

Book Reviews

MEN WHO RULED KENYA

by Charles Chenevix-Trench.

I included *MEN WHO RULED KENYA* by Charles Chenevix-Trench and published in 1993 in my list of the Eleven Best Books on Kenya suggested in the November 2015 issue of Rhino Link.

In some ways this could have been included in the list of books on Mau Mau included in the same issue, for a notable feature is the tribute paid to **Maj Gen W R N Hinde**, known as "Loony" for his Second World War performance as a tank commander (DSO and 2 Bars) and "Eighth Army paladin who since the war had been Military Governor of West Berlin and of Cyrenaica." (Trench's words). General Hinde gets more attention than all the other four generals who held roles in Kenya during the Mau Mau Emergency put together. He arrived in Kenya in February 1953 and left four years later, his distinctions enhanced by a CB and then a KBE. But Charles Trench was not only a regular soldier himself (Indian Army, MC) but an administrator who became a Senior DC, and later a schoolmaster and prolific author. But in writing about some seventy years of British colonial administration in Kenya he is sometimes at fault. For example he gets the tribal balance about right when writing on the Kikuyu, Kamba and Kalenjin, but there is too much about the Somalis, Turkana and Maasai whereas there is virtually nothing about the much larger Luo, Baluhya and Kisii. This reflects his own experience: many years in the NFD and also in the Secretariat handling defence issues but, as far as I'm aware, no experience of the populous Nyanza and Western provinces.

Chris Minter



On Call in Africa, in War and Peace.

by Dr Norman Jewell, MC.

A dedicated, well researched family account of Dr Norman Jewell's fascinating diaries written during his long and interesting medical career in Kenya and with No 3 East African Field Ambulance Unit during the East African Campaign of the First World War. This book adds another deeply pertinent dimension to the military operations of the East African Campaign of 1914 & 1918, highlighting the vital work of the Field Ambulance crews in supporting the front line troops, a subject which has been neglected in many other recorded histories.

His graphic descriptions of the places and the peoples he served, to the extraordinary experiences he coped with during his civilian and military attachment, are extremely well documented throughout the easy to

read chapters, with detailed footnotes and explanations. Most importantly Jewell, an obviously social and caring person, mentions by name many of the people he was in contact with both military and civilians. This is an important source for historians of the early history of Kenya, as to who was who, where and when.

On Call in Africa provides the reader with the nitty gritty, fundamental jobs behind the scenes of the postings and battles that Dr Jewell and his No 3 East African Field Ambulance Unit were involved in; from Kisumu, Kichwa Tembo Fort (October 1915), Bura (now Ng'ambwa), Mashoti (or Mwashoti), the desolate cantonment at Maktau, to the battles and skirmishes at Salaita Hill (February & March 1916) all the way down the Pangani River to Korogwe (June 1916). Here, to his surprise is an interesting rebuff to reports of the Germans' mistreatment of Allied civilian Prisoners of War, Jewel records the comments by Nurse MG Burns, who had been captured on the outbreak of war and was found working in the German hospital at Korogwe, was how well she had been treated by them.

Jewell's No 3 East African Field Ambulance then headed southwards to Morogoro via Handeni where his Ambulance unit was withdrawn to Dar es Salaam (November 1916) to refit. 'Our troops' he writes 'were not at all smart or soldierly as we had worn out our uniforms which now hung from our backs or from around our waists in rags. My own shirt had disintegrated long before and as a substitute I used a green triangular bandage worn like a shawl and tied into my belt by the corners, two in front and one behind. The belt also supported a disreputable pair of what had once been khaki shorts but which, at that time, were more reminiscent of lace curtains.'

By this time Jewell had also succumbed to several severe bouts of malaria, and after a well deserved period of leave to join his family in the Seychelles where he was originally stationed before the war, he rejoined his unit (July 1917) in southern German East Africa, where some of the hardest fighting of the campaign took place.

Interestingly, virtually the first brief mention is made by Dr Jewell, of the highly critical Pike Commission Report released in January 1918, following serious complaints and allegations about the notoriously appalling conditions along the military supply chain, the diet of the troops in the arduous conditions and lack of adequate medical units, details from which have so far have received little scrutiny or attention in other histories of the campaign and is in need of further research and understanding.

In March 1918 Dr Jewell returned to Kisumu as a civilian, retaining his rank of Captain, as Medical Officer for Nyanza, from where he takes up his duties and experiences in the various stations that he was responsible for meting out his good humour and dedication to all races during outbreaks of Bubonic plague, Asian flu, small pox and a host of other diseases as he describes the development of the hospital facilities in Nakuru, Mombasa and Nairobi.

On Call in Africa, in War and Peace', by Dr Norman Jewell fills in many blank spaces to the East African

Campaign and brings an interesting and different angle to the medical services in the colony at the height of the British Empire. The Jewell family have done a great service to the memory of these interesting times and the people that lived through it.

Copyright: Dr Norman Parsons Jewell, David Jewell, Sandie Jewell, Tony Jewell and Richard Jewell.

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The Elephants Knew –

LAWRENCE ANTHONY
1950-2012

*Not a book but an amazing account about
an author and a legend in South Africa.*

Two days after his passing, the wild elephants showed up at his home led by two large matriarch. Separate wild herds arrived in droves to say goodbye to their beloved 'man-friend'.

A total of 31 elephants had patiently walked over 112 miles to get to his South African House.

Witnessing this spectacle, humans were obviously in awe not only because of the supreme instinct and precise timing that these elephants sensed about Lawrence's passing, but also because of the profound memory and emotion the beloved animals evoked in such an organized way.

Walking slowly, for days, making their way in a solemn one-by-one queue from their habitat to his house. Lawrence's wife, Francoise, was especially touched, knowing that the elephants had not been to his house prior to that day for well over 3 years! Yet they knew where they were going.



Lawrence Anthony, a legend in South Africa and author of 3 books including the bestseller: *The Elephant Whisperer*.

Lawrence Anthony rescued wildlife and rehabilitated elephants all over the globe from human atrocities, including the courageous rescue of Baghdad Zoo animals during the US conflict in 2003.

On March 7, 2012 Lawrence died. He is remembered and missed by his wife, two sons, two grandsons, and numerous elephants.

The elephants obviously wanted to pay their deep respects, honouring their friend who had saved their lives—so much respect that they stayed for 2 days and 2 nights **without eating**. Then on the third morning they left, making their long journey back home.

**SOMETHING IN THE UNIVERSE IS GREATER AND
DEEPER THAN HUMAN INTELLIGENCE**

This amazing account of African Wild Life was sent from Australia to Rhino Link by David Glauser, 6 KAR 1955/57.