

Thomas Herbert Elliot Jackson

Early Life

Thomas Jackson was born 12 January 1903 to Herbert Kendall & Winifred Gladys Jackson. He acquired the nickname pinkie very shortly after birth due to the pinkish colour of his hair.

He had two younger sisters, Ysobel (known as Nootie) and Eleanore (referred to as Babs)

Initially home schooled, the family were fortunate enough to have servants and nannies. At the age of 9 he was sent to boarding school at Southlea school in Malvern (which closed c 1930s), until 1916. After this he went to Wellington College, following in the footsteps of his father and going into the same Lynedoch dormitory, until he left in 1921 and went to Harper Adams Agricultural College near Newport, in Shropshire (now a University).

During his time at school he was an active sportsman playing football, cricket, rugby, hockey and tennis, a number of which he continued with when they moved to Kenya. He also won 1st prize in the Natural Science Society in 1919 & 1920 for his work in Lepidoptera & Entomology

He also enjoyed shooting from an early age, with Herbert giving him his first gun at the age of 14



1912 left - Babs, Pinkie & Nootie

Farming at Kapretwa, Mount Elgan

Having left education at the age of 21 the plan was for Pinkie to follow in his Uncle Elliot's shoes and learn the skills of managing an Indigo plantation in India (*see Appendix 2 for correspondence on this*). However whilst on his way out there in 1924 he stopped in Kenya and fell in love with the country, so it was decided for the whole family to sell up and emigrate there. No small task as his father Herbert was 65 then and suffering with lumbago.

Extracts from the diaries on travelling to and setting up the farm are recorded in the document "Jacksons Great Adventure to Africa – Farming Kapretwa"

His farm at Kapretwa initially farmed Coffee, but due to the height above sea level this was on the real extremes on which coffee could be grown. In addition the Jackson's grew maize, to provide a quick crop and income, as well as food for staff. During the 1940s, due to overproduction of coffee in the world the price plummeted, which caused financial difficulties. Later on in 1950s he diversified into Tea (1st reference in May 51 about going to learn about Tea in Kericho), following which he set up a factory with his neighbour Lord Portsmouth (with whom they drank a large quantity of weak pink gin's), which then became one of his main crops. Kapretwa was set up as a Limited Company initially and then became a PLC.

Kapretwa had an amazing garden which was initially established by Wynne and over the years Pink added to it with Orchids that he collected on his expeditions. A number were new discoveries and also named after him (Appendix 5)

Within the house he had a room set up solely for housing his butterfly collection which were stored in specifically made display cases. In the dining room, Max Symes recalls postage stamps were stuck to the ceiling, which was a great mystery as to how this was done. However this was solved when Pinkie demonstrated how this was achieved by putting the licked stamp on a coin and flicking it to the ceiling. He was a lover of classical music and had purchased a huge quantity of Persian/hand made rugs when they 1st moved to Kenya to use on the floors

After Wynne's death in 1931 from the monkey bite, Herbert & Babs returned to England. Ysobel remained with Pinkie until 1932, when she too returned to England to farm in Suffolk with her husband Bill Symes, however in 1938 they returned to Kenya to farm near Kitalie.

In the 1950s Babs, along with her two children, Helen & David, initially moved in with Bill & Ysobel Symes and then went to stay with Pinkie, after she divorced her husband, Bill Scott (he subsequently shot himself, suffering an alcohol addition and being heavily in debt). The family stayed a number of years, until Babs found work in Nairobi which had a flat with it.

Throughout his time in Kenya Pink would go off on expeditions/safaris with only the basic of facilities, something that had been encouraged by Wynne from his early life (refer to the diaries Appendix 1). On a lot of these he was accompanied by his sister Ysobel, which caused some jealousy with her husband Bill. There is also an account from the Earl Of Portsmouth, a close neighbour during the 50s & 60s of the experience of a safari, within his autobiography (Appendix 7)

Before the war most of the farmers (including Bill & Pink) drove American cars being Chevrolets or Fords, which used to be the big discussion point in the schoolyard as to which was best, although this changed after the war due to import taxes

Max Shaw, a friend and nearby farmer also wrote that when the search for gold started in Karamoja in Uganda. Ysobel often accompanied Pink to his claims for several weeks at a time and helped in washing the alluvial. This would have been pre 1932 before she left Kenya, so possibly 1931/32.

He also had dogs and cats, one particular cat he called Panda had several litters of kittens and these are regular referenced in letters



1925-29 Initially lived in mud hut till Kapretwa built in 1929



Pinkie 1929



Pink at Coffee factory

World War 2

Prior to the war Pinkie had enlisted in the Kenya Defence Force in 1930, which was a territorial force, whose members served part time. They attended training sessions during the year, along with camps. This was replaced by the Kenya Regiment TF (Territorial Force) in 1937, where Pinkie was one of the initial members – registration no KR575]

At the outbreak of World War II Jackson joined the Officer Cadet Training Unit (OCTU) and posted to the East African Reconnaissance Squadron (EARS). He was later drafted to the 4th King's African Rifles. After some service with this regiment he was seconded by the Kenya government to the administration of the Turkana district, where he was largely responsible for raising a company of 'Turkana Irregulars' for duty on the troubled Abyssinian (now Ethiopia) frontier. Later he was charged with the military administration of a large area in Northern Somalia. By the end of the war he had reached the rank of Lieutenant Colonel – although he was referred to as Colonel on retirement, which was normal.

During his time in the war he suffered a shooting accident whilst presumably trying to shoot game, in May 1941. He had someone assisting with reloading his shotgun, who put the incorrect cartridges in which slid down the barrel. Pinkie clearly went to fire the gun, nothing happened and assumed the gun was not loaded, so inserted further cartridges. When he pulled the trigger it was too much for the barrel to handle, resulting in it exploding, causing Pink to lose 2 joints of his middle finger and one joint on forefinger on his left hand – you can see this in the photo on next page. The incident was reviewed by his Commanding officer who ruled "Not on duty – Not to blame", presumably to check it hadn't been deliberately inflicted to avoid active service. After a months sick leave he returned to Special duties

The Turkana are a Nilotic people native to the Turkana County in northwest Kenya, a semi-arid climate region bordering Lake Turkana in the east, Pokot, Rendille and Samburu people to the south, Uganda to the west, and South Sudan and Ethiopia to the north. They refer to their land as Turkan.

From World War I through to the end of World War II, Turkana actively participated in the wars as allies of Britain against invading Italy. Turkana was used as the launching pad for the war against invading Italian forces leading to the liberation of Abyssinia.



OCTU Nakuru 1940

Butterfly & Orchid Collecting

Butterfly collecting was extremely popular in the early 1900s, especially amongst boys. Pink showed a fascination in this from the age 8, with entries in his mothers regularly referencing this (*See Appendix 1* - these are referenced with the 🦋 symbol)

Pinkie was one of the main contributors in East Africa and amassed a collection of some 115k over the years he collected. He split them in 1961/62 with c50k going to Natural History Museum and the balance of 65k going to the Nairobi Museum (who received some of the best specimens) on his death in 1968. The NHM split the donation between Oxford (possibly have 20%) and the remainder held in the London museum, where they are held in accession and not included in the main collection yet (due to lack of resource/budget

to arrange for it to be incorporated), so not easily viewed/accessed by the public. The Nairobi museum has probably the most complete collection of African butterflies in all Africa now.

Pinkie studied the full lifecycle of the butterflies from lava and used innovative ways of capturing butterflies. For example The Blue Butterfly of Africa was obtained by working with logging companies, so that when trees were chopped down it revealed ants nests. These nests used to contain the lava of the blue butterflies which used to exude a sweet substance the ants liked, in return for which the ants would feed them. After they pupated the butterflies would then emerge.

From the 1930s, he was in frequent correspondence with Geoff Hale Carpenter, Professor of Zoology at Oxford University, providing information and specimens for study, who in turn referenced some of Pink's research in the papers he published on mimicry in butterflies. Even World War 2 didn't stop the research, collecting (in Somaliland) communication with letters between them, with them being sent to Major THE Jackson, c/o Civil Affairs Branch, East Africa Command. As a result of his collecting and connections there were a number of new discoveries which were named after him, either Jackson or Pinkie (*Appendix 6*). They also worked on Carpenter's penultimate paper jointly together which was published in 1950 (Carpenter died in 1953), which included colour images at significant cost to Pinkie.



1949

In 1945 he started to employ 'boys' to collect for him in various areas although noted in a letter to Carpenter in Mch 45 "The trouble is that, in this beautiful country, where a male is liable to be murdered for the clothes he stands in, there are not many places where a boy will go." Over the following years he had collectors send him samples from all over Africa such as Nigeria, Cameroon and Congo which were dried and sent over in biscuit tins, with moth balls included. He then had a number of workers who would sort these out and pin them. Any surplus stock was then sent onto other museums, so his material can be seen elsewhere, such as the Trans vull museum

He still ventured on safari's himself, including annual trips to Karamaja and detailed one trip to the Congo in Aug 1946, which was published in 1952 in the East African Journal of Natural History (*Appendix 7*). This was broader than just butterflies and he collected beetles and other insects too for the British Museum.

Most of the collecting areas in East Africa have now gone. Elgon still has a park, but with the population explosion from 8m in the 1960s to 50m now (2020), the natural habitat has gone....much like Pinkie had predicted in his article in the East African Women Leagues Trans Nzoia Scrap Book article (*see Appendix 6*)

Pinkie's obituary (*Appendix 4*), references a number of his exploits and was written by Bob Carcasson, head of the Coryndon Museum (now National Museum)

Pinkie also returned to the UK on many occasions, staying with a lot of his collector contacts and then visiting the British Museum (Natural History), to study their collection.

He was also a keen collector of Orchids and his garden displayed lots of varieties. He would go out on expeditions looking for new plants too and discovered a number (*see Appendix 5* – where one is an Orchid). He was a regular contributor to Kew Gardens and the Director of Kew, Sir George Taylor also went out on safari with Pink in the Rwenzori Mountains on the boarder of Uganda & the Congo. They would correspond with each other regularly sending specimens and bulbs to each other, for both displaying in Key and also for Pinkie to grow in his garden. They appeared to regularly have issues with the import paper certification for items coming into Kenya to avoid introducing alien species, sometimes resulting in plants being returned or held in customers till the correct paperwork was provided. As well as damaging the plants, from reading the correspondence this was clearly a big irritation for him

Death

In the 1960s he decided he was looking to leave Kenya, given how independence was taking place and had looked to leave his farm to the 100-150 people who worked for him. He had mentioned this to them, however when he sought advice from a lawyer it turned out the cost of transfer of each holding was going to be more than the value of the land. It was speculated that one of his staff possibly wanted to be rid of Pinkie sooner and attacked him with a knife to the stomach, however they never found the culprit. He had suffered from a burglary previously and recounts one incident in a letter to Sir George (Appendix 5)

Friends who attended his funeral were Henry Bernier (an orchid expert) Peter Greensmith (planted and designed the gardens of all the capital cities in East Africa) Bob Carcasson (as mentioned above) and Lord Portsmouth.

He was buried in Kitalie, although the graveyard is in disrepair and most of the headstones plaques have been stolen, including Pinkie's.

His sister Ysobel and her daughter Pat, who was due to stay with Pink later in the year) packed up his estate. At the funeral Pat started to cry and was told by Ysobel to stop, to present a strong image as they were brought up not to display emotions – different times.

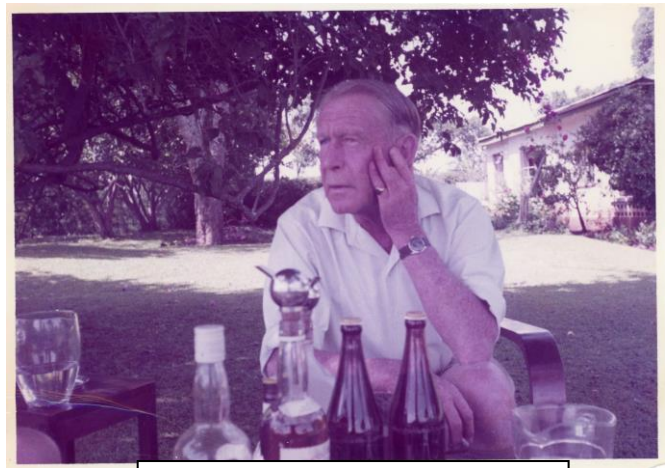
Murder in Kenya

NAIROBI, Friday (AAP-Reuter). — A dusk-to-dawn curfew was declared in an area of Kenya's former "White Highlands" yesterday after the second brutal murder there in less than a week.

The latest victim was 65-year-old British farmer Thomas Herbert Elliot Jackson, who was stabbed to death in his house at Kitale, 200 miles west of Nairobi late last night.

Appendices

- 1) Wynne's Diaries from 1903-1931
- 2) Letters re future opportunities for work
- 3) World War 2
- 4) References/obituaries to Pinkie
- 5) Orchids named after Pinkie
- 6) Entomology references & butterflies named after Pinkie
- 7) Safari experience
- 8) Other references inc Schools



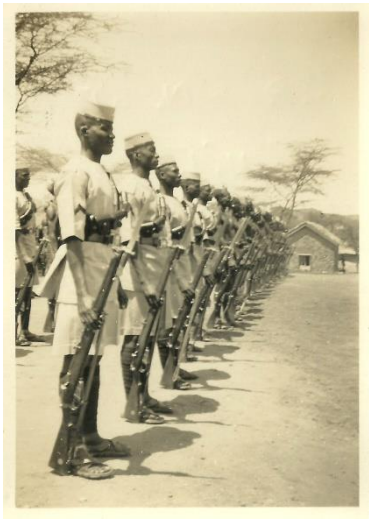
Pinkie 1950s – note finger missing



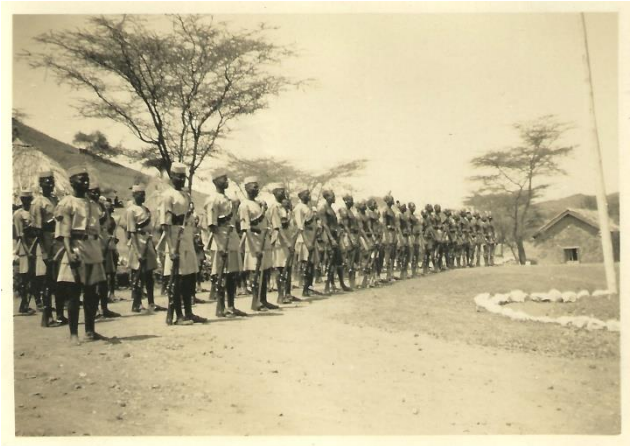
House & Gardens 1960s



APPENDIX 3 – World War 2
Photos



General Wetherall's Inspection



Kenya Police & Tribal Police Lokitaung Nov 1941



Political Office Kalam



Pink & CO



1941 Feb Fort Wilkinson Todenyang (Kenya-Ethiopian border) bombed by Vickers Valentia with 40 gal drum (refer to Sources)



Pink & troop of Turkhana Irregulars he trained - Kalam



Irregular wearing the uniform Pink designed



Lorry stuck on the road to Kibish from Kalam



Omo River Lake Rudolf

APPENDIX 3 – World War 2

Letter to Ysobel Symes (sister) written on 4th Uganda Kings African Rifles headed paper in 1940

Uganda
1/4 KAR
ADS
Nairobi

My dear – Just back from a hurried trip up above to find your letter & the garters – the latter are fine & I feel very smart – thanks ever so much.

We've had a very strenuous week – pushed off first on a scare (*false alarms of Italian attacks*) down the road – camped once on the way – then more scares on arrival & two Coys (*company's*) with various oddments were ordered on up. Except for a lot of hard work & a very few, very irregulars we found nothing either on the border or well over it, nor much signs of there ever having been anything of consequence – still we showed the flag, bucked up our own Somalis perhaps a bit, & had quite an exciting time – unfortunately it ended in tragedy – we arrived after travelling all night at a certain river! got over before dawn & were thinking of a few hours sleep, when over came 3 Capronis (*Italian bomber*) & for ½ hour turned the place upside down – they dropped about 300 altogether, small bombs known as “anti-personnel” – they're dropped in “sticks” of 5-10 at regular sort of intervals as the plane flies over the target. Quite the most unpleasant experience I've ever been through! – one lies on one's stomach & waits & one can hear if the plane is coming directly over one or not – then if it is bang goes the first salvo, bang another a little closer, then another & finally one knows the next is yours!!

The damage, however, is very little in comparison, for the whole of their expense in bombs & petrol they got one man & 2 wounded out of quite a large force in the area & dozens of lorries.

But the tragedy was ours - when it was all over I went round to see who was hit & found three in our own HQ about 10 yards from where I'd parked myself at first! One died almost at once with a hole in his head - & the other two we bandaged up, a shattered knee & a hole in the loin – I hated seeing these chaps knocked about, it isn't their quarrel, they were marvellous no moans or loss of control – the one with the knee, most of it had been shot away, had taken off his own puttee & put it on as a tourniquet himself & had then fired at a plane!! I was glad to find I could control my feelings & get down to them – its always been one of the things that worried me – but actually one only looks on it as something one can do to help when the time comes. Perhaps I shouldn't tell you these sort of grizzly things, but I've always thought that kind of convention is nonsense. I went & saw those two in hospital this morning – both pretty critical, but both quite cheery, we're back a bit up the road now to build this damn camp & I hope & expect they'll move them back too to a base hospital. Isn't war bloody?

Its made me realise what it must be like at home now, tho' of course they've got shelters & I'm convinced that having a shelter or a trench one wouldn't worry a bit.

Eddy came over & dined with me yesterday, he's with the Nig. Field Battery – I'm trying to persuade him to come home on leave with me about Oct 1 or 2 maybe just a bit before & I think he may & I'm bringing Glanville, one of our Coy Commanders, who was in the Kitale New Year's Eve party dressed as a boy. I think this ought to come off, but don't count too much!

Bill was over the river when we started off on our trip, but I crossed at a different place & so didn't see him – he's fit tho' for I saw Laurie Duirs (*one of Bill Symes Armoured Car group*) – they're probably back in Nairobi but I'm sure of this – I'm feeling damn tired – haven't had any sleep for a week! – (gross exaggeration!) but I feel like that – reveille (*army wake up call, usually a bugle with a particular tune that varies with different corps*) at about 4 or 5 every day & that particular night no sleep at all – otherwise I'm very fit & while we remain here doing the Pioneer Bu's job, I shall have lots of opportunity to sleep! We're all frightfully angry about this – we've built about 6 camps already & its damn bad for the morale of everyone. However, I don't propose to worry myself unduly over it & one can take the opportunity of a spot of leave!

I hope it rains soon with you – that's the worst part of farming & one doesn't feel it so much till one is actually doing the farming oneself – everything is looking fine when in comes “mungu” (*Swahili for God*) with a drought or locusts or disease. Don't worry about the cheque-book, I've purchased another - & for goodness sake keep the peace in the house, one cant have internal combustion these days! I'm glad Kusitany (*possibly a servant on the farm*) has returned – give him my salaams & a kick in the pants for running away – it was nice to get Bab's wire & long may it last – the bark is worse than the bite, far worse in fact, which is something to us. What an awful trip you had home! – I'll be seeing you Noots – goodnight - & best love yours ever THEJ

Copy of original letter



THE Jackson 1940
KAR in WW2.pdf



2.—CAPRONI CA 311
Another type of bombing and reconnaissance machine, armed with three 7.7-m.m. machine-guns. The top speed is about 253 m.p.h. Two Piaggio PXVII engines (1,260 h.p.). Wing span, 53 ft. 1½ in.

Letter to Ysobel Symes (sister) written on 4th Uganda Kings African Rifles headed paper in 1941

6 Turkhana Irregulars

Uganda

11/12

My dear – I'm afraid you'll be feeling neglected, not to say annoyed at getting no letters, so here goes. Letter writing is not easy however – I live literally under a bush, there's usually a half-gale blowing, it's definitely warm & I've got quite a lot to do, so you can choose any of those reasons as to why I haven't written!

Well, things are going well, we spent a week getting straight, holding baraza's etc (*native word for a meeting*), then another getting the men in, clothing & rifles issued & now we're training. Still no more officers, which I don't really mind – Dawson, who is the QM (*Quatermaster*), the DC (*Division Commander*) as CO (*Commanding Officer*) & myself as training officer & general sort of Adjutant. My part is going very well – they're as keen as mustard & can't stop even after hours! They're grand people – I can't tell you, of course, how many, but it's a lot & I've got Police etc to train them.

The CO is a very pleasant chap & we're going to get on well, I think, & finally I'm happier than I've been since the beginning of the war! So there! I had a strong feeling, in spite of violent protests from my friends in the ¼ (*ie: 1/4 KAR*) that I was right & now there's no question about it.

The chiefs are, some of them, fine old men – there's one called, Ekal, who is grand & had all his people in, armed & ready a week before the others – the paramount (*main chieftain, leader*) chief Abong, is coming up shortly – everything has to be done with their connivance of course, but they're all spoiling to help, so that doesn't matter.

It's not, actually, unbearably hot, there's nearly always a breeze & under my bush, things might well be worse! There's permanent water here, so one gets a bath regularly & we get fresh fruit & veg from Kitale.

Turkhana is a pretty difficult language – all natives seem to have stressed values for vowels, but these people do it to an amazing extent – some words consist of vowels only – however, I'm going to have a crack at it.

Once again I've been in an overturned car & come off without a scratch – it's alright, I'm touching wood! It was a rotten shauri (*Swahili for upset, business*) however – I went with 40 Turks to look for a plane that had made a forced landing, having lost the way – by making enquiries all along the road I found out roughly where it must be & tipped off the Turks in twos to search.

After almost 20 miles, I decided this was far enough & leaving one lorry, started for home in the other with 12 men left over in the back. The ass driving, the KAR driver, tried to take a corner at 30 mph, locked his four wheels & over we went twice, landing again on the wheels – you've no idea of the mess & I won't describe it, but it resulted in one killed & several broken legs etc – pity it should happen to these chaps, because they don't like lorries anyway. However the plane & pilot were found, where we expected them.

I wrote weeks ago to Phil & asked him to order me some flour etc at the store, but no reply – in case he hasn't got it send me via Will 10 lbs flour, & if procurable ½ case whisky.

Kursitany sends his salaams to you & the kids & to Cheptorus

as ever THEJ

Later – re stores – I hear there is a shortage of whisky or may be so can you order me a case per month till I let you know to stop

Note

For another overturned car (which is what he must be referring to), see April 2nd, 1926 in Wynne's Diary.

Copy of original letter



THE Jackson 1941
letter in WW2.pdf



1941 THE Jackson & Tappo Merille
Chief at Namrnputa

APPENDIX 3 – World War 2

The King's African Rifles & The Turkana Irregulars Background

4th (Uganda) Battalion King's African Rifles

After the First World War, three companies of 1st/4th Battalion K.A.R. were concentrated in Uganda, mainly at Bombo, with detachments at Karamoja and Entebbe. 2nd/4th Battalion K.A.R. was combined with 7th Battalion K.A.R. and designated 6th Battalion K.A.R.

After the Sudanese Government assumed control of Didinga, the battalion was reduced to three companies, each of four platoons, but with only seven men per section. As Bombo was relatively isolated it was proposed to move the battalion to Entebbe, but this did not happen, and it was not until 1936 that 6th Battalion's move to Jinja was authorized. This was an improvement as previously, the battalion had marched from Bombo to Kampala for ceremonial duties, leaving Bombo at midnight and arriving eight hours later! By 1931 the strength of the King's African Rifles stood at six battalions – numbered 1st to 6th. Some centralized control was required, and this was achieved by having two brigades, both capable of deployment wherever the need arose in British East Africa (Kenya, Uganda & Nyasaland plus the Tanganyika Territory). As the Tanganyikans lived in a mandated territory they were not supposed to serve abroad; this was overcome by introducing the principle that the territories of East Africa were a single entity for defence purposes and, provided that it was in the defence of their home territory, Tanganyikans could serve abroad.

Each brigade was to have three battalions, two “forward”, on border control and I.S., with the third in reserve. Their composition was:

Northern Brigade; (mainly of Nilotic peoples) – 3rd, 4th and 5th Battalions, K.A.R. Askari from Kenya and Uganda were required to serve in any battalion in the Northern Brigade. Their deployment was expected to be one battalion on the frontier west of Lake Rudolph, with one company at Bombo on I.S. The second battalion would be to the east of the Lake, with Headquarters at Meru and a company at Wajir. The third battalion was to be in Nairobi.

Southern Brigade; (mainly of Bantu peoples) – 1st, 2nd and 6th Battalions, K.A.R. with Headquarters and one battalion at Dar es Salaam, one at Zomba and the reserve battalion at Tabora. This ensured the battalions could deploy by rail in an emergency.

While this looked strong, the units were small. Each had two companies each of four platoons, plus a Vickers machine-gun company of two platoons. The strength of a battalion was sixteen officers, one warrant officer and 442 askari, which included buglers, clerks, dressers and gun porters. The “native officers” who had served with 4th Battalion K.A.R. were dispensed with and battalions were required to contribute to the local economy by road making, locust control and famine relief work.

Major General G.J. Giffard, who became Inspector-General K.A.R. in 1936, was appointed Inspector-General, African Colonial Forces (East & West Africa) in 1938. He saw the K.A.R.'s main task as countering an enemy thrust down the coast to Mombasa and diversionary action in the Northern Frontier District. Giffard's assets were the Kenya (Territorial) Regiment, six small K.A.R. battalions, a Coast Defence Unit at Mombasa and the K.A.R. (African) Reserve.

Giffard pushed through his recommendations for the first line battalions to be brought up to war establishment in African personnel and for the lower priority battalions to serve as cadres, with each company able to expand into a fully trained battalion from a combination of reservists and recruits within six months. The Vickers machine-guns were to be replaced with Brens, while mortars and anti-tank rifles were to be added. In 1938 most of these proposals were implemented and 4th & 5th Battalions were expected to hold the line River Tana-Garissa-Garba-Tulla-Archer's Post in the N.F.D.

Major General Giffard was replaced as Inspector-General by Major General D.P. Dickinson in August 1939, and on 31st August 1939 the latter became G.O.C. East Africa Command, with Headquarters at Kenton College.

The “stand-by” signal went to all units on 22nd August, full mobilization was ordered four days later and the “precautionary stage” followed on 1st September, with the “War with Germany” signal on 3rd September. Battalions carried out their transition-to-war measures and deployed according to their roles.

On 31st August 1939 the Northern Brigade was re-designated 1st (East Africa) Infantry Brigade with 3rd, 4th & 5th Battalions, K.A.R. under command. The 4th Battalion was at Bombo with ‘A’ Company in Turkana, with a detachment at Lokitaung, whose job was as a base for keeping the Merille, Toposa and Danyiro from Abyssinia taking the cattle and women of the Turkana tribe. The battalion moved to Jinja shortly after and then by rail to Mombasa, dropping of a company at Mackinnon Road. In Mombasa they guarded Nyali Bridge and other vulnerable points under command 1st (E.A.) Brigade.

By September 1940, preparations had been made to meet offensive action by the Italians from Abyssinia. The 4th Battalion was to reconnoiter the crossings over the Tana river at Bura and Garissa and all crossings on the roads south from Garsen to Mombasa. Subsequently, the 4th Battalion sent 'C' Company to Garissa and 'B' Company to Garsen. The rest of the Battalion, less 'A' Company, remained in Mombasa. During August, 'A' Company, 4th Battalion, which with a machine gun platoon formed the garrison at Lokitaung, had been engaged in internal security operations against the Merille, Toposa and Donyiro. The company was now relieved by a company of the Uganda Police. Early in October, defence plans were revised however the 5th Battalion remained responsible for the coastal sector. By the middle of November, the 4th Battalion was deployed at Malindi, with one company at Nairobi and Garissa. The battalion left the command of the Brigade on 2nd May 1940 to raise and form three new battalions called 2nd/4th, 3rd/4th & 4th/4th Battalions, King's African Rifles, which would eventually come under the command of a newly formed 5th (East Africa) Infantry Brigade in October 1940. The 2nd/4th was formed almost immediately, while the 3/4th and 4/4th were raised during August, all at Bombo. The terms of service of the 7th Battalion, K.A.R. had been extended to include all of East Africa and two more companies were raised for employment as the Turkana garrison. In January 1940, 'A' Company, 7th Battalion was posted to Lokitaung to relieve the police but in May most of the officers and men transferred to form the 2/4th Battalion, K.A.R. The Merille and Donyiro continued to raid near Mount Mogilla. Two more K.A.R. companies were posted to the area and the District Officer in Lokitaung was authorized to arm 200 Turkana tribesmen for use as scouts and auxiliary levies.

Towards the end of May 1940, reports of an imminent declaration of war by Italy reached the Officer Commanding, Turkana Garrison. 'A' Company, 7th Battalion withdrew from Kamathia and 'D' Company, 1/6th Battalion from Lokitaung. Meanwhile, 'A' Company, 2/4th Battalion at Kalin established a line of outposts near the frontier. When war did not begin, 'D' Company reoccupied Lokitaung. When war did break out, 'A' Company, 2/4th Battalion moved back to the garrison H.Q. as reserve and took up positions in the hills west of the Kalin-Lodwar road. In July, an attack was carried out across the border by an Ethiopian detachment, supported by the K.A.R. companies, but was later forced to withdraw. At the end of November, a detachment from 'B' Company, 2/4th Battalion at Loruth Post was ambushed in the Lomogol by Merille tribesmen and Italian colonial infantry wiped out the patrol, leaving only the officer in command as a prisoner of the Italians. By the end of November, plans were well advanced to raise the strength of the Turkana garrison to that of a brigade.

The 4th Battalion rejoined 1st (East Africa) Infantry Brigade on 24th July 1940, which came under command of the 1st (Africa) Division on the same day. The 1st (Nigerian) Light Battery, W.A.A. came under command of the division at the same time and was renamed 52nd (Nigerian) Light Battery, W.A.A. on 18th October 1940. The battalion was re-designated 1st/4th Battalion King's African Rifles in August 1940. 1st (E.A.) Infantry Brigade was re-designated 21st (East Africa) Infantry Brigade on 18th October 1940 and 1st (Africa) Division re-designated 11th (Africa) Division on 24th November.

The 1/4th Battalion carried out a raid on 19th/21st September in the Galma Galla area, across the Tana river. 'C' and 'D' Companies combined to form 'G Force'. The force advanced as far into enemy territory as Kolbio but found the airfield there unused and no enemy troops were encountered. On the withdrawal, the Battalion position at Bura was bombed and machine gunned by Italian Caproni aircraft and one soldier was killed and two wounded. [*This matches the incident described in T.H.E. Jackson's letter*].

The 1/4th Battalion participated in the conquest of Abyssinia, as part of the 21st E.A. Infantry Brigade, 11th E.A. Infantry Division. The 1/4th Battalion was later re-designated as the 4th (Uganda) Battalion, K.A.R. in June 1943. Kenya raised and contributed to two interesting units. In June 1939 a Reconnaissance Platoon was raised in the Kenya Regiment (a European unit) and on the outbreak of war was split between the 4th & 5th Battalions, K.A.R. but shortly after reunited under the title East African Reconnaissance Squadron. It was first equipped with locally built Chevrolet "Edye" armoured cars and went into action in the raid on El Wak in June 1940. It then expanded into the Kenya Armoured Car Regiment and served with Marmon-Herrington armoured cars throughout the East African campaign. It was also known as the 1st East African Armoured Car Regiment. Also raised in June 1940 was the Kenya Independent Scouts, for guerilla warfare. Its men were mounted on polo ponies and mules and served for six months in the East African campaign. Later in the war, in May 1943, the unit was assigned to the 11th (East Africa) Infantry Division in the role of a reconnaissance regiment. It was re-titled as the "11th (East Africa) Divisional Reconnaissance Regiment (Kenya Armoured Car Regiment)".

Turkana Irregulars.

RECRUITMENT AND SERVICE IN THE KING'S AFRICAN RIFLES IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR
A Dissertation submitted to the Faculty of Arts at the University of Bristol, in fulfilment of the requirements for admission to the Degree of Master of Letters. JENNIFER ANN WARNER Department of History October 1985 From 1937, 5th Battalion King's African Rifles recruited Samburu and Turkana into its ranks. The Samburu made excellent soldiers, but the Turkana did not adapt to army life and were susceptible to bronchial diseases. Many of them became scouts or guides for the K.A.R. and would later become 6th Turkana Irregular Company.

London Gazette. Operations in East Africa November 1940-July 1941

An important part in establishing control over No Man's Land was played by the Irregular Companies. The first two Somali Irregular Companies were formed in September 1940 with the object of countering the activities of Italian Banda in the Northern Frontier District of Kenya. Italian Banda consisted of Colonial troops specially enlisted and normally operating in the vicinity of the areas from which they were recruited. They were well led by specially selected Italian officers who "lived native" and with their knowledge of the country, and independence of communications, not only had a serious nuisance value but also provided the enemy with much valuable information about our troop movements. The two Somali Irregular Companies each about 125 strong under British officers selected for their local knowledge, proved a valuable counter to Italian Banda in the Northern Frontier District. Backed up by offensive patrols of regular troops, they operated from one water hole to another, and although always inferior in numbers to the Italians very soon forced the enemy to adopt a much more defensive attitude in the vast No Man's Land which then separated our leading troops from those of the enemy. At a later stage Irregular Companies were similarly organised from Abyssinian refugees and deserters, and later still from Turkana tribesmen in the area west of Lake Rudolf. During the operations in this area, and in the operational area of the 1st S.A. Division, Irregular Companies were frequently employed to cooperate with regular troops. Their principle role was the protection of exposed flanks, and movements directed against the enemy's L of C in cooperation with attacks carried out by regular troops.



Painting of a Turkana Irregular wearing the uniform Pink is supposed to have designed. Painting was done for Pink by Joy Adamson (The Born Free author), who was well known for doing a series of painting of local tribes. See photo above of sole tribesman wearing the loin cloth

APPENDIX 3 – World War 2

Military Records

300. Wt. 51487/1695. 50M. 11/28. Wy. L.P. Gp. 656. Forms/B199A/27

Number of Personal Paper. 317976

Army Form B199A.
(Instructions for compiling this Form are contained in A.F.B.199B.)

AGE AND SERVICE GROUP 10
PREFIX B.1.19
NATOR - 18 OCT 44

Serial Number of Index Card. 317976

Regiment or Corps } KENYA REGIMENT
Christian Names } Thomas Herbert Elliot
Surname JACKSON
Recorded Address KITALE, KENYA

(1.) WHERE EDUCATED { (a) Schools WELLINGTON COLLEGE, BUCKS
(b) University WITCHAMPTON - DORSET
or Technical College HARPAR ADAMS AGRIC. COLLEGE

Date of Birth JAN 12 1903
Place of Birth WITCHAMPTON - DORSET
NATIONALITY OF
Religious Denomination C. of E.

(2.) Name and Address of Next-of-kin or Guardian, other than Wife (for reference in case of emergency)
MRS A.W. SYMES, KITALE, KENYA
Mrs. O.W. SCOTT, THE ARBOREY - LONGCOT FARRINGTON, BARKS, ENGLAND

Relationship Sister
"

Name and Address of Officer's Bankers or Agents
S. G. S. A. Ltd., Kitale

(3.) If Married, Name of Wife
Wife's Nationality at Birth
Date of Marriage
Names of Children living
Date of Birth
Sex

(4.) Schools and Courses of Instruction
Place
From
To
Result
Authority
(5.) Examinations for Promotion
Date
Result
Whether gained Special Certificate

K.D.F. CAMP 1929 ELDORET 2 weeks

(6.) SPECIAL QUALIFICATIONS

(6.)

French. Can read

NATIVE

NANDI, SEBEI, & ALLIED; I.E. LUMBWA-ELBAY (SUK SOME KNOWLEDGE)

(f) Any special knowledge or experience not included in (a) to (e)

in (a) to (c)

① A Knowledge of Luckhiana

2) Porine. - garden to
Ramu & North to H. SAMANLAW;
J. SUDAN - TORIT & IMATONG MTS.

(2) Knowledge of NATIVES

Samuel Kenya 16 years.

(3) Knowledge of Safari in
frontier districts & how to
get about them

(d) Legal Qualifications (giving particulars)
---	-----	-----	-----	-----

(e) Professional or Artistic qualifications
or degrees, or Membership, etc., of
Learned Society

(7.) Campaigns	Period		(9.) Honours and Rewards, including Mentions in Despatches	Date of Gazette or other Authority
	From	To		
(8.) Wounds and Nature	Place and Date	Pension or Gratuity		

T. H. E. JACKSON

(10.) PARTICULARS OF SERVICE, RECORD OF MOVEMENTS, APPOINTMENTS, ETC. (Promotions will be shown in para. (12)).

To be 2nd Lieut. & posted to E.A. Reconnaissance Sqd.
Transferred to 4th KAR from E.A. Recon. Squadron - for purposes of seniority
Appointed Intelligence Officer 1/4 KAR
Performed duties of Assistant from 12.9.40 to 28.9.40
Transferred to 5th Sukuma Brigades

from 1/4th Br. KAR to General List
to be a/capt. (unpaid) having completed 21 days
in unpaid rank to be a/capt. (paid)

to 5th Irregulars Coy.
Granted leave
Returned from leave
Appointed 1/captain & NS. Unit
admitted hospital (accidental G.S.W., left hand)
discharged hospital & granted 10 days sick leave
granted further ten days sick leave to
proceed on special duty
returned from special duty
accidental G.S.W. left hand 15.5.41.
Decision of G.O.C. as per RFB 117 - NOT ON DUTY - NOT TO BLAME
from general list to be an Assistant Political Officer, Ethiopia 1.9.41
and retain the rank of 1/capt.

Cancelled & reported for duty

To be a Political Officer 10-2-42, & to be a Major (unpaid) until
holding the post, having completed 14 days in unpaid rank
to be a Major (paid)
From Mogadiscio
Granted leave 30-4-43 Return

Returned from leave
Granted 21 days recuperating leave.
Held from leave
Type of Commission as shown in EAC. Gen. No. 2 is amended to read
R.A.C. (ACF SEC) C.C. WEF. 1.11.39. (Supplement to EAC. Gen. 226)

From a Civil Affairs Officer to be a Senior Civil Affairs
Officer and is granted paid acting rank of Lt. Col.
Medically Examined and issued a Cat. "A" at Station Hosp.
Mogadiscio (Release Reg. Para. 328)

Posted to 1st X F(A) List for Class "A" Release
Relinquish office as Senior Civil Affairs Officer and retain 2/ rank.
Released from Military Service & CLASS "A" RELEASE
Address on RELEASE: P.O. KITAKE

DATE, STRUCK OFF UNIT STRENGTH

DATE OF DISEMPLOYMENT

PERIOD OF RELEASE LEAVE

DATE OF RELEASE

LEAVE ADDRESS

Bonus in lieu of 56 days leave leave.

9.8.45
P.O. KITAKE
KENYA

Station	Date	Authority
Nairobi	1.11.39	F.G. 2/39
"	22.10.39	4th S.O. No. 8/1940
"	73.3.40	"
Field E. Africa	17.8.40	AD 25(2)/40
"	"	1/10/40 25(2)/40
"	15.11.40	" 32(2)/40
"	15.11.40	gaz 41/40
"	1.12.40	" 44/41
"	15.11.40	Int. Coy.
"	24.3.41	Pt. 2/41
"	21.4.41	TRR. Coy. Pt. 4/41
"	1.3.41	" " 6/41
"	15.5.41	Int. Coys. Pt. 7/41
"	20.5.41	" " 8/41
"	13.6.41	" " 10/41
"	14.6.41	" " 11/41
"	29.6.41	" " 12/41
"	"	ERR Coys. Pt. O. No. 1/41
"	1.9.41	RAZ. 89/41
"	15.3.42	Pt. 17/42
"	10.3.42	SRZ. 109.
"	26-4-43	OTA 16/43
"	10.6.43	" 28/43
"	20.6.44	Bond 357/44
"	10.7.44	Bond 364/44
"	11.7.44	Bond 364/44
"	1-8-44	RAC 38/44.
"	1.11.39	RAC 56/44
Ethiopia	Jan 45	Release 272/45 RAC 31/45
Ethiopia	26.4.45	RAC 38/45
"	9.8.45	RAC 35/45
"	27.7.45	RAC 35/45
"	9.8.45	RAC 14/46

Relinqu Comm. 9/8/45
LG 7/3/47.

Relinquished Comm. 9/8/45 LG 7/3/47

(11.) Country	From	To	Period				(12.) Promotions		
			Home		Abroad		Rank	Date	Authority
			Years	Days	Years	Days			
							2nd/Lieut.	1. 11. 39.	FG. 2/39.
							A/Capt.	1. 12. 40	GRS. 4/41
							T/Capt.	1. 3. 41.	EAC 5/41. No. 1.
							2nd Lt.		To 9/41.
							A/Major	10. 3. 42	GRS 509
							A/Major & 1st Lt.	10. 6. 42	120
							1st Lt.	1. 1. 45	LT 272/45
							1st Lt. & Major	1. 1. 45	273/45

DATE OFF UNIT 1. 11. 39.
 DATE DISEMBARKATION 1. 12. 40.
 PER RELEASE LEAVE 1. 3. 41.
 DATE OF RELEASE 10. 3. 42.
 LEAVE ADDRESS P.O. KITALE KENYA

2nd/Lieut. 1. 11. 39. FG. 2/39.
 A/Capt. 1. 12. 40 GRS. 4/41
 T/Capt. 1. 3. 41. EAC 5/41. No. 1.
 2nd Lt. To 9/41.
 A/Major 10. 3. 42 GRS 509
 A/Major & 1st Lt. 10. 6. 42 120
 1st Lt. 1. 1. 45 LT 272/45
 1st Lt. & Major 1. 1. 45 273/45

RAE 31/45.

(13.) FINDING OF MEDICAL BOARDS AS TO FITNESS FOR GENERAL DUTY WITH REGIMENT OR CORPS	Date	Place where held and Authority	Sick leave granted	
			From	To
Passed fit	March 1939	Kitale Dr. Broadbent		
"	Aug. 1939	Karachi M.O. Kenya Regt.		

APPENDIX 3 – World War 2

Military Records

✓ JACKSON. Thomas Herbert Elliott. ✓ E.A. 4 P/317976

RAC. (ACF Sect) 2c ✓
~~Gen. list 2c. (O.E.F.)~~ L. G 13 JUN 1944

W. E. F. 1-11-39 ✓

2. 21. 11. 39.

RAC. (ACF Sect) 2c amended Supp. 226

Commissioned into gen. list A.C.F.

Date	Rank	Notes
1/11/39	2 nd Lieutenant	East African Reconnaissance Squad (EARS) for purposes of seniority
13/3/40		4 th Kenya African Rifles (KAR)
19/8/40	Intelligence Officer & Adjutant Officer	KAR – in the field
15/11/40		5 th Turkana Irregulars – General List
1/12/40	Acting Captain	
1/3/41	Temporary Captain	
1/9/41		From General list to Assistant Political Officer, Etheopia
10/3/42	Acting Major	Political Officer, Mogadiscio, Somalia
10/6/42	Temp Major	
1/1/45	Acting Lieutenant Colonel	Senior Civil Affairs Officer
9/8/45	Discharged from military service – retaining rank	

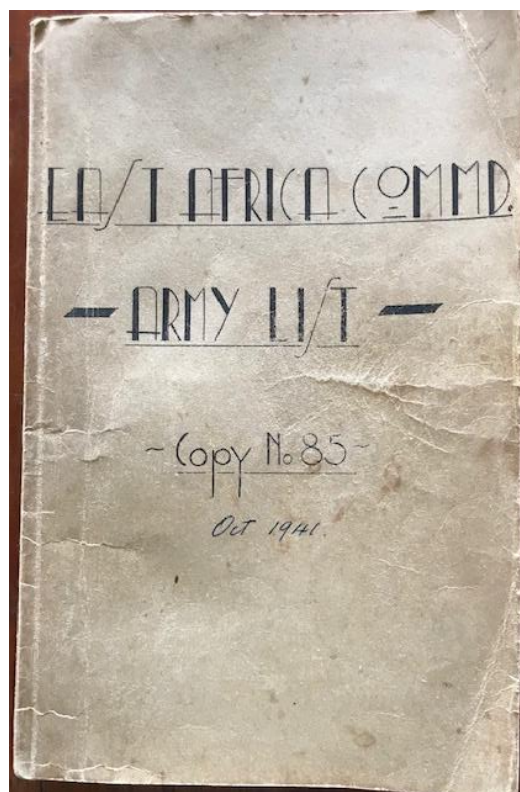
Kenya Regt Regimental Rolls

Jackson Thomas Herbert Elliot. KR 575. Enlisted 20.5.39; C.of E.; d.o.b. 12.1.1903; British; Kitale; occupation coffee grader; no next of kin listed.

Service: Posted H.Q. Coy 20.5.39; promoted Sgt 30.8.39; attached to 4 KAR 6.9.39; Transferred EAARS 28.10.39; EARS/2/39 att S of I Nakuru 5.11.39; Commissioned 2.11.39. F.G 2/39; Passed to N.E.

Sect. Transcribed off the register, I take it that EAARS & EARS are the same. I take it att = attached and S of I is to do with Intelligence. I don't know what F.G. 2/39 means. Passed on to N.E.Sect

APPENDIX 3 – World War 2 Military Records



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GENERAL LIST

<i>Colonel</i>	Barchard, D. M.	Col., 19-7-39. <i>Brig 1941</i>
<i>Majors</i>	Hooper, C. A.	T/Maj., e.c., 2-12-39.
	Ross, V. A. C.	T/Capt., e.c., 22-1-41; L.U./Maj., 22-10-40.
<i>Captains</i>	Cummins, J.	Lt. Kenya R., 8-11-38; T/Capt., 1-12-39.
	Woodhouse, F. S.	W.S./Capt., e.c., 28-12-40.
	Smith, A. O.	T/Capt., e.c., 9-2-41.
	Percival, P. H.	T/Capt., e.c., 12-2-41.
	Jackson, T. H. E.	T/Capt., e.c., 1-3-41.
	Kettles-Roy, H.	T/Capt., e.c., 18-3-41.
	Birrough, H. D., B.A.	2/Lt., Somerset L.L., e.c., 4-5-40; L.U./Capt., 1-3-41.
	Joffe, D.	2/Lt., e.c., 1-2-41; L.U./Capt., 16-5-41.
<i>Lieutenants</i>	Richards, C. A. L., B.A.	Lt., 7th (U.T.) Bn., K.A.R., 25-5-39.
	Ridley, C. G., D.S.O.	Lt., e.c., 21-10-40.
	Wingfield, C. J.	2/Lt., K.S.L.I., S.R., 10-8-38; W.S./Lt., 1-1-41.
	Hacking, R.	2/Lt., e.c., 25-4-41; L.U./Lt., 25-4-41.
<i>2nd Lieutenants</i>	Tyler, J. R. M.	Gloster, R., e.c., 4-7-40.
	Koch, C. N. G., M.C.	e.c., 18-7-40.
	Leeman, W. J. T.	e.c., 28-7-40.
	Jennings, G.	e.c., 26-8-40.
	Wood, A.	e.c., 1-5-41.