 January 1918 covering 6 December 1917

War zone

**British East Africa (Kenya and Uganda)**

Report dated 18 January 1918 covering 6 December 1917

Not a war zone; comments on health of Nairobi and Mombasa towns

**Background**

Colonel Hedley John Kirkpatrick, Commander of 9SAI in 2nd Division (Gen van Deventer)

Enquiry Jan-March 1917 (General Reginald Hoskins, CiC)

Surgeon General William Pike, Army Medical Services, and Lt Col Andrew Balfour, Royal Army Medical Corps

- 11 July 1917 receive order to investigate medical conditions in East Africa
- 21 July 1917 sailed from England
- 24 August 1917 arrived at Dar-es-Salaam, German East Africa for tour of war zone
- 6 December 1917 arrived Mombasa, British East Africa for tour of non-war zone
- 20 January 1918 complete report into British East Africa

**Duke Court of Enquiry**

Captain HL Duke, Uganda Medical Service (bacteriologist)

- 10 December 1917, assumes command of Bombo Hospital and outlying areas
- 17 December 1917 Pike hospital inspection, immediate arrest and release
- 21 March 1918, Court of Enquiry, Brig-Gen HL Llewellyn, Commandant KAR
- 31 October 1918, CO/WO 'close' file
- April 1919, OBE award

**Berkeley-Hill Enquiry**

Captain OAR Berkeley-Hill, Indian Medical Service (psychoanalyst)

- 7 January 1918, letter to WO
- 3 July 1918, Hill fit enough to travel to EA for Court of Enquiry
- 11 October 1919 WO enquiry verdict sent to IO
Where Pike visited
Border

**German East Africa (24 August – 5 December 1917)**
Tanga, Dar-es-Salaam, Kilwa Kisiwani, Kilwa Kivinji, Lindi, Quarantine Island, Kurasini, Tabora, Itigi, Dodoma, Iringa, Termagwe, Kilossa, Ruaha, Mfrisi, Morogoro, Rufiji, Mikesse, Mpangas, Summit, Zanzibar, Mpara, Mingoyo, Chirimake, N’jangao, Mtama, Mahiwa, Mtandawala, Mnero, Nanganachi, Simbasi,

**British East Africa (6 December 1917 – 18 Jan 1918)**
Mombasa, Nairobi, Kisumu, Lake Victoria, Entebbe, Bombo, Kampala, Jinja, Kericho, Nakuru, Naivasha, Tanga, Voi
Medical structure

DMS
- ADMS SAN (GHQ)
- ADMS [GHQ]
  - ADMS (UGANDA)
- Inspectg MO IND: Troops
  - DADMS
- HOSPITALS
- DADMS SAN (GHQ)
  - ADMS (UGANDA)
    - 1 Sec MBFA
    - ANMC
- ADMS [GHQ]
  - DADMS
  - HOSPITALS
  - DADMS SAN (GHQ)
    - ADMS (UGANDA)
      - 1 Sec MBFA
      - ANMC
    - DADMS
  - HOSPITALS
  - DADMS SAN (GHQ)
    - ADMS (UGANDA)
      - 1 Sec MBFA
      - ANMC
    - DADMS
  - HOSPITALS
  - DADMS SAN (GHQ)
    - ADMS (UGANDA)
      - 1 Sec MBFA
      - ANMC
    - DADMS
  - HOSPITALS
- DDMS (LOC)
  - ADMS (South)
    - 4 Staty Hospitals
    - 3 Clearing Hospitals
    - 2 Secs FA
    - 2 Ad Dep MS
    - 2 Fd Dep MS
    - 2 MAC
  - ADMS (NBI)
    - 9 Hospitals
    - 5 Conv Homes
    - Base Depot MS
    - Hospital Train
  - ADMS
    - 4 Staty Hospitals
    - 3 Clearing Hospitals
    - 2 Secs FA
    - 2 Ad Dep MS
    - 2 Fd Dep MS
    - 2 MAC
    - 9 Hospitals
    - 5 Conv Homes
    - Base Depot MS
    - Hospital Train
  - ADMS (MLB)
    - 3 Hospitales
    - 2 Field Amb
    - 1 Conv Dep
    - 1 Field Amb
    - 1 Ad Dep MS
  - ADMS (MOR)
    - 1 Hosp Train
    - 1 MAC
    - 1 Ad Dep MS
  - SMO (DOD)
    - 1 Base dep MS
  - SMO (DSM)
    - 3 Hospitals
    - 1 Hosp Train
  - SMO (UNFORCE)
    - Embarkation
    - MO (DSM)
      - 4 Hosp Ships
  - SMO Col 3
    - 11 Secs FA
    - Det San Sec
    - Det IBC
  - SMO Col 4
    - 3 Secs FA
  - SMO Col 2
    - 3 Secs FA
  - SMO Col 1
    - 11 Secs FA
    - Det San Sec
    - Det IBC
  - SMO Nigerian Bde
    - OC 9 San Sec
    - PHO (UNDI)
    - OC LABY (DSM)
    - Entomologist
    - Plague MO (NBI)
    - DADMS SAN (SOUTH)
    - OC B6 San Sec
    - OC 4 San Sec
    - Chem Lab'y
    - OC 2 San Sec
    - OC 1 San Sec

Two mobile laboratories and an Entomologist are on route

NBI = Nairobi
MLB = Military Labour Bureau
MOR = Morogoro
DOD = Dodoma
DSM = Dar-es-Salaam
PHO = Port Health Officer
IBC = Indian Bearer Company
Sanitation

Markets
The MacKinnon Market – meat, European
The Piggott Market - fruit and vegetables, Locals
Fish Market is situated on the cliff
Fish-drying shed

Roof cover
Flooring

Slaughter House

Latrines

https://kaylabrisbin.wordpress.com/2013/12/02/thankful/
Medical Treatment

Stretcher Bearers, 3 KAR

Summary of Statistics

Native Base Hospital, Mombasa, for WAR PERIOD ... 6.8.1914 – 5.8.1917

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Patients Treated in Hospital</th>
<th>Malaria</th>
<th>Dysentery</th>
<th>Pneumonia</th>
<th>Blackwater</th>
<th>CSM</th>
<th>GS Wounds</th>
<th>Other Diseases</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>Adm</td>
<td>Deaths</td>
<td>Adm</td>
<td>Deaths</td>
<td>Adm</td>
<td>Deaths</td>
<td>Adm</td>
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<td>Indian Troops</td>
<td>2982</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>539</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>Indian Followers</td>
<td>993</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>124</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>64</td>
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<td>Cape Boys</td>
<td>552</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>East Africans</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>West Indians</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>Carrier Corps</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Civil Patients</td>
<td>358</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>5760</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>1581</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>351</td>
<td>104</td>
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<th>OUT PATIENTS</th>
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<th>...</th>
<th>1675</th>
<th>Civil</th>
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<td>...</td>
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<td>Civil</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>Military IN and OUT Patients</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>12654</td>
<td>Civil IN and OUT Patients</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>41449</td>
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Rations

PREPARATION AND COOKING OF FOOD – these are only secondary in importance to the provision of a good dietary. Bad cooking and monotony in the preparation of food account for much sickness and lessen the resisting power of the body. In the list of measures taken to combat disease good feeding undoubtedly holds a very high place and a man is not well fed unless his food is properly cooked. If this is true of the European it is still more true of the Indian and the African. Although the dietary of the last named is simple it requires most careful preparation, otherwise it is apt to disorder his digestion, irritate his bowel and pave the way for diarrhoea and dysentery.

Those who have suffered chiefly from defective cooking are the men who have to be constantly on the move, namely Motor Transport drivers and the Carriers, and every effort should be made to improve their lot in this particular. A great deal still requires to be done in the case of the Motor Transport but the Military Labour Bureau has taken up the question of cooking for the carriers and the conditions have been revolutionised. We were much struck by the admirable arrangements made in most of the Carrier Camps and Depots and it was evident that the porters appreciated what had been done for them in this respect.
EUROPEAN AND CAPE COLOURED CORPS

1 lb fresh or frozen meat, or 1 lb preserved meat or 1 lb salt meat.
1 ¼ lb bread or 1 lb Biscuits, or 1 lb flour (atta) with 1/3 oz baking powder.
5/8 oz tea.
¼ lb Jam.
3 oz Sugar (4 oz for all Europeans beyond rail-head, GRO 665D/28/7/16).
½ oz Salt
1/36 oz Pepper
1/50 oz Mustard
½ lb Fresh vegetables or 2 oz dried vegetables.
1/320 galls Lime juice } At the discretion of GOC areas on medical recommendation
1/64 galls Rum } Vide GRO 89, dated 7/3/16
2 oz Tobacco weekly (Lady nurses get 100 cigarettes per month in lieu).
2 boxes matches weekly } Vide GRO D/25/5/16.
1 piece soap per 7 days
8 oz Condensed milk per day to Lady Nurses (GRO 433D/29/5/16).

SCALE OF RATIONS FOR AFRICAN TROOPS, ARAB COMPANY AND GUN PORTERS AND STRETCHER BEARERS

1 lb Rice ½ lb Meat or ½ lb dates
½ oz Salt 2 oz Ghee
½ lb Mahindi Flour 8 oz potatoes or onions per man daily
1 piece soap per man per week
1 lb Dates and ½ lb beans will be issued in lieu of 1 lb rice twice a week when available.
Atta will be issued in lieu of Mahindi flour to the Arab Company.
An issue of 1 ½ lbs firewood per man, to all Africans at Nairobi is sanctioned (L of C order No 177 dated 8/4/16).
Arab rifles 1/8 oz Tea and 1 oz Sugar (vide GRO 283 dated 26/2/17).

INDIAN TROOPS AND FOLLOWERS AND LOCAL INDIANS

Atta 1 ½ lb
Ginger 1/3 oz
Chillies 1/6 oz
* Fresh meat 4 oz
Dhall 4 oz
Turmeric 1/6 oz
Ghee 2 oz
Garlic 1/6 oz
Gur 1 oz
Salt ½ oz
Potatoes 2 oz
Fuel 1 ½ lbs
Tea 1/3 oz
* or 2 oz Milk in lieu to all non-beef eaters when proper meat is not available.

2 oz Tobacco or 40 cigarettes and 2 boxes matches per man per week (GRO 931 and 936 dated 11 and 23/10/16).
4 oz Fresh vegetables to Indian Troops at Morogoro is sanctioned (GRO 388 dated 13/4/17).
Bread in lieu of atta or rice and flour has been sanctioned to Indians of Indian Stretcher Bearer Corps (GRO 275 dated 19/4/16).

SCALE OF RATIONS FOR CARRIERS

British Ranks and Goanese As for British Troops
Indians As for British Troops
Arabs, Swahilis and Somali clerks, headmen and Interpreters As for African Troops
Africans
1 ¼ Flour to flour eaters, or 1 ¼ lb rice to rice eaters
½ lb Beans
½ lb Meat
½ oz Salt
For Carriers per man per day:
4 oz Potatoes or Bananas
2 oz Jaggery
2 oz Sim Sim oil or Ghee per man per day or 2 green cocoa nuts per man per week
(GRO 1087D/22/11/16)
When meat not available then ½ lb dates in lieu meat, or ½ lb biltong in lieu ½ lb meat or ½ lb beans in lieu ½ lb meat (GRO 852 dated 15/9/16). ½ lb Flour may be issued in lieu of ½ lb beans to African Carriers who are not bean eaters (GRO 142 dated 17/3/16).
A weekly issue of 100 lbs. Soap is authorised for each Carrier Depot (GRO 997 dated 25/10/16).
Note: Flour to be banana mealie, wimbe, or matama, according to the class of porters.
In exceptional cases money may be issued in lieu of rations, on a certificate from the Supply Transport Officer that rations in kind have not been issued, the scale being 15-cents (p59) per man for a complete ration, or 6 cents in lieu of meat only.
SCALE OF RATIONS FOR CAPE BOYS

1/2 lb Bread
3 oz Sugar
1 lb mealie meal
1 lb Meat
1/8 oz Salt
5/8 oz Tea or 1 oz Coffee
2 oz potatoes or green vegetables in lieu is sanctioned
Soap 1 piece per man weekly.

Note: Somalies entertained by ADRS will draw Cape Boys rations with the following alterations:-

1 lb rice in lieu of 1 lb mealie meal
2 oz Ghee African in lieu 1/2 lb bread

AUTHORISED SCALE FOR ALL GOLD COAST, NIGERIANS AND OTHER WEST AFRICAN TROOPS

Rice 1 lb 2 oz
Biscuits 4 oz or Mealie Meal 6 oz in lieu
Fresh meat 8 oz
Sugar 2 oz
Chillies 1/3 oz
Cocoa or Tea or Coffee 1/3 oz
Salt 1 oz
Palm or other cooking oils 2 oz
Soap 1 piece per man, per week

SCALE OF RATIONS FOR WEST INDIA REGIMENT

Bread, biscuits or equivalents 1/2 lb
Meat 1/2 lb
Salt 1/8 oz
Tea 1/8 oz
Lime juice 1/10 gill (1/2 oz)
Soap 1 piece per man per week

(GRO 696 dated 7/8/16)

1/2 Bn British WI Regt is authorised to draw European scale of rations (GRO 1131 dated 4/12/16)

CHINESE

Flour or Bread 1/2 lb
Rice 1 lb
Salt 1 lb
Fresh Vegetables 8 oz
Beans 4 oz
Sugar 1 oz
Tea 1/8 oz
Meat or dried Fish or Pork 10 oz
Cooking Oil 1/2 oz
Fuel 3 lb

(GRO 696 dated 7/8/16)

http://www.old-print.com/cgi-bin/item/P2511917001/search/23%2DPrint%2D1917%2DCocoanut%2DMilk%2DAfrican%2DSoldiers%2DWar%2D-Hoskins%2DDavenport%2D01P251%2DOld%2DOriogina
Animals
3 major diseases: trypanosomiasis, horse sickness and East Coast fever of cattle.

Rations
Horses – 12 lb grain, ½ oz Salt, 12 lb fodder  
Ponies – 10 lb grain, ½ oz Salt, 12 lb fodder  
Battery Mules, 1st Class – 9 lb, ½ oz Salt, 10 lb fodder  
Mules 2nd class – 7 lb grain, 1 oz Salt, 8 lb fodder  
Local Mules – 6 lb grain, ½ oz Salt, 8 lb fodder  
Donkeys – 4 lb grain, ½ oz Salt  
Trek Oxen – 2 oz Salt  
Riding Camels – 10 lb grain, 2 oz Salt, 12 lb fodder  
Baggage Camels – 2 oz Salt  
Gun and ammunition column oxen will receive 1 oz Salt and in addition, when marching, 4 lb grain.

Note: Fodder will be issued only when available; all animals will have to be grazed. Gun and ammunition column oxen will receive 1 oz Salt and in addition, when marching, 4 lb grain.
Further reading

Doctor memoirs
17 Letters to Tatham – Ann Crichton-Harris
On call in Africa – Norman Parsons Jewell
Marching on Tanga – Francis Brett Young

Campaign history
Tip and Run – Edward Paice
Forgotten Front – Ross Anderson

Enquiries
Kirkpatrick – CO 551/101
Hill Enquiry – WO 141/30
Duke Enquiry – WO 141/35