

**A HISTORY OF GILGIL TOWN: FROM A MILITARY CAMP TO A MODERN
URBAN AREA, 1897-2014**

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Requirements for the Award of the Degree of Master of Arts in History of
Egerton University**

EGERTON UNIVERSITY



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DECLARATION AND APPROVAL

DECLARATION

This thesis is my original work and to the best of my knowledge has not previously been submitted before in this or any other institution for any award.

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my parents (Ephantus Muiruri and Pilsca Wambui), my wife (Jane Mumbi), and our children (Splendour Wambui, Joy Nyambura and Mark Muiruri).

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the journey Gilgil town has gone through since its origin. Gilgil town is situated in Nakuru County. The town has the largest number of security establishments in the county. Gilgil town began as a temporary camp for an Indian military contingent in 1897. Since then, the number of security personnel in the town has continued to grow especially with establishment of permanent military barracks and other security bases. The objective of the study is to outline the historical development of Gilgil town from 1897 to 2014; examining the contribution of security bases to the development of Gilgil town; and analysing other factors that have accounted for the development of Gilgil town. To achieve this historical research design was used to evaluate and analyse data obtained from both primary and secondary sources. Primary data for this study was sought from the Kenya National Archives. This was complemented by data gathered from oral interviews with various relevant respondents, including; local administrators, civic and political leaders, business people, security personnel, employees of factories and local conservancies, as well as other residents. The informants were identified through purposive sampling, especially the snowball technique. Secondary data was obtained from books, journal articles, newspapers articles, theses/dissertations, conference papers, and internet material relating to urbanisation, and historical development of Gilgil town. The study employed modernisation and William Dean's theories to evaluate the development of the town. The modernization perspective analyses processes of transformation from traditional to modern societies. William Dean's theory on the other hand, views the development of commercial centres anywhere as a function of trade routes, location and nodality. In general, the study examined the pre-colonial Gilgil area, highlighting the original inhabitants of the area. It also looked at the establishment of security bases. The study endeavoured to find out how security establishments played a central role in the development of the town. In addition, the study examined the rapid development of Gilgil town in the early 1990s, outlining factors responsible for the rapid growth. Three analytical frames are used to analyse the collected data. These are theoretical reflection, documentary review and content analysis. The study established that though a number of factors influence the development of Gilgil Town, the presence of security establishments in the town play the central role. The study presents new knowledge and contributes to the existing literature on Kenya's urban historiography. The findings of the study are also important to development agencies and policy makers both at county and national levels.

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ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

ALC	African Lake Company
ACK	Anglican Church of Kenya
ASTU	Anti-Stock Theft Unit
ADIL	African Diatomite Industries Limited
BATUA	British African Training Unit in Africa
BATUK	British African Training Unit in Kenya
BEA	British East Africa
BEAP	British East Africa Protectorate
BTC	Bombay Trading Company
CIMIC	Civil Military Cooperation
CMR	Civil Military Relations
CWGC	Commonwealth War Grave Commission
DEB	District Education Board
EA	East Africa
EADF	East African Diatomite Factory
EAL & DC	East Africa Land and Development Company
EAR	East African Rifles
EASC	East Africa Syndicate Company
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GAAC	Gilgil African Advisory Council
GAS	Gilgil African School
GCWWC	Gilgil Common Wealth War Cemetery
GEMA	Gikuyu Embu and Meru Association
GTC	Gilgil Township Committee
GTI	Gilgil Telecommunication Industries
IBEAC	Imperial British East Africa Company
KAR	King's African Rifles
KAF	Kenya Air force
KN	Kenya Navy
KDF	Kenya Defence Forces
KNA	Kenya National Archives
KNLS	Kenya National Library Services

KPS	Kenya Police Service
KR	Kenya Regiment
NDC	Naivasha District Council
NDTB	Naivasha District Town Board
NTF	Native Transport Funds
NYS	National Youth Service
NFMF	Ndume Farm Machinery Factory
OC	Officer Commanding
OI	Oral Interview
PHS	Pembroke House School
POWs	Prisoners of War
RVR	Rift Valley Railway
STU	Stock Theft Unit
UN	United Nations
UNPK	United Nations Peacekeepers
UNPOs	United Nations Peace Operations
WESTCOM	Western Command
WWI	First World War
WWII	Second World War

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DEFINITION OF TERMS

- Africanisation:** To replace the European or white staff of – an organisation in Africa – with black Africans.
- Battalion:** A military ground force unit composed of two or more companies or similar units and a headquarter.
- Barracks:** These are buildings where military personnel are accommodated.
- Brigade:** A military unit having its own headquarter and consisting of two or more battalions/regiments.
- Camp:** A semi-permanent facility for accommodating soldiers. Camps are usually erected when a military force travels away from a major installation or fort during training or operations.
- Cantonment:** A camp, usually of a large size, where military personnel are accommodated and trained for military service.
- Contingent:** A group of military troops assigned to aid a larger force.
- Civil-military (police) relations:** Refers to the relationship between a local community and the security institutions established around it.
- Detachment:** A part of a military unit separated from the main unit for duty elsewhere.
- Development:** Refers to improvement of existing systems and infrastructures for human well being.
- Ethnic group:** An ethnic group is a category of people who tend to be associated with shared cultural heritage, ancestry, history, homeland, language or national experiences.
- Garrison:** Is a military post which is permanently established and made up of a number of barracks.
- Happy Valley:** Refers to the present-day Wanjohi's valley area in Nyandarua County.
- Happy Valley set:** Refers to a group of mainly British aristocrats and adventurers who settled in Wanjohi valley in 1920s. The group was famous for debauchery.
- “Keeping Gilgil Military”:** Refers to the deliberate efforts by the colonial authority to make Gilgil area a military zone.
- “Marching out”:** Refers to the massive movement of military personnel to reside outside the barracks in the early 1990s.
- Military Campaign:** These are several related military operations aimed at achieving a particular goal.

Regiment: A military unit of ground force consisting of two or more battalions or battle groups, a headquarters unit and a supporting unit.

Settler: Refers to Europeans who migrated and established permanent residence in Africa at the onset of European colonisation of the continent. Europeans settlers acquired large tracts of land and settled in Kenya.

Security bases/ Establishments: Refers to military barracks and garrisons, police units and camps, as well as security training centres and any other security-based installations.

“The flights”: Refers to the numerous airlifts of security personnel to the United Nation Peace Operations.

Town: Refers to a place with many houses, shops or stores, where people live and work. It is usually larger than a village but smaller than a city. A small town has a population of between 5,000 and 50,000 people.

Urbanisation: Refers to the process by which people are attracted to settlements of large human concentration and are thereby incorporated into their conspicuously different systems of life.

Urban Area: Refers to a location characterized by high human population density and vast human-built features in comparison to the areas surrounding them.

GLOSSARY

<i>Askari (s):</i>	Soldier (s).
<i>Bondeni:</i>	An informal settlement mainly occupied low income earners.
<i>Duka (s):</i>	Shop (s.)
<i>Dukawalla (s)</i>	An Indian Shopkeeper.
<i>Espirit de corps:</i>	A feeling of pride, fellowship and common loyalty shared by the members of security establishments.
<i>Kambi Somali:</i>	An area which was designated for the settlement by Somalis from Somaliland.
<i>Majoni</i>	The term used by the Local communities to referred to white British Soldiers.
<i>Nyamachoma</i>	Roasted meat

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Urbanisation has been an important feature of Africa's history. Anderson and Rathbone observe that knowledge and understanding of Africa's urban processes is still patchy, scanty and full of open spaces.¹ They further observe that towns and cities have been the arena around which societies have organised themselves as centres of trade and economic activities, as seats of political actions and authority, as military garrisons and as religious sites. In the twenty first century, rapid and dramatic urbanisation has been the most significant and pervasive socio-economic trend across the African continent. By 2000 it was estimated that the larger African population would be living in towns and that if the growth rates continued, Africa will have some of the world's largest cities by 2020.² Anderson and Rathbone argue that every African town or city has its unique history in terms of origin, growth and development.³

Kenya has one of the highest rates of urbanisation in East Africa.⁴ Major urban centres such as Malindi, Mombasa, Nairobi and Eldoret have been researched on, but small and upcoming urban centres have received little attention. Researchers have tended to sideline small towns by either presenting them as part of a larger rural area or a larger urban centre. Gilgil is one such town which has always been presented as either being part of Naivasha or Nakuru urban centres. The town has however progressively developed since the early colonial period. A study of Gilgil's urban history is therefore necessary.

Gilgil is one of the few towns in Kenya that host a number of security establishments. The town is unique in the sense that it hosts three different security establishments. It has two major military barracks, a police wing and National Youth Service (NYS) facilities. The town is home to the headquarters of Western Military Command, a military base charged with the responsibility of securing the western part of Kenya. Gilgil also hosts the headquarters of Kenya Police Anti-Stock Theft Unit (ASTU), a paramilitary rapid response unit charged with tracking down cattle rustlers. Though the town enjoys a rather diverse economy, security

¹ D. Anderson and R. Rathbone, "Introduction", in D. Anderson and R. Rathbone (ed), *African's Urban Past* (Oxford: James Currey Ltd, 2000), p. 1.

² *Ibid*, p.1.

³ *Ibid*, p. 3.

⁴ R. A. Obudho, "Spatial Dimension and Demographic Dynamics of Kenya's Subsystems," *Pan African Journal*, Vol. 19 No, 9, 1988, pp. 103-124.

establishments certainly play a significant role in its economy since the establishments serve as the largest employers in the area. The communities living adjacent to security establishments depend on them for employment while the security establishments' personnel depend on the local community for housing, goods and other services. It is this symbiotic relationship that boosts the local economy, leading to development. Moreover, in a bid to perform their secondary role of provision of aid and support to the civilian authorities in the maintenance of law and order, both the military and ASTU personnel have made Gilgil a secure and peaceful town conducive to investment. This has attracted a range of investors.⁵

Gilgil town derives its name from the Maasai language. The name "Gilgil" is a European mispronunciation of the Maasai term "*Kirkir*," referring to the winds that frequently whirl around, engulfing the area with clouds of dust. *Kirkir* actually means a place of dust-storms.⁶ Before the coming of the white settlers, Gilgil was an alternative Maasai grazing field, especially when their homelands were dry.⁷ The Masaai always evaded grasslands infested with a certain tick species that spread East Coast Fever among their cattle.⁸ This explains why to date, Gilgil Sub-County is mainly a ranching area hosting the Soysambu, Kigio and Marura conservancies.

The origin of Gilgil town can be traced back to the end of the nineteenth century. In 1897, about 400 Indian soldiers established a camp in Gilgil. Unlike Nyeri which also began as a military camp,⁹ Gilgil ended up becoming a garrison town. In 1900, the Kenya-Uganda Railway Cooperation designated Gilgil as a major railway terminal coordinating movement of goods and passengers between Gilgil and Thompson Falls (now Nyahururu Town). Between 1920 and 1940, some Europeans settled at Wanjohi Valley near Gilgil.¹⁰ According to Anderson and Rathbone, this group was an immigrant clan of British aristocrats, who were murderers, adulterous and drunkards.¹¹ In the 1940s a British internment camp for Irgun and Lehi members was established in the town. After the outbreak of the Mau Mau uprisings in the late 1940s, a Kenya Regiment (KR) battalion was permanently stationed in Gilgil to

⁵ Mbaya Jeremiah, Oral Interview (OI), 24.7.2015.

⁶ Olesabit Peter, OI, 6.10.2015, Cheporion Peter, OI, 2.8.2015, "Gilgil Town: From happy to sleeping Valley." <http://www.standardmedia.co.ke>.

⁷ Legishon Tanei, OI, 27.9.2015, M. A. Ogotu, "Pastoralism" in W.R Ochieng' (ed), *Themes in Kenyan History* (Nairobi: East Africa Educational Publisher, 1993), pp. 40-41.

⁸ Lemayen Ole Santamo, OI, 29.9.2015, N. Leys, *Kenya* (London: The Hogarth Press, 1924), p. 123.

⁹ C. A. Dutto, *Nyeri Townsmen* (Nairobi: East African Literature Bureau, 1975), pp. 8-10.

¹⁰ "Gilgil Town: From happy to sleeping Valley." <http://www.standardmedia.co.ke>.

¹¹ Anderson and Rathbone, *African's Urban Past*, p. 1.

suppress Mau Mau activities in the Aberdare forest. These developments transformed Gilgil from a mere railway station to a town inhabited by soldiers, white settlers, Indian *dukawallas* and African labourers.¹² During the 1950s and 1960s, Gilgil was used as a base for the rotation of British infantry units. This led to the construction of semi-permanent transit camps for soldiers who would train in Kenya for months before proceeding for further training in Hong Kong.¹³ Shortly before Kenya's independence in 1963, the transit camps were elevated to barracks. Upon independence, the barracks were handed over to the King's African Rifles (KAR), which later became Kenya African Rifles, then Kenya Armed Forces and eventually Kenya Defense Forces. Presently, Gilgil town hosts two major military bases: the Gilgil Barracks located about one kilometre from the town centre on the old Gilgil-Nakuru road and the Kenyatta Garrison, which is located about two kilometres along the main Gilgil-Nyahururu road.

Gilgil Barracks started in 1897 as a temporary camp for an Indian contingent. The contingent made up of about 400 soldiers had been called in by the British as part of a force to suppress an uprising led by Muhammad Ahmad in the Sudan.¹⁴ This Indian contingent as earlier stated later camped at Gilgil after the Sudan assignment. The troops were later deployed as protective troops to the British Protectorate in Uganda. In 1902, the Eastern Province of Uganda was transferred to British East Africa Protectorate which later became known as Kenya Colony. Following this development, African *Askaris* were recruited to beef up the Indian contingent. This saw seven African companies recruited. Together with the earlier two Indian companies they formed the first battalion in colonial Kenya. When the railway line reached Gilgil area, Indian traders settled there. They felt more secure with their homeland troops in the vicinity.¹⁵ Gilgil Barracks is home to the Fifth Kenya Rifles, an infantry unit christened 'the fighting five'. On the other hand, Kenyatta Barracks started as a home of long-range guns. Using long-range guns, the troops in the barracks were to support neighbouring infantry units during operations. Kenyatta Garrison is home to a number of military units.¹⁶

In 1964 the Kenya Government established the National Youth Service (NYS), which was charged with the responsibility of preparing young citizens for service to the nation. Gilgil

¹² "British Army." <http://erepository.uonbi.ac.ke>.

¹³ "Kenyan Towns." www.kr.museum.or.ke.

¹⁴ Respondent No. 1, IO, 19.7.2015; Respondent No. 2, IO, 29.7.2015.

¹⁵ Oyugi Zablon, IO, 3.8.2015.

¹⁶ Respondent No. 1, IO, 19.7.2015; Respondent No. 2, IO, 29.7.2015.

town hosts the main NYS training centre. This centre trains about 3,500 recruits per year.¹⁷ NYS hosts a significant number of personnel and their dependants, who also have played an important role in the development of Gilgil town.

When Kenya gained independence, livestock rustling was prevalent in some areas of the country. The worst hit areas were Nakuru, Kericho, Eldoret, Laikipia and Kiambu. Consequently, in 1965 Anti-Stock Theft Unit (ASTU) was established within the Kenya Police force and stationed in Gilgil town from where it could easily deploy. ASTU is a paramilitary rapid response unit charged with tracking down cattle rustlers. The unit is based on a 200-acre piece of land previously owned by a dairy farmer, Mr Carllight. This land also hosts Utumishi High School, a national government school. Like the military, members of the police force have significantly participated in the development of Gilgil town and its environs through investment.¹⁸

Apart from security establishments, Gilgil town hosts two industries: Ndume Farm Machinery Factory (NFMF), and Gilgil Telecommunication Industries Limited (GTI). NFMF was founded in 1949 by Rames F. Taylor. This factory manufactured agricultural implements, equipment and machinery for the white settlers in the rich agricultural areas. Among the products manufactured at the factory even to date are ploughs, harrows, planters, trailers, maize mills, water pumps and lawn mowers. Currently, the factory has about 400 permanent employees and 700 others on contract.¹⁹ GTI was commissioned in 1988 as a manufacturing facility. It assembles a variety of telephone sets, automatic exchange switching systems, and Zebra computers. There also exists a pole treatment plant as well as government furniture and metal product workshops. There are several tourist attraction sites and major conservancies in Gilgil area. The sites and conservancies attract both local and international tourists throughout the year.

From the foregoing, it is clear that several factors have influenced the development of Gilgil town. However, security establishments are a major force behind the development of the town. Economically, the town's population largely depends on these establishments. Since early 1990s, for example, serving and retired security personnel have invested significantly in the town's property market and also in retail business. Serving military personnel have been able to invest particularly after returning from United Nations peace support operations.

¹⁷ Mugambi Argwins, OI, 26.7.2015

¹⁸ Mbaya Jeremiah, OI, 24.7.2015

¹⁹ Nation Business News Team, "A Factory Faces Closure due to Heavy Taxation"
Daily Nation, 1 July.2014 (Business Daily, p. 1)

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Gilgil town is one of the oldest towns in Nakuru County; it is also one of the garrison towns in Kenya. The town hosts two major military bases made up of ten units, Kenya Police service's Anti Stock Theft headquarters, and National Youth service facilities. During the First and Second World War, the town was an important mobilisation, recruiting and training centre, thus a significant number of Kings African Rifles who took part in the wars were trained in the town. Gilgil town is located in a point of intersection. It is at Gilgil town that Gilgil-Nyahururu road intersects with Nairobi-Nakuru highway. It is also at the same place that the feeder railway line Gilgil-Nyahururu intersects with the main Mombasa-Kisumu railway line. In addition, the area around Naivasha and Gilgil was among the first to be settled by white settlers in former Rift Valley province. Delamere acquired 50,000 acres of land near Gilgil town. The town has been in existence for more than a century. However, no study has been previously carried out on the historical development of the town and factors accounting for its development. A historical analysis of Gilgil town was therefore important in order to evaluate the role played by the town in economic and social developments in Nakuru County, and in Kenya.

1.3 Objectives

1.3.1 Overall Objective

To examine the historical development of Gilgil Town.

1.3.2 Specific Objectives

The study was guided by the following specific objectives:-

- i. To outline the history of Gilgil Town from 1897 to 2014.
- ii. To examine the contribution of security bases to the development of Gilgil Town.
- iii. To analyse other factors accounting for the development of Gilgil Town.

1.4 Research Questions

The researcher was guided by the following research questions:

- i. How has Gilgil town evolved over the years?
- ii. How have security bases contributed to the development of Gilgil Town?
- iii. What other factors account for the development of Gilgil Town?

1.5 Justification for the Study

Among the major functions of history is to give people a sense of identity and belonging. This is achieved through knowledge of the origins of institutions and culture, and the role that these have played in creating the present situation. Gilgil is one of the oldest towns in Nakuru County. Its history is linked with that of Kenya Defense Forces since for over a century now, the town has hosted diverse security establishments. Knowledge of the history of the town will give an opportunity to learn how security establishments have shaped urban development in the county and Kenya in general.

Although a number of historical studies have been done on towns in Kenya, focus has been on major towns. Studies on smaller but growing towns are scarce. Besides, a few small and medium-sized towns in Kenya have primarily rose and developed as a result of their proximity to security bases. Such towns include Nanyuki, Isiolo, and Gilgil. This analysis of Gilgil town will thus contribute to the body of knowledge as it will add to written works on urban historiography. The study is also justifiable as it highlights ways in which security bases have contributed to the rise and development of towns in Kenya. The findings of the study are also important to development agencies and policy makers both in county and national level.

1.6 Scope and Limitations of the Study.

The study focuses on the historical development of Gilgil town from 1897 to 2014. It was in 1897 that a contingent of the Indian Army camped at Gilgil after an expedition in the Sudan. The study analyses the factors that have influenced the town's development. It also covers the history of Gilgil town up 2014, in this year GEMA land buying company started selling parcels of its 1000 hectare land which were in turn subdivided into 50*100 plots and consequently expanded the town.

The researcher was confronted with the problem of obtaining security related information. However, this was mitigated through acquisition of the necessary authorization documents from both KDF and KPS headquarters. Looking for credible informants like former security personnel, civic as well as political leaders also posed a challenge. To overcome the challenge, the researcher used local research assistants who understood the area better. The guides were able to identify respondents, and the respondents were willing to provide information to familiar individuals. A number of respondents however requested for their names not to appear on the list of interviewees.

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1.7 Literature Review

Introduction

Considerable research has been done on urban history in Kenya and elsewhere. This sub topic provides related literature review on urban historiography.

1.7.1 Urbanization in General

Urban history is a wide subject that has attracted a number of researchers. Most of the researchers however have focused on major towns, ignoring small but growing urban centres. For instance, in Kenya almost all major towns have been researched on including; Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu, and Eldoret.

According to Toffer, urban development in Kenya took place in two phases: the colonial and the post-colonial phases. Toffer argues that in pre-colonial Kenya, the interior of the country had no established trading centres. However, he observes that at the East African coast, there were well established trading centres and ports such as Mombasa, Kilifi, Malindi, Lamu, Pate, Mogadishu and Zanzibar.²⁰ Both Berge and Aseka concur with Toffer's assertion.²¹ Aseka argues that there existed frequent conflict among the coastal towns over the control of the trade. He concludes that due to the feuds, the coastal towns developed very few inter-ports and interior trading routes.²² A similar argument is advanced by R. A. Obudho and Rose A. Obudho who argue that the coming of Europeans in the nineteenth century saw an increased development of penetration lines into the African interior. This resulted in the growth of trading centres in the interior of present-day Kenya. The writers therefore conclude that the location, size and distribution of urban centres in Kenya is largely a product of the activities of British colonial authorities in the first decade of colonialism.²³ This study establishes that Gilgil owes its origin to colonialism.

Aseka argues that urban centres have developed over the years as responses to economic necessity and that urbanisation is not historically a static phenomenon.²⁴ He further argues that casual impulse of economic necessity in itself compounded by a myriad of stimuli has

²⁰ A. Toffer, *The Third Weaver* (New York: William Morrow and Co. Inc, 1980), p. 244.

²¹ F. J. Berg, "The Coast from the Portuguese Invasion to the Rise of the Zanzibar Sultanate," in B.A. Ogot (ed), *Zamani: A Survey of East African History* (Nairobi: East African Literature Bureau, 1973), p. 120.

²² E. M. Aseka, "Urbanisation", in W. R. Ochieng (ed), *Themes in Kenyan History* (Nairobi: East African Educational Publishers Ltd, 1993), p. 158.

²³ R. A. Obudho and Rose A Obudho, "The colonial Urban Development Through Space and Time 1895-1963" in W. R. Ochieng' (ed), *An Economic History of Kenya* (Nairobi: East African Educational Publishers Ltd, 1992), p.14.

²⁴ E. M. Aseka, "Urbanisation" in W. R., Ochieng (ed), *Themes in Kenya History*. p.4.

never been restricted to any historical epoch. Aseka also contends that urbanisation is related to economic domination in that those that dominate the economy of a certain area also control its wealth. He concludes that it is perfidious to attribute the genesis of urbanisation to one stimulant, be it commercial proclivity of immigrant Arab or Asian traders or European colonialism. In a related study, Aseka argues that the tendency of war and slave trade predations accelerated urbanisation in the nineteenth century.²⁵ He points out that the Sambiaa of north eastern Tanzania created towns as defence against marauding Maasai warriors from present-day Kenya. Further, Aseka observes that war, slave-raiding, and massive migrations provided for the development of urban life in parts of the East African interior. He concludes that a number of garrison towns emerged as centres of refuge from devastations. A similar conclusion is made on Gilgil town's emergence given the fact that military troops were the first to settle there. Aseka's view formed a strong base for this study.

A similar argument is advanced by Bradley. He observes that had the Portuguese army not protected Malindi from the numerous and powerful Arabs of Mombasa, the town would have undoubtedly been attacked several times during the sixteenth century. He further observes that when Portuguese eventually moved their headquarters to Mombasa in 1593, Malindi town declined rapidly in size and economic power. Bradley notes that the Portuguese had not only moved their headquarters 120 kilometres south but also their military. He further notes that by the beginning of the fourth quarter of the eighteenth century, Malindi town was abandoned only to be established later under the orders of the sultan of Zanzibar who sent in Baluchi troops.²⁶ Bradley contends that the presence of Portuguese troops protected Malindi from her neighbours and thus encouraged the expansion of the town's commerce. Bradley's study however did not investigate how the soldiers participated in the development of the town beside provision of security. This study shows how uniformed personnel's presence in Gilgil has influenced its development.

In another study, Janmohamed points out that during the early twentieth century, Mombasa emerged as the chief commercial centre of Kenya and the premier port on the East African littoral.²⁷ He observes that its urban growth was largely a function of two main processes. First was expansion of a commercial sector in which European and Asian business firms

²⁵ E. M. Aseka, "Urbanisation" in W. R., Ochieng (ed), *Themes in Kenya History*. p 4.

²⁶ E. B. Martin, *The History of Malindi: A Geographical Analysis of an East Africa Coastal Town From the Portuguse Period to the Present* (Nairobi: East African Literature Bureau, 1973), p. 275.

²⁷ K. Janmohamed, "Ethnicity in an Urban Setting: A Case Study of Mombasa," in B A Ogot (ed), *Hadithi 6: History and Social Changes in East Africa* (Nairobi: East African Literature Bureau, 1976), pp. 186-206.

played a key role. Second was the influx of migrant African labourers from various parts of the East African interior who contributed their services to the expanding commercial sector in different capacities: as porters, fitters, turners, clerks, interpreters, taxi-drivers, domestic servants, shop assistants, overseers, and most important of all as dockworkers. This African labour force was consisted of people of diverse ethnic and geographical origins who were attracted to Mombasa by reports of lucrative wages obtainable there. Migrant labourers highly influenced growth and development of the town. This study demonstrates the role of migrants in the growth of Gilgil.

Anderson's work on Nairobi is equally relevant.²⁸ He observes that Nairobi began as a railway town. Anderson further observes that by 1921 more than 12,000 Africans occupied the eight largest villages in the vicinity of Nairobi Township. These included Kangemi, Kawangware, Kibera, Kileleshwa and Pumwani. Towns such as Naivasha, Gilgil, Nakuru, Njoro, Kericho and Kisumu developed not only as a result of the railway line but also as secluded white settlement areas. Anderson points out that the earliest occupants from Europe included Lord Delamare in Naivasha-Gilgil area and Lord Egerton in Njoro among others. It can rightly be deduced from this argument that the railway affected growth and development of towns, but little is told of how the railway influenced the development. This study shows how the now defunct Kenya-Uganda railway influenced the development of Gilgil town.

In a study on Eldoret town, Agevi argues that Eldoret town developed from an isolated post office serving mostly a European farming community.²⁹ He concludes that Eldoret is a creation of European adventurism into the interior of Kenya at the turn of the twentieth century and that it owes its modern origin to the settlement of Boers from South Africa. The Boers, Agevi contends, were encouraged to settle in Uasin Gishu by the then East Africa Protectorate authorities. He further observes that before the white settlers, the earliest inhabitants of the area were the pastoral Sirikwa, who are believed to have settled there by 1750.³⁰ The Sirikwa community was later conquered by the Maasai and the Nandi. Agevi also observes that the growth of Eldoret town remained slow until 1924 when a section of the Kenya-Uganda railway passing through Eldoret was completed. Agevi concludes that the

²⁸ D. M. Anderson, "Corruption at City Hall Housing and Urban Development in colonial Nairobi" in A. Burton (ed) *The Urban Experience in Eastern Africa c1750-2000* (Nairobi: British Institute in Eastern Africa, 2002), pp. 138-154.

²⁹ E. Agevi, "The Study of Eldoret Town" in United Nations, *The Management of Secondary Cities in Sub-Saharan Africa* (Nairobi: United Nations, 1991), pp. 40-42.

³⁰ E. Agevi, "The Study of Eldoret Town" in United Nations, *The Management of Secondary Cities in Sub-Saharan Africa*, p. 42.

railway together with permanent settlement in Uasin Gishu were responsible for the growth of Eldoret as a railway yard with a junction to Kitale town. This study examines the role of the Masaai, settlers, and the construction of the railway in the rise and development of Gilgil town.

Waweru focuses on small urban centres. In his study on frontier urbanisation, he observes that the frame analysis of colonial patterns and conditions of urbanisation in Kenya has been restricted to major towns.³¹ In redressing this neglect of smaller but important towns, Waweru focuses his study on the urban history of Samburu County. He examines the roles of these smaller towns from 1909 when northern Kenya was designated the Northern Frontier District up to 1940. This study examines the rise and development of Gilgil town as a redress to the academic neglect of smaller but important towns in Kenya.

1.7.2 Security bases and Urbanization

A number of researchers have studied the role of security bases in the growth and development of towns near them. For example, Clark points out that disbanding of large armies and closure of military establishments maintained by States contributed to decline of cities in India in the first half of the nineteenth century.³² He advances the argument that disbanding of armies and pulling down of military installations can slow down the growth of towns. In short Clark posits that the presence of military establishments encourages development and growth of towns.

In a related analysis, Dardia focused on the effect of closure of military bases on local communities. He studied three California communities which were adjacent to three military bases that closed down in the early 1990.³³ He used the following measures to evaluate the effects of these closures: size of the local population and school enrolment, size of labour force, unemployment rates, taxable retail sales and municipal revenues and vacancy rates. Changes in these measures were compared to changes in similar communities where bases had not closed down. Dardia concluded that the closures had noticeable effects in terms of population, school enrolment, unemployment rate, labour force as well as taxable retail sales and other revenue.

³¹ P. Waweru, "Frontier Urbanisation: The Rise and Development of Towns in Samburu District, Kenya 1909-1940" in Andrew Burton (ed), *Urban Experience in East Africa c 1750-2000* (Nairobi: British Institute in East Africa, 2000), pp. 85-86.

³² P. Clark (ed), *The Oxford Handbook of Cities in World History* (London: Oxford University Press, 2013), p. 562.

³³ M. Dardia, *The Effects of Military Bases Closures on Local Communities: A Short-Term Perspective* (Santa Monica: Calif Rand, 1996), p. iii.

Similarly, Lookwood contends that Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) lead to negative economic impacts.³⁴ He concludes that the impact can be very traumatic to the local communities. However, he argues that long term economic recovery of these communities depends on several factors among them the strength of the national and regional economies and successful redevelopment of the base properties. Lookwood also states that key economic indicators show that majority of communities surrounding military bases fair well economically in relation to United States unemployment rate. Gilgil is a town where the presence of army barracks, a national police unit headquarters, and the National Youth Service Training College have contributed to the town's growth and development. The arguments advanced by Clark, Dardia and Lookwood forms a strong base for this study.

Equally important is Dixon's discussion on Thailand.³⁵ Dixon observes that between 1950 and 1970, Thailand received American economic and military aid amounting to US\$1.13 billion. In addition, he states that the presence of American soldiers in Thailand generated a high level expenditure and expansion of the service sector. He argues that this led to growth of urban centres adjacent to major military bases, particularly in the north-east. According to Dixon, military bases stimulated growth of local transportation networks as well as manufacturing and service industry development. It also led to expansion of hotels and related leisure and service activities which laid the base for subsequent expansion of tourism. Roads were also constructed to facilitate movement of military supplies. This study concurs with Dixon's argument that security establishments stimulate growth and development of towns in their vicinity.

Benoit argues that there are various channels through which military and security establishments contribute to civilian economies.³⁶ He outlines some of the contributions as the engagement of defense programmes in a variety of public works as well as in scientific and technical specialties such as hydrographic studies, mapping and aerial survey. This study examines such programmes in Gilgil town and its environs.

McNamara argues that there is a direct and constant relationship between incidences of violence and the economic status of countries afflicted by insecurity.³⁷ He also argues that

³⁴ D. A. Lookwood, *Military Base Closure* (New York: Novinka Books, 2003), p. i.

³⁵ C. Dixon, *The Thai Economy: Uneven Development and Internationalisation Growth Economies of Asia* (London and New York: Routledge, 1987), pp. 82-87.

³⁶ E. Benoit, *Growth and Defense in Developing Countries* (London: Adamantine Press, 1978), p. 277.

³⁷ R. S. McNamara, *The Essence of Security, Reflection in Office* (New York: Harper and Row, 1968), pp. 145-149.

there is a relationship between violence and economic backwardness. He further argues that security implies a minimal measure of order and stability. Ochoche concurs with McNamara's argument by stating that security means development and development is security.³⁸ This study examines whether the presence of security establishments in Gilgil town has contributed to social order and stability in the town and its environs.

Luckham argues that in the 1960s and 1970s the main debate in Africa revolved around the role of security providers in modernisation or development.³⁹ He concluded that security establishments remain essential in any analysis of how African States develop. In a related study, Ogunbanwo concurs with Luckham by arguing that in the African context, security is more of provision of security from internal or external attacks.⁴⁰ He also argues that for many of the four billion African inhabitants, security is conceived as the basic level of the struggle for survival. Ogunbanwo concludes that African security as a concept in a broader sense includes economic, social and environmental security. In a similar study Obasanjo argues that there is a direct and constant relationship between incidences of violence and economic development of an area.⁴¹ He asserts that there is a link between level of poverty in Africa and level of incidences of violence and conflict in an area. This study examines how the presence of security establishments in Gilgil town has impacted on order and stability in the town, influencing the town's development.

Nadir argues that the contribution of security bases to the welfare of civilians is multi-faceted. He, however states that some are difficult to quantify and evaluate.⁴² Nadir further argues that security establishments provide education and training facilities for their personnel and families. These training facilities later benefit civilians after these personnel are released from active service. Nadir concludes that security establishments and developments are

³⁸ S. A. Ochoche, "The Military and National Security in Africa", in Eboe Hutchful and Ebdoulaye Bathily (ed) *The Military and Militarism in Africa* (Dakar: CODESRIA, 1998), pp. 106-107.

³⁹ R. Luckham, "The Military, Militarisation and Democratisation in Africa: A Survey of Literature and Issues" in Eboe Hutchful and Ebdoulaye Bathily (eds) *The Military and Militarism in Africa* (Dakar: CODESRIA, 1998), p. 2.

⁴⁰ S. Ogunbanwo, "Security Perceptions and Requirement in the African context", in United Nation African Security Perceptions and Requirements Including Related Regional Issues, UN Regional Disarmament Workshop for Africa, Lagos, Nigeria (New York: United Nation, 1990) p. 11.

⁴¹ O. Obasanjo, "Preface", in F. M. Deng and I. W. Zartman (eds), *Conflict Resolution in Africa* (Washington D. C: Brookings Institution, 1991), p. xiv.

⁴² A. L. M. Nadir, "Tank-Tractor Trade-Off in Sudan: The Social-Economic Impact of Military Expenditure", in Eboe Hutchful and Ebdoulaye Bathily (ed) *The Military and Militarism in Africa* (Dakar: CODESRIA, 1998), pp. 161-162.

complementary and closely linked to each other.⁴³ Their ultimate goal is to create a secure and conducive environment for development.

Tungaraza posits that after the 1964 military mutiny in Tanzania, the then president had to explore new ways to handle civil-military relations.⁴⁴ Tungaraza observes that first Nyerere scrapped the colonial inherited principle of keeping soldiers confined in barracks and thus allowed them to reside in towns near their bases. Tungaraza also argues that Nyerere sought to integrate the military into the society so as to politicise and popularise its culture. This study examines whether security bodies in Kenya have had any policies that have aimed at making them an integral part of the society.

On the emergence of garrison centres in Ethiopia, Seifu argues that Shoan expansion to the south led the appearance of garrison towns commonly referred to as Katama.⁴⁵ He states that eventually the Katama evolved into permanent small sized provincial towns. Seifu concludes that the emergence of the present day urban centres in western Ethiopia was due to politico-military factors particularly the establishment of security bases. However, he contends that many towns declined when the bases were abandoned after their military usefulness declined. The fact that security establishments lead to rise and development of urban centres forms the thrust of this study.

1.7.3 Other Factors Influencing Development of Towns

Other literatures that have been reviewed include Glaab's work which discusses Portland and Oregon as major towns of the north-west Pacific which emerged with the construction of a national transport network.⁴⁶ Glaab discusses the rise of Kansas and Missouri. He argues that both towns rose as a result of the western railroad centre and regional metropolis supplies. Kansas and Missouri cities are good examples of the relationship of real estate, local promotion and railroad to the growth of individual towns.

Furthermore, Glaab observes that with the expansion of Santa Fe trade in the 1850s and particularly with the migration of settlers into Kansas after the opening of the territory in

⁴³ A. L. M. Nadir, "Tank-Tractor Trade-Off in Sudan: The Social-Economic Impact of Military Expenditure", in Eboe Hutchful and Ebdoulaye Bathily (ed) *The Military and Militarism in Africa* (Dakar: CODESRIA, 1998), p. 163.

⁴⁴ C. Tungaraza, "The Transformation of Civil-Military Relations in Tanzania", in Eboe Hutchful and Ebdoulaye Bathily (ed), *The Military and Militarism in Africa* (Dakar: CODESRIA, 1998), p. 291.

⁴⁵ Y. Seifu, "A Historical Survey of Jimma Town 1936-1972" (MA Thesis, Addis Ababa University, 2002), p.37.

⁴⁶ C. N. Glaab, *A History of Urban America* (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1967), pp. 115-116.

1854, the town began to grow and a group of local property holders, who were joined by investors from the east with an interest in promising western town sites, set out to build a regional town through obtaining railroads. It was through the Kansas Pacific Railroad that Kansas town became established as a cattle market and meat packing centre.

In addition, Glaab has analysed the genesis of several other American towns.⁴⁷ He ably points out that although most American towns before 1850 escaped the congestion of growing slums of New York and Boston, all had had common unpleasant features such as muddy streets because streets were partly paved. There was refuse and garbage clogging the street, inadequate sewage facilities and absence of adequate sanitation. Though Glaab's study is comprehensive, it only revolved around major towns.

Unlike Glaab, Claak ignores all other major factors that may have influenced urban growth in Western Europe other than industrialisation. He contends that urban growth in most Western European countries was largely due to industrialisation.⁴⁸ He also argues that the expansion and evolving character of towns and cities was primarily a response to changes in the scale and nature of the industry. Claak further argues that in the United States of America, the pace of urban growth and change was determined by the opening up of lands in the west for settlement as by industrial changes in the east. This clearly illustrates how industrialisation impacted on the growth and development of towns in Western Europe and the USA. Unlike Claak who seem to ignore factors influencing urban development other than industrialisation, this study will endeavour to examine all the factors that influenced the rise and development of Gilgil town.

Another major town that has been researched on is Bamako. Unlike both Glaab and Claak, Seabrook notes that Bamako grew as a centre of Islamic learning in the Mali Empire between the eleventh and fifteenth centuries.⁴⁹ He further observes that Bamako fell into decline and by the time the French occupied it in 1880, it was a little more than a collection of villages covered with the dust of the searing Harmattan wind. This suggests that Mali has always been a country of migrants in response to cynical droughts and poverty. After independence, a series of droughts sent waves of migrants to the town in the 1960s and 1970s. As such, in one decade, the population tripled. In 1992-3 it was estimated that 47 per cent of rural families in Mali had at least one migrant member living in the capital. Similarly, Gilgil area has been a

⁴⁷ C. N. Glaab, *A History of Urban America* (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1967), pp. 115-116.

⁴⁸ D. Claak, *Urban Geography* (Maryland: The John Hopkins University Press, 1982), pp. 57-58.

⁴⁹ J. Seabrook, *Cities* (London: Pluto Press, 2007), p. 27.

safe haven for the Maasai community. When drought ravages their Narok habitations, they drive their animals to areas between Naivasha and Gilgil.⁵⁰

In yet another analysis of a major town, Prochaska demonstrates how settler colonialism influenced growth and development of Bone town in Algeria.⁵¹ He asserts that Europeans outnumbered Algerians and formed a majority of the population. The French took all the land and mines, developed infrastructure, and the economy and therefore the development of Bone was absolutely a European affair with 71 per cent European and 16 per cent Algerians. Prochaska argues that official bureaucracy was controlled by metropolitan French representatives whereas the unofficial network was dominated by European settlers. He further notes that the creation of a colonial culture brought about changes in the street names and pictures. Prochaska concludes that the above summed up into making Bone a colonial town, transformed by colonialism. The current study traces settlers' contribution in the rise and development of Gilgil town.

In his thesis on colonial urbanisation, Oyedole focuses on the development of Kaduna as the capital of Northern Nigeria.⁵² He examines the nature, functions and growth of Kaduna from its inception in 1912 as a small settlement into a bustling and cosmopolitan colonial town of tremendous status. Oyedole argues that the British colonial government through its policies and programmes influenced the decisions and actions of individual Nigerians and British private firms with respect to where they settled and worked. He further argues that the colonial economy and administrative policies in Nigeria were based on principle - that is working as far as possible from the existing systems but to reorganise with time so as to facilitate the achievement of the colonial goals of exploitation and domination. Oyedole concludes that colonial urban and administrative systems were organised drastically to serve British economic interests. Oyedole shows that Kaduna developed, in the first instance, in a dual capacity as a garrison town and as the capital of Northern Nigeria. He further shows that Kaduna's existence was dependent on a wider system of economic, political and social forces whose nature cannot be understood except in relation to each other. This study concurs with Oyedole's argument that the rise and development of town's is dependent on several factors which relate to each other.

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⁵⁰ Leys, *Kenya*, p. 123.

⁵¹ D. Prochaska, *Making Algeria French* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990), pp. 132-145.

⁵² E. N. Oyedole "Colonial Urbanisation in Northern Nigeria, Kaduna 1813-1906" (MA Diss. Central Connecticut University, 1987), pp. 26-45.

Hutton asserts that Kampala can only be understood in terms of its particular topographical characteristic: it is built on numerous hills.⁵³ These hills have become the nuclei for particular activities. He argues that the Makerere hill was given to the university that bears its name, while Mulango Hill was given over a teaching hospital. Hutton observes that a number of other hills are primarily residential. He further observes that the railway industrial area is developed parallel to Kampala and that the Central Business District including most government and city administration, wind between hills within the old boundaries of Kampala City. Hutton concludes that topography influences the growth and development of towns. Since topography often influences the choice of military camping sites, Hutton's argument was used to explain why the Indian troops choose present-day Gilgil town as a camping site.

In summary, the literature review presents historical studies on the rise and development of various towns. The review identified a knowledge gap, hence the need to study the factors that have influenced the development of Gilgil town.

1.8 Theoretical Framework

In analysing Third World development, most studies have been informed by three main theoretical frameworks: the theories of modernisation, underdevelopment and articulation of modes of production. This particular study employs modernisation theory and William Dean's theory of urban growth in order to comprehensively cover the theoretical requirements of the research. Theories of modernisation fall under the orthodox school of development thought. It was developed between 1950s and 1960s and prominent in the 1970s. The school advances the argument that for societies to progress from the traditional to the modern stage of development, certain cultural and traditional values have to be discarded. Third World backwardness is therefore seen as a result of persistent cultural values that are still in existence in these countries. The modernisation perspective is one of the theoretical frameworks derived from the orthodox school of development.

The main proponents of this perspective were W W Rostow, W A Lewis and Talcott Parsons alongside other American scholars.⁵⁴ It is a description and an explanation of the process of transformation from traditional societies to modern societies. Its primary focus is how past and present pre-modern societies become modern (that is westernised) through the process of

⁵³ J. Button, "Urban Challenge in East Africa" in J. Gugler (ed), *Urbanisation in East Africa* (Nairobi: East African Publishing House, 1970), pp. 18-20.

⁵⁴ W. W. Rostow, *The Stages of Economic Growth; A Non-Communist Manifesto* (London: Cambridge University Press, 1990), pp. 5-7.

economic growth and change in social-political and cultural structures.⁵⁵ The perspective holds that development occurs when traditional behaviour patterns change under the pressures of modernity. It addresses itself to the social, economic and cultural ramifications of the encounter between the west and non-western dating from the sixteenth century to the present. It considers how this encounter shaped all those who were party to it. Chiriyankandath affirms the theory when he argues that developing countries were largely influenced by their encounter with the West.⁵⁶ Kendall argued that urbanisation accompanied modernisation. The arrival of the whites in Gilgil sparked the race to modernise the area. The growth of Gilgil urban centre was a part of this modernisation.⁵⁷

Rostow identified five evolutionary stages that Western societies had gone through before they became modern.⁵⁸ He outlined what he termed as stages of economic growth. He asserts that all societies' economic dimensions can be explained within the five stages: the traditional society, the pre-condition for take-off, the take-off, drive to maturity, and the age of mass consumption. The traditional society is one whose structure is developed within limited production functions based on a pre-Newtonian attitude towards the physical world. At this point men did know that the external world was subject to laws that could be manipulated to boost production. Such a society allows little mobility and family and clan connections play a central role in its organisation. The traditional society in Gilgil's case corresponds to the pre-colonial period when the Maasai community occupied the area.

The pre-condition for take-off involves application of modern science to both agriculture and industrial production. Agrarian and industrial revolution characterised this pre-condition in Europe. Outside Europe this second stage of economic development arises as a result of intrusion by more developed societies. With such intrusion the idea spreads the economic progress and this leads to the emergence of enterprising individuals who invest in various sectors of the economy. At this stage Gilgil was occupied by white settlers who constructed roads and railways, and established large scale livestock keeping.

The third phase of economic growth the take – off comes about as a result of increased investments. This is where rapid industrialisation is witnessed, employment is therefore

⁵⁵ "Modernisation Theory" <http://find.galegroup.com> Accessed on 6th March, 2014.

⁵⁶ J. Chiriyankandath, "Colonial and Post-Colonial Development" in P. Burnell and V. Randall *Politics in the Developing World.* (London, 2005), p. 38.

⁵⁷ Ibid p 39

⁵⁸ W. W. Rostow, *The Stages of Economic Growth; A Non-Communist Manifesto*, pp. 6-18.

created which in turn creates demand for goods and services, hence further industrialisation. At this stage there was the establishment of permanent security bases, light industries, ranches, conservancies, and tourism industry at Gilgil. After the take – off phase, there follows a long period of sustained growth as the expansion of economy extends through a range of activities. A significant national income is steadily re-invested so that output continues to out strip increase in population. Gilgil town is currently in this phase of modernisation.

The modernisation theory has been criticised on account of its Eurocentrism and the fact that it points only to external factors. It has also been faulted for being too eager to draw generalisations.⁵⁹ Gunder Frank criticised the theory on the grounds that it is ahistorical since it assumes that underdevelopment is an original state. This theory has also been criticised due to its failure to base its postulations on history. It also ignores contributions of such events as colonialism and imperialism to Third World poverty.⁶⁰ The theory ignores evidence that shows that economic growth occurs not simply through displacement of ‘traditional’ values and institutions by ‘modern’ ones and therefore, it is structurally weak because it ignores the specific ways in which factors for economic growth such as introduction of new technology or markets may be interpreted, modified or accommodated by a developing region. The modernisation theory is limiting and therefore to make the study more illuminating it was complemented by William Dean’s theory of urban growth.

The theory was propagated by William Dean Junior. It was discussed and applied in studying the growth of Chicago before the great fire of 1871.⁶¹ Dean’s theory of urban growth is premised on the argument that the development of commercial agglomeration at any site is a function of three variables: position or location, trade routes, and nodality. As mentioned earlier, in 1897, Indian soldiers camped at Gilgil (the present-day Gilgil barracks) after an assignment in the Sudan. This was largely due to positioning. The troop commanders must have considered geographical facts including topographical considerations to arrive at the decision to establish a camping site in the area. The area offers a suitable terrain for infantry training. In 1901, the Kenya-Uganda Railway authorities designated a station in the present-

⁵⁹ A Webster, ‘Modernisation Theory’, in R Ayres (ed), *Development Studies: An Introduction through Selected Readings* (Kent, Greenwich University Press, 1995) p. 110.

⁶⁰ F A Gunder, “The Development of Underdevelopment”, *Monthly Review*, Vol 18, No 14, 1996, pp. 17-31.

⁶¹ Louis P. Cain, “Williams Dean’s Theory of Urban Growth: Chicago’s Commerce and Industry, 1854-1917” *Journal of Economic History*, Vol 45, No.2 (June 1985), pp. 20-28.

day Gilgil town because the area was a major trade route which joined the railway line to the rich agricultural areas of happy valley (present-day Wanjohi) and Thomson's Falls (present-day Nyahururu). Nodality stems from the word node which means a point of intersection. It is at Gilgil town that Gilgil-Nyahururu road intersects with the Nairobi-Nakuru highway. It is also at the same place that the feeder Gilgil-Nyahururu railway line intersects the main Mombasa-Kisumu railway line.

The theory posits that urban centres are most likely to develop where primary land routes intersect. It further states that at such intersections, agglomeration of commercial activities and commercial population are inevitable. The Kenya-Uganda Railway intersects with Gilgil-Nyahururu road at Gilgil town. Charles Cooley concurs with the theory's assertions by affirming that important cities are most likely to develop where primary land routes meet primary water routes, at what he termed as a break in transport. Similarly, Vidal de la Blanche concurs with Dean's theory by observing that towns grow at the borders of mountains barriers, at river crossings, and on the edge of desert. In short, whenever it is necessary to halt and find new methods of transport, there is the opportunity for urban centre growth.⁶² Gilgil club and Colville's Gilgil hotel were both established in the early 1920s to serve as stopover points for settlers headed for the Happy Valley and beyond. These settlers had to use ox-wagons for transport through a thick forest and a muddy road. They therefore needed a stopover point before embarking on the rough journey.

The theory further posits that industrial agglomeration follows commercial growth. During the laying down of the railway line, Indian railway workers noted the presence of Indian troops in the Gilgil area. After their contract with Kenya-Uganda Railway, some of them came back to establish small businesses in Gilgil since they felt secure with homeland troops around. Later on, manufacturing plants were established, among them Dume Farm Machinery Factory which started to manufacture farm machinery for the white settlers in early 1940, East Africa Diatomite Factory which opened its doors in 1949, and Gilgil Telecom Industries which was commissioned in 1988.

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⁶² Louis P Cain, "Williams Dean's Theory of Urban Growth: Chicago's Commerce and Industry, 1854-1871" in *Journal of Economic History*, Vol 45, No.2 (June 1985), pp. 241-249.

1.9 Methodology

1.9.1 Introduction

This section discusses the methodology adopted in the study to investigate historical development of Gilgil town and the factors that have influenced the rise and development of the town. It describes the area of study, research design, data collection procedures and data analysis.

1.9.2 Area of Study

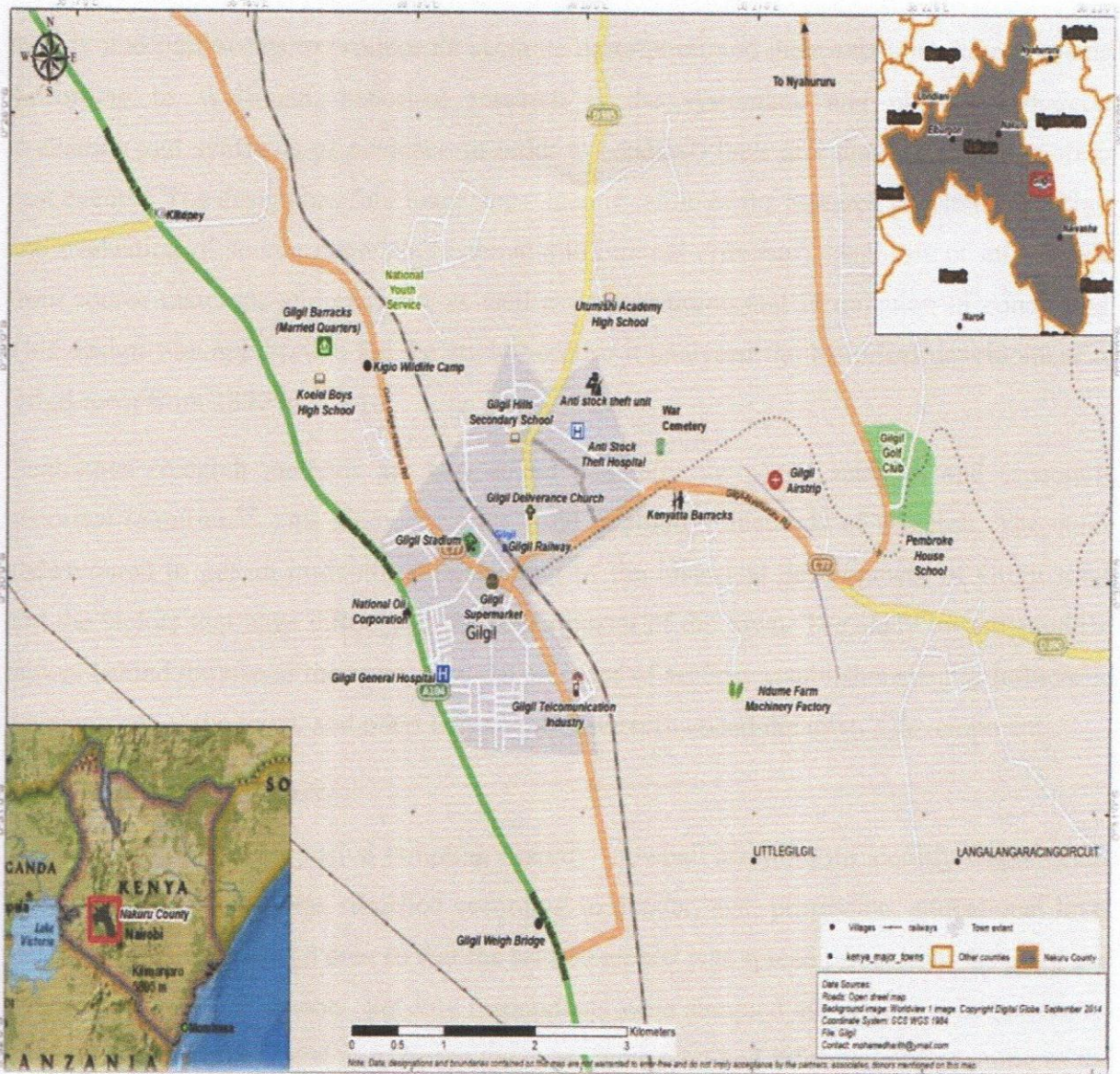
The study was carried out in Gilgil town and the surrounding settlements. Gilgil town is in Nakuru County in Kenya. It is the headquarters of Gilgil sub-county. The town is located about 125 km north of Nairobi, the capital city of Kenya. Gilgil town is situated between Naivasha and Nakuru towns along the Nairobi-Nakuru highway.

According to the 2009 National Census, Gilgil town's population was 35,293. It was therefore ranked number 69 among Kenyan towns in terms of population. Njoro and Subukia towns in Nakuru County were ranked behind Gilgil town with populations of 32,120 and 29,502 respectively.

Gilgil town is a garrison town:⁶³ it has a continuous presence of military personnel throughout the year. The town is home to Gilgil Barracks and Kenyatta Garrison. The town also hosts two other major security establishments namely the ASTU and NYS College. Gilgil is also home to two main industries: Gilgil Telecommunication Industries and Ndume Farm Machinery Factory.

⁶³ A town is regarded as a garrison town if it has a high number of military personnel throughout the year. The town's economy is also overly dependent on the military personnel.

MAP 1: LOCATION OF GILGIL TOWN.



Source: Road Open Street Map, background image worldview 1 image, copyright Digital Globe, September 2014, coordinate system GCS WGS 1984

1.9.3 Research Design

The study was based on historical research design. The design refers to the process of critical inquiry into past events to produce an accurate description and interpretation of these events. According to Walliman, historical research is the systematic and objective location, evaluation and synthesis of evidence in order to establish facts and draw conclusions about past events.⁶⁴ The design has four main steps: identification of the research problem, collection and evaluation of source materials (external and internal criticism), synthesis of information from source materials and analysis, as well as interpretation and formulation of conclusion. This design was appropriate for the study because it analysed the historical development of Gilgil town from 1897 to 2014.

Qualitative research methods are best suited generally for social sciences and especially historical inquiries.⁶⁵ This study therefore used qualitative methods of research. The study endeavoured to get an in-depth understanding of the historical development of Gilgil town and the factors that have influenced the development of the town. The study investigated the factors behind the rise of the town, how the presence of security establishments has influenced development of the town, and other factors that have influenced the town's development.

1.9.4 Sampling Procedure

The study employed purposive sampling (mainly snowball sampling) to identify respondents. The number identified was stratified according to gender, age, profession, educational level and length of stay in Gilgil area so that the sample picked was spread throughout the town and the neighbouring settlements. Seventy respondents were sampled and included in this study. The respondents comprised of ordinary town residents who had information pertaining to the history of the Gilgil town. Of these, three respondents included current and former administrators who have lived in the town for more than five years. Five former and current civic and political leaders in Gilgil area were also sampled and their views incorporated in this study. Thirteen businessmen/women who have traded in the town for more than ten years were also included in the study. Eleven town residents who have lived in the town for more than twenty years were also interviewed. Twenty one security personnel – both serving and retired – were also interviewed and their views incorporated into the study.

⁶⁴ N. Walliman, *Your Research Project: Designing and Planning your Work* (3rd Edition) (London: Sage Publication, 2011), p. 9.

⁶⁵ J. W. Creswel, *Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design: Choosing among Five Traditions* (London: Sage Publications 1998), p. 152.

Employees currently in Gilgil were also included in the study. These gave a picture of how conservancies, industries, factories, tourism attraction sites and education institutions have influenced the development of Gilgil town. A total of four employees from the following conservancies were interviewed: Kigio, Marura and Soysambu. A total of eight employees from the following establishments were also part of the study: GTI, NFM, GCWC, EADL, Kariandusi Pre-historic site, Rift Valley Railway (RVR), and Goodwill Church. They provided information on the history of their respective institutions and the institutions' influence in the development of Gilgil town. Five Administrators of Educational institutions were also interviewed. They provided information on how the educational institutions have influenced the development of the town. All these groups formed the population of the study.

1.9.5 Data Collection

Data collection for historical research mainly relies upon written documents and oral sources. Thus, two types of data were collected for the study: primary and secondary data. Primary data constituted archival and oral sources. Archival sources include records from Kenya National Archives like annual reports, official correspondences and government policy documents. As such the researcher visited Kenya National Archives in Nairobi and Nakuru. Oral information was gathered using semi-structured interview schedules (see appendix 2). One-on-one interviews were preferred because they helped in establishing a close personal contact between the interviewer and the respondent. As argued by Babbie.⁶⁶ The researcher made observations on past evidence of the town's existence such as buildings, roads, railway line, and machinery among others. A camera was used to capture the photographs of the same.

Data was also collected from secondary sources which helped to corroborate primary data. These secondary sources include books, journal articles, reports, the internet, theses/dissertations and conference papers. Thus the researcher extensively read in libraries at the University of Nairobi, Kenyatta University, Egerton University, Kenya National Library Service centres both in Nairobi and Nakuru as well as other libraries.

The data collected was in three forms. These included information pertaining to the origin of Gilgil town, how security establishments have influenced the economic and social development of the town, and information pertaining to other factors accounting for the development of the town.

⁶⁶ E. Babbie, *The Practice of Social Research* (New York: Wadsworth Publishing Company, 2001), p. 79.

English, Kiswahili and Kikuyu and Maasai were used as was appropriate to particular informants. A research assistant translator assisted where necessary. All interviews were recorded with the consent of the informants for easy data retrieval. Transcription followed as soon as possible.

1.9.6 Data Analysis

Data entry was carried out simultaneously with field study. Three analytical frames were used to analyse the collected data. These are theoretical reflection, documentary review, and content analysis. Theoretical analysis entails utilising the chosen theoretical framework to analyse the data collected. Documentary review involves analysing documentary data corroborating it with oral data as a way of internal critique. Content analysis entails contextualizing given statements, words, phrases, sentences, paragraphs, pictures, symbols or ideas. Recorded data was transcribed then analysed. Analysis was based on the objectives and research questions of the study. The final step involved drawing conclusions from the answers to research questions drawn earlier. Data was ultimately descriptively presented.

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CHAPTER TWO

THE ORIGIN AND RISE OF GILGIL TOWN, 1897-1930

2.1 Overview

The pertinent question in this chapter is how Gilgil Town came to be. It therefore traces the origins of Gilgil by analysing the area in both the pre-colonial and early colonial periods. The first part of the chapter looks at the inhabitants of the area and their activities before the coming of Europeans. The second part looks at the camping of an Indian army in the area and how the camp influenced the development of the town. The third part interrogates the European settler farming in the area and its role in the development of the town. The fourth and the last section analyses the effects of lines of transport and communication in the towns' rise and development. This chapter presents a major argument that the origin and development of Gilgil town is not limited to one factor but rather a host of factors acting independently but contributing to one course, the town's development.

2.2 Pre-Colonial Gilgil

Pre-Colonial Gilgil was largely occupied by the Maasai community who practised nomadic pastoralism. Traditional pastoralism was to a large extent dependent on the accessibility of grazing land and therefore pastoralists moved over most of the present day East Africa in search of pasture and water for their livestock.¹ To ensure security of their livestock, the Maasai seasonally occupied pasture land in central Kenya from Laikipia plateau in the north to Narok in the south. The Maasai were able to drive other communities into high areas where cattle could not be reared easily. Seasonal changes characterised by long periods of drought forced the pastoralists to venture into distant places where water and grass were available. The Maasai sought for the large expanse of grazing land so as to neutralize the adverse effects of droughts, locusts or disease. They particularly dreaded rinderpest which because of its short incubation period and rapidity of its spread proved difficult to detect.² Gilgil area used to be an alternative pasture land for the Maasai, whose movement in and out of the area was based on seasonal rotation. The Maasai lived under a communal land management system with distinct section boundaries. However the boundaries were ignored during dry spells to the

¹ Legishon, OI, 27.9.2015, G O Ndege, "History of Pastoralism in Kenya 1895-1980", in W R Ochieng and R M Maxon (eds), *An Economic History of Kenya* (Nairobi: East African Educational Publishers Ltd, 1992), p 95.

² Santamo, OI, 29.9.15, M A Ogutu, 'Pastoralism' in W R Ochieng (ed) *Themes in Kenya History* (Nairobi: East African Educational Publishers Ltd, 1993), pp 40-41.

extent that livestock subsisted anywhere until the onset of rainy season.³ In the Maasai traditional society, no one could be denied access to natural resources such as pasture, water and salt licks especially so during dry spells.

The prevalence of several features with names associated with the Maasai community is a clear indication of the long term presence of Maasai community in Gilgil area. These names include, Lake Elementaita, Elementaita is derived from the maasai word *Muteita* meaning 'dust place'. Gilgil area is dry and dusty especially between January and March. River Moridat, *Moridat* is also a Maasai word meaning 'a place of rivers'. Gilgil town is derived from Maasai term *kirkir*. There exists a river called 'Kirkir' to the east of Gilgil town. Kirkir means 'a place of dust storms'. The Maasai were referring to the winds that frequently whirl around the area even to date. Further east there is a hill called *Ol Magogo* and another called *Eburru* to the west. Both names are derived from Maasai language. Towards Nyahururu from Gilgil lies a town called *Ol Kalou* which got its name from Maasai community. Going by the various Maasai names surrounding Gilgil town, it can be deduced that indeed this region was an alternative Maasai pastureland before the coming of the white settlers. The colonial government disrupted this traditional set up through land alienation. The Maasai were therefore pushed out of the present-day Gilgil area to create room for white settlement especially after the 1904 Maasai agreement between Governor Donald Stewart and Olenana.⁴ The agreement signed on 15th August held that Maasai had decided on their own free will and their best interest to remove their people, flocks and herds into definite reserves away from the railway line and away from any land that may be thrown open to European settlement under the agreement. Consequently, the Maasai moved south of the railway line in Kajiado and Narok counties respectively. The few Maasai who were left in Gilgil area were employed in the settlers' farm as cattle herders especially in Soysambu ranch which was owned by Lord Delamere.

The encounter between the Maasai and the white settlers – during the initial phases of Kenya's colonialism – influenced the former traditional grazing patterns. With the fencing of the alienated land the Maasai were relegated to the periphery of the present-day Gilgil area. This condition paved way for settlers' modernisation which was vividly expressed in new

³ Santamo, OI, 29.9.2015; Mbugua wa Mungai and George Gona "(Re) Membering Kenya: Identity, Culture and Freedom in Pius Kakai Wanyonyi (ed) *Historicizing Negative Ethnicity in Kenya* (Nairobi: Twaweza Communications Ltd, 2010) pp 34-38.

⁴ M A Ogotu, 'Pastoralism' in W R Ochieng (ed) *Themes in Kenya History* (Nairobi: East African Educational Publisher Ltd, 1993), p 97.

agricultural methods and other commercial activities which ushered in the development of Gilgil shopping centre.

2.3 The Mahdist Uprising in the Sudan

Egypt from 1805 was nominally part of the Ottoman Empire but its importance and that of the Sudan to the European powers increased substantially in 1869 after the opening of the Suez Canal. The Canal reduced the journey from Europe to Far East significantly. By 1869, British and France had immensely invested in Egypt in different fields among them, irrigation, railways, cotton plantations, and education. In 1876 Khedive Ismail Pasha –the Europe power supported rule –run up on debts of close 100 million sterling pounds. In spite of sale of 45 % Egyptian holding in the Suez Canal to British in 1875, the country's economy continued to decline. The crisis led to intervention by Britain and France. Egypt was therefore effectively put under an Anglo-France control.⁵

Like Egypt, the Sudan economic and strategic importance to the United Kingdom also increased with the opening of Suez Canal. Having gained the control of Egypt due to the Khedives financial crisis, the British turned to the Sudan in the late 1870s. They installed an Egyptian administration in the Sudan, a move that resulted in a revolt led by Mohammad Ahmad ibin Abdalla.⁶

M A Abdalla preached renewal of Muslim faith and began to attract large following. He advocated for the liberation of the Sudan from the Egyptian Administration. Soon, in an open revolt against the Europe sponsored Egyptian administration, M A Abdalla proclaimed himself the Mahdi (the promised redeemer of the Islamic world). The Egyptian administration concerned by the scale of the Mahdist uprising assembled a force of 4000 troops to suppress it. The Egyptian troops were not only defeated but also lost weaponry and ammunitions to the rebels.⁷

The European powers became increasingly aware of the troubles in the Sudan. They therefore, resolved to directly support Egyptian administration in the Sudan in subduing the Mahdist rebels. Britain contributed a multinational force which was put under an Indian Commander William Hicks and twelve other European officers. Deriving their war aspirations from religious themes, the Mahdist rebel once again won victory against a multinational force.

⁵ P M Holt and M W Daly, *A History of the Sudan: From the Coming of Islam to the Present Day* (London: Routledge, 2011), pp 61-63.

⁶ Ibid p 62.

⁷ Ibid pp 62-63.

After this defeat, Britain advised the Egyptian government to withdraw and hand over power to the Mahdist. Egypt agreed and Charles Gordon a British Commander was sent to the Sudan to coordinate the withdrawal. C Gordon was besieged in Khartoum in 1885, forcing the British to send an expeditionary force under Lieutenant-General Sir Gerald Gtaham. This expeditionary force included an Indian contingent.⁸

In 1896, the Mahdist was at last subdued. Britain eager to use the Indian contingent for its expansionist agenda in East Africa had it move south.⁹ The contingent eventually camped in the present-day Gilgil area in 1897. The troop commander must have considered several factors that are vital for military camping before setting up camp. For instance; geographical factors such as land forms, vegetation, soil type, air moisture content and even availability of water and vast infantry training ground. The Indian soldiers' camping marked the beginning of the presence of security establishments in Gilgil town.

The soldiers who numbered about 400 were later taken in as protective troops to the British Protectorate in Uganda. In 1902, the Eastern Province of Uganda was transferred to British East Africa Protectorate which later became known as Kenya Colony. Following this development, Africans were recruited to beef up the Indian contingent. Approximately 1,050 African 'Askaris' were recruited from specific African's ethnic communities some of whom come for training in the Gilgil camp. This saw the number of military personnel increase in Gilgil area. The number continued to rise significantly especially at the advent of both World Wars when considerable numbers of African soldiers were recruited to fight in the two wars. The number increased further in the area due the *Mau Mau* uprising, which culminated in the declaration of a state of emergency in 1952. The event saw a large number of British soldiers come to Gilgil to beef up the Kenya Contingent in its campaign against the *Mau Mau* activities in the Aberdare forest and surrounding areas.

Gilgil topography is largely flat though numerous hills abound in the East and West of the town. The area receives less than 500 mm of rainfall annually. This explains why the vegetation cover is made of long grasses and shrubs with patches of acacia trees. Generally Gilgil area is savannah grassland suitable for range farming. Gilgil's river system is made up of three rivers, two seasonal rivers; the Morindati River which rises at 2700m, the Kiriundu River rising at 2710m and the perennial Kirkir River which rises at 2400m. The upland river

⁸ R O Collins, *A History of Modern Sudan* (Cambridge: Cambridge University press, 2008), pp 27-30.

⁹ India was a British colony at the time and therefore Britain used Indian soldiers to safe guard its interests within its' sphere of influence. The Indian contingent thus moved to East Africa from the Sudan to serve the masters interests.

sections of the three Gilgil tributaries have a relatively flat topography before cutting into the plateau approximately 40-50 kilometres north of Lake Naivasha where they drain.¹⁰



Photo 1: Gilgil River.

Source: Taken by the author on 8th July 2015

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Gilgil's topographical and climatic conditions are suitable for military training. The terrain allows both day and night training. The vast plain is suitable for long distance route marches which are part and parcel of infantry soldiers training. The vegetation and lack of it in some sections allows the much needed forest and desert like camouflages which are major ingredients in military manoeuvre. The forested river sections are vital in bridge construction drills as well as river crossing tactics. Soil and air moisture content is vital in the maintenance of weaponry and other military hardware. Gilgil area has low moisture content both in the air and soil making it a suitable ground for military barracks. The numerous hills spread across the area serve as natural security measures as well as observation points. They also serve as natural rifle ranges.¹¹ The foregoing explains why Gilgil town is home to a number of military bases and other security establishments.

¹⁰ Lake Naivasha, Kenya. Papers submitted by participants at the conference " Science and the Sustainable Management of Shallow Tropical Waters" held at Kenya Wildlife Service Training Institute Naivasha, Kenya on 11-16 April 1999.

¹¹ Nkonge Gideon, OI, 13.7.2015.

2.4 Gilgil and the First World War

The First World War (WWI) also known as Great War was a global war which originated in Europe and spread to other parts of the world. It ultimately involved countries as far as the United States and Japan. The war began on 28 July 1914 when Archduke Franz Ferdinand apparent heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary was assassinated by a Yugoslav citizen Gavrilo Princip in Sarajevo. It lasted for four years ending on 11 November 1918. During the war more than seventy million military personnel were mobilised. The war pitted two opposing alliances, the allies made up of the British Empire, France, Russian Empire, Italy, Japan, and United States of America and the central powers made up of Germany, Austria-Hungary, Ottoman Empire, and Bulgaria.¹²

When the war came to an end, the Germany Empire, Russian Empire, Austria-Hungarian Empire and Ottoman Empire ceased to exist. National borders were redrawn with a number of independent countries were restored or created, and Germany's colonies were divided among the allied nations. The League of Nations was formed with an aim of preventing re-occurrence of such a conflict. This efforts failed because of the following reasons; economic depression which renewed European nationalism, weakened member states, and the German feeling of humiliation which led to the rise of Nazism. These conditions laid the ground for the Second World War.¹³

At the beginning of the war, a number of Africans encouraged by the prospect of a modest income, volunteered to take part in the war. However, from 1915, the colonial authority began to conscript thousands of able bodied African men. South African and Namibian soldiers fought alongside the white soldiers in Belgium, France, and Pakistan. In Africa, British and French troops prepared to seize the four Germany colonies; Germany East Africa, Germany South West Africa, Togoland, and Cameroon. The Germany East Africa troops adopted guerrilla warfare strategy against British and France troops. The Germans mainly wanted to disrupt transport in British East Africa especially the railway. More than 200,000 Eastern Africans participated in the war as both soldiers and porters in the two warring camps.¹⁴

Gilgil served as a staging ground for both white and African soldiers en-route to the Germany East Africa. Later it became a recruiting and training centre for Kings African Rifles during the war. Prisoners of war (POW) – locally referred to as *Mabuthu* - especially the Italians

¹² R G Grant, *World War I : The Definitive Visual History* (London: Dorling Kindersley, 2014) pp. 12.

¹³ D Stevenson, *1814-1918: The History of the First World War* (London: Penguin, 2005) pp. 10-14.

¹⁴ *Ibid*, pp. 15-19.

were also incarcerated in Gilgil military facilities. Settlers' farming in Gilgil area was disrupted because most of them enlisted in the war, thus adversely affecting commercial activity in the trading centre. At the end of the war Gilgil became a final resting place for combatants and non-combatants who paid the ultimate price. Gilgil Common Wealth War Grave (GCWWG) contains a total of thirty four burials of the war. Generally the war slowed down the development of the trading centre.¹⁵

2.5 European's Settlers

Africa was invaded, occupied and colonized by European powers during the period of new imperialism, between 1881 and 1914. The Berlin conference of 1884 regulated European colonization and trade in Africa. The Colony and Protectorate of Kenya was part of the British Empire in Africa. It was established when the former British East African Protectorate (BEAP) was transformed into a British crown in June, 1920.¹⁶ Having acquired present-day Kenya and Uganda, the British sought to develop infrastructure and link the coast to Lake Victoria. They did this through the construction of Uganda railway. The railway opened up much of the Kenyan interior to European settlement. European settlement was conceptualised by European travellers, missionaries and imperialists. They regarded the vast uninhabited land they came across as "no man's land" and therefore free for settlement and exploitation by the European settlers.¹⁷ In 1899, British pioneers established Nairobi as a settler's outpost; the period saw an influx of European settlers seeking to make a fortune out of farming, most notably the British peer Lord Delamare. Settlers settled in Kenya as direct instruments of the British policy. They were to adhere to the directives given by Her Majesty's government through the colonial governor while providing freight for the railway to carry to and from the sea.¹⁸

The area around Naivasha and Gilgil was among the first to be settled by white settlers. Among the pioneer settlers in the area was 1870 born 3rd Baron Delamare, Hugh Cholmondeley, who was a farmer from Cheshire, England. Lord Delamare moved to Kenya in 1901, he requested the colonial government to allocate him land near Naivasha - the present-day Ndabibi area- in 1904. The Colonial Governor Sir Charles Eliot rejected

¹⁵ Kagai Mugoiri, OI. 2.10.2016.

¹⁶ M F Hills, "The White Settler's Role in Kenya", *Journal of Foreign Affairs* Vol. 38, No. 4, (July 1960), pp. 638-645.

¹⁷ S S S Kenyanchui, "European Settler Agriculture", in W R Ochieng and R M Maxon (eds), *An Economic History of Kenya* (Nairobi: East African Educational Publishers Ltd: 1992), p 111-112.

¹⁸ M P K Sorreson, *European Settlers in Kenya: Origin of European Settlement in Kenya* (London: Oxford University Press, 1968), pp. 274-280.

Delamere's request arguing that the settlement would ignite conflicts between him and the nomadic Maasai community which lived and grazed in the land. In 1906 however, Delamare acquired a large track of land in Gilgil area, which eventually included more than 50,000 acres located between Elementaita railway station and Mbaruk railway station. This ranch he named Soysambu, where he kept large herds of beef cattle. He did large scale hay balling for his cattle and for commercial purposes and also practised agri-forestry.¹⁹

Lord Delamare was very active in recruiting settlers to East Africa (EA). This was because he believed in establishing a working agricultural economy in the region. He is credited with the recruiting of Anglo-Irish aristocrats who settled in the present day Wanjohi valley in Nyandurua County. The group also called the 'Happy Valley Set' began to settle in the valley in 1906.²⁰ The first European settler in the valley was Geoffrey Buxton, a close associate of Delamare. Buxton was involved in large scale pyrethrum farming.²¹ Many more settlers flocked into the area especially between 1920s and 1930s and practiced highland farming. In the social scene, however, the 'Happy Valley Set' according to Berman and Lonsdale were English aristocrats merry makers who indulged in wild parties premised on drinking and wife swapping.²² It is argued that the set left its stump in the valley through the local name 'Wanjohi' which loosely translate to 'A place of beer'.²³

Apart from Delamare's Soysambu ranch, other European settlers' farms in Gilgil included Marura, Eburru, Nderit and Ol Dobei Estate, which were located to the west of Gilgil shopping centre; Kekopey and Sugunoi Estate located further north of the shopping centre; and Ridge Farm located east of the shopping centre.²⁴ Farm owners bought their day to day sustenance from Gilgil shopping centre while their farm workers did so during their off day which coincided with the market day (the second and fourth Sunday of every month). As the various settlers farm increased their farming activities, demand for goods and services increased due to the increase in number of farm workers. Sunday was hence designated as a market day effectively making Gilgil town a trading or a community centre.²⁵

¹⁹ Njenga Harron, OI, 13.7.15.

²⁰ H H Johnson and F S Bagshawe 'The People of the Happy Valley', *Journal of the Royal African Society* Vol. 24, No. 93, Oct. 1924, pp. 25-33.

²¹ J Barnes, *The Ghosts of Happy Valley* (London: Aurum Press, 2013), p. xiii.

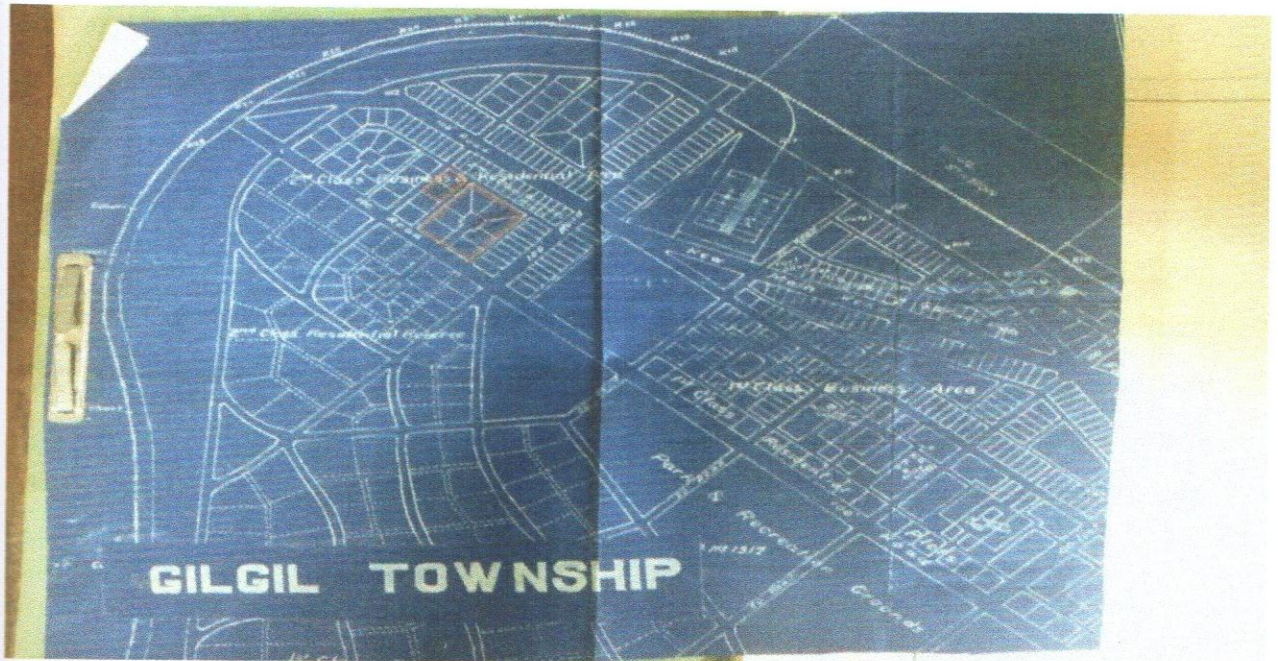
²² N Best, *Happy Valley: The Story of the English in Kenya*, (London: Thistle Publishing, 2013), p. 132.

²³ Mwangi Ngururi, OI, 14/7/2015.

²⁴ Githinji John, OI, 29/7/2015.

²⁵ Wangai, OI, 14/7/2015.

Delamare who served for a long time as the Chairman of Naivasha County Council was instrumental in making Gilgil acquire urban centre as well as township status.²⁶ The colonial administration invoked the 1904 township rules and declared Gilgil a township in 1926. Specific Gilgil township rules were enacted by the colonial governor in the same year. Immediately after the township declaration, the East Africa Land and Development Company (EAL&DC) (later called East Africa Syndicate Company), applied to sub-divide a private land in the immediate vicinity of Gilgil station into twenty plots each measuring 50 feet x100 feet. With the colonial government's consent, the plots were subdivided and sold through auction between 1926 and 1927. Consequently new business premises made up of wood and iron sheets began to be to be constructed. In 1929 Kenya Farmers Association built a go-down near the railway station while Agip Kenya constructed an oil storage facility several metres away from the railway station.²⁷ In 1930 another development that saw the town's activity increase was establishment of a stock sale yard by Kenya - Uganda railway, the yard was built on two acre plot together with its siding accommodations.²⁸ Hundreds of animals were transported by road from various settler farms to Gilgil town from where they were loaded into train wagons for onward transmission to Mombasa and later to Europe through steamships.



Plan 2: An Architectural plan of Gilgil town drawn on 17 December 1928.
Source: Kenya National Archives

²⁶ KNA/MSS/115/19/8: Naivasha County Council Annual Report, 1960.

²⁷ KNA/ 40/995: Medical/ Public Health: Gilgil Township, 1920-1943.

²⁸ KNA/ 43/23/2: Sites Gilgil: Stock Sale Yard, 1930.

As the town continued to expand, Gilgil Township Committee (GTC) was constituted in 1931. The committee members were all white and comprised of the Commissioner of Lands Naivasha District, Director of Medical and Sanitary Services, Messrs Radford and Messrs Maxwell.²⁹ The GTC initially divided the township into three major sections namely the European accommodation area, Asiatic section and Somalia section. The European accommodation area was next to the railway station as well as the area next to the old Nairobi-Nakuru road up to the Gilgil hotel present-day Spear supermarket. Asians were given the second most developed area, the area east of the railway along the Gilgil –Thompson’s road (present day Syndicate area). Somalis were allocated the present-day *Kambi* Somalia. Africans for many years were regarded as temporary inhabitants of the towns in which they worked as unskilled labour. In Gilgil’s case Africans lived and worked in the European settlers’ farms. They only came to town on Sunday which was the periodic market day to buy sustenance.³⁰ This was because of the colonial labour and land policy that restricted ‘Africans’ movement and resident in urban areas. However, later the GTC created the present day Bondeni area for Africans as will be discussed later in the study.

Most of the land where Gilgil town was established was owned by EAL&DC as a letter dated 15 September, 1926 written by the senior commissioner’s office in Nakuru to acting colonial secretary indicates. A portion of the town’s land was also owned by the government as reflected in a letter dated 11 April, 1928, written by Deputy Director of Sanitary Service to the medical officer of health.³¹

It is clear from the foregoing that European settlers played a major role in Gilgil town’s growth. Those who sat in GTC agitated for a rise in the town’s status. The most notable figure was Lord Delamere who at one time was the Chairman of Naivasha District Towns Board (NDTB). Further settlers did their shopping in the town while others started business that gave Gilgil town a new face; most important was Gibert Colville who owned the Gilgil hotel which was opened in 1920.³² The hotel soon became an important stop over to all Europeans who passed by the town.

²⁹ KNA/BY/21/93: Gilgil: Gilgil Township 1926.

³⁰ Wangai, OI, 29/72015.

³¹ KNA/ BY/21/93: Gilgil: Gilgil Township 1926-1953.

³² Gilgil hotel changed ownership several times before and after independence. It also changed business names as the commercial activities carried out there changed. In 1980s it used to be a disco club called ‘*salama*’, in 2015 it was brought down and in its place a supermarket called ‘Spear’ was constructed.

Asians who included Indians, Arabs and Goans contributed directly to the development of towns in colonial Kenya. They were not allowed by the colonial authorities to be involved in agricultural activities since the colonial land policies set the white highlands only for white settlers. The Asians had therefore, to engage in diversified business activities so as to make a living and thereby developing the trading centres they operated in. Asians lacked security of land since most of the land they owned was on annual lease. They ended up constructing temporary structures some of which exist to this day in many Kenyan urban centres.³³

In Gilgil town, The East Africa Syndicate Company (EASC) sub-divided a ten acre piece of land and sold the plots to the local Indian.³⁴ By January 1928, the Indians began to build wooden business premises with iron sheet roofs. These houses become chains of *dukas* in the present-day Syndicate area of Gilgil town. The Indians utilised the houses as business premises as well as residential area; the front faces were the business premises while the back yards served as living quarters. The role of Asians and particularly the Indians in the growth of Gilgil town cannot be underestimated. For instance, in the 1948 national census, the population of Asians in Gilgil urban centre was 384 while that of the European was 31.³⁵ All these Asians were engaged in diversified urban economic activities that were geared towards sustaining the urban population and thereby developing the town. Historically the least urbanised regions in Kenya received very few Asiatic settlements; this is so because they were the only people who initially developed the trading centres due to the colonial land policy which barred them from owning land in the white highlands.

As the number of European families increased in Gilgil area, the need to have a school for their children came up. Harold Turner founded Pembroke House School (PHS) in 1927.³⁶ As a European private school, the school adopted the British independent schools' curriculum and therefore attracted white settler parents with children of school-going age from all over the protectorate.³⁷

³³ A Ramsay, *The Forgotten Pioneer: A True Family Story Set in East Africa* (London: Troubador Publishing Ltd, 2013), p 14

³⁴ KNA/140/41/8 VOL II :The East African Land and Development Company Limited: Sub-division of land held by then at Gilgil-General 1928-29.

³⁵ Robert A Obutho and Rose A Abutho, "The Post-Colonial Urbanisation Process", in W R Ochieng and R M Maxon (eds), *An Economic History of Kenya* (Nairobi: East African Educational Publishers Ltd, 1992), p. 152.

³⁶ Gitau Solomon, IO, 08.7.2015.

³⁷ History of Pembroke House School, <http://www.pembrokehouse.sc.ke/history-of-pembroke-house-school>



Photo 2: A business premises built in 1943 by an Asian trader.
Source: Photograph taken by the author on 9 August 2015

PHS was established in a farmhouse owned by Captain Alan Gibson. Gibson had acquired 100 acres of land four kilometres from Gilgil town on the Gilgil-Nyahururu road. He intended to farm flax on the land but ran out of money thereby selling the land and the unfinished farmhouse to Turner.³⁸

Turner finished the farmhouse and established a British boys' boarding school which he named after the Cambridge College he attended. He enrolled boys aged between six and thirteen years. He became the school's headmaster between 1927 and 1947. Upon his retirement, he sold the school to Christopher Hazard's family who run the school to date. Hazard served as the headmaster of the school from 1947 to 1965, he is credited with improving the schools accessibility by building an air strip in the school compound. He also improved the roads in the school vicinity as well as the sport field. This made the school enrolment to increase considerably.³⁹

Between 1939 and 1945 the school teaching staff was all female; this was because all the male teachers took up military duties during the Second World War. Pre-military training for European children was conducted in colonial Kenya in two places Maseno School and PHS.⁴⁰

³⁸ KNA/ DC/NKU/1/3: Nakuru District Annual Report 1940, p.27.

³⁹ Gitau Samuel, IO, 08.7. 2015.

⁴⁰ KNA/PC/NZA/3/6/126: Pre-Military Training for European Children, 1942-1949.



Photo 3: Pembroke House School. Photo taken in 1951.

Source: School's Website

Between 1942 and 1949, part of the PHS land was turned into a military training ground. This training was done in response to the Mau Mau activities in European farms. The Pembroke House military training ground morphed to become today's Kenyatta Garrison.

As a 1954 medical officer of health inspection report of PHS indicates, the school had a population of 81 boarder students and the following African staff: one cook, four kitchen boys and eight waiters.⁴¹ By 1957, the school population rose to 200 making it the fastest growing international school in the then Nakuru district. It was way ahead of its peers: the Mrs Greensted Kindergarten in Mbaruk and St Andrew's School in Turi, Molo. Enrolment continued to grow year after year and in 1988, it increased even more due to introduction of Girls in the school. Recently the school has started to admit African students willing to undertake the British curriculum.

PHS has been part of the Kenya Education Trust Limited since 1959. This body, accepted by guarantee without having a share capital, is an independent institution with all income received donated to the management and improvement of the school and its locality. PHS has been instrumental in the growth of Gilgil town. It draws its non-teaching staff from Gilgil town especially Langalanga sub-location where it is situated. Most of the school resupplies are bought from the town while its air strip is used by national and county officials when

⁴¹ KNA/ 40/532: Pembroke House School-Gilgil, Medical officer of health inspection report, 1954.

visiting Gilgil sub-county. Further, the air strip is used by the public especially during medical casualty evacuations.⁴²

2.6 Lines of Transport and Communication

Transport and communication lines and the various services associated with them perform multiple functions. For instance, the movement of goods and services and their internal and external distribution becomes possible only through the availability of transport and communication modes. Historically, industries and market centres tended to develop at transport and communication nodal points because the presence of transport and communication means eased movement of people, goods and services as well as information.

In the interior of present-day Kenya, the pre-colonial period saw only scattered central places which were used as trading and religious meeting points. The present urban pattern reflects predominantly the growth of transport networks and the development of the British colonial administration and trade. With the construction of railways and roads, there emerged a system of urban nodes which superseded the earlier nodal locations in importance.⁴³ Though present-day Gilgil town was first occupied by Indian soldiers, the construction of the Mackinnon-Scalter road and railway terminus attracted a host of Asian traders. It also solidified the position of Gilgil town in reference to other nearby trading centres such as Ol Karou and Nyahururu (then known as Thompson Falls).

Gilgil town is located at a point of intersection. It is at Gilgil town that Gilgil-Nyahururu road intersects with the Nairobi-Nakuru highway. It is also at the same place that the feeder Gilgil-Nyahururu railway line intersects the main Mombasa-Kisumu railway line. As the William Deans Junior theory of urban growth posits, urban centres are most likely to develop where primary land routes intersect. Gilgil town thus developed in an area where two major land transport modes intersect. Dean observes that at the borders of mountains barriers, river crossings and edges of forests, in short whatever necessitates halting and finding new methods of transport, there is the opportunity for urban centres to develop. Gilgil town served as a stopover point for settlers headed for 'Happy Valley' and beyond. Settlers had to use ox-drawn wagons for transport through a thick forest and muddy road. A stopover point was, therefore, necessary before embarking on the rough journey.⁴⁴ The Uganda railway authorities designated a station in the present-day Gilgil town because the area was a major trade route

⁴² Gitau Samuel, OI, 8/7/2015; Gathi Isaac, O.I, 8/07/2015.

⁴³ Casper Andersen, *British Engineers and Africa 1875-1914* (London: Routledge, 2011), pp. 50-55.

⁴⁴ Kagai Nguiri, OI, 2/10/2015.

that joined the railway line to rich agricultural areas of 'Happy Valley' (Wanjohi Valley) and Thompson's fall (Nyahururu). It is vivid that transport and communication linkages were key factors that stimulated development of most towns in Kenya, Gilgil included.

Before the British colonial power thought of establishing colonies in areas under their sphere of influence in Africa, they opted to have commercial companies which would develop African trade. Imperial British East Africa Company (IBEAC) was such a company. It was founded in 1888 by Sir William Mackinnon and the British government and given the mandate to administrate British East Africa.⁴⁵

In an attempt to effectively develop trade between Indian Ocean and Lake Victoria, a means of transport in the interior had to be constructed. Led by Sir Mackinnon who partly financed the project, IBEAC embarked into constructing a road to convey wheeled vehicles in the interior. This road came to be known as Mackinnon-Scalter road. Construction began in 1890 led by an Austrian George Wilson an officer of IBEAC. He led construction of the road between Mombasa and Kibwezi after which he handed over leadership to Captain Betrum Lutley Scalter of the Royal Engineers who took charge of the lower section from Kibwezi to the Rift Valley. Captain G E Smith carried on with construction work up to Busia.⁴⁶ The Mackinnon-Scalter road which was 1000 kilometre superseded other earlier caravan routes used by slave traders and explorers. Mackinnon-Scalter road become the framework around which the Uganda railway line was laid. In 1902, a number of portions of this road fell into disuse as soon as construction of the railway was completed especially sections which coincided with alignment of the railway and those not so close to European-settled areas in the year after 1902. Gilgil town developed along this road as a roadside trading centre. The town developed further with bitumizing of the Nairobi- Nakuru Mackinnon road in 1945.⁴⁷ This road plus the establishment of a railway station made the centre significant. The building of Gilgil-Thompson's feeder road in 1929 made the centre even more significant.

As a means to link the source of river Nile with the Indian Ocean, the colonial British government sought to construct a rail line. They intended to use the railway as a means of conveying raw materials from the interior of the protectorate as well establishing its administration in the hinterland. The British administration opted for railway transport since

⁴⁵ William R Ochieng', *Themes in Kenya History* (Nairobi: Heineman, 1990), p. 159.

⁴⁶ R T Ogonda "Transport and Communication in the Colonial Economy", in W R Ochieng and R M Maxon (eds), *An Economic History of Kenya* (Nairobi: East African Educational Publishers Ltd: 1992), pp. 131-134.

⁴⁷ KNA/ BY/21/93 Gilgil Township: Nairobi-Nakuru Mackinnon road, 1945.

the protectorate lacked navigable waterways. Draft animals could also not be used due to the presence of tsetse flies which transmitted trypanosomiasis.⁴⁸

The British government shipped more than 32,000 labourers who were mainly Sikh men from British India to offer manual labour. Railway construction started in Mombasa in 1896 under engineer Lt Colon John Henry Patterson and by 1899 it was in Nairobi. By 1900, railway construction reached the present-day Gilgil town as well as Nakuru town. The following year, the railway reached port Florence which the present-day Kisumu town.⁴⁹ Anthea Ramsay in his book 'The Forgotten Pioneer' offers that some Indian railway workers began to take advantage of young and innocent African women by exploiting them sexually. This further antagonised the already hostile African communities. On one occasion, there was an uprising at kedong after two Masaai girls were raped. The Maasai attacked and killed 500 railway workers. This problem was eventually solved by bringing workers wives and children from India to join their husbands and fathers. Many of these remained in East Africa and subsequently became successful business people.⁵⁰ And therefore, as railway construction progressed, it left behind evolving trading centres particularly in areas where there had been established camping sites. Most of these sites transited into railway stations when the railway line became operational. These camps include Machakos, Nairobi, Tigoni, Naivasha, and Gilgil. Gilgil station soon became an important stepping off point for white passengers headed for "Happy Valley", Thompson's fall and beyond. Passengers would lodge at Gilgil hotel as they awaited other means of transport up the Aberdare's range.⁵¹

When the railway constructors reached Gilgil area, they found an already established Indian military camp. The Indian coolies were excited to see their home country army around them. Those with a business mind saw a ready market for Indian goods presented by the troops who numbered around four hundred. When the railway builders reached Nakuru, some coolies did not renew their contracts. They opted to get into business and naturally they settled in Gilgil. This was because Gilgil had a ready market for Indian goods and services and therefore the Indians saw protection of their interests since their home country army was present.

⁴⁸ William R Ochieng', *Themes in Kenya History* (Nairobi: Heineman, 1990), p. 160.

⁴⁹ Anthea Ransay, *The Forgotten Pioneer: A True family Story Set in East Africa* (London: Troubador Publishing Ltd, 2013), p. 14.

⁵⁰ Anthea Ransay, *The Forgotten Pioneer: A True family Story Set in East Africa* (London: Troubador Publishing Ltd, 2013), p 14.

⁵¹ J Barnes, *The Ghost of Happy Valley* (London: Aumum Press, 2013), p. 10.



Photo 4: Gilgil Station Yard. Photo taken in 1900.

Source: Kenya National Archives

This made Gilgil town have a considerable number of Indians as evidenced by a letter dated 15 March 1928 written by H B Borrows, Hindu community representative, requesting for a five acre piece of land for building a school, a playing ground and a temple. The request was honoured on 26 September 1928.⁵²

After construction of the main Uganda railway line, European farmers who had settled far from the main rail line agitated for construction of feeder railway lines that would enable them to transport their farm produce to the main trunk. Eventually, several railway extensions were constructed. The extensions aimed at easing transportation of European farm produce in the areas not covered by the main track. Gilgil-Thompson's falls feeder railway line was completed in 1929.⁵³ Since the feeder railway cut across the agricultural rich areas of the Aberdare's range, it increased the volume of farm produce handled by Gilgil railway station. This led to an increase in both structures and workers in Gilgil railway station. For instance, between 1930 and 1940 the station saw construction of three large go-downs for storing farm produce awaiting transportation to Mombasa. Living quarters at the stations were also expanded to create room for more workers. Activities of the station increased with the closure

⁵² KNA/ BN/1/294: Grants: Gilgil Hindu Community School, Playing ground and a Temple, 15/3/1928.

⁵³ KNA/BN/21/15: Kenya Uganda Railway Zone: Gilgil Township, 1930.

of Eburru and Elementaita stations. The two stations were closed as a result of the trunk line re-alignment. All cargo handled in the two stations was now to be handled by Gilgil station.⁵⁴

Due to time taken to load bulky European farm produce in Gilgil station, a need arose to construct several railway lanes so as to allow the trains to by-pass by each other. This became crucial with the extension of the existing two acre stock yard to a four acre yard. This allowed more animals to be handled in the yard.⁵⁵ The overall growth of the railway station meant more employment opportunities and therefore a rise in the town's population. This ultimately translates into development of Gilgil town at large. The railway made Gilgil to be perceived as an important and efficient nodal point for linking rural farm produce to national and international markets.

Apart from the railway opening up the protectorate's interior to the European settlement and trade, it also left behind many of today's interior towns which developed along the railway line junctions and depots during and after construction. The Indian railway labourers stayed on in the protectorate to start small businesses and as alluded to earlier, some opted to start their business in Gilgil town owing to the presence of the Indian army. Gilgil eventually evolved into a modern business centre.

Postal services in present-day Kenya started during the colonial period. The colonial British government sought to make arrangements for transmission of letters, parcels, periodicals and related services to and from the colony. In 1900s Postal services in the protectorate began and were meant to serve the entire sub-saharan British East Africa. Establishment of postal offices by the colonial government was influenced by the rail line. Most of the Postal offices were concentrated along the railway line by 1919.

By 1910, postal services were being offered in Gilgil town within the railway station. However as a letter dated 19 September 1933 written by Commissioner for Local Government, Lands and Settlement to Post Master General indicates, Bombay Trading Company (BTC) surrendered a plot for a post office construction.⁵⁶ Government quarters for the posts and telegraphs department begun to be constructed.⁵⁷ Gilgil Post office made Gilgil

⁵⁴ S S S Kenyanchui, "European Settler Agriculture", in W R Ochieng and R M Maxon (ed), *An Economic History of Kenya* (Nairobi: East African Educational Publishers Ltd: 1992), p 140.

⁵⁵ KNA/LND 45/97:Gilgil: Stock Yard, 1930-1934.

⁵⁶ KNA/BN/8/55 Exchanges: Gilgil Township Committee and Bombay Trading Company; Post Office Reserve Gilgil, 1933.

⁵⁷ KNA/LG/1094 African Local Government: Gilgil African Advisory Council Minutes, 1947-1950.

town busy. It handled postal services for all European settlers within its operational area. Just like the other institutions in the town, the post office influenced development of Gilgil town.

2.7 Summary

Pre-colonial Gilgil was seasonally occupied by the Maasai especially during dry spells and disease outbreaks in the alternative pasturelands. Since Maasai roamed all over present day East Africa in search of pasture and water, they left evidence of their presence by naming the physical features they encountered along their grazing routes. In Gilgil for example, they named various water bodies they came across which included Lake Elementaita, River Moridat and River Kirkir which gave Gilgil town its name. White European settlers greatly affected Maasai grazing patterns because they established their estates along their grazing routes.

The first group to settle in Gilgil was a company of Indian army. As earlier mentioned, 400 soldiers camped in the area after a military expedition in the Sudan. The camping of this contingent heralded the presence of security establishment in Gilgil. These establishments significantly influenced the rise and development of Gilgil.

In colonial era, both white European settlers and Asian community greatly influenced the development of Gilgil town. Led by Lord Delamere, white settlers in their quest to introduce a working agricultural economy in Gilgil area town developed. They established agricultural estates that offered employment opportunities to unskilled Africans. More so white settlers sat in Gilgil Urban Council and therefore agitated for improvement of Gilgil town in terms of policy and infrastructure. Asians on the other hand made great steps towards promoting business in Gilgil town. They were compelled by the colonial land policy to running small business that offered goods and services to the urban community since they could not own land.

Since Gilgil town is a nodal point with a convergence of several transport means, transport and communication greatly influenced its rise and development. It is at the town that Gilgil-Nyahururu road intersects with the Nairobi-Nakuru highway. It is also at the same place that the Gilgil-Nyahururu feeder rail line intersects the main Mombasa-Kisumu railway line. Such intersections often lead to agglomeration of commercial activities.

From the foregoing, it can rightly be argued that the rise and development of Gilgil town cannot be pegged on singular factor. An idea is conveyed that the development of the town was influenced by a host of factors which included: military presence, settler's farming,

Indian community and transport and communication. However the military being the first to establish a footing in Gilgil area played a bigger role in the rise and subsequent development of the town as compared to other factors.

CHAPTER THREE

'KEEPING GILGIL MILITARY', 1931-1945

3.1 Overview

This chapter discusses the establishment of a number of military installations in Gilgil town in what has been seen as a British colonial government strategy to have major military installations located in a definite area as a safety measure. The Kenya colony was divided into two main military blocks: the eastern block with its headquarters in Nanyuki and the western block with its headquarters in Gilgil. The Eastern block had the North Eastern Frontier District as its area of responsibility while the Western block took care of the western side of the colony. Part one of this chapter interrogates deployment of Kings African Rifles (KAR) and Kenya Regiment (KR). KR troops had to train in different weather and terrain. Their training schedule therefore rotated between Lanet, Gilgil, Lang'ata and Nanyuki areas of the colony. The second part of the chapter seeks to examine the establishment of permanent camps and barracks in Gilgil, most importantly the establishment of Gilgil barracks and Support barracks. The third part discusses Gilgil and the Second World Wars (WWII). It is worth noting that in the advent and during the WWII Gilgil was one of the main military recruiting and training centres in Africa. It was also an important British detention camp for Prisoners of War (POWs). This chapter demonstrate that military activities in Gilgil town increased in 1940s and therefore effectively made Gilgil acquire a garrison town status.

3.2 The Deployment of KAR and KR

Skirmishes between Arab slave traders and African communities in the middle of the nineteenth century, compelled the African Lakes Corporations (ALC), a British trading company, to employ armed Africans under command of British men to protect their trading points and interests.¹ The origin of armed forces in Eastern Africa however, is traceable to the activities of Imperial British East Africa Company (IBEAC). The company recruited the first private armed forces in East Africa. The force was mostly made up of Arabs, Nubians, and Somalis. It was established so as to protect the company's interests and also to garrison the trading points in the hinterland during the early phase of British colonialism. This private force became the root of KAR.

¹ Malcolm Page, *Kings African Rifles: A History of King's African Rifles and East African Forces* (South Yorkshire: Leo Cooper; 1998) pp. 5-8.

KAR was basically a British regiment recruited from British colonies between 1900 and 1960. KAR's rank and file ² were recruited from Somaliland, the British East Africa, Uganda, Nyasaland (present day Malawi), Sudan, and Tanganyika following its transfer from German colonial rule to a League of Nations mandate administered by the British after First World War (WW1). KAR commanders were seconded from the British Army. They were expected to command their men in line with British Army standing orders. By 1930s, three regiments of KAR were operating in EA, namely; the Central African Regiment, the Uganda Rifles, and the East African Rifles. The three regiments were later amalgamated to form the 6th battalion of the KAR with 4,683 soldiers. These soldiers were deployed in Nyasaland, Uganda and the East Africa Protectorate in Mombasa. By the end of WW1, KAR consisted of 22 battalions comprising 1,193 British officers, 1,497 British soldiers and 30,658 African *Askaris*. After WWI, KAR was gradually demobilised to a peacetime establishment of six battalions made up of about 3,000 soldiers. After the outbreak of WWII, the 3,000 soldiers acted as the trained nucleus for the rapid expansion of KAR. By March 1940, the strength of the KAR rose to about 30,000 soldiers.³

Gilgil area had been a rotational base for the British infantry units since 1930s. However, large numbers of British soldiers started camping in Gilgil area for training in 1940s. The troops started their training in the United Kingdom then moved to Baor in Germany before coming to Kenya for a four month military training. From Kenya, the troops proceeded to Hong Kong. While in Kenya they camped at Gilgil area before moving to different parts of the country for diverse military experience. Their presence in Gilgil boosted the town's commercial activities especially leisure and catering related businesses. The town's night life scaled up every time the rotational training camps were occupied. In the late 1950s, white settlers living around the town feared that the ever growing number of white soldiers would ignite strife amongst local people owing to the low number of women in the town. This fear made the European community which was the majority in GTC to designate an area in the town where unmarried African women were allowed to reside. Most of these women were drawn from Rift Valley and Nyanza.⁴ The area later became an informal settlement occupied by Africans. They brewed traditional liquor and engaged in other anti-social activities.⁵ This

² The lower cadre of military personnel sometimes referred to as service members. Normally they have limited military authority.

³ Timothy H Patrons, "Wakamba Warriors are Soldiers of the Queen: The Evolution of the Kamba as a Martial Race 1890-1970", *Journal of Ethno history* Vol. 46, No. 4, 1999, pp. 671-701.

⁴ Wangai, O.I., 29.7.2015.

⁵ Wangai, IO, 29.7.2015; Kinuthia Kariuki, O.I, 20.7.2015.

area is still an informal settlement known as *Bondeni*. However, *Bondeni* is gradually losing the slum features through the on-going national slum upgrading initiative.

KR, unlike KAR, was an all-white regiment made up of European settlers. It was formed in 1937. The regiment's recruits went for basic training in Salisbury in Southern Rhodesia, present-day Harare in Zimbabwe. Advanced training was conducted later at Sergeant V C Leakey Barracks- the Kenya Regiment Training Centre- in Lanet, Nakuru. KR was instrumental in WWII, particularly in campaigns carried out in Madagascar and Burma. After the war in 1945, the regiment's personnel were demobilised only to be recalled with the advent of the Mau Mau uprising. During the uprising, KR operated as part of a combined force made up of British Regiment, KAR, Kenya Police and Royal Air force. Apart from participating in active combat, KR also seconded officers to the KAR as commanders and Kenya colonial Administration as provincial administrators.⁶ Of the 7,500 who served in the KR ranks a substantial portion camped in Gilgil and Nanyuki towns, particularly during Operation Anvil which targeted Mau Mau hideouts in the Aberdare and Mount Kenya forests. When EA colonies gained independence, both KAR and KR were disbanded in 1963 and 1964 respectively.⁷

3.3 Establishment of Barracks

After enlistment and basic military training, recruits are often posted to barracks where they continue with advanced specialised training. The main objective of having soldiers live in barracks is to separate them from the civilian population so as to reinforce discipline, training and *esprit de corps*. British military believed in a standing army living in barracks in order to prevent subversion and rebellion. To British military commanders, barracks were not only recruiting and training establishments, but also had a role in gathering forces together before deploying them to the theatre of war.⁸ After recruitment of KAR, the British colonial authority established various camps from where training of recruits was to be conducted. These training camps evolved to become full-fledged military barracks. Some of these camps were located in Gilgil and with time, they morphed to become barracks. Among them: Gilgil barracks, Kenyatta barracks, and the National Youth Service Training College.⁹ The presence of barracks in an area often leads to development of urban centres. For instance, some towns

⁶ Guy Campbell, *The Charging Buffalo: A History of the Kenya Regiment 1937-1963* (London: Leo Copper, 1986), pp. 48-60.

⁷ Leonard Gill, *Remembering the Regiment* (Victoria B C: Trafford, 2014), pp. 10-20.

⁸ Trevor May, *Military Barracks* (Buckinghamshire: Shire Publication Ltd, 2002), p. 5.

⁹ KNA/MOW/1/482: Gilgil Military Works. 1946.

in the United Kingdom such as Aldershot and Colchester are almost defined by the barracks located within them and so are Kenya's Isiolo, Nanyuki and Gilgil towns among others.

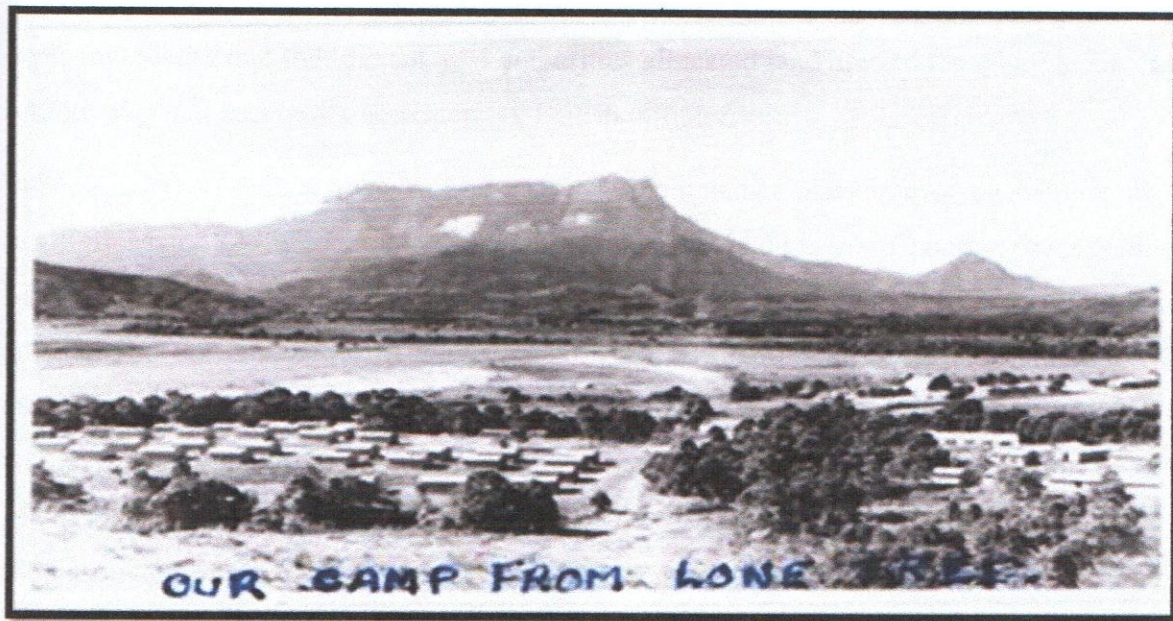


Photo 5: Undated Photograph of a military camp in Gilgil area.
Source: Kenya National Archives

Gilgil barracks was established as a temporary camp by an Indian military contingent. The Indian camp later came to be known as Giffard Camp. British infantry soldiers on training expeditions camped near Giffard camp then occupied by KAR. The British soldiers' transitional camp was known as Slim Camp. The two camps evolved to become the existing Gilgil barracks and the NYS Gilgil College. The presence of these Indian troops greatly influenced the development of Gilgil town. For instance, the Indian coolies while constructing the railway line were delighted to see their countrymen as soldiers in Gilgil. Thus, after the expiry of their contract with the Uganda Railway and Harbour Corporation, some of them opted to settle in Gilgil trading centre as *dukawallas*. The presence of this Indian force must have made them feel secure. When the KAR was formed, the Indian contingent, which was part of the Indian Army Imperial Service Unit, was renamed the 5th Battalion KAR Uganda. When the eastern part of Uganda was transferred to East Africa Protectorate (EAP), which later became Kenya colony, African *askaris* were recruited from all over Eastern Africa and trained in various places. On 26 January 1924, the 5th Battalion was presented with its battalion flag by the then colonial governor, Sir Robert Caryndon, effectively making it a full-fledged military unit. In 1930 the battalion was allocated a permanent station in Gilgil town called Slim Camp. This marked the beginning of a strong military presence in Gilgil town almost throughout the year especially during peace time. The barrack's importance scaled up

when an ammunition depot was constructed next to it.¹⁰ By locating the only ammunition depot in the EAP at Gilgil, the colonial authorities sought to have certain areas around Gilgil town exclusively reserved for military installations so as to guard ammunition. This is explained by the fact that the colonial authorities allocated land around the depot to European settlers who had previously served in the British military.¹¹

In May 1939, a South African military engineering advance party known as Snapper arrived in Gilgil. Major Oldfield, the officer commanding (OC) had his troop camp at the present-day Langa Langa area four-kilometres east of Gilgil town. The choice of this location can be attributed to the presence of a railway station and availability of open land and water. The engineering company was tasked to construct a base for a South African infantry Brigade which was to train in Gilgil in preparation for the Abyssinian military campaign of 1941. Major Oldfield, divided his soldiers into four squads. This first group was tasked to construct the base while the second group was to work on water supply for the base. The third squad was tasked with the construction of a bridge over Kirkir River while the fourth one was to construct a field hospital.¹²

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The first squad constructed a make shift camp with locally available materials. Apart from the main office, which was a tent, the other buildings, including a dining and an accommodation hall, were made of grass thatched roofs and wooden walls. The second squad laid down pipes from Malewa and Kirkir Rivers so as to supply water to the base. The third squad under Major A D Hughes began to construct a permanent bridge over Kirkir River for easy access to the base. The fourth squad constructed a field military hospital with locally available materials. When the 1st South African Infantry Brigade arrived on 25 July 1939, the base was ready for occupation. The South African soldiers made Gilgil their Brigade headquarters; from the headquarters, the battalions which made up the brigade would send detachments to Abyssinia and Somaliland in a military campaign against the Italians.¹³ In 1942, part of land belonging to Pembroke House School, which was adjacent to the South African Brigade at Langa Langa, was made a military training ground for white settlers and their families. Military training was done in anticipation of a black African rebellion against European

¹⁰ KNA/K355.7 Military Annual Report: Command; Ammunition Depot Gilgil-Additional Buildings Construction. 1957.

¹¹ Ngethe, O.I., 7.14.2015.

¹² Alan F Hattersley, *Carbineer: The History of the Royal Natal Carabineers* (Natal: Gale and Polden, 1950), p. 66.

¹³ Alan F Hattersley, *Carbineer: The History of the Royal Natal Carabineers* (Natal: Gale and Polden, 1950), p. 67.

settlers' occupation of Kenyan highlands. The Pembroke House military training ground and the South African base as well as other transit camps morphed to become the present Kenyatta Garrison.

The presence of the South African army greatly influenced development of Gilgil town. For instance, the bridge on Gilgil-Miharati road and the water supply line initiated by the South African soldiers formed the base for transport and water supplies systems in Gilgil town and the surrounding areas. The ground where the South African soldiers' field hospital stood is the same ground on which Gilgil Sub-county hospital was constructed.



Photo 6: Natal Carbineers training in Gilgil in 1940.
Source: Kenya Army collections.

3.4 Gilgil and the Second World War

The Second World War was a global conflict. It involved more than thirty countries and resulted to more than fifty million military and civilians deaths. It was sparked by Adolf Hitler's invasion of Poland in September 1939 an action that made Great Britain and France to declare war on Germany. The conflict pitted allied nations against the axis nations. The allied nations involved close to fifty nations – notably Britain, France, Soviet Union, China, and United States of America. On the other hand the Axis nations included mainly Germany, Italy and Japan. The war was not only fought in Europe but also all over the world where the allied and the axis nations had interests. At the end of the six years war, millions of people

were homeless, the European economy collapsed and wanton destruction had accrued across the world.¹⁴

United Kingdom declared war against Germany at a time when it controlled to varying degrees many crown colonies and protectorates across the world. It also maintained political ties with independent dominions as part of the British Commonwealth. The British involved these colonies and protectorates in mobilization of troops as well as production of food for soldiers. African, Indian, Caribbean and other colonial troops and personnel played crucial role in supporting the allied cause in the war. British colonies in Africa such as Nigeria, Kenya, Gold Coast (now Ghana), Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone and Gambia served as staging posts and military bases during the war. The British territories contributed both manpower and other materials to Allied Forces. Kenya for example, contributed a significant number of soldiers to fight alongside the British army. The soldiers served in Madagascar and Burma against the Japanese.¹⁵ The Kenyan colony produced cereals particularly maize and wheat in a bid to meet the war's food demands. Although some of the Kenya's white settlers enlisted in the war, a large number remained in their farms. The colonial government emphasised cultivation of grains particularly wheat and maize to meet the war cereal needs.¹⁶

Over four million non-white men were mobilised into the European armies during the WWII in both combatant and non-combatant role. The colony of Kenya was one of the most important mobilisation, recruiting, and training centres for the military personnel in East Africa. The involvement of the British Colony of Kenya in the war began with the declaration of war on Germany and Italy by the British Empire in September 1939. The colony bordered Italian East Africa to the north. It was feared that the Italians army would advance into Kenya as it had done in British Somaliland. In 1940, the British began to mobilise soldiers and therefore large numbers of soldiers began to arrive in Kenya. Kenyan colony in effect served as a staging ground for the allied forces designated to dislodge Italy out of Ethiopia and Somalia.¹⁷

Nanyuki, Nairobi, and Gilgil became very important military centres during and after WWII. Gilgil was not only a recruitment and training centre for soldiers going to military campaigns

¹⁴ Max Hastings, *Inferno: The World at War, 1939-1945* (New York, Knopf, 2011), pp. 20-31.

¹⁵ Ashley Jackson, *The British Empire and the Second World War* (London: Hambledon Continuum, 2006), p. 183-186.

¹⁶ Simon S. S Kenyanchui 'European Settlers Agriculture' in W R Ochieng and R M Maxon (ed) *An Economic History of Kenya* (Nairobi: East Africa Publishers, 1992), p. 117.

¹⁷ Matheri Francis, OI, 28.7.2015.

against the axis forces but also an important detention area for prisoners of war (POWs). POWs from Somaliland and Ethiopia were detained at Gilgil, Naivasha, Nyeri and Londiani. Most of the detainees were Italian soldiers who engaged the British Army in Moyale and Kismayu. The Gilgil detention camp number 353 held close to 250 detained soldiers, some of whom possessed various technical skills.¹⁸ Soldier-detainees therefore, provided both skilled and unskilled labour for civil infrastructural projects in Gilgil town. Most importantly, they constructed permanent bridges over Malewa and Moridat rivers which are still in use though they have been refurbished. They also constructed gravelled roads and bituminized drill parade grounds in both Gilgil and Support barracks.¹⁹ It can therefore be correctly argued that POWs contributed to the development of Gilgil town especially in constructing infrastructure that formed the base for the current one. POWs were in the hands of the military and therefore by extension their contribution can rightly be credited to the military establishments.

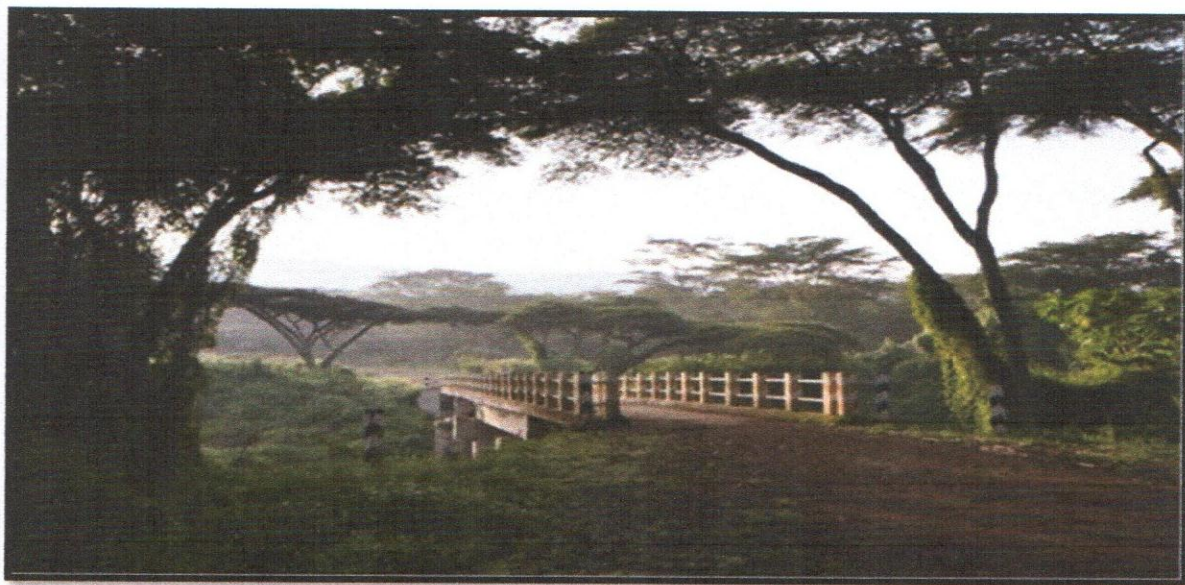


Photo 7: A refurbished Malewa bridge. Constructed in 1939 by POWs.
Source: Author's Collection, 24 July 2015.

Gilgil was also one of the staging centres for soldiers en-route to various battle fronts. For instance, in August 1944, the 11th East African Division converged at Gilgil barracks from where they were moved to Embakasi, Nairobi, and eventually airlifted to Burma for military campaigns against the Japanese.²⁰

¹⁸ David Killingray, *Fighting For the British: African Soldier in the Second World War* (Woodbridge: James Currey, 2010), p. 12. Wangai, OI, 14.7.2015.

¹⁹ Matheri Francis, I.O., 28/7/2015. Nkonge, OI, 13.7.2015.

²⁰ David Killingray, *Fighting For British: African Soldier in the Second World War* (Woodbridge: James Currey, 2010), pp. 4-5. Matheri Francis, IO, 28.7.2015.

Settler farming in the Gilgil area was disrupted by WWII. Settlers' activities around the town decreased because most of them enlisted in war. However, those who remained in their farms produced the much needed agricultural produce to support war. The British government emphasis on agriculture during war renewed settler's concentration on farming. The Government advocated for cultivation of grains such as maize and wheat so as to meet the war cereals demands. To improve production, the government urged for mechanization of farming. This saw the establishment of a farm machinery factory in Gilgil town in 1942, which evolved to become a leading manufacturer of farm machinery in the region. The factory exists to date.²¹

After WWII Gilgil town become an important British post-war demobilisation centre. The centre hosted a number of KAR soldiers, especially those who had fought in South-East Asia. These soldiers, while awaiting demobilization, made the town's commercial activities to increase.²² Gilgil also became a final resting place for soldiers who paid the ultimate price in the Second World War. Gilgil Commonwealth War Cemetery contains 224 graves.²³ The cemetery has become an important tourist attraction site, especially for families and friends of soldiers buried there.²⁴ After the WWII, colonial control of Africa began to wane. This was as a result of a new political climate in Europe, the rise of nationalism and the waging of independence campaigns in various colonies in the post-war period. African's involvement in the war, helped to fuel the struggle for independence from the colonial rule. This was partly because participation in the war exposed them to ideas of self-determination and independence rule. The veterans were willing to launch another war for freedom.

3.5 Summary

This chapter has attempted to show that Gilgil's terrain and climatic conditions made it an ideal ground for military training and occupancy. This explains why the British Army Training Unit in Africa (BATUA) chose the area as a tropical training ground for its infantry battalions. Whenever BATUA camps were occupied, commercial activities, in the then trading centre increased. With the formation of KAR, the population of military personnel significantly increased in Gilgil town due to the increased construction of military camps such Giffard and Slim. Further, the formation of KR in 1937 and the deployment of some of its personnel in the town added the number of military personnel in the town.

²¹ Njenga Harron , OI,13:7.2015. Oloishona, O.I, 13.9.15

²² Matheri Francis, OI, 7.28.2015.

²³ Richard Trillo, *The Rough Guide to Kenya* (London: Rough Guides, 2002), p. 249.

²⁴ Wasike Moses, OI, 24.7.2015.



Photo 8: Gilgil Common Wealth Graves
Source: Photo taken by the author on 24 July 2015.

The presence of military camps which morphed up with time to become barracks meant that the town was to have soldiers throughout the year. The town also became a regional logistics base where soldiers in active operation drew their essential resupplies.

Between 1939 and 1945, Gilgil became a vital mobilisation, recruiting and training centre for military personnel in Eastern Africa. It also became a staging and transit centre for personnel en-route to battle fronts. The town also had a detention camp where Italian POWs were detained. Some of the detainees were skilled in various fields provided both skilled and unskilled labour in construction of roads, bridges and government buildings. After the war, Gilgil became an important demobilisation centre. All these activities triggered the WWII saw the number of security personnel increase in Gilgil town. Consequently commercial activities in the town increased leading to development of the town in terms of infrastructure, service provision and trade.

Towards the end of 1945, the colonial government established an ammunition depot in Gilgil. By locating the depot in the area, the colonial authority sought to have Gilgil somewhat reserved for the military. This can be explained by the fact that the colonial authority exclusively allocated land on the outskirts of the town only to European settlers who had previously served in the royal forces. This measure was probably meant to guard the

ammunition. This development made Gilgil a garrison town and by 1943; British soldiers had nicknamed it 'The East African Mess' a label that meant in the military circles that Gilgil town had become the home of soldiers in EA. The presence of soldiers throughout the year and work done by the POWs made Gilgil town to acquire a new status social-economic development.

After WWII, the development pace of Gilgil town slowed down. This was because the number of KAR personnel was cut down and only a small standing army was maintained in the barracks for crucial duties. Since soldiers were an important prop of the local economy, their departure in large numbers affected the town's commercial activities as will be discussed in chapter five of this study.

It is a key thesis in this chapter that the end of WWII spelt a downturn in general trade in Gilgil town. This negatively impacted development of the town. However the increased demand for self-rule in Kenya led to the recall of demobilised soldiers as well as recruitment of new ones. The soldiers were needed to suppress various African groups agitating for self-governance. This in effect saw the pace of development of Gilgil town rise again.

CHAPTER FOUR

GILGIL TOWN AND THE RISE OF AFRICAN NATIONALISM 1946-1963

4.1 Overview

Scholars argue that Kenya urban centres in late 1940s had small African population because of restrictions on rural-urban migration for the Africans by the colonial authorities. In colonial Kenya, as in most of East Africa, primary aims of manpower development were attracting and maintain sufficient quality of workers for colonial labour force. This workforce was not associated with local African development but colonial enterprises, industries, farms and coastal plantations. Cheap labour force was always the goal for the settler community. In 1946-1961, most migrants to urban areas were largely unskilled; they were only allowed to remain there for prescribed periods of time. The market created a labour reserve in the rural areas to be used at will by the colonial employers when and if they needed it. This arrangement meant that there was control of entry in the urban labour market. There were restrictive laws that did not welcome Africans as urban dwellers making the rural areas perfect locations for reserve labour which could be paid easily. This policy was not lifted until 1963. Gilgil, like other Kenyan urban centres, was affected by this policy although it had a relatively bigger African population compared to other Kenyan towns of its status because of the presence of KAR *askaris*. The beginning of the *Mau Mau* uprising in the late 1940s led to an increase in population of security personnel in the town and therefore Gilgil continued to witness physical and socio-economic development owing to the presence of security establishments. This chapter interrogates the call for self-rule in Kenya and its influence on development of urban centres, particularly Gilgil town. The first part analyses the presence of a Jewish internment camp and a Somali community from British Somaliland in Gilgil town and their influence on the development of the town. The second part examines *Mau Mau* activities in the Aberdare forest, deployment of British Soldiers to Gilgil Barracks in a bid to assist the KR in fighting *Mau Mau* operatives in Aberdare Forest. The third and the last part look at the emergence of manufacturing plants and their impact on the development of Gilgil town.

4.2 Jewish Detention Camp and Somali Camp

The League of Nation as discussed in chapter two of this thesis was put in place after the WWI to peacefully solve disputes involving nations in bid to prevent a worldwide conflict. Palestine, an area under contestation by both Jews and Arabs, was put under British civil

administration by the body as the solution to conflict was being addressed. Majority of Jews detested the League of Nations mandate seeing it as a move to handover their ancestral land to Palestinian Arabs. Consequently, underground movements sprung up particularly from the Irgun, Lehi and Haganah Jewish religious sects. These movements employed guerrilla tactics against British forces that were implementing the mandate. This led to loss of lives and property. To counter underground religious movements, the British administration in Palestine established a concentration camp known as Latroun. In this camp, Jew suspected to have terrorists affiliations, especially Irgun and Lehi fighters, were incarcerated without trial. After several successful escapes from the Latroun detention camp, the British administration decided to deport underground movement members to Africa, believing that the deportation would serve as a strong admonition to moderate Jewish forces.¹



Photo 9: Gilgil British Internment Camp in 1947
Source: www.jewsvirtuallibrary.org accessed on 6.6.2014

Two hundred and ninety one detainees present in the Latroun camp were deported to Africa in a British military operation dubbed 'Operation Snowball'. First the detainees were held in Sembel internment camp in Eritrea, but after a series of successful escapes, they were transferred to Carthage detention camp in the Sudan. In this camp, they also repeatedly escaped and therefore in 2 March 1947, they were relocated to Gilgil military internment camp number 119. Gilgil camp was initially used as a prison for military personnel-serving long

¹ H Z Hirschberg, *A History of the Jews in Africa* (The Netherlands: Leiden E J Brill, 1981), pp. 323-324.

sentences for criminal offences-and Italian POWs.² Gilgil detention camp being a maximum security facility was an ideal incarceration centre for Jewish detainees. Overtime, British soldiers administrating the internment camp resented the detainees' heavy demands and therefore allowed the Hebrew community in Kenya, then numbering about 150 families, to assist their fellow countrymen. The community established a resource centre where detainees were taught different skills - especially designs and decorations in a bid to keep them occupied. The community also encouraged detainees to engage in diverse Jewish cultural and religious activities.³

At Gilgil detention camp, the colonial government took drastic measure to avoid escapes as those witnessed in Sambel and Carthage detention camps. The first measure was to keep detainees busy by offering them vocational and educational courses of their choice. Lectures on literature and natural science were also given to the whole group. The second measure that the British took was to increase the number of military personnel in the town while decreasing civilian population. For instance, a camp to be occupied by Rifles Guard Company was constructed around the internment camp as well as a police station to the east of the camp. Farms surrounding the town were allocated to Europeans settlers with a history of military service. This was aimed at consolidating security around the town and its environs. However, about six internees led by Yaakov Maridor escaped the facility with the help of a South African Jewish rabbi. This escape was reported in leading international media houses among them the *Daily Mail* of England. The incident put Gilgil town on the international lime light. The escapees succeeded in re-entering Palestine after the declaration of Israel as a state.⁴

The location of the detention camp in Gilgil made the town important not only in the eyes of the government of the Kenyan colony but also to the United Kingdom. Due to the importance of Jewish detainees, most of the staff in detention camps were Britons. A letter dated 27 Sept 1947 written by the special camp commandant to the commissioner of police indicates that the total number of British staff in the camp was thirty.⁵ As an institution, the camp influenced development of Gilgil town for instance; it brought with it more people who depended on commercial activities taking place in the town.

² KNA/ DC/150/2/3/14: Strikes: Jewish detainees; Njenga Harron, OI, 13.7.2015.

³ Marjorie Oludhe Macgoye, *A Farm Called Kishinev* (Nairobi: East Africa Educational Publishers, 2000), p. 80.

⁴ Saul Issroff " Jews in Kenya" in M AVrum Ehrlich (ed), *Jewish Diaspora: Origin, Experience and Culture* (Oxford: ABC Clio, 2009), pp. 476-477.

⁵ KNA/ DP/2/35/46 Routine Updates; Commandant Gilgil special camp to Commissioner of Police.



Photo 10: Meir Shamga, Shmuel Tamir and other Jews detainees at Gilgil British interment camp in 1947.

Source: www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org accessed on 6.6.2014.

On 12 July 1948, the Jewish exile in Africa officially ended when 262 detainees from Gilgil camp reached Israel territorial waters following the establishment of the State of Israel by the United Nations. A resource centre and classrooms used by Jewish detainees for lectures and practical lessons were surrendered by the military to the provincial administration in Gilgil town which converted them to a civilian dispensary. This dispensary grew into a health and eventually became Gilgil sub-county hospital and regional psychiatric centre.⁶

A Somali camp that existed on the periphery of Gilgil influenced the economic development of the town. Delamere – a pioneer settler, as discussed in chapter two of this thesis – was severely attacked by a lion while on a hunting expedition along the Kenya-Somali border. He was only saved when his Somali gun bearer Abdullah Ashur leaped onto the lion, giving Delamere time to retrieve his rifle and shoot the lion dead. As a result of the lion attack, Delamere limped for the rest of his life. He also developed immense respect for Somalis. This explains why the pioneer British travellers employed the service of Somali guides. Moreover, KAR had its rank and file full of Somalis from British Somaliland (as discussed in chapter three of this thesis).

⁶ Njoroge Njuguna, OI, 24.7.2015.

These Somalis belonged to clans not resident in Kenya. As indicated earlier, such Somalis came into Kenya as personnel attached to expeditions of the early explorers, personal servants, spies and gun bearers. Later, they were enlisted into the KAR as servicemen. Colonial administrators considered Somali servicemen as brave, hardened and intellectually superior to their black African counterparts. When KAR was demobilised at the end of the WWI many Somali soldiers decided to remain in Kenya settling in various townships. They devoted themselves to livestock rearing and trading. By 1953, the Somali had large herds of cattle which they grazed in open fields near their quarters. Since the population of other Africans and their livestock had substantially increased in towns, competition for pasture ensued between the two groups of herders.⁷

In 1947, Gilgil African Advisory Council (GAAC) was established. Such councils were only established in principal townships. The councils acted as platforms that offered Africans an opportunity to lawfully express their thoughts and views in public. In the early 1950s, the Maasai started complaining through GAAC that Somali livestock grazed on their reserve. The matter was taken up by S V Cooke who moved a motion in the County Council Assembly of Naivasha seeking to know the status of Somalis in Gilgil town. In response to Cooke's motion, a committee was set up to investigate the Somali settlements in Gilgil and Naivasha towns. The Committee was asked to look into; land issues, livestock requirements and educational facilities.⁸ After a fact-finding mission, the Committee recommended that all Somali-owned livestock in Gilgil Township be disposed of by the County Council and proceeds be given to stock-owners. Somali used these proceeds to start businesses in the town as evidenced by the numerous plot allotment requests received by the District Commissioner from the Somali community in 1953.⁹ The businesses put up by Somali in Gilgil in the mid-1950s boosted provision of goods and services in the town and therefore played a significant role in its socio-economic development. Though the Somali community was allowed to trade, they were not allowed to reside in the town, and therefore an area presently referred to as *Kambi Somali* was designated for them.¹⁰ They built semi-permanent residential houses. Those who were not involved in business rendered their services to white settler farms particularly as herders.

⁷ Mbugua Waithaka, OI, 28.7.2015; KNA/AG/19/128: A letter Denying Somalis to enter Maasai reserve with their Cattle dated 30 Jan 1913.

⁸ KNA/PUB 24/3/4: Report on Somali Settlement at Gilgil and Naivasha Dated 15 Jan 1953.

⁹ KNA/DC/NKU/1/5: Annual Report 1945-1953.

¹⁰ Wangai, OI, 7.29.2015.

4.3 Mau Mau Uprising

The colonial administration spoke openly of land being its primary interest in Kenya. The chairperson of British East Africa commission once said:

“Kenya had some of the best agricultural land in the world, mostly in the districts where elevation and climate made it possible for Europeans to reside even permanently.”¹¹

In the same note, the Deputy to the Secretary of State for the colonies showed the value Europeans placed on Kenyan land when he stated on 19 March 1945:

“The principal item in the natural resources of Kenya is land, and in this term we include the colony’s mineral resource. It seems to us that our major objective must clearly be the preservation and wise use of this most important asset.”¹²

The colonial authority therefore, introduced settler and corporate productions as the mainstay of the colonial economy. The government forcibly seized land, livestock and other indigenous means of production from certain regions, communities and households on behalf of the settlers. In addition, the colonial authority sought to create mobilise and control supply of African labour for capital. The Crown Land Ordinance at first recognised “native rights” in land reserved for the Africans but it was further defined by the creation of “African Reserves” for each of the Kenya’s “Tribes” leaving the white highlands for the Europeans. The white highlands consisted of large parts of Kiambu and Murang’a as well areas further north around Nyeri, and Nanyuki, and great tracks of land in the Rift Valley.¹³ The Kenyan Africans particularly the Kikuyu ethnic community felt disposed and violated by the colonial government when it began to seize their land. This set the stage for African revolt against the white minority rule which lasted from 1920s to 1960 and helped to hasten Kenya’s independence.¹⁴

By 1945, nationalists such as Jomo Kenyatta of Kenya Africa Union (KAU) had been pressuring the British government for political rights and land reforms. When the British government failed to respond, radical activist within KAU formed a militant wing. This militant wing called itself “Land and Freedom Army” but the colonial government identified

¹¹ Paul Mosley, *The Settlers Economies: Studies in the Economic History of Kenya and Southern Rhodesia, 1900-1963* (Cambridge: Cambridge University press, 1953) p. 15.

¹² Ibid, p 15.

¹³ Frank Furedi, *Mau Mau War in Perspective* (London: James Curvey, 1989) p. 3.

¹⁴ Tabitha Kanogo, *Squatters and the Roots of the Mau Mau 1905-1963* (London: James Currey, 1987), pp. 20-33.

it as "*Mau Mau*". Its own description summarised its principal causes, which were both economic and political. Scarcity of land, especially in central province remained one of its major grievances. The attainment of fertile land was therefore a major objective of the revolt.¹⁵ The movement was bound by an oath to force the expulsion of white settlers from Kenya. The Second World War veterans played a significant role in the uprising. The veterans besides demystifying the notion that the whites were a superior race, they taught the militants battle tactics and weapon handling. Those among them, who were literate, kept the movements records.

In early 1950s, *Mau Mau* began to wage war against European settlers in their farms- particularly those near the forest edges.¹⁶ The movement which mainly operated from the safety of Mount Kenya and Aberdare's forest, employed guerrilla tactics against Europeans and therefore they attacked mostly at night. The group targeted isolated white settlers farms imposing immense loss in terms of crops and livestock. The uprising led to death of notable European settlers. This led to an intense campaign by the British government to capture the 'rebels'. For instance in Gilgil two well-known European settlers (Charles Fergusson and Richard Bingley) were killed. This was followed by a thorough search of weapons on the town's business premises where 76,748 rounds of mixed ammunition and two pistols were recovered in the premises of an Indian trader.¹⁷

Mau Mau actions were mainly concentrated in the then Central Province and parts of the Rift Valley because white highlands were hived from the two provinces. Oath-taking sessions began to be reported in Central Province and parts of the Rift Valley as well as in urban centres. After serious outbreaks of disorder among the Kikuyu community, which culminated in the killing of Senior Chief Waruhiu, the Governor declared a state of emergency on 20 October 1952. The colonial government tasked KAR - the colonial government army-, British soldiers, and the home guards to neutralise the movement. The government at the same time banned political parties and detained their leaders.¹⁸

¹⁵ Ibid, p 60.

¹⁶ Paul Mosley, *The Settlers Economies: Studies in the Economic History of Kenya and Southern Rhodesia, 1900-1963* (Cambridge: Cambridge University press, 1953), p 15.

¹⁷ F D Comfield, *History Survey of the Origin of Mau Mau*, (London: H M Stationery Office, 1960), p. 321.

¹⁸ Bildad Kaggia, *Roots of Freedom* (Nairobi: East African Publishing House 1975), p. 193; Njoroge, OI, 13.7.2015.

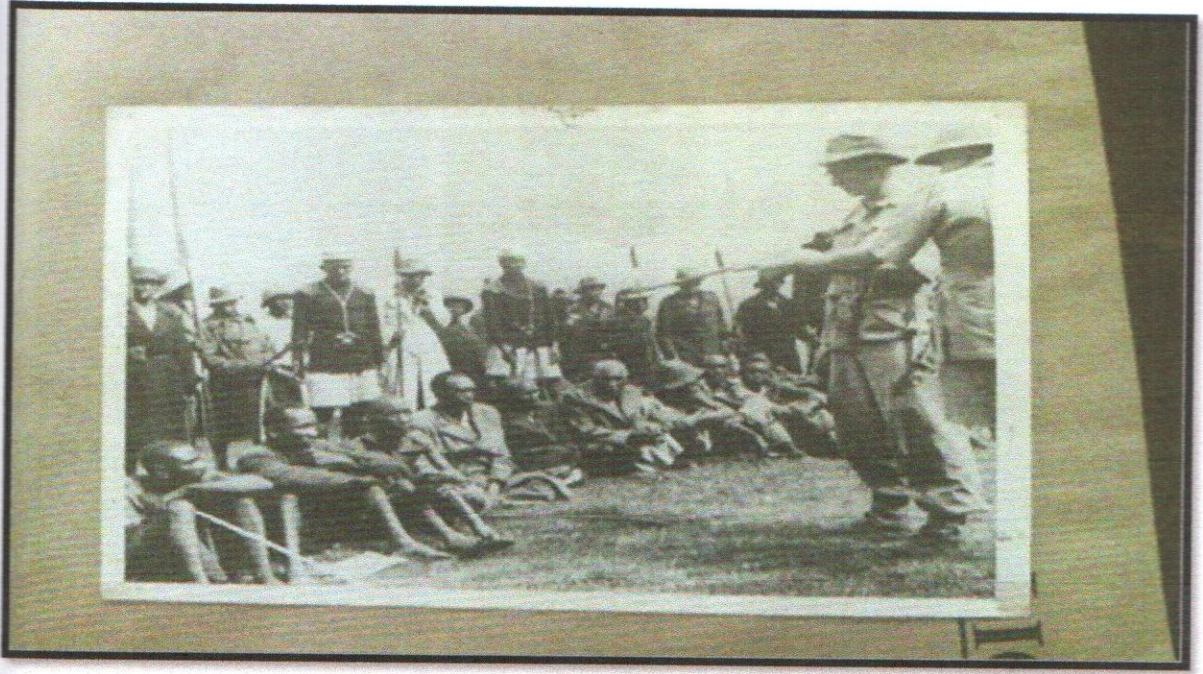


Photo 11: Mau Mau suspects rounded up after the murder of two European farmers on their farm near Gilgil in 1952.

Source: Kenya National Archives.

WESTON UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

The British government mobilised its military and rapidly moved in to occupy territories thought to have the highest concentration of *Mau Mau* activities. Several battalions of KAR were mobilised to deal with the *Mau Mau* uprising. For instance, three battalions of KAR were recalled from Uganda, Tanganyika and Mauritius. In total, five KAR battalions were mobilised to deal with the revolt. Most of these battalions camped in Gilgil and Nanyuki from where they were routinely deployed to the primary zones of *Mau Mau* operations such the Aberdare (Nyandarua) range and the forests around Mount Kenya.¹⁹ To reinforce KAR, a King's Regiment which was formed in 1948 in Britain was sent to Kenya in 1952 for its first overseas mission. Elements of the regiment christened 'The Black Watch' were based in Gilgil until 1961 when they moved to Nairobi. While at Gilgil, the regiment was tasked to rout out the African fighters who operated in the then dense Aberdare forest. The campaign against *Mau Mau* lasted for four years while the State of Emergency continued up to 1960.²⁰

The concentration of military personnel in the Gilgil town during *Mau Mau* campaign and the emergency period influenced the town's development in terms of increased commercial activities as well as physical buildings in the barracks.

¹⁹ Njenga Harron, OI, 13.7.2015.

²⁰ Fredrick Cooper, "Mau Mau and the Discourses of Decolonisation," *Journal of African History*, Vol. 29, 1988, p. 313.



Photo 12: An improved Gilgil camp. C. 1962.
Source: Kenya National Archives

The peaceful environment that came with presence of security personnel made the business community to continue investing in the town's commercial sector despite the State of Emergency. This was not happening in many urban centres due to uncertainty brought about by the uprising.

The *Mau Mau* uprising hastened Kenya's independence. It created a rift between the white community and the Colonial office in London. The Colonial office realised the uprising would continue so long as the British continued to rule the country. They therefore began to prepare to hand over power to a black majority.²¹ At independence, Gilgil town's development declined. This was mainly because white settlers, Indian traders and British soldiers who played a major role in the town's development began to move out of the town and the country. Settlers feared losing their property while on the other Indians feared that their businesses would be confiscated, while British soldiers were considered a foreign force with Kenya becoming a sovereign state. The departure of white settlers, Indians and British soldiers led to reduced commercial activities in the town. For instance, Gilgil railway station almost ground to a halt with the departure of settlers who produced large volumes of farm products. Principally, the station handled settlers' farm produce, Indian business commodities and military consignments. Passengers frequently using the station were also settlers, Indians

²¹ Robert Whittier, "Introduction" in Rober Whittier (ed), *The Swords of Kirinyaga: The Fight for Land and Freedom* (Nairobi: East African Publishing House, 1975), p. xxi.

as well as security personnel. Consequently, the development of the town was greatly hampered by the departure of the three groups.²²

4.4 Early Industries in Gilgil

Africa Diatomite Industries Limited (ADIL) and Ndume Farm Machinery Factory (NFMF) were the first manufacturing plants to be established in the Gilgil area.²³ The plants created employment opportunities especially for unskilled African workers who flocked the town in search of jobs. The plants did not only create employment but also led to an increase in the town's population. Although workers were housed in the plants' compounds, they bought their supplies in the town during their off day which was usually Sunday afternoon. These plants and their workers facilitated the growth of Gilgil town significantly.

Africa Diatomite Industries Limited (ADIL) was established as the East African Diatomite Syndicate (EADS) by the Cole Estate Limited which was owned by Lord Galbraith Arthur Cole. The industry which is still in existence is located West of Gilgil town along the Gilgil-Nakuru road. In 1947, the factory began to export filter grades to South Africa and Europe. The factory mines diatomite which is used for various industrial purposes. Diatomite is a white crumbly rock composed of compressed silica skeletons of microscopic sea organisms called diatoms. According to the Industrial Mineral Association of North America, diatomite, also known as diatomaceous earth, is single-celled aquatic algae belonging to a class of golden brown algae scientifically known as Bacillariophyceae.²⁴

Diatomite products are environmentally friendly and have over 1,500 different uses-including filter aids in breweries, pharmaceuticals manufacturing, motor oil, swimming pool water, glass industries and in agriculture. The company developed over time to manufacture various products. Among the products produced include; diatomite filters and filter aid products for breweries, fruit juice processing plants, edible oil refineries, winery, pest control, paint, dry cleaning and soap industries among others. Some of its clientele include East Africa Breweries, Bidco Oil Refineries, Crown Berger, Chemsol Products Corporation (CPC) industrial products, Delmonte, Tanzania Breweries, Uganda Breweries and others in the region. Diatomite by-products are used for soil conditioning in flower farms and for making glass products.²⁵

²² Githinji John, OI, 29.7.2015.

²³ The two plants were established in 1942 and 1949 respectively.

²⁴ Richard Trillo, *The Rough Guide to Kenya* (UK: Rough Guides, 2002), p. 251.

²⁵ Kamomo Johnson, OI, 10.09.2015.

Some of the company's brands are Kensil 90. This is a flux calcined medium flow filter aid used to filter beer, sugar syrup, dry cleaning solvents, water, and fruit juice. The other is Kensil 110, which is used to filter lubricating oil, vegetable oil, for swimming pool filters. Then there is Kensil Guard which is a diatomite preservative for maize, rice, beans, millet, sorghum and other foodstuffs for up to four years. The natural preservative does not affect taste or quality of cereals and is not harmful to humans and animals. It therefore makes an effective insecticide in grain silos by dehydrating weevils without poisoning grains.²⁶

The Gilgil Town Council annual reports indicate that plans to set up the East Africa Diatomite Syndicate started earlier but it did not become operational until 1947.²⁷ The Kenya Government acquired the company in 1965 and changed its name from East African Diatomite Syndicate (EADS) to African Diatomite Industries Limited (ADIL).²⁸ The industry was privatised later.²⁹ The company continues to operate at its original location in Kikopey, which was once a ranch owned by Lord Cole, brother-in-law to Lord Delamere.

The company has been upgrading its equipment with an aim of enhancing its production capacity in readiness for new markets in North Africa and Europe. The plant has a capacity to produce forty metric tonnes of diatomite per day.³⁰ Apart from employing a substantial number of Gilgil town residents, the factory is also a tourist attraction site. Both local and international tourists influence the development of Gilgil town directly or indirectly. Most of the factory's employees reside in Gilgil town and surrounding areas.

Ndume Farm Machinery Factory (NFMF) is another plant that has significantly influenced development of Gilgil town for over sixty six years. The factory is one of the oldest assemblers of agricultural machinery in East Africa region and was established by F Rames Taylor in 1949. It is located three kilometres from Gilgil town along the Gilgil-Nyahururu road and occupies a twenty acre piece of land adjacent to the Kenyatta barracks.³¹

The founder intended to set up the factory that would address white settlers' farm machinery needs in East Africa. As mentioned earlier in this study, the colonial government encouraged settlers to adopt mechanised farming in order to increase cereal production during WWII.

²⁶ Kamomo Johnson, O.I, 10.09.2015.

²⁷ KNA/DC/NKU/1/5 Annual Report 1945-1950, p. 12.

²⁸ The Kenya Gazette, Dated 10 Jan 1967, p. 24.

²⁹ Kenya National Assembly Official Record (Hansard), Parliamentary Debates "Privatisation of ADIL in 2000", Dated 28 April 2004, p. 770.

³⁰ Kamomo Johnson, O.I, 10.09.2015.

³¹ Oloishona James, O.I, 13.09.2015.

NFMMF endeavoured to produce various farm implements, equipment and machines needed by settlers for mechanising their farms. The factory manufactured a range of agricultural machinery including ploughs, harrows, cultivators, planters, trailers, mowers, levellers, water pumps, water heaters and maize mills. Initially the factory assembled tractors and combine harvesters. It also manufactured trolleys for carrying baggage at the airport.³² At inception NFMMF had a labour force of sixty but expansion over the years has increased its labour force to about 500 employees. More than half of these employees are drawn from Gilgil town and its vicinity.³³

NFMMF has had an initiative of assembling a customised pickup which has a flat deck with a very low loading height. The flat body carries six to eight bins of waste which can be lifted on or off the pickup by hands. These small pickups are used to provide a waste collection service in Gilgil town. Bins containing waste material from businesses and residential premises are ferried by the pickups for transfer into large containers or low loading height trailers which then transport waste to the disposal site. NFMMF pickups have also been in use in Kisii and Homa Bay towns. The collection service is made possible through a partnership between the factory and UN-Habitat which partners with private firms offering solid waste solutions.³⁴

The factory has not only participated in keeping the town clean but also influenced the development of Gilgil town in a significant way. It has provided employment to the town's residents and also placed Gilgil on the Eastern African map on terms of production of farm machinery. The factory's products destined for Uganda were initially transported by train but road transport later became the preferred mode of transport when the market grew to include Rwanda, Burundi and South Sudan.

4.6 Gilgil Town at the Dawn of Independence

The period between 1960 and 1963 – with independence in sight – the development pace of Gilgil town significantly declined. This decline was brought about by several factors. The bulk of British forces locally referred to as *Majoni* left for Britain, leaving the barracks unoccupied. Their military hardware was transported for weeks by train to Mombasa from where they were shipped to the United Kingdom. The town's business activities came to a near halt with the departure of British soldiers.

³² David Himbara, *Kenya Capitalists: The State and Development*, (Nairobi: East African Educational Publisher, 1994), p. 104.

³³ Oloishona James, OI, 13.09.2015.

³⁴ Oloishona James, OI, 13.09.2015.

The decline also came about because of the relocation of KAR personnel who had become to Kenya Armed Forces (KAF) upon Kenya's independence. The few KAF personnel present at the time were relocated to Lang'ata and Nanyuki Barracks. Those in Lang'ata were tasked to undertake national duties such as mounting parades in respect of visiting international dignitaries while their Nanyuki counterparts were to patrol the then volatile North Eastern Frontier. Only a handful of soldiers were left in Gilgil and Lanet barracks to guard crucial military facilities.

The moving out of almost all European settlers and the Indian business community from Gilgil town also led to the decline of the town's development. Both the European settlers and the Indian traders played a major role in the town's development. They moved out of the town and the country because they feared the aftermath of independence. The departure of white settlers and the Indians traders led to reduced commercial activities in the town. Gilgil railway station almost ground to a halt with the departure of settlers who produced volumes of farm products. Principally, the station handled settlers' farm produce, Indian business commodities and military consignments. Passengers using the station were also settlers, Indians as well security personnel. Consequently, the development of the town greatly declined.

4.7 Summary

This chapter reveals how two camps, two industrial plants and the agitation for land rights shaped the development of Gilgil town. A Jewish detention camp was established in Gilgil town in 1947. The camp held close to 300 Lehi and Irgun fighters. Gilgil was important because the British sought to have Jewish fighters held in a maximum security facility to curb escapes witnessed in other camp. The camp was ideal since it was formerly a maximum security detention camp for soldiers serving long sentences for criminal offences. The location of the Jewish detention camp in Gilgil placed the town in the world map. The town became important to both the colonial government and the United Kingdom's government. Another camp that has played a significant role in the development of Gilgil town was the Somalia settlement camp '*Kambi Somali*'. Somalis businessmen living in the camp established several businesses in the town. As institutions, the two camps influenced the development of Gilgil town. For instance, they brought in more people in the town this boosted commerce.

The Mau Mau movement began to agitate for increased land rights in central Kenya. The movement operated mainly in forests and major towns and employed guerrilla tactics against European settlers. The uprising led to the declaration of the State of Emergency in 1952. This

saw two brigades of British soldiers come to Kenya. The soldiers were tasked to mount a campaign against Mau Mau fighters' operational bases particularly in Aberdare and Mount Kenya forests. This campaign lasted for four years while the state of emergency lasted for eight years. The Mau Mau uprising further increased the number of security personnel in Gilgil town. The town was an operational base of security personnel deployed to flush out Mau Mau fighters who operated in the Aberdare forest. Of the 10,000 regular troops and 21,000 police involved in the campaign, close to a half were based in Gilgil and Lanet with far flank detachments in Nyahururu, Nyandarua and Nakuru region. The high concentration of security personnel in Gilgil area during the anti- Mau Mau campaign influenced the town's development in terms of increased commercial activities as well as construction of physical buildings especially in barracks.

ADIL and NFMF were established in Gilgil area in 1942 and 1949 respectively. The two plants created employment opportunities for unskilled African workers. Both plants were run by European settlers. Apart from creating employment, the factories also led to an increase in the population of Gilgil town. Although workers were accommodated in the factory premises, they relied on the town for provision of goods and services. These factories influenced the development of Gilgil town in two major ways; provision of employment opportunities and increased commercial activities. The factories are still in existence and therefore continue to offer employment opportunities to the town's residents.

CHAPTER FIVE

GILGIL'S REVIVAL, 1964-1990

5.1 Overview

Towards Kenya's independence and a couple of years after, the development pace of Gilgil town significantly declined. This decline was brought about by several factors as mentioned in the previous chapter. However, a few years after independence the development pace of the town progressively increased. The first part of this chapter examines how the town received a new lease of life after a massive recruitment of army personnel. The second, third and fourth parts of the chapter interrogate the establishment of other security establishments in Gilgil town, among them the ASTU headquarters and the NYS field training camp, and how they influenced the development of the town. Parts five, six and seven evaluate other factors that influenced the revival of the town after independence. These factors include the establishment of Gilgil Telecommunication Industry (GTI) in 1988. The industry employed around 3000 employees in its initial stages and significantly boosted the commercial activities in the town. In essence, this chapter offers an insight into the role of security establishments other than the military in the development of Gilgil town.

5.2 Gilgil Town at Independence

Gilgil town declined after Kenya gained independence. The town's commercial activities drastically reduced with the departure of most of the town's population. The town entered into an era of degeneration until the independent Kenya government started a massive recruitment of youths into military service.³⁵

Independence saw society change, with political power gradually shifting into the hands of Africans. This period was characterised by huge exodus of former European settlers, European civil servants and Asians. They sold their properties and left in fear of what *Uhuru* portended. The period was also characterised by 'flight' of capital out of the country. Colonel Grogan, the doyen of European settlers and their most outspoken spokesperson, qualified the selling of properties by saying "Only a damn fool would not sell."³⁶ Many Europeans feared that they were about to be betrayed and had no confidence in the continued possession of homes and farms they had made for themselves. Though Jomo Kenyatta, the first president of

³⁵ Ngata Joseph, OI, 10.1.2016.

³⁶ E S Atieno-Odhiambo and W R Ochieng, "Prologue" in B A Ogot and W R Ochieng, *Decolonization and Independence in Kenya 1940-1993* (Nairobi: East Africa Educational Publishers, 1995), pp, xvii-xviii.

independent Kenya, assured white settlers that they had a future in the new nation, many of them opted to sell their farms and leave the country rather than submit to African rule. For instance, no white farmer was left in the 'happy valley' by 1965.³⁷ This left fallow large tracks of land previously under settler cultivation. Consequently, agricultural produce from white highlands reduced drastically. Influx of African labourers seeking employment in settler farms also declined because there were fewer farms under settler operation. However, a few settlers led by Lord Delamere's family, then under the leadership of Thomas P G Cholmondeley, chose to remain behind, effectively becoming Kenyan citizens.

Gilgil railway station activities almost came to a halt at the advent of Kenya's independence. The station dealt mainly with agricultural produce designated for export through the port of Mombasa. Due to the low volume of farm produce coming from the settler farms, operations at the Gilgil railway station reduced drastically. The station also handled military consignment and with the departure of KR, the volume of military ware handled in the station declined. The once busy station, with hundreds of passengers heading to various settler farms around Gilgil and beyond, became almost inactive. This by extension affected the development of Gilgil town because its population drastically reduced leading to a fall in the town's commercial activities.³⁸

At independence, all foreign military forces left the country, leaving most of their camps and barracks unoccupied. As mentioned earlier, the presence of security personnel in any town boosts trade and other activities. The departure of both KR and KAR troops made Gilgil town almost desolate. Most of the barracks and camps previously occupied by British soldiers were left unattended. Only two main military installations were left behind under a few sentries. This greatly affected Gilgil town, which entered into a period of decline. Businesses mostly targeting security personnel such as hotels and bars were scaled down. The night life formerly fuelled by soldiers died out.³⁹

When barracks or other security establishments closed down, the local economy is adversely affected. This is one of the major challenges experienced by towns that thrive as a result of a permanent presence of security personnel. Such towns are often referred to as Garrison towns because they are occupied by a considerable number of soldiers.⁴⁰ The presence of security personnel in Gilgil area permeated everyday life, barracks had become part of the town's

³⁷ J Barnes, *The Ghost of Happy Valley* (London: Aumum Press, 2013) p 17.

³⁸ Ngata Joseph, OI, 10.1.2016.

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Mohammed Ali, OI, 9.1.2016.

image. Military personnel made up a substantial proportion of the population in the town making it the dominant aspect of the town's life. The closure of British military camps therefore adversely influenced the local economy. Civic leaders and the business community in Gilgil town often speak of any eventual closure of security establishments as being a big blow that would spell doom to the economy of the town and the surrounding area.⁴¹

The population of Gilgil reduced in the advent of Kenya's independence. This is evidenced by a comparison between 1962 and the 1969 National Census figures. According to the 1962 census, the population of Gilgil town was 6,452- well ahead that of Naivasha town which was 4,690. However, the 1969 census figures show that Gilgil town led all the urban centres in Kenya with the highest population decline. Its population declined by 35.24% (2,274 people).⁴² This, as mentioned earlier, was due to the 1963 political independence which saw settlers sell their farms, Asians closing their businesses, and the moving out of military personnel. The incoming African government responded to European and Asian exodus by promoting Africans into key positions in the civil service, government institutions, and the military. This *Africanisation* of posts in civil service and the military become significant in the social-economic development of post-colonial Kenya.⁴³

5.3 Re-Establishment of Military Barracks

The re-establishment of camps and barracks abandoned by foreign forces a few years after Kenya's independence was an integral part of a plan to increase the new government's ability to defend its citizens and the country's sovereignty. The government quickly defined and developed military legislation. For instance, in early 1963, the Kenya National Assembly passed a law - Kenya Bills 1963 – to amend the status of the Kenyan military force. Accordingly former KAR units were transformed into the Kenya Rifles (KR). This took effect from the ceremonial midnight of independence, on 12 December 1963. Consequently, 3KAR, 5KAR and 11 KAR became 3, 5 and 11 KR respectively. Meanwhile, in line with a formal defence agreement between Kenyan ministers and the British Secretary of State for Commonwealth relations, Duncan Sandy signed on 3 June 1964, all British troops stationed in

⁴¹ Mbaria Kennedy, OI, 10.1.2016.

⁴² Robert A Obudho and Rose A Abudho "The Post-Colonial Urbanisation Process", in W R Ochieng and R M Maxon (ed), *An Economic History of Kenya* (Nairobi: East African Educational Publishers Ltd: 1992), p 406.

⁴³ A I Salim, *State Formation in Eastern Africa*, (Nairobi: Heineman, 1984), pp 1-5.

Kenya were to be withdrawn by 12 December 1964, leaving only few instructors who were to assist in making KR a proper national army able to protect the country.⁴⁴

Since the colonial government used KAR to suppress *Mau Mau* and other organisations agitating for Kenya's independence, Kenyan Africans, especially the political class, detested the army. They saw the military and the police as instruments of social control, characterised by violent and impunity. This is because no major changes were done to these institutions during the transition from colonialism to independence. The political elite, therefore, endeavoured to have military and police personnel recruited from among all ethnic communities in Kenya in what was termed as Africanising the armed forces. They argued that both the KAR and the colonial police force were the preserve of certain communities that collaborated with colonisers. This led to a massive recruitment that saw many young people, especially from communities not hitherto represented in the army enlisted in the armed forces.⁴⁵ This necessitated re-opening of abandoned camps and barracks so as to accommodate and train recruits.

Gilgil town had several camps and barracks which had been abandoned by British soldiers when they left for United Kingdom in 1963. These abandoned buildings began to be renovated by the year 1965. The process of renovating created employment for local people. As a prospect to earn wages' a significant number of people were attracted to the town. As recruitment continued annually, new military structures started to come up inside existing barracks. On the other hand, permanent buildings underwent minor fittings, conversions and extensions so as to facilitate new use. The population of military personnel increased in the town, leading to an upsurge in the local economy. Businesses boomed again in the town since the departure of the British soldiers and white settlers.⁴⁶

5.4 Establishment of ASTU

Accumulation of livestock in pastoral societies made sense to them because it was the most important form of saving. The larger the herd of cattle one possessed, the more he was able to cope with emergencies without seriously depleting the size of the herd. The value placed on livestock led to cattle raids, where pastoral communities attacked each other so as to increase the numbers of their livestock. Traditionally, cattle raiding were cultural practices which were

⁴⁴ Charlse Hornoby, *Kenya: A History Since Independence*, (London: I B Tauris, 2013), p. 98.

⁴⁵ Kenya National Assembly Official Record (Hansard) of 1-29 July 1966 - Motion: "Africanising the Army."

⁴⁶ Wangai, OI, 29.7.2015. Njoroge, OI, 28.7.2015.

regarded as a sport among the pastoralists. The raids were controlled and sanctioned by elders and were conducted using sticks, spears, bows, arrows and clubs. Raiding was glorified in pastoral communities and distinguished raiders were heroes who were respected by their peers and their community generally. Raids were staged as a means of reciprocity for poor families to acquire livestock and restock, particularly after droughts or epidemics. Sometimes animals accrued were used as bride price. This enabled young men who were ready for marriage to raise enough cattle to pay bride price, which ranged from 50 to 100 head of cattle.⁴⁷

European settlers had to deal with livestock raids, especially where local people eyed their livestock. Ethnic boundaries were entrenched and thus inhibited pastoralists' territorial expansion as well as crossing over to another community's reserved area. A good number of European settlers had a military background, and were therefore able to protect their livestock from raiders. They also employed Africans as livestock herders and in some instances armed them with guns.

After independence, cattle raids intensified with the acquisition of modern firearms. Over time cattle raids ceased from being a cultural practise and became economic activities that involved commercialization of stolen animals with players from outside the pastoralist system. Rustling turned into a form of organised crime where a community forcefully raids another using guns leaving behind wanton destruction of property and loss of lives. The rising demand for meat in urban areas contributed to increase of livestock rustling. As a result Kenya Police Service (KPS) established a unit initially called Stock Theft Unit (STU) in 1967, through an act of parliament. The unit was established and stationed in Gilgil.⁴⁸ The unit was formed to fight the cattle rustling menace among pastoral communities.⁴⁹ STU was later renamed Anti-Stock Theft Unit (ASTU) possibly to correspond with the task the unit was undertaking. KPS is divided into several formations dealing with specific tasks. ASTU was established as a special police unit charged with the responsibility of fighting livestock rustling and related crimes. Apart from being a specialised rapid response unit that tracks cattle rustlers, ASTU is also a paramilitary outfit that is deployed during civil disorder and multi-agency armed forces campaigns. Initially the unit shared the same compound with 5 KAR. From Gilgil, the unit could easily deploy to cattle rustling hot spots such as Isiolo,

⁴⁷ David Anderson, "Stock Theft and Moral Economy in Colonial Kenya", *Africa: Journal of the International African Institute* 56, 4 (1986), pp 399-416.

⁴⁸ Mbaya Jeremiah, IO, 24.7.2015.

⁴⁹ Katsuyoshi Fukui and John Markaris; 'Introduction' in Katsuyoshi Fukui and John Markaris(eds), *Ethnicity and Conflict in the Horn of Africa* (London: James Curney, 1994), pp 1-11.

Turkana, Baringo, Samburu, Pokot, and Elgeyo Marakwet districts among others.⁵⁰ Paxton Donald, was the first commandant of ASTU. He led the unit from 1967 to 1973.

In 1969, the government bought a 200-acre piece of land from a white settler, Carllight, who was a dairy farmer. ASTU was then relocated to this expansive area and permanent buildings were built. The first phase of permanent buildings was put up by Tara Singh Sohan Singh in 1970.⁵¹ The unit which is also the national headquarters of KPS ASTU is located 2 kilometres north-west of Gilgil town. The expansive land allows Para-military training as well as training in horse riding. The land also serves as a centre for breeding horses which are used specifically for police related duties such as crowd control.⁵² On the other hand, since 1988, ASTU has been organising an annual horse competition. The competition is a three day event that attracts horse lovers from all over the country. The event also attracts both local and foreign tourists. Tourist firms have picked the event as a major item in their calendar and usually advise their clients to visit the country during the event. The event includes horse jumping, cross country, and rifle range competition.

Like KDF personnel, KPS personnel also serve in United Nations Peace Keeping (UNPK) duties since 1989. The slots for UN missions are distributed equally in all KPS departments, and therefore a number of ASTU officers have served in these foreign missions. On coming back home, a number of them invest in Gilgil area. For instance, Teachers Estate is situated between ASTU and Kenyatta Barracks; the 2000 plots measuring 50x100 feet initially owned by Nakuru Teachers Housing Cooperative have been bought and developed by police and military personnel. This Estate has greatly influenced the population as well as development of Gilgil town.⁵³

ASTU has initiated several projects aimed at inculcating a good relationship with the host community. The unit administers two major academic institutions in Gilgil town: *Utumishi* Primary School and *Utumishi* Academy High School. The two institutions were specifically tailored to cater for education needs of the children of police personnel. This is why they are located inside a security camp. Unlike civilian parents, uniformed parents can be deployed away from their families for several months. At such time their children, need close supervision by the KPS. The primary school which is both day and boarding enrol students

⁵⁰ Kenya National Assembly Official Record (Hansard) of 3 July- 23 August, 1976.

⁵¹ KNA/S/5152: Buildings at Stock Theft Unit - Gilgil, 1969.

⁵² Francis K Sang, *A Noble but Onerous Duty: Autobiography by Former Director of Criminal Investigation Department* (Blooming: AuthorHouse, 2013), p. 20.

⁵³ Mbayah Jeremiah, OI, 24.7.2015; Kinuthia Kariuki, OI, 20.7.2015;

from all over the country. It enrolls children of both service personnel and civilian in a ratio of 70:30. The primary day section offers educational services to children from the local population. The high school is a national institution which admits students from all over the country in a similar ratio to that of the primary school. Both institutions employ most of their support staff from the local community. They also buy their supplies and services from Gilgil town and hence contribute significantly to the economic growth of the town. On the other hand, ASTU's dispensary offers medical services to the local community. For instance, in 1980, a new out-patient wing was opened in the ASTU dispensary to specifically cater for civilians living nearby. The diagnosis and curative wing receives 300 to 400 patients weekly. The unit has also designated an area where town residents can fetch chlorinated water using water bowsers especially during dry seasons. In a bid to perform its secondary role as a security establishment, ASTU supports civil authorities in maintenance of law and order in the town and also assists during disasters. This has made Gilgil town a secure and peaceful environment suitable for investment. The town has therefore attracted wide range of investors.⁵⁴

5.5 Establishment of NYS

NYS was established by an act of Parliament (Cap 208 Laws of Kenya) on 1st September 1964. Its establishment was aimed at helping youths to discover and develop their potential. The service therefore endeavoured to create a pool of skilled, disciplined and organised human resource to undertake national development programmes. It also aimed at alleviating youth unemployment in both the formal and informal sectors by providing skills necessary for employment.⁵⁵

The first NYS institution, Gilgil Field Unit, was established at Gilgil in a former British military camp called Giffard. The Field Unit changed into a training college in 1968 as evidenced by a letter written by the unit to the director of NYS on 23 September 1968.⁵⁶ NYS recruits drawn from all over the country undergo five to seven months basic training at the College in Gilgil. Basic training mainly involves physical exercises, parade drills and a paramilitary programme. Correspondence exchanged between Gilgil field Unit's administration and the Director of NYS indicates the numbers of recruits trained increased gradually over.

⁵⁴ Mbaya Jeremiah, IO, 24.7.2015; Kinuthia Kariuki, OI, 20.7.2015; Kiguro Gregory, OI, 25.7.2015.

⁵⁵ Kurunui Joshua, OI, 26.7.2015; Mugambi Argwings, OI, 25.7.2015.

⁵⁶ KNA/NYS/ADM/1/19/2 Unit Administration: Gilgil Training Unit 1968.

For instance, the number rose from 500 to 700 in 1966 and 700 to 880 in 1977.⁵⁷ The end of the basic training course is marked by a pass-out parade usually officiated by the Head of State or his deputy. Months prior to a pass-out parade, Gilgil town becomes a bee hive of activities leading to increased commercial activities in the town. This is one of the annual events that has put Gilgil town in the national limelight.⁵⁸

After basic training, the NYS graduates are deployed to various outposts in the country for a two year service to the nation before taking courses in various technical fields. These technical courses offered in different NYS schools range from basic artisan level to diploma. The courses include Hospitality, Fashion, Enterprise and Technology, Building and Construction, Engineering and Driving.

Apart from being the only college that offers basic training for NYS recruits, the Gilgil facility is home to two Schools: one for hospitality and another for construction. The duration of each course depends on its curriculum: diploma courses take three years, certificate ones take two years while the artisan ones take a year. Gilgil NYS College therefore has personnel throughout the year. It also has a substantial number of employees who make sure the college undertakes its mandate as required.⁵⁹

Until the late 1980s, enrolment into the NYS was compulsory for all Kenya high school leavers proceeding to public universities. This was part of a program aimed at instilling a sense of patriotism and community service among Kenyan youths. Later, however, the recruitment of pre-university students was made voluntary and it has remained so to date.⁶⁰

Like both military and police personnel, civilian and uniformed NYS staff alike have immensely contributed to the development of Gilgil town. Apart from consuming the town's goods and services they have also bought and developed plots. For instance, Ngomongo Estate in Gilgil town is mainly owned and occupied by NYS staff.

NYS as an institution has played a major role in the development of Gilgil town. For instance, some of its supplies are drawn from the town, especially perishable goods such as vegetable, fruits and meat. More so, parts of its supply contracts are reserved for local people in the spirit of giving back to society which hosts a corporate firm or an institution. A letter from County

⁵⁷ KNA/NYS/ADM/1/19/2: Unit Administration: Gilgil Training Unit 1966 and 1977.

⁵⁸ Mugambi Argwings, OI, 25.7.2015; Chebet Mary, OI, 26.7.2015.

⁵⁹ Mugambi Argwings, OI, 25.7.2015; Ogolla Julius, OI, 26.7.2015.

⁶⁰ Mwenda Ntagangwi, "Generation X Meets the Uhuru Generation in East Africa" in Christine Henseler (ed), *Generation X Goes Global: Mapping Youth Culture in Motion* (London: Routledge, 2013), p. 80.

Education office to the Director of NYS shows that Gilgil Training College donated ten acres of land for construction of a primary school.⁶¹ This school is funded and run by NYS and enrolls pupils from the local area without discrimination. No special preference is given to children belonging to NYS personnel or their relatives. Recently, a day secondary school funded by NYS has been established. The clientele of the secondary school is similar to that of the primary school.

NYS servicemen in collaboration with Gilgil town community youth organisations have initiated various projects for the community. To ensure food security for town residents, urban agriculture sacks have been set up to facilitate growing of vegetables, especially kales, tomatoes, and onions. Several fish tanks have also been constructed to supplement the residents' diet. NYS routinely engages in levelling of access roads and pathways in and around the town. The NYS is also involved in vector control activities in residential areas in a bid to ensure disease free zones. These activities have helped to reduce malaria and other vector borne disease among the residents.⁶²

NYS Gilgil has a disaster response unit. For instance, in case of a fire incidence in the town, NYS fire fighters respond fast with their fire extinguishers and other fire fighting-equipment. Their ambulances are also at the disposal of the town residents, particularly during emergencies. NYS trainees also conduct disaster response and other basic life skills workshops and seminars. The forums are largely aimed at enlightening the local people on disaster preparedness. NYS employees and trainees have been donating blood yearly to the local government hospital. The fore mentioned activities are a clear testimony that NYS has directly and indirectly influenced the development of Gilgil town to almost the same extent as their KDF and NPS counterparts.

5.6 Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC)

The co-location of military and civilian population challenges the ability of either to remain impartial, neutral and independent. The two therefore find a common ground on which to operate mutually. This coexistence stems from the military endeavour to carry out its secondary role which involves assistance to civil authorities. Civil-Military Cooperation is the interaction between civilians and military actors operating in the same area. The cooperation is a military instigated programme aimed at facilitating a good relationship between

⁶¹ KNA/NYS/ADM/1/19/2: Unit Administration: Gilgil Training Unit 1969.

⁶² Mugambi, OI, 25.7.2015; Musyoka, OI, 26.7. 2015.

uniformed personnel and civilians around their bases. The ultimate aim is to achieve an effective operational capability since close cooperation between civilians and military is vital for success of any military operations. The cooperation plays a major role in bridging the gap between civilian and military institutions; it alleviates competition and minimizes misunderstanding between the two sides. The cooperation also emphasises pursuit of common goals especially development projects aimed at benefiting the community around military institutions.⁶³

Since the establishment of military camps, barracks and other military installations in Gilgil town, the military has undertaken several projects aimed at forging cordial relation with the local populace. These projects have in one way or another influenced the development of Gilgil town. The most visible military contribution towards the development of Gilgil town has been assistance and support to the civil authorities in maintenance of law and order in the town as well as assisting during disaster.

Gilgil County Council (GCC) carried out a roads upgrade in Gilgil town. The military provided additional funds to supplement GCC road construction budget. It also constructed culverts in the townships and did hard surfacing and widened a one and a half mile road stretch. Additionally, they repaired Moridat Rivers Bridge.⁶⁴

An annual report indicates that the military participated in construction of several roads and tracks that linked Gilgil town to white settler farms. The most outstanding one were Gilgil West Road, Ol Karou West Road, and Wanjohi River Road. Military authorities contributed \$1000 for the roads works besides providing labour and expertise. The military-cognisant of the fact that their heavy traffic often destroyed roads-endeavoured to improve and routinely maintain the public roads. These roads benefited both the military and the civil population.⁶⁵

A six bed capacity dispensary was constructed at Gilgil with funds provided by the Native Trust Funds (NTF), the local Europeans and Indians, as well the government.⁶⁶ The medical needs of the towns' population outstretched the dispensary's capacity and therefore the military decided to donate its hospital after constructing another in the present-day Gilgil Barracks. Gilgil town committee sitting under Naivasha District Council (NDC) approved the handing over of a military hospital to civilians. Initially, part of this premise was used as a

⁶³ Respondent No 1, OI, 30.7.2015; Respondent, No 2, OI, 30.7.2015.

⁶⁴ KNA/DC/NKU/2/34/2: Nakuru District Annual report 1941, p 12.

⁶⁵ KNA/DC/NKU/2/34/2: Nakuru District Council Meetings –Minutes and Annual report 1944, p23.

⁶⁶ KNA LG/1094: African Local Government: Gilgil Advisory Council Minutes, 1947.

military incarceration camp for Jewish fighters. When the fighters were released after Israel became independent, the military converted the building into a hospital with a bed capacity of eighteen. In the spirit of civil-military cooperation, the military handed over the hospital, adjacent buildings, and over ten acres of land to civilian authorities. Additionally, army Medical Officers and orderlies routinely assisted their civilian counterparts in treating patients. This hospital evolved to become the present day Gilgil Sub-county Hospital.⁶⁷

Correspondence between Colonel La Fontaine and the town planning advisor shows the military hiring department constructed Gilgil African School (GAS) which was a brain child of Africa Inland Mission. The institution acted as social hall in the evening while its two working rooms were used for instructing women in domestic science and home-craft. African artisans were also instructed in the school premises in the evening. The military construction team was led by Major D E Vilt who used army artisans from Kijabe Army Technical School to construct the school. Major Vilt did not only supervise building work but also the school day-day operation when it was established. The school morphed to become Gilgil Township Primary School. It is among the major primary schools in the town that enrol large numbers of students.⁶⁸ The military shared its electric supply with the public, but Later the East Africa Power and Lighting Company constructed a light plant in the barracks, enabling the military to donate the first plant to the school and the public.⁶⁹

Both military and Gilgil township committees agreed to undertake Gibbs project. The project entailed supply of water to Gilgil Township. Military earthmovers dug the trenches on which the pipes were laid while the township council provided labour for connecting pipes. Gilgil and *Malewa* River were the two sources of water. Huge water storage reservoirs were constructed in *Langalanga*. During the same period, Brigadier Miles constructed a trestle bridge across the Malewa River which was capable of taking a load of ten tons. The presence of alternative piped water in the town made residents not to rely only on rationed piped water provided by the Railway Corporation, which was highly rationed. The two CIMIC activities influenced the development of the town in that a reliable water supply, which is a hallmark of any settlement, was realised.⁷⁰ The military also contributed \$1500 towards construction of Portman's bridge. The bridge, which could carry up to thirty tones, was built by the 3rd Field

⁶⁷ KNA/DC/NKU/2/34/3: Gilgil Township Committee, 1948.

⁶⁸ KNA/AV/4/29: Development Plan African Inland Mission, Gilgil, 1950.

⁶⁹ KNA/LG/5/2/2//2: Gilgil Township Committee Minutes of meeting held in Naivasha County Club on 2 May 1951.

⁷⁰ KNA/JA/1/204: Minutes of Gilgil Urban and Rural District Council held in White Heather Club in Gilgil on 5 April 1960.

Squadron as a training exercise.⁷¹Excavation of Gilgil-Turasha and Gilgil-Eburru roads was also done by the military. Both the military and the railway's authority sunk several boreholes in 1964 in an effort to complement tap water in the town.

In 1965, the military provided make shift bridges when several bridges along Malewa River were washed away by floods. Consequently, the military constructed a central permanent bridge which they routinely assessed and filed a report to the department of public works. This assessment continues to date.⁷²

The military continues to fulfil its secondary mandate of offering assistance to the civil population in Gilgil town by initiating several programmes and projects. The military runs Garrison primary and Garrison secondary school. These two education institutions are open to the public. They enrol students on a ratio of 70:30, that is, seventy percent of the school population is drawn from military dependants while thirty percent comes from civilians. The military also donated land on which Koelel High School is built. This is a national government school that enrolls students from all over Kenya.⁷³

The military medical department organises periodical free medical camps where the residents of Gilgil town are examined, treated and sensitised on different diseases and ailments for free. In conjunction with foreign military medical personnel, particularly from the British army, the military organises periodic free screening of life threatening diseases such as cancer among the town's residents. The military public health officer, together with his civilian counterpart, jointly supervises water chlorination and decontamination of shared water reservoirs.

Regarding the environment, the military has a programme called 'Environmental Soldier Programme' which plants seedlings on water catchment areas. This ensures a regular supply of water in Gilgil town and the surrounding areas. The military also prepares tree nurseries and distributes seedlings to residents for free. This exercise is aimed at providing enough wind breakers since Gilgil is a windy area.

On disaster response, the military has a stand-by fire extinguisher and an ambulance in case of fire and other emergencies. These services are availed to the public free of charge. In case of drowning, which is rather common due the presence of large rivers in the town's vicinity, the

⁷¹ KNA/JA/1/204: Minutes of Gilgil Urban and Rural District Council held in White Heather club in Gilgil on 5 April 1960.

⁷² KNA/JA/1/624: Naivasha County Council –Annual Report 1962 p 10.

⁷³ Respondent No. 3, OI, 30.7.2015; Respondent No. 4, OI, 30.7.2015.

army requests their navy counterparts to provide divers to assist civilians in searching for drowned persons.

Kenya Air Force (KAF) has been instrumental in aerial photography. These photographs are vital in local, regional and national projects. The KAF avails the photographs to the government mapping departments which in turn avails them to regional and local planners. The Kenya Navy (KN) has conducted a number of hydrological surveys in Gilgil town. They noticed the high level of fluoride in underground water and therefore joined hands with other government departments in discouraging the residents from drinking borehole water.

The military trains its personnel in different technical areas. Upon release from service, soldiers' training benefits the civilian section.⁷⁴ For instance, in Gilgil town there are several garages run by retired military personnel. These vehicle garages attract the highest numbers of motorists because of the high level of professionalism exhibited by the ex-soldiers. The town also has medical clinics run by retired military medical personnel. These clinics also attract a good number of clients because ex-military personnel run them professionally.

The above-mentioned CIMIC activities have directly and indirectly influenced the development of Gilgil town. Provision of water, medical services and construction of roads among others, has directly influenced the development of the town. This is because water and medical services are some of the vital services that influence human settlement in any given area.

5.7 Establishment of Gilgil Telecommunication Industries

Gilgil Telecommunication Industries Limited was commissioned as a manufacturing facility in 1988. It was established as a department of Kenya Posts and Telecommunications with the aim of starting an assembly facility and transferring telecommunication technology in Kenya. The facility consisted of three main manufacturing departments: a pole treatment plant, a furniture workshop, and metal products fabrication workshop. All departments put together made GTI a one-stop centre for telecommunication and office requirements.⁷⁵

⁷⁴ E. Benoit, *Economic Growth and Defence in Developing Countries* (London: Admantine Press, 1978) pp. 161-162.

⁷⁵ Kariuki Joseph, OI., 1.8.2015.



Photo 13: GTI Gate.

Photo taken by the author on 24 July 2015

The pole treatment plant which is still in existence, although under different management, treats poles against fungi and insect attacks. The treated poles can last for at least thirty years. This quality endears the pole plant to the Kenya Power and Lighting Company, which is its main customer. Treated poles are also bought by flower farms for the construction of green houses and wildlife parks for normal and electric fencing. Additionally treated poles are exported to other East African Countries.

The metal workshop, which is no longer operational, used to manufacture telephone booths, filing cabinets, and postal boxes which were for domestic consumption and export to the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) region. The furniture department, which has also ceased operations, produced office furniture for government departments and for export. In addition, GTI assembled a variety of telephone sets and supplies transmission and switching equipment. In partnership with Ericsson Telecommunication Company of Italy, AT&A of Ireland and Huawei of China, GTI assembled and installed different electronic equipment among them zebra brand computers.⁷⁶

At the beginning, GTI had an impressive distribution network. It had twenty local distribution stores known as Telemart Outlets. GTI also had many clients in the region, such as Tanzania Telecommunication Company Limited, Uganda Posts and Telecommunication, Nippon Electric Company (NEC) Europe for projects in Tanzania and Kenya government institutions,

⁷⁶ *Africa Economic Digest*, Vol 12, Issues 1-33, 1991, p. 7.

as well as colleges and schools. Additionally it had two agents in Zambia, one in Tanzania and two in Uganda. Due to the high demand of the industry's products, the workforce rose day by day. By 1990, both skilled and unskilled workers numbered 700. In 1998 it rose to 2000 and by the time it caved in due financial woes, the workforce was approaching 3000. The multi-million telephony gadgets assembling firm was privatised in 2007 as part of Telkom Kenya restructuring. The private firm that bought GTI retrenched many employees. Currently only the pole plant is operational, employing only a handful of Gilgil residents.⁷⁷

GTI influenced the growth of Gilgil town in different ways. Firstly, the industries' modern buildings gave Gilgil town a new face. Residential quarters which consist of storey buildings gave the Gilgil skyline a different look. To date, the only existing sewer system, complete with sewage ponds, in Gilgil town belong to GTI. The staff quarters are occupied by Gilgil town's residents on tenancy bases. This has greatly reduced the town's housing problems.

Secondly, commercial activities in Gilgil town soared as a result of the high number of GTI employees. Demand for goods and services went up culminating in establishment of more businesses. For instance, supermarkets, fuel stations, and banking halls came up as well as numerous retail outlets. Restaurants and hotels also increased. This development came about not only because of employees of GTI but also because of influx of labourers seeking employment in the town. The influx of labourers also led to a high demand for rental houses which in turn led to a rapid development of Gilgil's Site and Service Estate. Thirdly, GTI trained and maintained a vibrant football club know by the same name which featured in Kenya's premier league, thereby putting the name of the town in the national platform.

5.8 Tourism

Tourism contributes to the economic development of Gilgil town, though marginally. The nearby tourist attractions includes Lake Elementaita, Kariandusi Pre-historic site, Goodwill Scottish church, GCWWG and the several conservancies that surround the town. All these tourist sites attract visitors to the town on their way to or from the sites. Visitors also lodge in the town's various tourist class hotels among them Freci and Gilgil Country Club.

A major tourist attraction site near Gilgil town is Lake Elementaita. The lake is situated north-west of the town along the Nairobi-Nakuru highway. Lake Elementaita supports a globally threatened population of water birds, especially the lesser flamingos. These birds are at the risk of extinction due to expansion of settlements around the lake. Other birds found in the

⁷⁷ Kariuki, OI, 1.8.2015; Kwamboka, OI, 1.8.2015.

lake basin include Kingfisher and African spoonbill particularly found at the mouth of affluent streams, as well as Jackson's widowbird, which inhabits the grassland around the lake. Other birds found in the larger Gilgil area include ant eaters chat, common bulbul, African thrush, paradise monarch, and Maasai ostrich.

There are six types of flamingos in the world today; two of which are found in Africa-both in Lake Elementaita and Lake Nakuru basin. Lake Elementaita is famous for flamingo and pelican breeding. The two species migrate from Lake Nakuru to Lake Elementaita at the onset of breeding period. The lake supports both the greater flamingo and the lesser flamingo. The two species of flamingo are able to thrive in the same area because they do not compete directly with each other for food. Instead they feed at different levels within the lake and upon different food sources. Lesser flamingo feeds on the massive population of suspended blue-green algae while the greater flamingo feeds upon crustaceans and insect larvae.⁷⁸



Photo 14: Tourists walk towards Lake Elementaita.
Source: www.standardmedia.co.ke

⁷⁸ Patrick L. Osborne, *Tropical Ecosystems and Ecological Concept*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012), p. 192.

Tilapia grahami, also called Lake Magadi tilapia, was introduced into the lake to control mosquito larvae. The fish is adapted to living in extremely alkaline aquatic conditions rich in sodium bicarbonate. The water chemistry is greatly influenced by rainfall and evaporation patterns. This fish is known to migrate upstream to nearby swamps and rivers when the lake dries up completely. The lake basin is also home to Kenya horned viper. This is one of Kenya's most spectacular and endemic species. It is restricted mainly to the central Rift Valley and Kinangop plateau. Despite being venomous, this snake is threatened by illegal trade and habitat alteration. Other animals found in nearby hilly grassland include rock hyraxes, olive baboons, Maasai giraffe, and grant gazelles.⁷⁹

Perhaps the presence of a physical landform locally known as 'Delamere's Nose', which lie south of the lake, explains why the area is visited by many tourists. The landform is basically broken caldera walls of several extinct volcanoes which resemble a reclining human figure, the Maasai called the walls *EIngiragata Olmorani* which translate to "sleeping warrior".

There are many lodges and hotels offering accommodation on the lake shore. These include the Delamere's camp; a luxury tented camp within the private acacia woodland, the tree house accommodation, and Lake Elementaita lodge⁸⁰, which initially was the farmhouse for Lord Galbraith Cole and Lady Eleanor Balfour Cole.⁸¹

Another tourist attraction is Kariandusi Pre-Historic site. The site is located next to ADIL and is part of the National Museums of Kenya. It is amongst the first discoveries of lower Palaeolithic sites in EA dating back between 700,000 to one million years. The prehistoric site is possibly the first Acheulian site to have been found in situ in East Africa.⁸²

Kariandusi pre-historic site was discovered in 1928 when Dr. L S Leakey, who was leading an archaeological expedition, noticed stone tools projecting from a cliff on the site. He investigated the cliff for five years. He concluded that the site was a factory site of the Acheulian period. In 1974, JAJ Gowlett, another archaeologist, dug a test pit few metres from Leakey's pit to examine the sequence of the archaeological find. After examination, Gowlett discovered over 1,000 Acheulean hand axes and cleavers which may be over a million years old.

⁷⁹ David Newsome and Susan A. Moored et al, *Natural Area Tourism: Ecology, Impact and Management*, (Lodon: Channel View Publication, 2013), p. 231.

⁸⁰ Lake Elementaita lodge started in a farmhouse built in 1930s by a settler called Galbraith Cole.

⁸¹ Kimundo Rose, OI, 3.8.2015; Gitau Samuel, OI, 6.10.2015.

⁸² Kariandusi pre-historic site was discovered in 1928 and gazetted as a national monument in 1954.

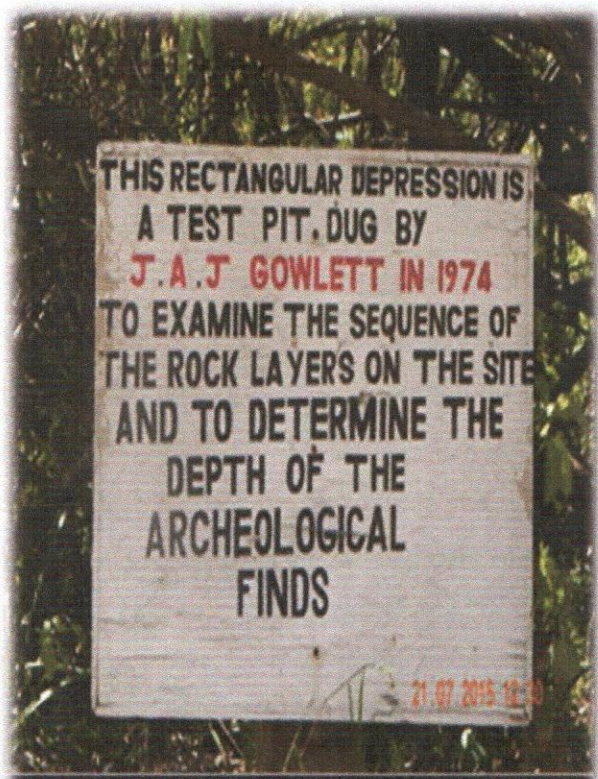


Photo 15: Foreign tourists at Kariandusi pre-historic site.
 Photograph taken by the author on 21 July 2015

Most of the stone tools visible are either pointed at one end and have a rounded butt or are straight and have sharp edges. The tools are made up of obsidian, a black glassy volcanic rock, and lava and their characteristics are of the Acheulean tool tradition which was dominant from about 1.4 million to 200,000 years ago. The Acheulian stage of the great hand-axe culture to which this site belongs is found over a widespread area from England, France and Southwest Europe generally to Cape Town.⁸³

The site attracts both local and foreign tourists throughout the year. Tourist attraction points within the site include; a camping site, nature trail, archaeological site, a museum, picnic site, as well as diatomite mining tunnels and caves.⁸⁴

A monumental Scottish protestant church is another tourist attraction site in the Gilgil area. The church, commonly known as Goodwill Church, is located near the old Nakuru-Nairobi road near the Kariandusi pre-historic site at Kikopey.⁸⁵ The church was put up seven decades ago as an appreciation of God by a colonial settler Lady Cleanor Balfour. Cleanor was wife to

⁸³ Virginia Morell, *Ancestral Passions: The Leakey Family and the Quest for Humankind's Beginnings* (New York: Touchstones, 1996), p. 45.

⁸⁴ Cheporion Peter, OI, 2.8.2015.

⁸⁵ Goodwill church was officially inaugurated in 1947.

Lord Galbraith Cole of the fifth early Enniskillen. She built the church in honour of her late husband and also as an appreciation for the safe return of her two sons who participated in WWII. The church, modelled against a mission church in Zanzibar, is an imposing architectural masterpiece that attracts both local and foreign visitors. To the local visitors born during the colonial period, the key monument evokes nostalgic memories of the colonial era in Kenya while to the young generation it gives them a peek into Kenya's colonial history.⁸⁶ The architecture of the church captures designs of the colonial era. The protruding bell tower and wooden roofing tiles have withstood the vagaries of weather over the years making it a historic monument worth visiting. Adjacent to the church are several graves that are almost seventy years old. They bear names and dates of death, some in English and others in French. The graves belong to founder members of the church who had stated their wish to be interred next to the church.

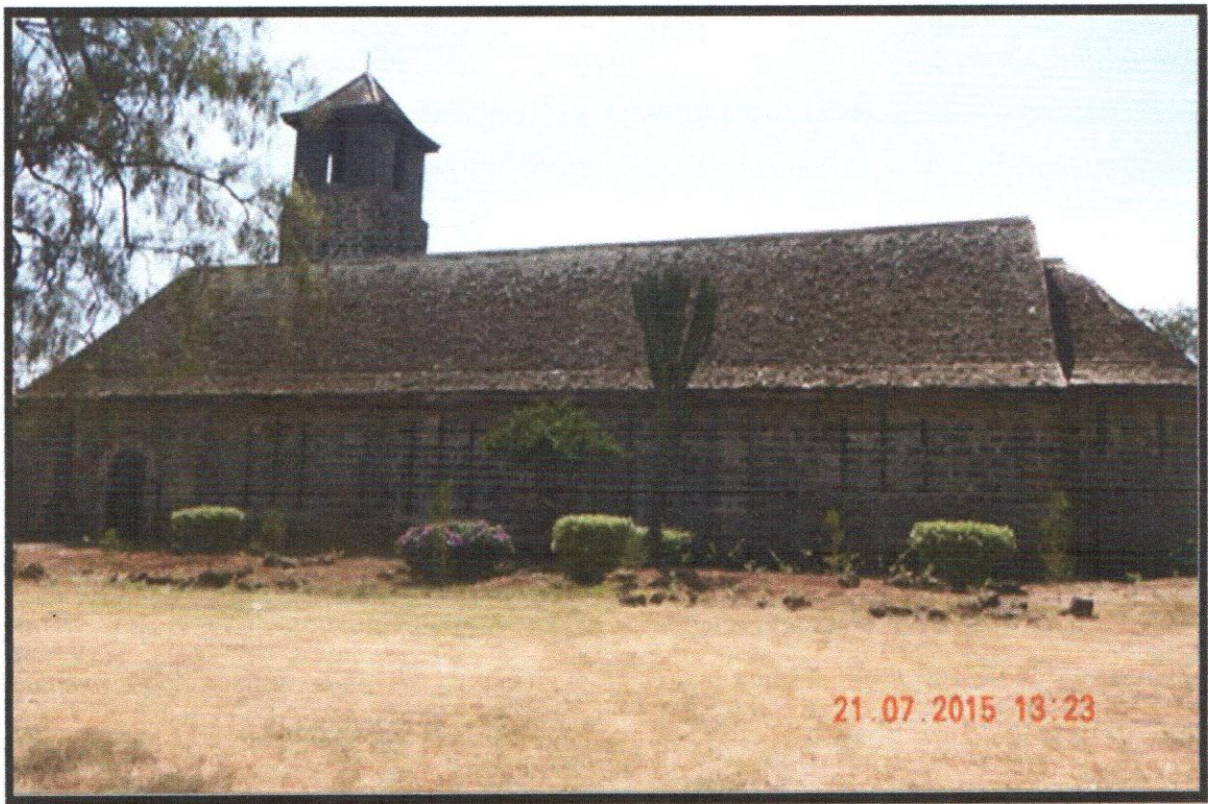


Photo 16: Goodwill Church.

Source: Author collection, 21 July 2015.

The church's wooden teak doors are arch-shaped and have heavy latches on them while for the windows, narrow arch-shaped long spaces, have been nicely constructed into the walls,

⁸⁶ Wanguhu Ng'ang'a, *Kenya's Ethnic Communities: Foundation of the Nation* (Nairobi: Gatundu Publisher, 2006), p. 822.

letting rays of light that illuminate the interior. All the movable furniture inside the church was imported from Britain. The same furniture is in use to date.⁸⁷

The building is preserved and marketed as a historical heritage site that attracts tourists from around the globe.⁸⁸ Some white settler families who used the church usually fly in to hold memorial services once a year. They are usually joined by their counterparts who are resident in Kenya. While all other structures have been disposed of after the 38,000 hectare Kikopey farm owned by Lord Cole was subdivided, the church is the only structure that retained its original purpose. The Anglican Church of Kenya (ACK) has been handed custody of the church on condition that the church remain in its original state. ACK continues to hold service in the Goodwill church every Sunday.⁸⁹

GCWWC is another tourist attraction site in the Gilgil area. This cemetery is located two kilometres from Gilgil town along Gilgil-Nyahururu road. It is maintained by Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC), an intergovernmental organisation of six independent member states whose principal function is to maintain graves and places of commemoration of soldiers who died in the two World Wars. Gilgil war cemetery is one of over forty war cemeteries in Kenya tended by CWGC.

Gilgil war cemetery has 224 commonwealth graves of WWII and one WWI graves as well as thirty non-war graves. The cemetery contains British nationals' graves from several regiments and corps: one Australian citizen grave, several graves of white European settlers who served in the KR, Kenyan Africans and Malawians who served in the KAR, and eight graves of South African Air force personnel.⁹⁰ The war cemetery attracts visitors from all over the world, especially from nations that have their nationals interred there. Some come to find graves of their relatives while others come for grave-side prayers in honour of their departed relatives. Local visitors come for picnic and educational tours in the cemetery. In essence, the graves serve as a poignant reminder of the lives lost in the two world wars. All tourists, both local and international, influence the development of Gilgil town in numerous ways.⁹¹

⁸⁷ Magdalene Wanja, 'Settler's Church Stands, 70 years after it was set up' *Daily Nation*, 19 February 2016, p. 2.

⁸⁸ Cheporion Peter, OI, 2.8.2015.

⁸⁹ Njoroge Njuguna, OI., 24.7.2015; Cheporion Peter, OI, 2.8.15.

⁹⁰ Denis Montgomery, *Two Shores of the Ocean* (Chedburgh: African Insight press, 2008) p. 242.

⁹¹ Wasike Moses, OI, 24.7.2015; Njuguna Njoroge, OI, 24.7.2015.

Gilgil town is surrounded by Kigio, Malewa, Marula and Soysambu conservancies. The conservancies mostly attract many international tourists. The tourists visiting the conservancies depend on Gilgil town for goods and services. The town also offers alternative accommodation for the tourists who may not wish to be accommodated in the conservancies.

Kigio wildlife conservancy is a 3,500 acre protected conservancy near Gilgil town. It was originally a cattle ranch owned by a white settler family. It was sold by the family to a land buying company, which after a few years discarded cattle keeping in favour of wildlife conservation. The conservancy has a stunning view of Mt Longonot, Lake Naivasha, and the Aberdare range. It has a wide ranging habitat from riverine and euphorbia woodland to short grass and leleshwa shrubs. Animals found in the conservancy include the endangered Rothschild giraffe, buffalo, zebra, waterbuck, impala, Grant and Thompson's gazelle, eland, hyena, leopard, hippopotamus, and over 200 species of birds. It also supports a rich diversity of indigenous flora species. Every year, local and international tourists tour the conservancy. Gilgil, being the only town in the neighbourhood of the conservancy, benefits economically from the visiting international tourists.⁹²

Soysambu conservancy is also a major tourist attraction site near Gilgil town. The conservancy is located north-west of the town along the Nairobi-Nakuru highway. The conservancy, which began as a cattle ranch, is owned by the Lord Delamere family.⁹³ It borders Lake Nakuru National park to the west, Ol Doinyo Eburru and Elementaita Badlands in the south, and Sogonoi mountains in the north. Soysambu conservancy consist of 48,000 acres of land which has diverse ecological significance. The conservancy is home to more than 450 bird species and over 10,000 mammals of over fifty species. The conservancy also offers morning hot air balloon flights. The balloons lift off at dawn. The approximated hour flight offers tourists a bird's eye view of the conservancy and the nearby grasslands. The visitors also get to see wild animals in the expansive grassland, especially the nocturnal rock hyrax.⁹⁴

Kikopey is a scenic meat-roasting centre located three kilometres from Gilgil town along Nairobi- Nakuru highway. The centre name is derived from a masai word which means 'a place where green turns white'. This is because of diatomite found in the neighbouring Elementaita and Kariandusi areas. Though the area is not classified among the big tourist

⁹² Thuge James, OI, 5.9.2015; Koinet Isaac, OI, 5.9.2015

⁹³ The soysambu conservancy begun as a cattle ranch in 1906.

⁹⁴ Mbogo Harrison, OI, 6.9.2015; Kago Kamau, OI, 6.9.2016

attraction sites, it continues to lure *nyamachoma* lovers from all over the country. Owing to centre's growing popularity, it is fast expanding and has even attracted a number of settlements. It is actually a popular stop-over for long distance travellers. Hundreds of trucks transporting goods to western Kenya and beyond make night stops in the area routinely. Kikopey depends on Gilgil town for most of its supplies.⁹⁵

5.9 Summary

Gilgil town declined immediately after Kenya's independence. This was because of reduction in the number of people depending on the town for goods and services. After 1964, the town began to recover, albeit slowly. Several factors contributed to this revival. The factors motivated the coming back of a sizeable number of people in the town causing businesses to thrive once again.

The disused barracks previously occupied by foreign troops were re-established. This happened after a considerable number of youths were enlisted into the KA. Previously abandoned camps and barracks all over the country become centres for training recruits. Gilgil town had number of abandoned military facilities which were reopened, and had soldiers throughout the year, giving the town a new lease of life.

The establishment of ASTU and NYS as new security facilities in the town after independence also influenced the town's revival. The two facilities led to an increase in the population in the town. The security personnel not only depend on Gilgil town for the supply of goods and services but also have invested heavily. For instance, Gilgil Teachers 'B' Estate is mainly owned by ASTU while Ngomongo Estate is mainly owned by NYS staff. Like the military, the two security institutions, have immensely influenced the development of Gilgil town. Both have initiated development projects aimed at winning the hearts and minds of the host communities.

Through CIMIC, the military has contributed immensely to the development of Gilgil town. Since the establishment of barracks in the town, the military has continued to carry out its secondary role aimed at forging cordial relation with the host community. The most visible of the military contribution towards the development of Gilgil town has been in construction projects.

⁹⁵ Gitau Samuel, OI, 6.10.2015; Olesabiti Peter, OI, 6.10.2015.

The establishment of GTI in 1988 in Gilgil town gradually increased the population of the town. At some point, GTI had over 3000 employees. These salaried town residents had a high purchasing power, which translated into a high demand for a variety of goods and services. This led to the establishment of a number of businesses including supermarkets, fuel stations, banking halls, as well as hotels and restaurants. It also led to a high demand for rental houses, which in turn led to the development of site and service estate.

In the early 1980s, tourism related activities increased. Tourism became a contributor to the economy of Gilgil town. This was at the beginning marginal. Gradually the nearby tourist destinations have attracted a number of visitors, both local and international throughout the year. Some of the visitors get accommodated in the town and therefore contribute to the town's economy. The tourist destinations in the vicinity of Gilgil town include Lake Elementaita, Kariandusi Pre-Historic site, Goodwill Scottish church built in 1947, Gilgil war cemetery as well as Kigio, Marura and Soysambu conservancies.

This chapter affirms the argument advanced by the study that the trajectory of development in Gilgil town continues to be determined and shaped not only by its security linkages but also by other factors. However, security installations accounts for much of the town's development.

CHAPTER SIX

GILGIL TOWN'S RAPID DEVELOPMENT, 1991-2014

6.1 Overview

With the revival of barracks and the establishment of other security installations from 1964 to 1990, Gilgil town recovered from the decline occasioned by departure of foreigners. It began to grow again as population continued to increase. The town developed further with introduction of two significant military policies. One allowed KDF personnel to live outside barracks and the other mandated them to serve in United Nation Peace Operations (UNPO) outside the country. The first part of this chapter investigates the policy that allowed military personnel to live outside barracks. This policy saw the growth and development of towns near barracks, garrisons and other military facilities. The second part of the chapter looks at UNPO duties. These duties gave soldiers opportunities to serve abroad under the UN where they earn extra income. On coming back home, the soldiers invest much of this money in the urban centres near their barracks. The third part looks at the inhabitants' feeling of security brought about by the presence of the security establishments and the influx of immigrants, especially during ethnic clashes in the former Rift Valley Province as well as the 2007/2008 post-election violence. The fourth part discusses the role of educational institutions in the development of Gilgil town. In essence, the chapter looks at Gilgil town in the recent years.

6.2 'The Marching Out'

Throughout history soldiers have experienced difficulties in re-establishing relationship with civilians after demobilization or retirement. During the First World War, soldiers returning home from war had difficulties re-integrating into civilian life. Commanders in war zones saw the importance of preparing their soldiers for this eventuality. Programmes such as short, medium, and long range patrols outside camps were initiated where soldiers got the opportunity to interact with civilians for hours, days and even weeks. These patrols took soldiers from the military environment they had been accustomed to for a considerable period of time and therefore gradually made them ready for demobilisation at the end of the campaign.⁹⁶

Other means of preparing soldiers for ultimate assimilation into civilian population include starting the separation process early enough. When the process is started early enough, service

⁹⁶ Nathan David Ainspan and Walter Penk, *When the Warriors Returns: Making the Transition at Home*, (Texas: Naval Institute Press, 2013), p. 120.

personnel become ready to assume their new status of being civilians. This readiness is vital for successful transition. World-over militaries offer assistance to their demobilised or retired soldiers. This assistance involves instructions on Separation Assessment Tool and Separation Checklist. These help retiring soldiers to self-evaluate themselves in terms of how well they are prepared for retirement or demobilisation.⁹⁷ In Ethiopia for example, after the end of the war in which Eritrea gained independence, many soldiers were simply released from their military duties and ordered to return back to their villages. No special attempts were made to reintegrate soldiers into civilian life, despite many of them having been in the military for so long that they knew no other life. When they were sent home, they acquired guns and turned into roving bandits who preyed on people in the countryside, thereby disrupting the economic life of affected areas. The Ethiopian government eventually came in and undertook various programs aimed at retraining and reintegrating former soldiers into civilian life.⁹⁸

Both retraining and reorientation are key components of successful reintegration of former soldiers into society. Many military commanders have found it necessary to help soldiers who are about to be demobilized or retired, acquire skills and orientations that would make them more suitable for employment in the already existing or newly emerging economic opportunities within their country and beyond. Retraining and re-orientation help soldiers to adopt ways of thinking that are more compatible with the civilian world and also help them to unlearn some of the mental orientations they developed as soldiers that are not compatible with civilian life.⁹⁹

Understanding that retiring from military is a huge change not just for service personnel but also for their families, and that it is important to make the civilian reintegration process easier for military personnel after service, the Kenyan military commanders led by General Daudi Tonje the then Chief of the General Staff, initiated a policy in 1997 that allowed married officers and service personnel of a certain rank to reside outside the barracks. Those who were to reside outside barracks were also allowed to draw a house allowance based on the prevailing rent rate. Previously, soldiers were not permitted to live outside their barracks; all of them were housed in barracks and other military installations. The main aim of the barracks

⁹⁷ John Anatswanashe "Democracy in Africa." *Journal of the institute for a Democratic Alternative for South Africa*, Vol. 10, 1996, p. 23.

⁹⁸ Lloyd J Dumas " Democratization, Demilitarization and Development in Africa: Theory and Experience" in Gideon M Mudacumura and M Shamsul Haque (ed), *Handbook of Development Policy Studies* (New York: Marcel Dekker Inc, 2004), p 485.

⁹⁹ Maj Gen Tom James "Training Soldiers to Acquire skills that can be transferred to civilians on demobilisation" *Journal for Contemporary History*, Vol. 31, 2006, p. 56.

is to separate soldiers from the civilian population and reinforce discipline, training and *esprit de corps*. This makes active soldiers to be less concerned with the civilian world; they therefore take little or no interest on civilian affairs. Upon demobilisation or retirement it becomes extremely difficult for such soldiers to settle down and make meaningful contributions to their local community.¹⁰⁰

Kenya Defences Forces have five elaborate training pillars. The fifth, which is of much relevance here, is preparation for life in retirement. Appreciating that society is not static, military commanders initiated a retirement training programme that targets personnel having three or less years to retirement. The programme was guided by the understanding that the Kenyan society had become, more fragmented, more individualistic and less disciplined with institutions as church, family and school wielding less influence. These changes put society at odds with classic military values of sacrifice, unity, self-discipline and considering the interests of the group before those of an individual. Retired or demobilised soldiers are repulsed by the command-free civilian life; they detest some aspects of civilian life and often get disillusioned. Consequently they start feeling out of place or even alienated. Not being able to adjust to civilian life after many years of living in barracks could even become fatal.¹⁰¹

KDF personnel on active duty are permitted to seek a last posting before retirement to a region in which they wish to retire. While in the region, they are allowed to live outside barracks as the first phase of reintegration into the society. They get to interact with civilians and therefore get accustomed to civilian life as well as civilian affairs. This is aimed at making transition from military to civilian life easily realised when demobilisation or retirement finally dawn.

When General Tonje assented to the policy that a specific group of military personnel be allowed to reside outside barracks and report to duty in the morning, shopping centres, trading centres, and towns near military barracks and other installations began to bloom. Commercial activities increased, for instance, transport and hospitality services boomed while the construction of rental houses increased profoundly. Such towns included Nanyuki, Isiolo and Gilgil as well as trading centres such as Kahawa Wendani, near Kahawa barracks, Umoja, near Lanet barracks and Silo, near Moi barracks in Eldoret.¹⁰²

¹⁰⁰ Respondent No.1, OI, 29.7.2015.

¹⁰¹ Erdrich Louise, *The Red Convertible* (Boston: Longman, 2011) pp 394-400.

¹⁰² Respondent No.3, OI, 29.7.2015.

Economic activities in Gilgil town intensified when soldiers began to reside outside barracks. With the new policy, soldiers who were not previously living with their families and other dependants were able to bring them to town. This made the population of Gilgil town to increase – in the 1999 national census the population of Gilgil town was 18,805 while in the 2009 national census it was 35,293 – leading to rise in demand for goods and services, which in turn led to increased growth of small and medium size business enterprises in the town.¹⁰³

Gilgil is home to a significant number of military retirees. Most of them have built permanent homes in estates that are almost exclusively inhabited by security personnel. These estates include Teacher ‘A’ and ‘B’, Sierra Leone, and Ngomongo. Since security organisations train their personnel in various technical fields, their retirees are an important source of skilled labour. They offer highly skilled labour to Gilgil community in automotive mechanics, medical services, private security services, physical fitness classes, and music-band training. These businesses have not only provided services to town residents but have also created employment, especially among the young people.

Many small and medium size businesses in Gilgil town have immensely benefited from being located near barracks and other security establishments where both active and retired security personnel live. The active and retired security personnel play a key role in stimulating the local economy, considering the high personal incomes. Gilgil economy is supported by the two groups and as a result, they are presenting viable growth opportunities for new and existing businesses. Business owners target security personnel to provide a ready market for their services. It is a common saying among Gilgil business people that ‘Nobody spends lots of money quicker than a soldier’¹⁰⁴. This implies that soldiers are their customers of choice and the reason why they are in business in the area. It is therefore clear that Gilgil town’s economic activities are heavily reliant on security personnel and their dependants, especially those who reside outside barracks and other security establishments.

6.3 ‘The Flights’

The United Nations (UN) was founded in 1945 with the aim of improving the well-being of humanity throughout the world by eradicating poverty, empowering the vulnerable and promoting sustainable livelihoods. The United Nations’ Charter (1945) mandates the UN to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war. One of its main purposes is therefore to

¹⁰³ Gichuki Kenda, OI, 16.1.2016.

¹⁰⁴ Muturi John, OI, 8.1.2016.

maintain international peace and security. The UN began sending peace-keeping forces in 1948, three years after its establishment. Peace-Keeping missions have since 1999 evolved into complex Peace Support Operations (PSOs). The UN Security Council (UNSC) has primary responsibility for maintenance of international peace and security. In a bid to fulfil this responsibility, the council establishes PSOs in conflict zones. The core objectives of the UN Peace-keeping operations are threefold: to create a secure and stable environment while supporting a state's capacity to maintain the rule of law and protect human rights; to promote dialogue and reconciliation and support legitimate and effective institutions of governance; to promote a framework of coherence and coordination of UN activities and of other actors at the national level.¹⁰⁵

UN organises PSOs to restore peace and order in conflict areas. PSOs are field operations established by the UN with the consent of parties concerned, to help control and resolve conflict between them.¹⁰⁶ Since the UN does not have its own military force, it depends on contributions from member countries. Once there is a need for peacekeepers, the UNSC writes to member states requesting them to contribute troops for a particular mission. Troop Contributing Countries (TCC) send their troops to United Nations Peace Support Operations (UNPSOs) for reasons ranging from economic and social to political. For instance, developing countries are partly motivated to take part in UNPSOs because of the reimbursement of country owned equipment offered by the UN. Though the foreign currency earnings from PSOs are insignificant to the overall economy of these countries, they do boost national exchange reserves. Equally remuneration given to the troops enables them to earn an extra income on top of the monthly salary offered by the home country. Political considerations making countries to participate in UNPSO include: enhancement of a country's national pride; persuasion by a global power or an influential partner; desire to influence the mission and access to privilege information; and accessibility to membership of UNSC.¹⁰⁷

Kenya's foreign policy expresses the country's commitment to National, Regional and World peace, security and development. Kenya became a member of the UN soon after independence. Shortly afterwards, Kenya became a UN transit zone for peacekeeping missions in Congo and Mozambique. Through the first and fourth committees of United

¹⁰⁵ Stanley Meisher, *United Nations: A History* (New York: Grove Press, 2011) p. 1-10.

¹⁰⁶ www.ipstc.org/media/document/issue_brief_No._1_April_2015.pdf Accessed on 9/15/2015.

¹⁰⁷ Donald C F Daniel and Katrin Heuel "Distinguishing Among Military Contributors" in Donald C. F. Daniel and Patricia Taft e tal (ed), *Peace Operations: Trends, Progress and Prospects*, (Washington DC: Georgetown University Press, 2008), p 27-30.

Nations General Assembly (UNGA), the country continues to contribute military, police and correctional facilities personnel to the UN and African Union (AU) Peace Support Operations. Currently, Kenya has peacekeepers in Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Sierra Leone, DR Congo and Liberia, among other countries.

PSOs within the KDF started when the UN requested the republic of Kenya to contribute forces for PSOs in the Middle East after the Israeli/Arab war.¹⁰⁸ Kenya acceded to the UN request but the troops were not deployed due to logistical constraints. The first actual participation of the KDF in PSOs came much later, when the Commonwealth requested Kenya to contribute troops for a peace mission in Rhodesia, the present-day Zimbabwe.

Kenya has consistently participated in the UNPOs. KDF personnel have served in sixteen countries in Africa, the Middle East, the Balkans and Asia. Presently, Kenya is ranked number six out of the ninety countries that contribute military, police, prison warders and civilian experts to the UNPSOs. KDF personnel have served in different UN and AU PSOs such as United Nations Operations in Mozambique (UNUMOZ) between December 1992 to December 1994, United Nations Protection Force for the former Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR) between February 1992 and December 1995, United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) between September 1993 to December 1997, United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) between March 2005 to July 2011, United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) from August 2011 and still on-going, United Nations Mission in Darfur from 2004 and still on-going, and African Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) from January 2007 and still on-going. Kenya's participation in PSOs spans three decades, involving over twenty missions and more than 50,000 troops. Between 1992 and 2001, Kenya was ranked the 17th largest contributor to UNPSOs, contributing four per cent of the troop.¹⁰⁹

On receiving a request for peacekeepers from the UN, the ministry of Foreign Affairs makes a policy decision on how to respond. This decision is pegged on clarity of the proposed mission mandate, political will of parties in the conflict, geopolitical interests of the states in close proximity to the conflict zone, provision of necessary resources, and the anticipated cooperation of relevant international actors. Once a policy decision to participate in a UN mission is taken, KDF commanders decide the scope and scale of the contingents, including logistics and operation details. Kenya's large scale contribution to the UNPSOs started in the

¹⁰⁸ Israel-Arab war took place in 1973.

¹⁰⁹ Alex J. Bellamy and Paul D. Williams " Trends in Peace Operations 1947-2003" in Joachin A. Koops and Norrie Macqueen e tal (ed), *United Nations Peacekeeping Operations*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015).

1990s. This can be explained by increase in conflicts in Africa at the time which led to an increase in UN peacekeeping duties in the continent.¹¹⁰

Personnel to be seconded for UN missions are selected through the KDF chain of command. KDF headquarters communicate to the lower formations the number of personnel to be drawn from various units and sub-units. The lower echelon commanders in turn instruct unit and sub-units commanders to submit names of suitable nominees. Based on seniority, soldiers who have not previously served in UN missions are given the priority. However, this process may change where certain skills and training are required. Personnel selected, and who are to be the face of KDF in the mission area, are drawn from all the three KDF services: Army, Air Force and Navy. All personnel nominated are put on an infantry role. Being selected for UNPSOs is every soldier's delight. Many individual soldiers are motivated to join UNPOs because of the extra income they earn while in the operations. They also consider the operations as a lifetime opportunity to tour the world and to see its people. However, financial freedom seems to be the main factor motivating soldiers to serve in UNPOs. Many see the chance as an opportunity to advance financially. To many, it is a lifetime opportunity to generate savings and gain financial security.¹¹¹

The amount of money paid to UN peacekeepers in allowances is periodically adjusted to cater for inflation and other fluctuations in the cost of living. Before deploying in the mission area, KDF personnel are trained on how best to invest their money once they return home. On completion of their duty in the mission area, the personnel are rotated by a new contingent that continues with the PSOs. This circle continues until peace and tranquillity is attained in volatile zones. Once soldiers return, the towns near military barracks or other security establishments, experience a boom in terms of demand for goods and services especially in the construction industry.

Gilgil town has benefited from the 'flights' in the sense that every year from 1990, soldiers have been returning home from overseas with extra income. This income has been invested particularly in construction of permanent residential houses and business premises. For instance, Gilgil Sierra Leone estate is owned mainly by military personnel who participated in the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone from 1999 to 2006. Most of the soldiers in the mission who hailed from Gilgil and elsewhere joined hands and bought over 1000 plots of 50

¹¹⁰ Muturi John, OI, 8.1.2016.

¹¹¹ Michael W Doyle and Ian Johnstone "Introduction" in Michael W. Doyle and Ian Johnstone, e tal (ed), *Keeping the Peace: Multidimensional UN Operations in Cambodia and El Salvador*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002), p.1-5.

by 100 feet on which they built residential houses as well as rental units. Similarly, a business premise known as Zagreb in the town's Site-and-Services Estate is owned by a retired soldier who participated in UNPROFOR. He named the premise after a hill in Yugoslavia where Kenya battalion camped. Given that every year a considerable number of soldiers in Gilgil must come back home from UN mission, business people always adequately prepare for their return. The comeback is an important event in the business community calendar. For instance, supermarkets fill their shelves to brim, hardware dealers re-stock their businesses, while service providers align themselves to the year's major sale season. Though the sighting of trucks bringing soldiers home from short duration training is celebrated by the business people, more celebration is evident when troops from UN mission are sighted since the customers are not just back but back with lots of money to spend.¹¹²

6.4 Influx of Immigrants

An ethnic group refers to a distinct category of people within a society, bound together by certain cultural features that differentiate them from other groups in the same society. This group derives its foundation from combined memories of the past and the common expectations.¹¹³ Ethnic identity would, therefore, mean identifying oneself with a certain ethnic group while ethnicity refers to a shared cultural identity which involves a range of distinctive behavioural and even linguistic features which are usually passed on through socialization from one generation to another.¹¹⁴

The phenomenon of ethno-politics is not limited to Kenya or Africa; It is common the world over where divergence in ethnicity exists. Kenya is a multi-ethnic society with at least forty two ethnic groups. These communities lived largely in harmony for many years in the pre-colonial period. Ethnic conflicts mostly caused by competition for natural resources were amicably resolved through traditional mechanisms. In the recent past, however, the centrality of ethnicity to political mobilization in Kenya is easily noticeable. Ethnic alliances have been formed to fight for political power. Dominant communities have thus been defining the direction of national elections. This situation has fomented anger, resentment, desire for revenge and aggressive political competition. This sub-topic demonstrates how ethnic clashes in former Rift Valley, Nyanza and Western provinces led to the development of Gilgil town

¹¹² Matheri Francis, OI, 7.28.2015; Kibagendi James, OI, 4.8.2015; Muraimo Patrick, OI, 12.1.2016.

¹¹³ Cletus N Chuku, "Ethnicity and Political Conflicts in Nigeria" in P Godfrey Okoth and Bethwell A Ogot(ed), *Conflict in Contemporary Africa* (Nairobi: Jomo Kenyatta Foundation, 2000), p 141.

¹¹⁴ D Crystal (ed), *The Cambridge Concise Encyclopedia*, 2nd Edition (London: Cambridge University press 1990) p. 296.

British colonial policy in Kenya restricted the earliest African political association within the borders of ethnically defined administrative units. Kenyan Africans were therefore deliberately made to see themselves as belonging to a particular ethnic community by the colonialists in their endeavour of divide and rule. As Caroline Elkins observes, 'The extensive commentary of Kenya's troubles has tended to blame ancient ethnic rivalry...and deliberate political instigations that awaken latent ethnic hostility'. British imperialism has also received its expected share of criticism, for inventing the practice of divide and rule.¹¹⁵

The fundamental divisions and debates leading up to independence were between Kenya African National Union (KANU) under the leadership of Jomo Kenyatta and Kenya Africa Democratic Union (KADU) led by among others Daniel Moi. KANU was perceived to represent primarily the two largest ethnic groups in the country that is Kikuyu and Luo. KADU therefore emerged as a reaction to KANU, as a coalition of smaller ethnic groups such as Kalenjin, Maasai, Turkana and Samburu. KADU feared Kikuyu and Luo dominance in an independent Kenya and therefore fought for federalism to protect the smaller communities from political domination. The dissolution of KADU and its absorption into KANU in 1966 did nothing to change this underlying ethno-regional political scenario.¹¹⁶

At independence, nationalism was at its peak due to the 'pulling together' of Kenya Africans during the struggle for independence. For instance, Mwai Kibaki, a Kikuyu, and Thomas Joseph Mboya, a Luo, went to parliament on cosmopolitan Nairobi tickets while Ochieng' Oneko did so on a cosmopolitan Nakuru ticket. Shortly after independence and the writing of a book titled 'Not Yet Uhuru' by O Odinga, J Kenyatta, T Mboya, and O Odinga, as well as their supporters quickly retreated to ethnic cocoons in their attempt to consolidate their personal political influence. Consequently, tribal organisations such as Gikuyu, Embu, and Meru Association (GEMA), The Luo Union, and Akamba Union gained significance as political platforms in late 1960s. This development compelled some significant national political leaders to retreat to safe ethnic constituencies. For example, M Kibaki moved from Nairobi to Othaya, his home ground, while O Oneko relocated politically from Nakuru to Nyanza.¹¹⁷

¹¹⁵ Caroline Elkins, "What's Tearing Kenya Apart, for One Thing." Washington Post of 6 January 2008, p.19.

¹¹⁶ Godfrey Mwakikagile, *Ethnic Politics in Kenya and Nigeria* (New York: Nova Science Publisher Inc 2001), pp. 117-120.

¹¹⁷ Sosteness Francis Materu, *The Post-Election Violence in Kenya: Domestic and International Legal Responses*, (Hague: Asser Press, 2015), pp. 15-38.

Assassinations of major politicians, proscription of political parties such as Kenya People Union (KPU) – formed in 1966 – and detention of opposing politicians introduced the politics of ethnic intrigues and hatred in Kenya. For instance, the assassination of Tom Mboya, a Luo in 1969 who was considered a potential successor to Kenyatta, heightened hostility between Kikuyu and Luo ethnic communities. Ethnic arithmetics in Kenya's political landscape was arguably perfected during the one party rule. Those who went against the wishes of 'tribal chiefs' in political matters were quickly labelled 'enemies' of the people and 'sell-outs' of their community. This coerced even politicians with a national outlook into singing their communities tunes. Promotion of ethnic interests at the expense of national interests therefore became entrenched into Kenyan politics.¹¹⁸

In 1990, Section 2a of the Kenyan Constitution was repealed to allow multi-party politics in the country. The introduction of multiparty politics opened competition that has since shaped the context of struggle for political power among political leaders and ethnic communities. Political parties have somewhat become ethnic parties slated for ethnic bargaining to acquire political power that would allow access to the national cake.¹¹⁹ Like during the struggle for independence where virtually every ethnic community had a movement to agitate for its rights, multi-party politics saw a number of ethnic group come up with their own political party. The Political leaders expected their kinsmen to rally behind them and anyone who did not they declared an 'enemy of the people'.

National elections in Kenya since the repealing of Section 2a, have witnessed pronounced ethnic voting patterns. As such, politicians tend to mark ethnic voting blocs where residents are supposed to vote in a specific way. Any resident who seems to have a contrary political opinion is targeted for expulsion. This usually leads to ethnic violence. For instance, from 1991, ethnic violence has erupted in the former Rift Valley Province in almost every general election. This happens as a result of political differences with ethnic communities perceived to be against KANU administration began to be attacked. Attackers intended to expel their political opponents from the Rift Valley.¹²⁰ In 1992, ethnic clashes continued dramatically. Reports of ethnic violence became common in the press. Opposition leaders accused the government of orchestrating ethnic violence in order to weaken the move towards multi-party

¹¹⁸ A S Mohamed, Dynamics and the Current Ethnic Conflicts in Africa: Nature, Context and consequences. A paper presented at the 1997 Annual Conferences of the Pan African Association of Anthropology (PAAA) held at institute of African Studies, University of Ghana, Accra.

¹¹⁹ William Tordoff, *Government and Politics in Africa* (Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1993), p 86.

¹²⁰ Kagiri Sylvester, OI, 8.9.2015.

politics. In April 1992, ethnic violence escalated in the former Rift Valley Province. Ethnic communities that were perceived to be against the KANU administration were displaced as killings, looting and burning of houses escalated.¹²¹ For two reasons Gilgil town became one of the areas that received most of these displaced persons. First, because it is less than thirty kilometres away from Central Province where most displaced families trace their origin from and second, because of the presence of security establishments which assured peace and security to the displaced persons.¹²²

In the wake of the 1997 national elections, violence erupted in most parts of the country—particularly in the former Rift Valley and neighbouring provinces. Six months to the General election, politicians began to rally the local populations around calls for '*majimbo*', or federalism. They portrayed the system as promising the return of land to the control of its pre-colonial inhabitants. This argument resonated well with the local population. The politicians on the ruling side promised that removal of non-locals would allow indigenous communities to take over whatever would be left behind.

Local communities in anticipation of acquiring land owned by 'outsider' in the Rift Valley, engaged in intimidation and violence to expel them. 'Non-locals' were identified and attacked. Violence, according to Amnesty International report, left hundreds of people dead or injured, and thousands of others displaced from their homes.¹²³ The 1997 violence followed a pattern similar to that encountered prior to Kenya's first multiparty elections in 1992. A significant number of displaced persons in this violence also settled in the Gilgil area because of peace and security accorded by the presence of security personnel as well as Gilgil's proximity to former Central Province. The eastern part of Gilgil sub-county borders Nyandarua County, which is in the former Central Province.

As mentioned earlier, Kenya has experienced election violence since the introduction of election-related multi-party politics. However, the 2007 election violence exceeded the scale of 1992 and 1997 ethnic clashes. The announcement of the December 2007 poll results triggered widespread violence that continued up to February 2008. The violence reportedly resulted in more than 1000 deaths and the displacement of over 500,000 civilians.¹²⁴ It bore

¹²¹ Respondent No.6, OI, 8.9.2015.

¹²² Materu, *The Post-Election Violence in Kenya*: (Hague: Asser Press, 2015), pp. 15-38.

¹²³ Amnesty International's report following the joint mission, Kenya: Political Violence Spirals (London: 10 June 1998), pp 22-23.

¹²⁴ Amnesty International's report following the joint mission, Kenya: Political Violence Spirals (London: 10 June 1998), pp 21-23.

strong similarities to earlier episodes of conflict in the former Rift Valley and neighbouring provinces. Though the election was catalyst for the violence, its causes are to be found in deeper-rooted historical and political conflicts involving land acquisition. The manner in which the land question in the former white highlands, and especially in the former Rift Valley region, has been addressed throughout the post-colonial period played an important role in the post 2007/08 post-election violence. The issue became ethicized and therefore the land question became a basis for political conflict. The displaced had to find alternative areas to settle in. Gilgil town received a significant number of these displaced persons who eventually bought plots and constructed homes.¹²⁵

In essence the population of Gilgil town increased with the clashes in the Rift Valley and the neighbouring provinces. From 1992 the price of buying land went up with increase in demand due to the number of immigrants seeking for a place to call home. Influx of private developers increased due to high demand of goods and services. Rental houses began to be constructed ostensibly to house middle class earners who had been displaced by ethnic violence. Basically commercial activities increased in a bid to meet the demand created by immigrants.¹²⁶

6.5 Educational Institutions

Education institutions influence development of a town in various ways since they ultimately become integral parts of the town. They not only increase intellectual and cultural activities of the town, but also contribute to the physical growth. In addition, the institutions not only strengthen the economic base of the town but also diversify it. Further, the institutions enrich the town culturally - especially through their cosmopolitan nature. The town's management is intimately connected to the institutions through provision of services.¹²⁷ The town provides services to the institutions. This creates a symbiotic relationship between the two. To provide educational services adequately, a number of agencies spring up near the institutions. These agencies include books and stationery shops, laundries, tea and coffee houses, hostels and grocery shops. The agencies contribute greatly to the commercial growth of the town. The cessation of operations and closure of education institutions often have a tremendous negative effect on towns in the area of economic activities, education and culture.¹²⁸

¹²⁵ Kagiri Sylvester; OI, 8. 9. 2015.

¹²⁶ Gakuiya Amos, OI, 14.7.2015; Karanu, OI, 27.7.2015.

¹²⁷ Ruth H K Wong, "The Urban Functions of Educational Institutions" in Joseph A Lauways and David G Scanlon (ed), *Education in the Cities* (London: Routledge, 2006), pp 30-31.

¹²⁸ F, Harbison and C A Myers, *Education, Manpower and Economic Growth* (New York: Mcgraw-Hill, 1964), p. 23.

Gilgil town has a number of academic institutions. A significant number of these institutions began between 1990 and the year 2000. In total, Gilgil town has twenty primary schools, ten secondary schools and three post-secondary colleges.¹²⁹ These institutions admit pupils and students from all over the country. Though the town has a number of day schools, most schools have boarding facilities. The numerous education institutions in the town pervade both economic and social life. They generate the town's physical growth and change, and are important agents of the town's development. The economy of the town is closely linked with educational institutions. For instance, many medium-size businesses in the town cater for educational needs. These businesses include bookshops, stationery shops, school uniform shops, laboratory chemicals, and equipment outlets as well as mass printing businesses. The institutions, especially those with boarding facilities, are main consumers of farm produce. Farmers engaging in agro-business activities supply their produce from their greenhouses to different educational institutions.¹³⁰

A general premise states that a town that relies on only one economic activity can easily crumble. The academic institutions play a major role in diversifying the economy of Gilgil town. Though they are not the major drivers of the town's development, they complement the major drivers by providing a stable economic base. The total number of pupils and students in these institutions is well over 5,000. The schools attract a substantial number of both teaching and non-teaching staffs who form part of the town residents. In essence, academic institutions not only lead to increase in population of Gilgil town but also in creation of employment for the residents.

Academic institutions whether government or private often secure funding from the central government or other donors. In Gilgil town, schools and colleges have created a new landscape for the town - particularly by changing the town's skyline. For instance, Gilgil Hills Schools located on top of a hill west of Gilgil town have created a beautiful landscape especially when viewed from the main town. Equally, Spring Junior Academy, located behind Gilgil post office, has a three storey building that has changed the town's skyline.

Post-secondary academic institutions equip local youths with technical knowledge. After graduation, some of them establish businesses in Gilgil. For instance, most garages and steel fabrication businesses in the town employ *Comboni* Polytechnic graduates. *Comboni* Polytechnic is a Catholic Church-sponsored institution that was established in Gilgil town in

¹²⁹ Njatha, OI, 13.7.2015.

¹³⁰ Muthoga David, OI, 10.9.2015.

1980. It offers a range of diploma and certificate courses which include automotive engineering, motor vehicle mechanics, graphic design, masonry, information technology, computer networking, repair and maintenance as well as accountancy. The polytechnic has played a key role in the development of the town - especially the informal sector since some highly skilled labour force remain and settle in the town after graduation.¹³¹

The cessation of operations and closure of these institutions has had a tremendous negative effect on the town in the area of economic activities, education and culture. For instance, Gilgil's *Wamiti* High School in 1988 had a population of over 1000 students, but due to poor management, the population began to decline and by late 1990s the students' population was below 300. This affected the town in the sense that the teaching and non-teaching staff that lost their employment lived and shopped within the town. In essence the town's economic activities were affected; some businesses which solely targeted the school went down as the school finally closed. When the school was re-established five years later, under a new name and management, economic activities targeting the school began to flourish.¹³² Although Gilgil High School has not achieved its former glory, its contribution to the town's economy is on an upward swing.

6.6 Gilgil town's Main Setbacks.

The rapid development of Gilgil town experienced in recent years has exposed its main setbacks. The town's major challenge is of lack of expansion space. Gilgil town is surrounded by security establishments and large conservancies belonging to private owners. The eastern part of the town borders Kenyatta Garrison and Kigio conservancy while the Western side borders GEMA. The Southern side borders Marura conservancies and North part borders ASTU, NYS College and Gilgil barracks. Subsequently, there is virtually no space for expansion to accommodate the exponentially increasing demand for both business premises and residential houses. As a result, a growing trend of renovating or demolishing of old buildings to suit modern design is now becoming popular. As such, landmark buildings such as the colonial Gilgil hotel, which later became Salama Lodge, have been demolished so as to give space for the construction of modern buildings. These demolitions are destroying the town's history.

¹³¹ Mwanesi Job, OI, 16.1.2016.

¹³² Gichuki Kenda, OI, 1.16.2016.

Lack of expansion space has hiked land prices in Gilgil area. Plots of land that originally sold for Kenya shillings 250,000 are now selling at KShs 1,000,000 four and half years on.¹³³ Lack of land is likely to divert potential private developers to other towns. The town's further development prospects are threatened by lack of space. The sub-county administration needs to put in place an expansion strategy that will see the town acquire more land. Private land owners need to be encouraged to sell off part of their land to the county government. Without land for expansion, Gilgil town may never attain the status of neighbouring towns such as Naivasha and Nakuru.

Due to expansion of built up areas necessitated by a greater population density, flooding has become a common phenomenon in Gilgil town in the recent years. Building of modern houses and construction of roads involve placing down of impermeable substances. This has led to reduction in the amount of natural ground that can absorb rainfall in Gilgil town. Reduction of permeable ground has resulted in an increase in the generation of surface runoff. The runoff flows along the impervious surface until it reaches a depression. As the depression fills up, the runoff spills out to the impermeable roadways and pavements - causing serious flooding in the town. The area mostly affected by floods is between the Post Office and D E B primary school. Businesses on both sides of the road shut down for weeks especially during the long rains. The floods cause extensive damage to power lines, roads, water and sewage pipes, and bridges as happened during the 1997/1998 *El Niño* rains. The flooding led to decline in the local economy as businesses were unable to operate effectively without power and road connections.¹³⁴

Gilgil's residents appreciate the importance of security establishments in the town. However, they are also aware of the challenges that the security establishments may bring along. For instance, cases of accidental explosions in security installations have been reported throughout history. Most of these explosions are caused by accidental fires that raze explosive stores. When this happens, untold destruction results. For instance, an explosion at the Segami General Depot, a United States Army facility located in the city of Sagami, Japan caused untold destruction in the facility and its vicinity on 23 August 2015. Though no injuries were reported because people were evacuated, buildings were extensively damaged. However, the 27 January 2002, Lagos armoury explosion burnt down a large section of northern Lagos and created panic that spread to other areas. The accidental detonation of a large stock of military

¹³³ Theuri John, OI, 16.1.2016.

¹³⁴ Gathogo Kamau, OI, 16.1.2016; Kimani John, OI, 16.1.2016.

high explosives killed over 1000 people while thousands were injured and many others were left homeless. The tremor from the explosion destroyed many buildings in the area.¹³⁵ Though no explosion of high magnitude has been reported in the town, a sight of unmanageable fire near the barracks always causes panic amongst the Gilgil town's residents. Thoughts of fire outbreaks discourages investors from investing in the garrison town.

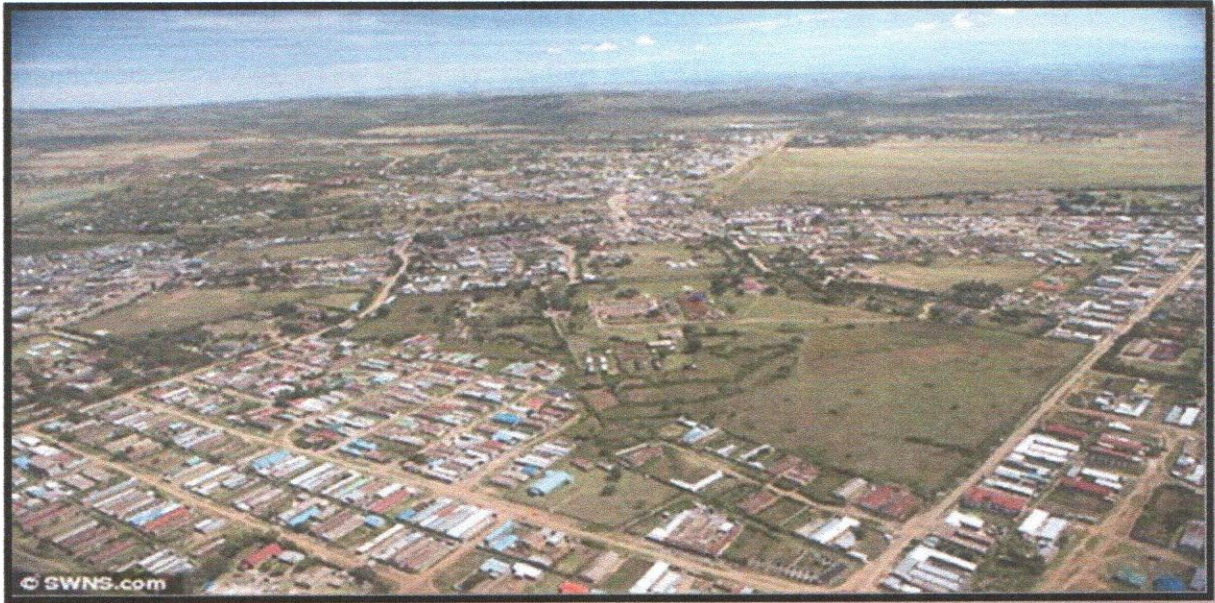


Photo 17: An Aerial view of Gilgil town. Photography taken on 18 June 2015.
Source: www.dailymail.co.uk

6.6 Summary

Throughout history, soldiers have, after demobilization or retirement experienced difficulty in re-establishing relationship with civilians. As such, military commanders initiate diverse programmes to prepare their personnel for this eventuality. The programmes are designed to take soldiers away from the military environment for a considerable time and therefore gradually make them ready for demobilisation or retirement. The programmes to prepare soldiers for the ultimate assimilation into the civilian population are started a few years to demobilisation or retirement so as to make transition successful.

Understanding that retiring from military is an enormous change for service personnel and their family, KDF senior commanders led by General Daudi Tonje in 1997 initiated a policy that allowed married officers and service personnel of certain ranks to reside outside barracks and report to duty every morning. Due to this commercial centres begun to bloom around military barracks while economic activities increased in the existing commercial centres in the

¹³⁵ Ben Wisner and Mark Pelling 'African Cities of Hope and Risk' in Mark Pelling and Ben Wisner (ed) *Disaster Risk Reduction: Cases From Urban Africa* (London: Earthscan, 2009), pp. 25-30.

barracks vicinity. Gilgil town being near Gilgil and Kenyatta barracks benefited from the policy. Economic activities heightened and the population increased. Demand for goods and services increased leading to mushrooming of medium size business enterprises.

Another military policy that influenced the development of Gilgil town in the 1990s is KDF participation in UNPSOs. Military personnel involved in the UNPSOs are paid UN peacekeepers allowances in addition to their monthly pay by their respective countries. On completion of the peace keeping duty, soldiers return home. The towns near military barracks or other security establishments witness a windfall in terms of sale of goods and services as well as construction business. Gilgil town has benefited from UNPSOs. From 1990, soldiers returning from the UNPSOs have immensely invested in the town.

Due to the peaceful atmosphere brought about by the presence of numerous security formations, Gilgil town has witnessed an influx of immigrants especially those fleeing ethnic clashes. The ethnic clashes that took place in the former Rift Valley and neighbouring provinces have been a blessing in disguise for Gilgil town. Because of the presence of security establishments which promise peace and security to the displaced persons, Gilgil received a substantial number of immigrants. These persons eventually bought plots and constructed their homes in the town. The price of buying of properties escalated with the demands brought about by the displaced people. Private developers increased in the town in a bid to construct rental houses to be occupied by middle class income earners displaced in the 1992, 1997 and 2007/8 ethnic clashes.

Educational institutions influence the development of a town in various ways. The institutions become an integral part of the town. Their employees live, shop and eat within the town. Gilgil town has a significant number of academic institutions that began between 1990 and 2000. In total, there are twenty primary schools, ten secondary schools, two post-secondary colleges and one polytechnic. All these institutions pervade both economic and social life of the town. The economy of the town is closely related with the education institutions since a number of medium size businesses in the town cater for educational needs. Academic institutions have not only diversified the economy of the town but also changed its skyline and landscape.

Gilgil town developed rapidly between 1991 and 2014. This was particularly because of military policies that saw soldiers reside outside barracks and also serve in UNSOPs. The two policies saw soldiers inject more money into the town's economy. The 1992, 1997 and 2007/8

ethnic clashes in the Rift valley and neighbouring provinces led to the influx of people in the town particularly because of its proximity to central province and the peace and tranquillity promised by security establishments in the town. The clashes led to increased price in property market. In the 1990s, education institutions increased in number due to the increase in population. In essence it is vividly clear that security establishments influence the development of towns near them.

The rapid development of Gilgil town experienced in the recent years has exposed the town to a major underlying challenge: that of lack of expansion space. Gilgil town is surrounded by security establishments and large conservancies belonging to private owners. There is virtually no space for further expansion to accommodate the exponentially increasing demand for both business premises and residential houses. As a result a growing trend of renovating or demolishing of old buildings to suit contemporary design is becoming popular. The sub-county administration needs to put in place an expansion strategy that will see the town acquire more land. Without expansion space, Gilgil town may never attain the status of its neighbouring towns such as Naivasha and Nakuru even after long period.

Due to increased built up areas brought about by a greater population density, flooding has become a common phenomenon in Gilgil town in the recent years. Building of modern houses and construction of roads involves placing down of impermeable substance. This has led to reduction in the amount of natural ground that can absorb rainfall in Gilgil town. The reduction of permeable ground has resulted into an increase in the generation of surface runoff which causes serious flooding. This chapter has endeavoured to show that Gilgil town has in the recent years rapidly developed due to a host of factors; however it is clear that security establishments have played a central role in this development.

CHAPTER SEVEN

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Summary

Pre-colonial Gilgil area was seasonally occupied by the Maasai community who were predominantly transhumant pastoralists. They used the area as seasonal pasture lands, especially during the dry spells and when disease broke out in their ancestral lands. The Maasai roamed all over present-day East Africa searching for pasture, water and salt licks. They left behind stumps of their presence through naming of physical features they encountered. In the Gilgil area, they named several physical features like; Lake Elementaita, River Moridat, and River Kirkir. Gilgil town derives its name from River Kirkir.

In 1897, about 400 Indian soldiers camped in Gilgil area after participating in a British military campaign in the Sudan. This camping heralded the presence of military camps and other security installations in the area. The Indian contingent's commander must have considered the area's terrain, climatic conditions and presence of water before declaring it suitable for camping. Indian railway workers were excited to have found their country's army at Gilgil during the railway construction. When their contract ended with Uganda Railway and Harbour Corporation, some of the Indians settled in Gilgil shopping centre as *dukawallas*. In Gilgil, they had a ready market for their goods and services. They also felt secure due to the presence of their homeland army.

Both road and railway transport influenced the development of Gilgil town. The town started as a roadside shopping centre along the Mackinnon-Scalter Road. Construction of the Uganda railway that followed the Mackinnon-Scalter Road reached Gilgil in 1900. This made the shopping centre a significant nodal transport point. Gilgil Railway Station served both military and civilian passengers. The station served Gilgil itself, the Aberdare area then known as 'Happy Valley', and Nyahururu (then called 'Thompson's Falls'). The construction of both Gilgil-Thompson's falls road and Gilgil-Thompson's Falls feeder railway line substantially increased commercial activities in the town, hence its further development.

Lord Delamere, a renowned European settler, settled in Gilgil area in 1906. He welcomed other settlers to join him in his endeavour to introduce an agricultural economy in Gilgil area. European settlers influenced the development of Gilgil town in two main ways. Firstly, they provided employment opportunities to unskilled African workers. The workers visited the town during market day, which was usually was a Sunday. Secondly, some of the white

settlers were members of the Gilgil Urban Council. They therefore agitated for the upgrading of the town by the colonial administration.

BATUK used Gilgil area as a training ground. The troops started their training in the United Kingdom, then moved to Boar in Germany before coming to Gilgil in Kenya for four months' training. From Kenya the trainees proceeded to Hong Kong. The soldiers' presence in Gilgil boot camp boosted the town's commercial – activities especially hospitality business.

The topography and climatic conditions in Gilgil area favour military training and other activities. The moisture content both in the air and in the soil makes it easy for soldiers to maintain arms, military hardware, ammunition, and other explosives. These features and conditions have made Gilgil town a host of various security establishments. For instance, as from 1930s Gilgil area had several KAR and KR camps. These camps morphed to become the present-day Kenyatta Garrison, Gilgil Barracks, and the Gilgil National Youth Service College.

During the WWI and WWII, Gilgil become an important recruiting, training and mobilisation centre for military personnel. It also became a concentration as well as a transit centre for soldiers en route to battle fronts. Further, the town became a detention camp for prisoners of war. After the war, the town became an important demobilisation centre. The activities triggered by the WWII saw the number of military personnel in the town increase. This conversely led to increased demand for goods and services, which in turn led to augmented commercial activities in the town. In effect, the presence of large numbers of military personnel and the work done by the prisoners of war gave Gilgil town a new face.

After WWII, the development of Gilgil town slowed down. This was because the number of military personnel drastically declined due to massive demobilisation of soldiers. The departure of soldiers in large numbers affected the town's economy. Businesses that targeted military personnel as main clientele closed down, leading to a significant reduction of the town's commercial activities.

Starting from 1946, Kenya experienced an upsurge in nationalism. This influenced the development of Gilgil town in a number of ways. In 1947, a Jewish detention camp was set up in Gilgil town. The camp held close to 300 Lehi and Irgun fighters. Since the fighters staged successful jail breaks in previous detention camps in Eritrea and the Sudan, the British government wanted them held in a maximum security facility. They therefore endeavoured to have Gilgil area militarised as evidenced by allocation of land around the town to former

British soldiers. The location of the detention camp in Gilgil placed the town in the world map. The town became important not only to the colonial administration but also to the United Kingdom government. As an institution, the camp influenced the development of the town through its staff – who were all Europeans – and depended on the town for goods and services.

The *Mau Mau* movement activities in Kenya led to declaration of a State of Emergency in 1952. The activities saw two British military brigades come to Kenya. One of the brigades was tasked to mount a campaign against the Mau Mau fighters' operating from bases in the Aberdare forest. The brigade made Gilgil town its operational base. The high concentration of security personnel in Gilgil area during the campaign, which lasted four years, greatly influenced the development of Gilgil town. Trade boomed and construction work both in town and in the barracks increased. In 1955, the County Council of Naivasha was made up of two district councils: Naivasha and Gilgil. On 6 September 1957 both Naivasha and Nakuru county council began to meet to discuss a merger. This undertaking was led by A B Goord who was chairman of Nakuru County Council. The merger, as was reported in the *Standard* newspaper dated 6 September 1957, aimed at making local governments in the highlands efficient.

The establishment of African Diatomite Industries and the Ndume Farm Machinery Factory in the Gilgil area, greatly influenced the development of Gilgil town. The two plants created employment for unskilled African workers. This led to an influx of job seekers which consequently increased the population of the town. The increased population further led to increased commercial activities in the town. The factories are still in existence.

Towards Kenya's independence, the development of Gilgil town declined. This was mainly because of departure of the European settlers and British soldiers. Since the economy of the town was mainly hitched on the presence of military personnel, who made a substantial percentage of the total population of the town, their departure led to a massive reduction in the demand for goods and services. This development nearly ruined the economy of Gilgil town which ebbed significantly.

After 1964, the development of Gilgil town began to revive-albeit slowly. Several factors address this revival. The abandoned military camps initially occupied by foreign forces began to be re-established. This followed a major military recruitment in which politicians desired to have all ethnic communities in Kenya represented in the military. Gilgil town had a number of

abandoned military facilities. Upon their re-opening and occupation by soldiers throughout the year, the town got a new lease of life. Business boomed again in the town since the departure of white settlers and British soldiers.

Post-independence Gilgil has seen the military carry out its secondary role of forging cordial relations with the host community. Most visible of the military contributions towards the development of the town has been in form of civil projects. These projects include; road construction and maintenance, bridge construction and repair, handing over of existing military facilities to civil authorities, provision of education, organisation of medical camps, planting of trees in water catchment areas, disaster response, aerial photographing, and hydrographical surveys. These CIMIC activities have directly or indirectly influenced the development of Gilgil town.

The National Youth Service first field training unit was established in Gilgil area in 1964. The unit later became a training college. By 1970, the college offered basic NYS training to over 800 youth annually. After basic training, NYS graduates embark on technical training courses. Gilgil NYS College hosts NYS School of hospitality, accountancy and construction. As such, the college has personnel throughout the year. Apart from the NYS personnel, the college has a significant number of staff who directly depends on Gilgil town for goods and services. Just as the military and police personnel, both civilian and uniformed NYS staff have immensely influenced the development of Gilgil town. Gilgil's Ngomongo Estate is mainly owned and occupied by NYS staff. The NYS College has also initiated several development projects in the town as part of its corporate social responsibility. The end of the NYS basic training course is marked by a pass-out parade ceremony usually officiated either by the Head of State or his representative. Months prior to a pass-out parade, Gilgil town becomes a beehive of activity. Commercial activities in the town increase in anticipation of the annual event. This is one of the annual events that have not only put Gilgil in the national limelight but also influences the town's business calendar.

Setting up of new security facilities in Gilgil town after independence further influenced the town's revival. The establishment of ASTU in the town in 1967 led to an increase in the town's population. The population further increased when the unit was upgraded to an independent wing and Gilgil became the national headquarters. ASTU annual events such as horse racing and rifle range competitions attract a significant number of people who include international visitors who come to enjoy the week long competitions. Majority of ASTU personnel, who serve in the United Nations Peace Support Operations, have invested in the

town. Gilgil's Teachers 'B' estate is mainly a residential area owned by ASTU and military personnel.

In the early 1980s, tourism began to gradually contribute to the economy of Gilgil town. The nearby tourist destinations attract local and international visitors throughout the year. This has led to the development of a hospitality industry in the town. Tourist attraction sites near the town include Lake Elementaita, Kariandusi Pre-historic site, Goodwill Scottish church, Gilgil War Cemetery as well as Kigio and Soysambu conservancies.

Gilgil Treatment Industry was established in 1988. At one time the industry employed close to 2000 skilled and unskilled workers. These salaried town residents had a high purchasing power and therefore their presence led to establishment of several supermarkets, fuel stations, banks and restaurants. The industry also caused a high demand for rental houses, which led to the development of a site and service estate.

Gilgil town has developed tremendously from 1991. This is because of initiation of a number of military policies that directly influence towns near barracks and other military installations. In 1997, Kenya military commanders led by General Daudi Tonje initiated a policy that allowed married officers and service personnel of certain ranks to reside outside the barracks. The commanders aimed at having soldiers due for retirement interact with civilians and get accustomed to civilian life, so that on retirement, their transition from military to civilian life is smooth. This policy led to the development of commercial centres near military establishments. Where centres already existed, commercial activities increased. Gilgil town being near two major military barracks was immensely influenced by the policy. Commercial activities heightened and the population increased. Demand for goods and services rose, resulting to mushrooming of medium size business enterprises. On the other hand, real estate business blossomed.

Another military development that influenced garrison towns in Kenya is increased participation of KDF personnel in United Nations Peace Operations (UNPOs). KDF began to participate in UNPOs in 1979. However, its participation increased fundamentally in the 1990s. Between 1992 and 2001, Kenya was ranked the seventeenth largest contributor to UNPOs, contributing four per cent of the total troops. Military personnel involved in the UNPOs are paid UN peacekeepers allowances in addition to their monthly pay by their countries. On completion of duty, soldiers return home and invest the UN proceeds and other savings. Towns near security establishments witness a windfall in terms of sale of goods and

services and other assets. Gilgil town has benefited from UNPOs; soldiers returning from the UN duties have invested in the town, particularly in real estate. They have constructed permanent homes and business premises. They have also started a number of medium-size businesses run mainly by their spouses and other dependants.

The presence of security establishments in an area promises peace and security to the host community. Gilgil being a garrison town has witnessed an influx of immigrants, especially those fleeing from the ethnic clashes of 1992, 1997, and 2007/8 in the Rift Valley Province. The immigrants eventually settled in the town, further increasing its population. The cost of buying property especially land, escalated. Rental house construction increased as the demand for housing went up due to the increased population.

Between 1990 and 2000, a significant number of academic institutions were started in Gilgil town. Presently, Gilgil town has twenty primary schools, ten secondary schools, two post-secondary colleges, and one polytechnic. These educational institutions pervade both the economic and social life of Gilgil. The town's economy is closely related to institutions since a number of medium-size businesses cater for educational needs. The institutions have not only diversified the town's economy but also changed its skyline and landscape.

7.2 Conclusion

The study was aimed at establishing the rise and development of Gilgil town. It was motivated by the fact that the town is over a century old yet remarkable development started in the late 1980s. This study largely examines the factors that have influenced the development of the town. The study has established that the origin, rise and development of Gilgil town has been influenced by a host of factors. However, the presence of numerous security establishments in the town played, and continues to play, the main role in the development of the town. An analytical look at the national security policies, legislations, strategies and other security related developments shows that they either accelerated or decelerated the development of the towns and other settlement near the security establishments. A central argument in this study is that the development of Gilgil town would significantly decline with the departure of security personnel and their dependants. Further, up scaling of security establishments would mean more development of the town. The stand taken in this study is that without security establishments, the economic development of Gilgil town would not have attained its current status. Military barracks are not only the most conspicuous landmarks in Gilgil town but also serve as important economic bastions. The Sub-County

headquarter is actually the most militarised town in Nakuru County. The above stand is qualified by the fact that security establishments are the largest employers in the town, and therefore security and defence-related spending accounts for majority of economic activities. That is not to deny that other factors are also significant in the development of the town. However, with the decentralization of state administration, attention has been diverted from cities and towns to counties. This devolution is poised to fundamentally turn the fortunes of small towns that now serve as county or sub-county headquarters.

The research provides an important contribution to the existing urban history in Kenya. The study presents a useful analysis in understanding the relationship between security establishments and the towns near them.

7.3 Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, a number of recommendations emerged. The rapid development Gilgil town has experienced in recent years has exposed it to a major underlying challenge: lack of expansion space. The town is surrounded by a number of security establishments and large conservancies belonging to private individuals. Because of this, the town has virtually no space for further expansion to accommodate the exponentially increasing demand for both business premises and residential houses. As a result, a growing trend of renovating or demolishing of old buildings to suit modern construction requirements is now becoming popular. The sub-county administration needs to put in place a town expansion strategy that will lead to acquisition of more land. Further, the town is losing a lot of its history through demolition of its landmark buildings. The sub-county administration may need to designate a number of buildings as monuments so as to preserve the town's history.

Due to expansion of the build-up area occasioned by a greater population density, flooding has become a common phenomenon in Gilgil town – especially during long rains. The increase of impermeable surfaces have led to reduction in the amount of water absorbed into the ground during the rains. This has resulted in increased runoff, which causes flooding. There is therefore need to construct drainage systems that can discharge rain water to streams and rivers.

Gilgil town is home to several security establishments that may store explosive substances. Incidents of accidental explosions can therefore not be wished away. Since most accidental explosions are caused by accidental fires, town residents need to be enlightened on basic fire

fighting skills. Further, the town needs to have a well-equipped fire fighting department that can join hands with other existing fire response teams in case of fire outbreaks.

Gilgil town has thirty three academic institutions of different levels. These have become an integral part of the town. Both civic and institution leaders need to come up with a coordination forum that will see the two partners working together for mutual benefit. The sub-county provides services and the institutions consume them. This makes for a symbiotic relationship between the two; for if either side is removed the other would suffer. The cessation of operations and closure of these institutions often have tremendous negative effects on the host towns.

Security establishments are an important prop of the economy of Gilgil town. This is evidenced by the fact that when security personnel are away from the town there comes about a general downturn in business. Businesses that mainly target military or security personnel reduce their operations and may even close down awaiting the return of the personnel. The town may need to further diversify its economy as a precautionary measure against closure or scaling down of operations in security establishments.

Co-location of security establishments with civilians challenges the ability of either side to promote cordial relations. Mutual co-existence is beneficial to both groups. Cooperation aimed at facilitating good relations between the actors is vital. Cooperation plays a major role in ironing out differences between civilians and security personnel. It alleviates competition and minimises misunderstanding between the two groups while emphasising pursuit of common goals where necessary. Such cooperation needs to be strengthened in Gilgil town.

Finally, the study is not all inclusive; more study need to be done on Gilgil town. For instance, the negative impacts of security establishments on the socio-economic growth. In the course of this research negative impacts were apparent. It would also be interesting to study how military sub-culture has influenced the civilians living near the barracks. The influence was vivid in the course of the study.

SOURCES

(A) ORAL INFORMANT

	Name	Age	Occupation/Details	Place of Interview	Date of Interview	Length of Stay in Gilgil (in yrs)
1	Chebet, Mary	38	Graduate, NYS	Gilgil	26.7.15	15
2	Cheporion, Peter	38	Guide, Kariandusi Pre-historic Site	Kariandusi Pre-historic Site	2.8.15	17
4	Gachihi, Mary	45	Secretary, DO's Office, Gilgil	Gilgil Town	22.7.15	25
7	Gakuiya, Amos N	62	Businessman, Gilgil	Bondeni, Gilgil	14.7.15	41
3	Gathi, Isaac	37	Former Employee, PHS	Site and Service, Gilgil	8.7.15	17
8	Gathogo, Kamau	52	Real Estate Developer	Gilgil Town	17.1.16	30
9	Gichuki Kenda	64	Director, Good Shepherd Schools, Gilgil	Gilgil Town	16.1.16	40
6	Gitau, Samuel	40	Businessman, Kikopey	Kikopey, Gilgil	6.10.15	25
5	Gitau, Solomon	50	Environmentalist, Aberdare/ IDP	Langalanga, Gilgil	8.7.15	25
10	Githinji, John	70	Elder, Site and Services Estate, Gilgil	Site and Services, Gilgil	29.7.15	49
11	Kagai, Mugoiri	70	Elder/Proprietor, Freci Hotel, Gilgil	Gilgil Town	2.10.15	50
14	Kagiri, Sylvester	48	MCA, Nyandarwa	Gilgil Town	8.9.15	20
13	Kagwa, George	66	Former, Driver NYS, Gilgil	Ngomongo, Estate Gilgil	27.7.15	36

	Macharia			town		
12	Kamau, Joseph	50	Church worker, ACK Gilgil	Gilgil Town	27.7.15	30
16	Kamau, Kago	66	Former, Soyambu employee	Elementaita, shopping centre	6.9.15	28
17	Kamomo, Johnson	46	Former, ADIL employee	Gitare Shopping centre	10.9.15	32
18	Karanu Karanja	54	Business man	Gilgil Town	27.7.15	8
19	Kariuki, Joseph	43	Employee, GTI	Gilgil Town	1.8.15	20
15	Kariuki, Kinuthia	72	Former, ASTU employee	Gilgil Town	20.7.15	50
20	Karuga, Maina James	68	Retire AP officer	Site and Service Gilgil	8.7.15	45
21	Kibagendi, James	56	Retired, KDF officer	Teachers' Estate, Gilgil	4.8.15	20
22	Kiguro, Gregory	43	Inspect, ASTU	Gilgil Town	25.7.15	10
23	Kimani, John	50	Land Surveyor	Syndicate Estate, Gilgil	17.1.16	30
24	Kimundo, Rose	48	Business lady	Gilgil/ Kikohey	1.8.15	15
57	Koinet, Isaac	40	Kigio Employee	Gilgil Town	5.9.15	12
25	Kurunui, Joshua	55	Instructor, NYS	Gilgil Town	26.7.15	20
26	Kwamboka, Loise	40	Former GTI, employee	Gilgil Town	1.8.15	13
27	Lemayian ole Santamo	77	Maasai Elder	Oljorai Vilage	29.9.15	58
28	Macharia,	71	Business man	Site and	27.7.15	38

	George			Service, Gilgil		
29	Maina, Njoroge	49	Business man	Gilgil Town	28.7.15	15
30	Matheri, Francis	67	Retired, KDF officer	Malewa Village	28.7.15	37
31	Mbaria, Kennedy	30	Civic Leader, Gilgil	Gilgil Town	10.1.16	17
32	Mbaya, Jeremiah	66	Retired ASTU Inspector	Gilgil Town	24.7.15	38
33	Mbogo, Harrison	46	Employee, Soysambu	Elementaita Shopping centre.	6.9.15	9
34	Mbugua Waithaka	72	Elder, Bondeni Estate, Gilgil	Bondeni, Estate Gilgil	28.7.15	50
35	Mohamed Ali	49	D.O Gilgil Division	Gilgil Town	9.1.16	4
36	Muchiri, Francis	44	Businessman/IDP	Gilgil Town	27.7.15	24
37	Mugambi Argwins	62	Retired Technical Instructor, NYS Gilgil	Gilgil Town	22.7.15	37
39	Muraimo, Patrick	47	Businessman	Gilgil Town	12.1.16	30
40	Mureithi Mwaniki	66	Businessman	Syndicate Estate, Gilgil	22.7.15	42
38	Musyoka Grace	45	Instructor NYS, Gilgil	Gilgil Town	26.7.15	13
41	Muthoga, David	50	Teacher	Coulson Boys, Gilgil	10.9.15	6
42	Muturi, John	54	KDF Personnel	Teacher's A Estate, Gilgil	8.1.16	30
45	Mwanesi, Job	59	Former Comboni Polytechnic Manager, Gilgil	Site and Service Estate, Gilgil	16.1.16	29

44	Mwangi, Erastus	55	Education officer, Naivasha	Sierra Leone Estate, Gilgil	28.7.15	28
43	Mwangi, James	40	Business man	Gilgil Town	10.1.16	17
46	Nabendo, Samuel	60	Retired KDF Personnel	Sierra Leone Estate, Gilgil	13.7.15	38
47	Ngururi, Mwangi	68	Retired, MOSD Employee	Teacher's A Estate, Gilgil	14.7.15	36
48	Njatha N. K	45	Sub-County Edn offr	Gilgil town	13.7.15	3
49	Njoroge, Elijah	52	Chairman, Goodwill Church	Kikopey, Gilgil	2.8.15	32
50	Njoroge, Njenga Harun	72	Elder/Business man	Gilgil Town	13.7.15	40
51	Njuguna, Njoroge	48	Resident Teacher's B near GCWG	Teacher's B Estate, Gilgil	24.7.15	18
52	Nkonge, Gideon	59	Retired KDF Personnel	Site and Service Estate, Gilgil	13.7.15	28
53	Nyanga, John	54	Railway officer	Nakuru Town	3.8.15	7
55	Ogolla, Julius	54	Instructor NYS, Gilgil	Gilgil Town	26.7.15	20
54	Olesabiti, Peter	57	Resident Kikopey	Kikopey Shopping Centre	6.10.15	28
56	Oloishona, James	47	NFMM Employee	Gilgil Town	13.9.15	10
58	Oyugi, Zablon	53	Railway officer	Nakuru Town	3.8.15	4
59	Tanei Legishon	78	Maasai Elder	Ebur Village	27.9.15	46
60	Thathi, John	44	Business man	Gilgil Town	27.7.15	20
61	Theuri, John	52	Gilgil Sub-County Engineer	Gilgil Town	17.1.15	4
62	Thuge, James	49	Manager Kigio	Gilgil Town	5.9.15	8

			Conservancy			
63	Wangai,	74	Elder, Site and Service Gilgil	Gilgil Town	14.7.15	40
64	Wasike, Moses	36	In-Change GCWG	Teacher's B estate , Gilgil	24.7.15	7
65	Respondent No. 1	56	Serving KDF officer	Gilgil Town	29.7.15	17
66	Respondent No. 2	53	Serving KDF officer	Gilgil Town	29.7.15	15
67	Respondent No. 3	47	Serving KDF officer	Gilgil Town	29.7.15	20
68	Respondent No. 4	50	Serving ASTU office	Gilgil Town	30.7.15	18
69	Respondent No.5	44	Serving ASTU Office	Gilgil Town	30.7.15	13
70	Respondent No. 6	38	Serving ASTU	Gilgil Town	30.7.15	10

N/B The respondents that appear here approved the listing of their names.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: Interview guides

Interview guide for county administrators and civic leaders

1. Please identify yourself (Name, age, and your occupation)
2. What do you know about the genesis of Gilgil town? (Site of the town, original inhabitants, initial residents)
3. What physical changes have occurred in the town? (buildings, transport systems,)
4. What is the administrative structure of the town? Are there any changes that have occurred in the administrative structure of the town over time?
5. What roles have security establishments played in the development of Gilgil town?
6. What roles have industries, tourism and educational institutions played in the development of Gilgil town?
7. What other factors influence the development of Gilgil town?
8. What are some of the challenges that the town faces?
9. In your opinion what is the main drive of development in Gilgil town?
10. Do you have any other information that can be helpful to this study?

Interview Guide for Business community and other town residents

1. Please identify yourself? (Name, Age, and occupation)
2. How long have you lived in this town? Can you give me a brief history of the town?
3. Do you have any information on the genesis of Gilgil town? How did the town came to be?
4. What physical changes have occurred in the town over time? (buildings, transport systems,)
5. What is the administrative structure of the town? Are there any changes that have occurred in the administrative structure of the town over time?
6. What is the occupation of most of the residents in Gilgil town?
7. How do civilians and security personnel complement each other? What is the relationship between security personnel and civilians?
8. In your opinion, what is the main driver of development in Gilgil town and why?
9. What other factors influence the development of Gilgil town?
10. Are there specific changes you would like to see in the town? If yes, please explain.
11. Are you aware of any challenges the town faces? If yes, elaborate.

12. Do you have any other information that can be helpful to this study?

Interview Guide for security personnel (both serving and retired)

1. Please identify yourself? (Name, Age, and occupation)
2. How long have you lived in this town? How long have you served in Gilgil area
3. Do you have any knowledge on the beginning of Gilgil town?
4. Have security establishments influenced the development of Gilgil town? If yes, elaborate.
5. Are you aware of any policies, regulations and legislations initiated in the military/police/ NYS that have influenced the development of towns near their bases?
6. What other factors influence the development of Gilgil town?
7. Are you aware of any challenges the town faces? If yes, elaborate.
8. Do you have any other information that can be helpful to this study?

Interview guide for conservancy, industry, factory and other institutions employees

1. Please identify yourself (Name, Age)
2. How long have you been in Gilgil town?
3. What can you say about the genesis of Gilgil town?
4. How have the conservancies/industries /factories/ tourism attraction site/ educational institutions/ transport system influenced the development of Gilgil town?
5. In your opinion, what do you consider to be the main driver of development in Gilgil town and why?
6. Have security establishments influenced the development of Gilgil town? If yes, elaborate.
7. What urban challenges does the town face?
8. Do you have any other information that can be relevant to this study? If yes, please disclose.

Appendix 2: Research Authorisation



NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

Telephone: +254-20-2213471,
2241349, 310571, 2219420
Fax: +254-20-318245, 318249
Email: secretary@nacosti.go.ke
Website: www.nacosti.go.ke
When replying please quote

9th Floor, Utalii House
Uhuru Highway
P.O. Box 30623-00100
NAIROBI-KENYA

Ref. No. **NACOSTI/P/15/4930/7335**

Date:

9th December, 2015

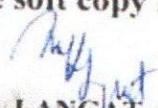
Muiruri Daniel Mugoro
Egerton University
P.O Box 536-20115
EGERTON.

RE: RESEARCH AUTHORIZATION

Following your application for authority to carry out research on "*History of Gilgil town: From a military barracks to a modern urban area, 1897-2014,*" I am pleased to inform you that you have been authorized to undertake research in **Nakuru County** for a period ending **9th December, 2016.**

You are advised to report to **the County Commissioner and the County Director of Education, Nakuru County** before embarking on the research project.

On completion of the research, you are expected to submit **two hard copies and one soft copy in pdf** of the research report/thesis to our office.


DR. S. K. LANGAT, OGW
FOR: DIRECTOR GENERAL/CEO

Copy to:

The County Commissioner
Nakuru County.

The County Director of Education
Nakuru County.

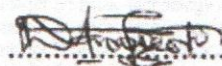
**THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT:
MR. MUIRURI DANIEL MUGORO
of EGERTON UNIVERSITY, NJORO.,
590-20116 gilgil, has been permitted to
conduct research in Nakuru County**

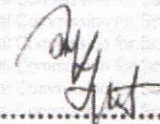
**Permit No : NACOSTI/P/15/4930/7335
Date Of Issue : 9th December,2015
Fee Received :Ksh 1,000**

**on the topic: HISTORY OF GILGIL TOWN:
FROM A MILITARY BARRACKS TO A
MODERN URBAN AREA, 1897-2014**

**for the period ending:
9th December,2016**




.....
**Applicant's
Signature**


.....
**for Director General
National Commission for Science,
Technology & Innovation**