

26 SQN RFC IN EAST AFRICA – PART 3

Mike O'Connor and Ray Vann

All photos from the Mike O'Connor/Ray Vann Africa Collection unless noted otherwise

APPENDIX 1 - COMMANDING OFFICERS

Major G.P. Wallace 8.10.1915
Captain G.S. Creed (temporary) 1.1916
Major G.P. Wallace 20.3.1917
Captain J. Clisdal (temporary) 25.3.1917
Major G.P. Wallace DSO 17.5.1917

APPENDIX 2 - BASES

Netheravon: 8.10.1915
Mombasa: 31.1.1916
Mbuyuni 4.2.1916
Taveta: 15.3.1916
Kahe: 22.5.1916
Marago-Opuni: 27.5.1916
Lassiti: 29.5.1916
Kwa-Lokua: 2.6.1916
Palms: 8.6.1916
Mbagui: 18.6.1916
Dakawa: 18.8.1916
Morogoro: 31.8.1916
Dar-es-Salaam: C Flt 25.9.1916, B Flt by 9.1917.
Tulo: half B Flt 1.10.1916
Kilwa: C Flt 19.12.1916, B Flt 17.9.1917
Dodoma: A Flt 19.1.1917
Iringa: A Flt 30.1.1917
Ubena: A Flt 7.2.1917
Songea: A Flt 18.3.1917
Itigi: A Flt detachment 13.5.1917 relieved by B Flt 12.8.1917
Likuju: A Flt detachment 16.5.1917
Fort Johnson: A Flt detachment 20.5.1917
Tabora: A Flt 29.5.1917
Shinyanga: B Flt 17.6.1917
Mtomia: A Flt detachment 28.6.1917
Mwembe: A Flt detachment 11.7.1917
Narungombe: C Flt 4.8.1917
Missindyi: C Flt 19.8.1917, B Flt 19.9.1917
Mbarangandu: A Flt detachment 20.9.1917
Tunduru: A Flt detachment 20.9.1917
Maranda: A Flt detachment 27.9.1917
Nahunga: B & C Flts 7.10.1917
Mtua: B & C Flts 13.10.1917
Dar-es-Salaam: 1.1918
Capetown: 4.3.1918
Blandford Camp: 4.7.1918 and disbanded

APPENDIX 3 – KNOWN AEROPLANES

RAF BE2c

4317 **26 Sqn** East Africa despatched 23.12.1916 and on unit charge until @ 16.10.1916 (Lt Albu/2Lt L. Walmsley). Deleted on 5th Wing 20.10.1916.
4318 **OAD** Greenwich allotted to 26 Sqn 30.11.1915, with Farnborough to fit engine, pack and despatch. 80-hp engine to be provided. Shipped to East Africa from **Farnborough** 4.12.1915. **26 Sqn** East Africa dd 4.2.1916, wrecked after Recce 19.12.1916 (Lt Faber/Lt Macintosh both OK, crashed near aerodrome on return with failing engine) and deleted on unit 28.3.1917.
4319 **OAD** Greenwich allotted to 26 Sqn 30.11.1915, with Farnborough to fit engine, pack and despatch. 80-hp engine to be fitted. Shipped to East Africa from **Farnborough** 4.12.1915. **26 Sqn** East Africa by 5.10.1916, flying 6.11.1916 (Lt Albu/2Lt L. Walmsley), under repair by 30.6.1917, wrecked on Ferry Flight 1.8.1917 (Lt Blackburn OK, force landed near Alt Iringa after engine failure) and deleted on unit 14.8.1917.

4320 **OAD** Greenwich allotted to 26 Sqn 30.11.1915, with Farnborough to fit engine, pack and despatch. 80-hp engine to be provided. Shipped to East Africa from **Farnborough** 4.12.1915. **26 Sqn** dd 1.1916.
4321 **OAD** Greenwich allotted to 26 Sqn 30.11.1915, with Farnborough to fit engine, pack and despatch. 80-hp engine to be provided. Shipped to East Africa from **Farnborough** 4.12.1915. **26 Sqn** dd 1.1916, wrecked 31.7.1916 (2Lt E.R.M. Griffin OK, crashed from 60ft) and deleted on unit 11.10.1916.
4343 **SARD** Farnborough by 30.6.1916 allotted to 26 Sqn. To East Africa. **AP Dar-es-Salaam** dd ex England 5.11.1916. **26 Sqn** wrecked on Travelling Flight, Morogor-Tulo, 2.3.1917 (2Lt A.H. Bottrell OK, force-landed in swamp when trying to fly round a storm – Renault engine 6712) and deleted on unit 8.3.1917.
4344 **SARD** Farnborough by 30.6.1916 allotted to 26 Sqn. To East Africa. **AP Dar-es-Salaam** dd ex England 5.11.1916. **26 Sqn** dd ex AP 19.12.1916, damaged 9.10.1917 (hit trees on take-off from Ahungu), wrecked 14.11.1917 (crashed near Massassi) and deleted on unit 29.11.1917.
4346 At Ascot 6.7.1916 allotted to East Africa to replace 2512. To East Africa. **AP Dar-es-Salaam** dd 5.11.1916. **26 Sqn** dd 3.1.1917, wrecked 9.1.1917 (Lt S.C. Maytom IOAS) and deleted on unit 23.1.1917.
4349 **SARD** Farnborough 30.6.1916 allotted to East Africa. **AP Dar-es-Salaam** dd 6.11.1916 and ready by 11.4.1917. **26 Sqn** by 12.6.1917, wrecked 5.9.1917 (Capt H.C. Brocklehurst OK, in force landing in bush near Iringa) and deleted on unit 27.9.1917.
4357 Allotted to **26 Sqn** at makers 30.11.1915, with Farnborough to fit engine, pack and despatch. 80-hp engine to be provided. **26 Sqn** dd by rail 4.2.1916, erected by 9.2.1916 and in forced landing 29.4.1916 (Capt G.S. Creed OK). **AP Dar-es-Salaam** ex 26 Sqn 17.9.1916. **26 Sqn** and deleted on unit 21.1.1917.
4358 Allotted to 26 Sqn at makers 30.11.1915, with Farnborough to fit engine, pack and despatch. 80-hp engine to be provided. **26 Sqn** East Africa dd 4.2.1916 and on unit charge 29.5.1916 (Lt Emmett/2Lt L. Walmsley) and wrecked 6.7.1916 (Capt Turner OK after forced landing).
4359 Allotted to 26 Sqn at makers 30.11.1915, with Farnborough to fit engine, pack and despatch. 80-hp engine to be provided. **26 Sqn** East Africa by 4.2.1916, wrecked in forced landing 26.8.1916 (Capt W.W. Cary-Thomas OK) and deleted on unit 11.10.1916.
4380 To East Africa. **AP Dar-es-Salaam** dd ex England 3.11.1916. **26 Sqn** dd ex AP 23.12.1916, flying 15.1.1917 (Lt Howard/2Lt L. Walmsley), wrecked 6.7.1917 (2Lt F.C. Smith OK, force landed in bush) and deleted on unit 2.8.1917.
4409 **OAD** Greenwich 30.11.1915, with Farnborough to fit engine,

BE2c 4321 was one of the original machines issued to 26 Sqn and arrived in East Africa in January 1916. It was shown above in typical finish in Part 1 of this series (CCI 50/2 p.146). The image below is usually shown reversed but when printed this way the characters on the fin appear to be the serial 4321. Machines could, and did, change appearance and the nature of the damage shown is consistent with the known details of 2Lt E.R.M. Griffin's crash of 31.7.1916:

Andy Thomas

