

## Very Unsettled and a Strong Desire to return to life in Africa.

by Ken Wilkinson

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During my National Service from 1954-56, I spent 18 months in Kenya in a very attractive rural location on the equator at the foot of Mount Kenya and was greatly impressed by the scenery and life in that country.

On returning to life and unemployment in this country, I felt very unsettled and experienced a strong desire to return to life in Africa. After some time, I started looking actively for overseas vacancies and at that time the national press carried advertisements from the Crown Agents for Inspectors of Police in Hong Kong, Northern Rhodesia and

Nyasaland. After receiving details of each and despite their attraction, I discounted Hong Kong and Northern Rhodesia on the basis that the former was urbanised and the latter partly industrialised.

Nyasaland was therefore of great interest, so I did some fairly detailed research and read two books - Just the Job by Geoffrey J. Morton, which included his service in the Nyasaland Police, and Nyasaland - Land of the Lake by Frank Debenham. It greatly appealed to me that the Nyasaland Police was a small force in a territory with very attractive scenery, mountains and a sizeable lake; this decided the matter for me with little further thought. For me the territory seemed in my mind to equate in some ways with what had impressed me so much in Kenya.

I was single at the time and, despite the prospect of a 3-year tour, my parents supported my decision. As I had spent 9 years in boarding school and 18 months in Kenya, they were fairly used to my absence.

