

Maktau Camp

Situated half way between Voi and Taveta.

Selected as a military fortified base camp in August 1914

Camp covered an area of 50 acres with a fortified post on Picket Hill

HQ for Mombasa-Voi Command under General Malleson from 1st May 1915 until 11th March 1916

January 1916 it held the largest number of troops & their axillaries of 20,000
Axillaries Included artillery troops and their oxen to pull the guns and later motorised transport when It became available
Porters
A camel cops for a short time in 1914
Mounted Infantry and their horses and mules
Medical corps
Catering and supply

First Airstrip in BEA from October 1915

Royal Navy Air Service flying Caudron GIII

Joined by No 26 Squadron (South African) Royal Flying Corps flying BE2C's and Henry Farmans

Attacks against Salaita Hill and Mbuyuni organised from here

Cemetery for 17 British soldiers killed in action including Lieut WT Dartnell VC. Remains transferred to Voi 1922

Cemetery made into a memorial for Subedar Ghulam Haidar and his squad killed whilst escorting Gen Malleson 5th May 1915

Military Railway Line arrived 23 June 1915 (Started from Voi February 1915)

Water supply by gravity fed pipe from Taita Hills

Picket Hill was attacked in September 1915 and attack replused