

Manual ‘Men under Arms in Colonial Africa: East African Forces’

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The data set contains individual information of Kenyan army recruits who joined the East African Forces, mostly during WWII. The original documents are on microfilm available at Kenyan Armed Forces, Defence Headquarters, Ulinzi House, Nairobi.

The data set comes in two formats

1. An excel file .xls
2. A Stata file .dta

Timothy Parson’s work is extremely useful to understand the backgrounds and recruitment procedures of Kenyan recruits over time. Alexander Moradi (2009) extensively analysed a number of variables in the data set including unit, ethnicity, height, age at enlistment, year and place of birth.

Parsons, T. H. (1999). *The African Rank-and-File: Social Implications of Colonial Military Service in the King's African Rifles, 1902-1964*. Portsmouth, NH; Oxford: Heinemann

Moradi, A. (2009). Towards an Objective Account of Nutrition and Health in Colonial Kenya: A Study of Stature in African Army Recruits and Civilians, 1880-1980. *Journal of Economic History*, 69(3), 720-755.

Any user of the data must credit and cite the two authors above. The suggested citation is

Moradi, A. and Mylavarapu, S. “Men under Arms in Colonial Africa: East African Forces”, 2008.

Additionally, Cooperation of the Kenyan Armed Forces, as well as the financial support of ARP at Harvard must be acknowledged (see acknowledgments below). A hardcopy of any publication originating from this data set must be sent to Chief of General Staff, Kenyan Armed Forces, Defence Headquarters, Ulinzi House, P.O. Box 40668, Nairobi, Kenya. Any commercial use is strictly prohibited.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to the Kenyan Armed Forces, Defence Headquarters, Ulinzi House, Nairobi, Chief of General Staff for granting access to the records of the King's African Rifles to the first author. We are also grateful to all those who helped to track the documents, particularly the Army Personnel Centre, Historical Disclosures, Glasgow. We thank Peterson Kithuka, Maureen Were and Jacinta Sikali for their excellent research assistance in Nairobi. Data collection was funded by the African Research Program at Harvard University, and their financial support is gratefully acknowledged.

Variable Name	Description
ID	Case identification number ID uniquely identifies cases in the data set
File No	Microfilm number of the soldier's file. File No. might be useful if checking the original data source (on microfilm) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Files 111 & 1009: These files had information of two soldiers. • Files 384 –428 exist, but are distorted and could not be read. • Files 429-508 are missing. They don't appear in any of the film clips read • Files 1127-1131 are missing • There is duplication, i.e. there are two files for one soldiers numbered 1202 and 1204 (Regimental No M271). File 1204 was not inputted. • Files 1205-1221 are missing • Files 1900-2221 are missing
Missing	For some cases, the file consisted of the cover page only (see Supplementary documents). Apart from File No, Unit and Name soldier , these files do not contain any additional information. Essentially, these cases can be ignored
Unit_origin	Military branch as it was given on the attestation papers. Unit_origin was standardised in Unit
Unit	Military branch
Regimental No	The regimental number as it was given on the attestation paper
Name soldier	The attestation papers gave the name of the soldier. Note that we decided to anonymise the entries. Code for missing values: 999
Name father	The father's name. Again, we deleted the name anonymising the entries. Code for missing values: 999
Chief	Chief's name
Tribe	The soldier's ethnic group Code for missing values: 999 Note that the information was derived from a field named 'Tribe' in the original documents. The ethnic information in Tribe does not follow conventional classification. We therefore

recoded **Tribe** into broader ethnic categories (see **Ethnic3** for details). **Ethnic3** is only available in the Stata file

District Soldier's district of birth
Code for missing values: 999

District is state level 2 geographic information. Note that **District** boundaries do not correspond to today's administrative regions. As the area of **District** is relatively large, the use of the finer-grained geographic information **Sub-District** is recommended.

Subdistrict Soldier's sub-district of birth
Code for missing values: 999

Subdistrict is state level 3 geographic information.

Village Soldier's sub-district of birth
Code for missing values: 999

Village is state level 4 geographic information.

Muluka Soldier's Muluka (parish)
Code for missing values: 999

DSG_District Designation Code for **District**
Code for missing values: Blank

We matched **District** with data from the GEONet geographic database (Geonet National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, available at <http://gnswww.nga.mil/geonames/GNS/index.jsp>).

The GEONet gave some background information of the places, which we included in our data set:

Code	Designation definition	Freq
ADM1	first-order administrative division	22
ADM2	a subdivision of a first-order administrative division	430
ADMD	an administrative division of a country, undifferentiated as to administrative level	1060
AREA	a tract of land without homogeneous character or boundaries	2
CTRF	a place where more than one facility is situated	2
HLL	a rounded elevation of limited extent rising above the surrounding land with local relief of less than 300m	1

PPL	a city, town, village, or other agglomeration of buildings where people live and work	90
PPLA	seat of a first-order administrative division	45

UFI_district Unique Case identifier from GEONet

LAT_district Latitude of **District** (in decimals)
Code for missing values: Blank

LONG_district Longitude of **District** (in decimals)
Code for missing values: Blank

DSG_subdistrict Designation Code for **Sub-District**
Code for missing values: 999
Code for places which we could not identify: x

Code	Designation definition	Freq
999		380
ADM1	first-order administrative division	1
ADMD	an administrative division of a country, undifferentiated as to administrative level	877
ADMF	a government building	2
AREA	a tract of land without homogeneous character or boundaries	29
CTRF	a place where more than one facility is situated	8
HLL	a rounded elevation of limited extent rising above the surrounding land with local relief of less than 300m	12
ISL	a tract of land, smaller than a continent, surrounded by water at high water	4
MFG	one or more buildings where goods are manufactured, processed or fabricated	6
MKT	a place where goods are bought and sold at regular intervals	3
MSSN	a place characterized by dwellings, school, church, hospital and other facilities operated by a religious group for the purpose of providing charitable services and to propagate religion	1
PLN	an extensive area of comparatively level to gently undulating land, lacking surface irregularities, and usually adjacent to a higher area	20
PPL	a city, town, village, or other agglomeration of buildings where people	128

	live and work	
PPLA	seat of a first-order administrative division (PPLC takes precedence over PPLA)	1
SCH	building(s) where instruction in one or more branches of knowledge takes place	63
SHSE	a building for storing goods, especially provisions	2
x		308

UFI_subdistrict Unique Case identifier from GEONet

LAT_subdistrict Latitude of sub-district (in decimals)

LONG_subdistrict Longitude of sub-district (in decimals)

Name_village **Village** is a very small geographic unit, probably as small as an agglomeration of compounds

When matching, we found a number of misspellings in **Village**, probably because the entities were so small that there were no agreed spellings by 1940. We therefore created variable **Name_village**, which gives the (officially agreed) name of the village as it appears on GEONet Names database.

If you have doubts about matching accuracy you can compare **Name_village** and **Village**

DSG_village Info like above for **Village**

UFI_village

LAT_village

LONG_village

geo_district

geo_place

geo_DSG

geo_UFI

geo_long

geo_lat

The geographic variables **District** and **Subdistrict** are not entirely consistent spatial aggregates. For example, some entries in **District** are rather state level 3 geographic information, and at the same time there is no entry in **Subdistrict**. Sometimes you find a place in **District**, which is entered as **Subdistrict** for another soldier. Note that the inconsistencies are in the original entries.

We therefore created the **geo** variables, which give preference to places (with the corresponding latitudes and longitudes) that have designation code ADMD in Geonet. This way, the spatial aggregates become comparable

!! The **geo** variable should be used in spatial analysis !!

Former Trade Soldier's occupation before joining the Forces.
The information is available for soldiers who served in the Tanganyika Territory Unit (see **Unit**)

Trade Information refers to the roles while in the army.
The information is taken from the Trade sheet form /Report (see **Supplementary documents**)

Name of kin Name of kin to bequeath any property. Note that we decided to anonymise the entries
Code for missing values: 999

Next of kin Kinship of **Name of kin**. Classifications include brother, sister and son
Code for missing values: 999

Served Engaged for Majesty
Basically, this is a variable indicating whether the recruit served with the Colours before

Codes	Freq
999	681
no	946
yes	218

Term_original Terms of enlistment as given on the original document

term Terms in years recoded from **Term_original**
Code for missing values: 999

Signature Soldier's signature
Code for missing values: 999

If the soldier was illiterate, thumb-prints or the three middle fingers-print was taken.

Place_certificate Place of certificate

Height (feet) Height in feet
Code for missing values: 999

Height (inches) Height in inches
Code for missing values: 999

Chest Chest Circumference (in inches)
Code for missing values: 999

Rank Soldier's Rank
The ranks are given as abbreviations common in the British army at that time

CPL	Corporal
PTE	Private
SPR	Sapper
SGT	Sergeant
CSM	Company Sergeant Major
DVR	Driver
GNR	Gunner
RSM	Regimental Sergeant Major
SGMN	Signalman
WOII	Warrant Officer Class II
WOPC	Warrant Officer Platoon Commander
BSM	Battery Sergeant Major
CLK	Clerk

Day_enlist Day of enlistment

Month_enlist Month of enlistment

Year_enlist Year of enlistment

Day_doc Day when the document was issued

Month_doc Month when the document was issued

Year_doc Year when the document was issued

Age Recruit's age
Code for missing values: 999

On some medical forms, age is recorded as “A” or “Adult”. So if you come across it - that is the way it is recorded. In addition, information on age is lacking for some soldiers. This cuts across all units but it is common for soldiers in EAMLS, served for a term of six months and were pagans.

- Yob** Calculated year of birth
- The year of birth was calculated by subtracting **Age** from **Year_doc**. There were a number of inconsistencies, e.g. soldiers were not five years older on a document issued 5 years later. In these cases we took the average
- Age_enlist** Calculated age at enlistment
- Source (Age)** Which document indicated the **Age**
- Kind of document** The source, from which the entries on **Age** is based
- Supplementary documents** Additional documents that are available on microfilm and from which some of the variables are based (see **File No**)
- Religion_origin** Soldier’s religion as it appears on the documents.
- Because of the many missionaries in Kenya, the Christian religion was given in detail. You can find here reported religions like AIM, SDA, Quaker and Orthodox. We therefore recoded **Religion_origin** into broader categories of religion (see **Religion3** at the end of this manual for details). **Religion3** is only available in the Stata file
- Marks** Special marks
Code for missing values: 999
- Medical info** Other information found on medical forms
- Deployment** Countries served during the war
Note that soldiers fought in a number of countries, which are all listed in this variable. Countries are separated by a comma
- Ethnic3** Standardized ethnicity
Use crosstabs to find out about which ethnicities in **Tribe** were summarized

Ethnicity	Freq
Gusii	34
Kalenjin	81
Kamba	198
Kikuyu	140
Luhya	129

Luo	505
Meru	357
Northern pastoralists	83
Other	264
Somali	54

Religion3

Standardized Religion

Codes	Freq
999	452
Muslim	86
NIL	55
Pagan	547
Protestant/other christian	431
Roman Catholic	274

ADDITIONAL DATA ENTRY NOTES

- Attestation forms for EAMLS lack information on height, chest measurement and marks
- Note that the attestation papers for the Tanganyika Territory do not have information on sub-district, height and chest measurement, religion and marks