

Mombasa European Primary School (MEPS)

TIMELINE

HISTORY- 1935 to 1962

The school dates back to 1935- that's nearly 80 years!

1935.

The **EUROPEAN SCHOOL** Mombasa was started.

There are no formal records of this, but it was a banda on the present school site and the Head Teacher was a Captain White. He was "Acting Principal" on loan from the Allidina Visram high School.

1937.

The first formal records began.

We are not sure who the Head Teacher was, but we do know that Term 2 (the school year in Kenya begins with the first term in January) had 12 pupils and that the third term had 14 pupils.

On 20th May 1937 Coronation Cups (King George VI Coronation Day was on 12th May 1937) were presented to all of the scholars!

We are also told of celebrations at the school on 24th May (Empire Day) and 9th June (King's birthday) that were undertaken.

The school banda roofs (presumably makuti) were repaired by the PWD!

7th December. Mr Bull, of the Buxton School, conducted an Intelligence Test for children ages 6 and 7.

9th December. An Audit Inspection was carried out by the Acting Assistant Senior Auditor. A Mr Barnes inspected stores and materials.

1938.

Term 1- 16 pupils.

Term 2- 18 pupils.

Term 3- 22 pupils.

We believe that this was just for Standards 1 and 2 (we have reference to IQ tests for 6 and 7 year olds) and that after this pupils went to Nairobi to boarding school.

We do not know who the Principal was, but we do know that he became ill in the 3rd term. A Miss M Coates of the Arab Girls' School stood in for a couple of days.

9th May. The birthday of the King and Emperor was celebrated by a holiday. A programme of sports was held on the Mombasa Golf Course.

24th May. Empire Day. School closed. The parade was abandoned because of rain! This led to an extra holiday being given on 1st June by HE the Governor.

1939.

Term 1- 26 pupils.

Term 2- 26 pupils.

Term 3- 23 pupils.

May 24th- Empire Day celebration at the Mombasa Sports Club. Flags and medals were presented to scholars by Captain the Hon Sir Ali Bin Salim; HE and Lucy Brooke-Popham were also present. In the afternoon there was a sports day at the Mombasa Golf Club, so presumably the school had no playing fields at the time?

9th June- the school was given a holiday to celebrate the birthday of HM King George VI; *Hurrah!*

On 30th June we have a record that the new Head Teacher is Mrs M B Grossert.

More repairs to the banda roofs by PWD in the holidays.

On the 20th September the original Captain White, now Inspector of Schools, paid a visit to the school.

Very sad- a report of the first death at the school. Alistair Taylor (a pupil) died of septicaemia as a result of an accidental kick.

1940. The War Years.

Term 1- 19 pupils.

Term 2- 22 pupils.

Term 3- 9 pupils.

Presumably the drop in pupil numbers was because of the war. This is reflected again in the next couple of years.

On the 16th February a Cub Pack was formed by Inspector Taylor. Every boy in the school became a cub.

24th May- school inspectors again, this time Mr Dolton and Mr Gledhill.

On 11th June the school closed because of hostilities between the Allies and Italy. The school reopened on 4th September. ARP operations began (consisting of a trench, stirrup pump, buckets, shovel, rake and drums of sand). And a First Aid Outfit was installed on 10th September!

1941.

Term 1- 13 children.
Term 2- 14 children.
Term 3- ?? children.

New Head- Mrs M E Hand, who started in December 1941.

The school was redecorated in the holidays and is now “fresh and clean”!

The Wolf Cubs are now led by the Rev B Greenwood as Inspector Taylor has been transferred.

31st March. His Excellency the Governor and Lady Moore inspected a parade of schoolchildren at the Mombasa Sports Club.

3rd April. HE The Governor inspected the Wolf Cubs.

23rd July. The children present at the school, 11 in total, were inoculated for Yellow Fever.

1942.

Term 1- 13 children.
Term 2- 22 children.
Term 3- 33 children (start of term).

The ARP roof leaked with heavy rains!

Evacuation plans for Women and Children came into place in April 1942. These were postponed.

A new Assistant Mistress joined the school, a Mrs M Zwart.

The children raise 16 shillings and 50 cents towards their new playground!

Additional children now on the roll- up to 38 (mid Term 3)!

15th December 1942. The pupils gave a short entertainment to parents. Shillings 115 and 16 cents was raised for the UNITY WAR-EFFORT CLUB, the Lonely Soldiers, A piano lent by Mrs Fletcher was returned- *too bad*.
There are now 41 children on the roll (end of 1942).

1943.

Term 1- 28 kids.
Term 2- 48 kids.
Term 3- 43 kids.

Head Teacher, Mrs Grossert; Assistant Teacher, Mrs Zwart.

A new flush lavatory has now been installed at the school!

It appears that Mrs M Zwart has now become Head Teacher at the end of Term 1 (28th April 1943). *Confusion reigns*, because on 17th May 1943 Mrs Grossert took over from Mrs Zwart.

In June 1943 the boys are being encouraged to play football by a Mr Boucher, so presumably the school playing fields are now in place?

Cub meetings are now held by Mr Lock.

7th September 1943. There is here the first mention of the Kindergarten School next door.

10th December 1943. "The parents of the school were invited to a Tea Party at the school". 2 children, Meryl Smith and Janet Gledhill sat the entrance examination for the Kenya High School and are now accepted as KHS boarders. We are not sure of the ages of these two girls- is it safe to assume that there are classes for older pupils now? (*Note- there were no standards 6 and 7 until the mid-50s*).

Mrs Zwart resigned as Head Teacher on health reasons. She returns to South Africa, but stays briefly until a Mrs Patrick commenced duties on 25th January 1944.

The school is now known as "**The Government European Primary School Mombasa**".

1944.

Term 1- ??

Term 2- 36 children.

Term 3- 35 children.

5th April- works on the new play ground will proceed! This was completed in May 1944.

In June 1944 Mrs Patrick contracted malaria, but returned a few days later.

27th October. The Director of Education, Mr Foster, plus the Inspector of Schools, Mr Lindahl, visited.

13th December. End of Term Concert and Exhibition of Handwork. Shs 170/- raised and given to the Unity War Effort Club.

1945.

Term 1- 31 children.

Term 2- 32 children.

Term 3- 37 children.

On 11th April 1945 Mrs I M Patrick became Head.

On 10th May a Mrs Billinge reported for duty. A Mrs Greig is also mentioned here working at the school in June 1945.

In June 1945 “prisoners have been cutting the grass on the new playing field”. *So, we now have a new playing field at the school.*

On August 7th 1945 a Sports Day was held on the new games field!

We now have reference to children ranging in ages from 6 to 11 years old.

On 12th October 1945 a Mrs Thompson reported for duty, as Mrs Billinge had to take a month’s leave (her daughter was seriously ill and needed to go to Nairobi for treatment).

16th October 1945. The school visited HMS *Howe*. This is the first mention of a Royal Navy ship in Mombasa that the school was involved with. HMS *Howe* was a Battleship; see <http://www.battleships-cruisers.co.uk/howe.htm>
Mrs Holloway, Mrs Liston and Mrs Patrick accompanied the children.

26th November- Whooping Cough at the school. Keep your children away if they have a cough or cold!

12th December 1945. Mrs Patrick handed over to Mrs Billinge.

1946.

Term 1- 37 children.

Term 2- 31 children.

Term 3- 33 children.

Mrs D G Plowright arrives from South Africa in January 1946. She is the new Head Mistress. Mrs Billinge and Mrs Holloway are members of staff.

Cubs now meet every Friday afternoon.

Many children on leave- they went back to the UK on the SS *Cameronia* in March 1946. <http://www.clydesite.co.uk/clydebuilt/viewship.asp?id=5438>

The PWD have removed lots of coral in preparation of a new school garden. Free manure has been donated! The manure was donated by a Mr Owen-Thomas (who was on the School Committee), free of charge.

Electric ceiling fans have been installed by the PWD in the classrooms

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Afternoon classes have been discontinued because of poor attendance and the new hours are 8-12.15 with sports for all on Mondays, 4-6 PM (Mrs Liston), Cubs on Fridays. No mention of Brownies.

New uniforms!

Girls, checked gingham sun-skirt and white blouse. Straw hat, brown hat band with yellow and brown badge.

Boys, brown and white checked gingham shirts, khaki shorts, topee (!!!!) or hat with badge.

The European General Stores, Mombasa, to be the suppliers.

The School Committee recommend that the school cater up to and including Standard II, i.e. a 4-year course.

The Committee suggest a new name for the school, "The Island School"; *this went nowhere*.

27th July 1946. A school sports day, but IN CONJUNCTION with the next door Kindergarten School; organisers Messrs Hillbourne, Boucher and Miller and Mesdames Holloway, Billinge, Liston and Bosomworth. Speech by Mrs Plowright and prizes presented by Mrs McKeagh. Interestingly the ages of the children at both schools ranged from 3 years old to 9 years old.

Mrs Billinge tenders her resignation in August 1946 as her husband has been transferred to Kampala.

Miss E Penney takes over from Mrs Billinge- there had to be alterations in classes due to an influx of "little ones"!

September 1946. Mrs Holloway resigns, as she has to take David (??) to England for an operation on his eyes. Mrs McCormick joins as a teacher.

Heavy rains in Mombasa; in September there were 9 inches of rain. This disrupted classes.

October 2nd 1946. School Children's Party on HMS *Glasgow*. Mrs Holloway (presumably now back from the UK) and Mrs Bosomworth accompanied the party. HMS *Glasgow* was a Light Cruiser <http://uboat.net/allies/warships/ship/1229.html>

1947.

Term 1- 38 children.

Term 2- 44 children.

Term 3- 62 children.

Acting Head- Miss Foat; Mrs Plowright to go to Kilimani School, Nairobi.

Staff members- Miss Penney and Mrs McCormick. Mrs Bosomworth to go on leave in February. Miss Penney resigns with effect from 30th July. Mrs Barnes joins the staff (Standards I and II).

The school opened on 13th January, but closed on the same day, owing to a "strike by the natives"! The school reopened on a voluntary basis on 20th January, and the "native strike" was over (terminated) on 25th January.

A school banda was blown down in a gale; interestingly this seems to have led to discussions about new school classrooms and in August 1947 building operations were started at the school.

2nd October- children paid a visit to HMS *Norfolk*, a Heavy Cruiser <http://www.naval-history.net/xGM-Chrono-06CA-Norfolk.htm>

1948.

Term 1- 76 children.

Term 2- 82 children.

Term 3- 92 children.

Mrs Irvine was in charge of Standard II, but Mrs Holloway took Miss Irvine's place on 3rd February 1948.

15th March 1948- new furniture delivered to the school!

May 24th Empire Day, also the Annual Sports Day. "The children behaved very well and thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon. All children were weighed and measured in preparation for Dr Holiday's visit on June 4th!!"

In June 1947 we have the first mention of the Brownies!

A Mrs Creed Newton resigned from the staff on June 30th. Mrs Shaw joined the staff. Mrs Shaw resigned on August 10th.

Another Royal Navy ship entered Mombasa. The school visited the ship, HMS *Birmingham*, a Light Cruiser, <http://uboaat.net/allies/warships/ship/1228.html> , on 22nd September. "The children had a very happy afternoon."

In October 1948 we have a reference that a Mr Gillett interviewed parents of the children who were being promoted to the Nairobi Primary School on 1949, so full curriculum to 10 and 11 year olds still not available in Mombasa for Europeans?
Correct- this did not happen until the mid-50s.

A Mr Hillingbourne is now coaching boys in cricket.

1949.

Term 1- 108 pupils.

Term 2- 107 pupils.

Term 3- 107 pupils.

Miss Foat is Principal.

A Mrs Barton joins the staff in January.

Miss Foat goes on leave in May 1949, and Mrs E Barnes takes over. The supporting staff are now Mrs Holloway, Mrs Susan Bayne, Mrs Barton and Mrs McCormick.

May 23rd, Arbor Day. Three trees were planted, one by the Rev Jupp, one by Michael Bosomworth and one by Mildred Maker. The Rev Jupp offered a prayer and gave a talk to the children. The children sang a hymn!

15th July. School Sports Day. The PC, Coast Province, Mr Mullins will be present and his wife will present the prizes.

Interesting- on 26th September, a visiting PE expert (a Mrs Dodds) suggests that ALL children do PE barefooted to cure flat-footedness.

2nd September 1949. HE the Governor of Kenya, Sir Philip Mitchell visited the school. He was accompanied by a Mr Lewis-Jones, plus Captain Williams, Chairman of the School Committee.

3rd October. Dr Holiday checks out (*again*) all the school children in a full Medical Inspection.

November 1949. The school is now known as the Mombasa European Primary School!

MEPS has arrived.

There is mention of a new classroom here.

Mrs Barnes appointment as Principal terminated.

Captain Williams, Chairman of the MEPS School Committee, resigns in December to return to England.

1950.

Term 1- 96 pupils, up to 100 in February. 104 in March.

Term 2- 98 pupils.

Term 3- 93 pupils.

Head- Miss Foat.

Members of staff- Mrs Holloway (Std IV), Mrs Barton (Std III), Miss Foat (Std II) and Mrs McCormick (Std I). So, we still have no Stds V, VI or VII). Handwork returned by Miss Janisch.

16th February. Mr Patrick, the Fire Master, gave a talk to Stds III and IV.

17th February- another Medical Inspection by the now famous Dr Holiday!

16th March. Mr Harold Scott (Pianist) visited the school and gave the children a musical appreciation hour. *It is presumed that the school now has its piano back!*

May 1950. Mrs McCormick has been transferred to the Arab Girls School and has been replaced by Miss Symons.

16 more trees planted.

Father Ryan started a class for the Roman Catholics. He now visits the school on Thursday mornings. Padre Jupp also visits the school on Thursday mornings.

July 1st, Annual Sports Day. Proceeds of Shillings 173 and 55 cents raised for the EASPCA. Thank you letter on 6th July from Mr L Collins, President of the EASPCA. July 6th. Nairobi Police Band performed at MEPS.

An interesting letter-

July 2nd 1950.

Dear Miss Foat,

I feel I must lose no time in writing to tell you how much my husband and I enjoyed your sports yesterday, and how struck we were with the excellence discipline displayed by the children, and the splendid organisation of the whole proceeding.

Everything went with a swing, and it was all most enjoyable. May we congratulate you and your staff on your efficiency and the grand spirit shown by all.

Yours sincerely and most appreciatively,

Katherine Bibby.

Excellent. We have the original letter.

3rd August. School visit to HMS *Mauritius*, Light Cruiser, <http://www.naval-history.net/xGM-Chrono-06CL-Mauritius.htm>

October 1950. The Chief Scout, Lord Rowallan, visited Mombasa on 4th, 5th and 6th October. Several of the Cubs and Brownies went to meet him at the airport. A Camp Fire was held at Port Reitz on 5th October.

16th and 17th November. Mr Barton, the Principal of Nairobi Primary School, visited Mombasa to meet the parents of present and future pupils.

8th December. Prize Giving of MEPS, now held at the School. Mrs Lewis-Jones presented prizes. She was the wife of the Provincial Education Officer. The Chairman of the MEPS School Committee, Sq Leader McCormick, made a speech.

1951.

Term 1- 108 pupils.

Term 2- 104 pupils.

Term 3- 108 pupils.

Principal- Miss Foat.

Staff- Mrs Walker (Std 1A), Mrs Barton (Std 1B), Miss Foat (Std II), Mrs Dalglish (Std III), Mrs Holloway (Std IV).

Mrs Barton left on February 9th and was replaced by Mrs Nihill. Mrs Nihill left in April. Miss Cochrane joined the staff in May.

The school uniform was changed in September. Plain yellow was used in place of yellow check gingham for the girls.

A brand new piano arrived.

A large brass bell was installed on 19th September to help eradicate unpunctuality.

It appears that there are new buildings. It is suspected that there are now two rows of buildings. One the one side, Stds 1 (A & B), Std II, and on the other, Stds IIA, Stds III and IV?

Dr Neville inspected children in Stds 1A and 1B (*what ever happened to the dreaded Dr Holiday?*) on 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th October- *some inspection if it took 4 days!!* Indeed, an Emergency Meeting was held on 2nd November to discuss Dr Neville's visit.

No further reference is made to this.

5th December. Annual prize giving.

The prizes were presented by a Mrs Sykes Thompson.

1952.

Term 1- 118 pupils.

Term 2- 135 pupils.

Term 3- 140 pupils.

The school is growing.

Principal- Miss Foat.

Staff- Mrs Walker transferred to GATTC (Teachers Training College?). Mrs Krcmar took her place. Miss Cochrane has transferred to Nakuru. Miss McClelland takes her place. Mrs Patrick is now in charge of Std II. Mrs Holloway, Std IV; Mrs Dalglish, Std III, Miss Foat Std IIA.

A milk scheme has now started on 16th Jan and this "has been a great success".

February 5th. News of the King's death was heard whilst children from MEPS were at a party on HMS *Kenya*, a Light Cruiser <http://www.naval-history.net/xGM-Chrono-06CL-Kenya.htm>

There was no school on February 6th January.

12th March 1952. We have a new Chairman of the MEPS School Committee, a Mr Dodds.

28th June. Annual Sports Day prizes were presented by Mrs O'Hagan. Note- *Desmond O'Hagan was the PC at the Coast.*

Mrs Kier joined the school as a temporary relief for Mrs Patrick- Mrs Patrick returned on 19th August. Mrs Krcmar terminated her employment on 30th August and was replaced by Mrs Keir.

A Special Meeting was held at the PEO's Office on 6th October to discuss Medical Examinations. Commander Miller, Dr MacKenzie and Dr Cochrane and Miss Foat were present. *Obviously the medical status of children was held in the highest*

priority. Was this to do with polio? The main HUGE outbreaks in the USA started in early 1952.

On 26th and 27th November Mr Barton, Head of Nairobi Primary, was at the school again interviewing parents for children going up to Nairobi to complete their primary education as boarders.

4th December- Open Day with prizes presented by Commander Miller.

1953.

Term 1- 168 pupils.

Term 2- 161 pupils.

Term 3- 160 pupils.

Head- Mrs Patrick (Acting)- Miss Foat from November 1953.

Staff- Mrs Holloway, Std IV; Mrs Dalgleish, Std III; Miss Baker-Beall, Std IIA; Mrs Patrick, Std IIB; Miss N Shield, Std IA; Miss McClelland, Std IB.

Miss Baker-Beall resigned on 17th January (*did not seem to last long?*) and Mrs McCulloch took her place.

3rd February. Lady Mary Baring, wife of HE Governor of Kenya, visited the school. She gave the school a holiday on 4th February- *what a nice lady!*

Mrs McCulloch resigned on 6th March. She was replaced by Mrs Clifford. Indeed, Mrs Clifford resigned on 21st March- *Ides of March? Something going on here?*

4th April. Tree planting; Padre Jupp planted a tree, one of three planted on that day. Only 14 children attended this ceremony- *strange?*

1st May. Mrs Patrick as Acting Principal. Mrs Rutherford, Mrs Lewis and Mrs Vile reported for duty.

15th May. Cinema Show given by the British Council, a Coronation Film. A daylight screen was used so there was no need for a blackout!

School Houses were introduced in the 2nd term of 1953.

Mackinnon- RED. Captain, M Attwood.

Wavell- GREEN. Captain, T Illidge.

Livingstone- BLUE. Captain, Jill Parris.

June 1st, start of Coronation Week.

Party on board HMS *Newfoundland*, a Light Cruiser, <http://www.naval-history.net/xGM-Chrono-06CL-Newfoundland.htm> for Stds III and IV.

Party on board the SS *Dunnottar Castle*, Union Castle Line <http://www.cruise-ships.com/union-castle-line/sold/dunnottar-castle/>

June 2nd and June 3rd were holidays.

On 4th June the whole school attended a film, “The Royal Tour of Kenya”, at the Naaz cinema.

On the 5th June, Professor Wali Adam, The Mysterious Indian Magician, presented the latest Indian Magic and Mysteries at the school-

Bengal pyton

Magic eggs

Cooking on Human Head

Fire issuing from Magician’s mouth

Watch-making

Rope and ring tricks

Card tricks

Indian Basket Tricks- disappearing man from the Basket

Cloth tricks

Mango tree trick

Pro. Wali Adam will change the face of any human being by means of his magic power

Pro. Wali Adam will lift a stone weighing 150 lbs with his powerful eyes (anybody who could duplicate this magic will be awarded £15,000).

Wow!

6th June- Presentation of Coronation Medals at the school.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

Music was provided (Rule Britannia and British Grenadiers) on a Gramophone! The gramophone played during the presentation of the medals.

Mrs Dalgleish- Ribbon Medals

Mrs Patrick- Medallions

Mrs Kier- Booklets

Miss McClelland- Sweets.

27th June- Sports Day.

300 parents attended, the biggest Sports Day yet.

Interhouse winners, Mackinnon, with 177 points.

Wavell, 115 points.

Livingstone, 84 points.

Mrs Kennaway, wife of the Provincial Commissioner, presented the prizes.

Martin Attwood, Captain of Mackinnon, received the House Cup.

Individual prizes were for Shs 7/50, Shs 5 and Shs 3, redeemable at Mombasa Times Ltd or at Badruddin’s Sports Store on Salim Road.

18th July. Naaz Cinema, to see “A Queen in Crowned”. *They got these flicks out to Kenya pretty quickly!!*

30th July, Cockhouse Party, won by Wavell (in Std IV classroom). At 5.30 PM Master Phillip Boucher entertained everyone with a Puppet Theatre.

31st July- end of Term. Mrs Lewis and Mrs Rutherford resigned.

September 1953- new Sanitation Block opened.

14th September. Party for Stds I and II, HMS *Ceylon*, a Light Cruiser,
<http://www.naval-history.net/xGM-Chrono-06CL-Ceylon.htm>

15th September, Staff Meeting. We see that Mrs Ashby has joined the staff as well as Mrs Parris.

Hockey is introduced to the school.

Miss N Shield is now Mrs Scrimshaw (married).

House details-

Mackinnon, Boy Captain, Martin Attwood; Girl Captain, Carol Miller

Wavell, Boy Captain, Tom Illidge; Girl Captain, Corrie Grootveld

Livingstone, Boy captain, Martin Wilson; Girl captain, Jill Parris

October 28th. Boxing Classes started under Mr Rifkin.

New PTA formed- meetings on the last Wednesday every month.

12th November- School Concert. 350 people attended. *We have a copy of the Programme.*

1954.

Term 1- 212 pupils.

Term 2- 223 pupils.

Term 3- 181 pupils.

We now have 2 extra classes, Std IVB and Std V.

Staff- Mrs Ashby, Mrs McAdoo, Mrs Parris, Mrs Patrick, Mrs Dalgleish, Mrs Holloway, Mrs Scrimshaw, Mrs Vile. Miss Foat is Principal.

Mrs Dalgleish takes long leave on February 26th and is replaced by Mrs Mortimer Lloyd; Mrs Lloyd ceases duties on 16th March and is replaced by Mrs Wild.

1st February. A case of polio notified. This was child in Std 1B. All afternoon games stopped. There were 3 further cases notified over the next year or so.

19th April- MEPS PTA Easter Fete held in the grounds of the school.

Chairman- Captain Penny

Hon Secretary, Mrs Walker

Hon Treasurer, Mrs B Day

MEPS School Rep, Mrs Ashby

Parent's Rep, Mrs Lewis

Kindergarten Rep, Mr Champion

FETE COMMITTEE- Messrs Webb, Thompson, Blackwood and Mostyn; Mesdames Patrick, Nevile Owen-Thomas and Mostyn.

2nd Term. Mrs Jupp took over Std V from Mrs Scrimshaw. Mrs Garvey replaced Mrs McAdoo. Mrs Higinbottom replaced Mrs Parris. Mrs Lori acted as a Supply Teacher for Mrs Holloway, who was ill. Mrs Vile terminated her employment on May 31st.

20th May. Tree Planting Ceremony performed by the Rev Jupp. A Flamboyant Tree was planted.

28th June. 48 children visited 4 American Navy ships, USS *Barton*, USS *Stickell*, USS *Soley* and USS *Strong*.

8th July- HMS *Ceylon* again. 240 kids went, 60 from MEPS.

10th July. Soccer match, MEPS vs Goan Boys, no score.

24th July. Mrs Wilde went on 3 months leave. Mrs Perkins took over IIB.

24th July. School Sports Day.
Wavell, 146 points (*Hurrah!*)
Livingstone, 136 points
Mackinnon, 128 points.
Mrs Hatfield presented the prizes.

10th August 1954.
Mr C J Metcalfe takes over as Headmaster.
Miss Foat stays as a teacher (Std IIB).
Mrs Jupp now with Std V.

Compulsory afternoon school reintroduced. Possibility of keeping pupils in Mombasa until Secondary School mooted. Indeed, Stds VI and VII introduced in 1955.

26th November. MEPS School Swimming Gala at 4.30 PM, the Florida Swimming Club. Previous Galas were held at the Mombasa Swimming Club at English Point, Nyali.

1955.

Term 1- 296 children.
Term 2- 297 children.
Term 3- 301 children.

Head- C J Metcalfe

Staff; Mrs Jupp (6), Mrs Garvey (5A), Miss Bull (5B), Mrs Holloway (4A), Miss Aylward (4B), Mrs Patrick (3A), Mrs Dalglish (3B), Mrs Walker (2A), Miss Foat (2B), Mrs Lockwood (1A), Mrs Ashby (1B).
School Clerk- Miss Castellino.

2nd March. MEPS School party on HMS *Quebec*, Light Cruiser, <http://www.naval-history.net/xGM-Chrono-06CL-Uganda-Quebec.htm>

4th March. Mrs Dalglish broke her ankle and is away for 3 weeks. Mrs Banham steps in temporarily.

9th March. The big Mombasa Strike ended- it interfered with school attendances.

May '55. Miss Foat back as Acting Principal while Mr Metcalfe on leave. Mrs Lock joins as a Teacher (2B). Mr Metcalfe returned on 4th July 1955.

9th June. MEPS party of children taken to the Stadium to attend the Parade for Her Majesty, The Queen's Birthday.

21 June. MEPS School party on HMS *Gambia*, Light Cruiser, <http://www.naval-history.net/xGM-Chrono-06CL-Gambia.htm> . *Note- these RN ships frequently visited Mombasa as a show of force during the Mau Mau Emergency.*

Note in the Mombasa Times, August 1955. PTA Members- Mrs Haylett, Mr Hill, Mr Tyrell, Mr Adcock, Mrs Chetham (also EA Women's League), Mr Chetham and Mr Beck.

29th July. Sports Day.
Livingstone, 101 points
Wavell, 97 points
Mackinnon, 92 points

12th September. Mrs Hodgson joins as teacher for 5A (ex-UK).

25th November. Swimming Gala at the Florida Club. Zandra Shinn accepts the Patrick Cup on behalf of Mackinnon, who won the House Competition.

End of Year House points-
Mackinnon, 372
Wavell, 365
Livingstone, 369
Competition in Academia and Sports were paramount!

1956.

Term 1- 352 pupils.
Term 2- 368 pupils.
Term 3- ??

The new School Block opened on 13th February. There are now 3 blocks.

Head- C J Metcalfe

Staff- Mrs Lock (1), Mrs Green (1), Mrs Walker (2), Miss Foat (2), Mrs Patrick (3), Mrs Holloway (4), Mrs Lockwood (4), Miss Bull (5), Mrs Hodgeson (6), Mr Cronin (6), Mrs Jupp (7).

On 23rd January Miss M E D Aylward reports for duty after leave. On 19th January Miss Hatfull reports for duty. On 5th March Mrs Wheatcroft started duty.

In May 1956 (2nd term) Mr K C Usher reports for duty.

Mrs Green joins in Term 2

Lots of sports-

Soccer:

Livingstone vs Wavell, 0-0

Wavell vs Mackinnon, 2-0

Mackinnon vs Livingstone, 0-2

Hockey:

Livingstone vs Wavell, 1-2

Wavell vs Mackinnon, 1-1

Mackinnon vs Livingstone, 0-2

Netball:

Livingstone vs Wavell, 7-24

Wavell vs Mackinnon, 23-6

Mackinnon vs Livingstone, 9-10

1st June. Visit to the school of Lady Crawford, Deputy Governor's wife, Mrs P O'Hagan, PC's wife and Mr Hatfield, PEO.

14th June. Std 7 visits the new Shell installation at Chamgamwe.

14th June. Std 6A visit Shimanzi Power Station.

20th June and 21st June. Visits to HMS *Superb*, Light Cruiser,
<http://uboa.net/allies/warships/ship/7948.html> also <http://www.world-war.co.uk/Swiftsure/superb.php3>

11th July. Mr Cronin suspended from duty.

13th July. Mr Cronin committed suicide.

14th July. Mr Cronin buried at European Cemetery.

22nd September. Visit of Princess Margaret. The famous Tusks of Mombasa in Kilindini Road constructed specially.

7th October. *Great stuff*, 2 girls in the Olympic Trials at Mombasa Stadium; Maureen Leonard and Lillian Hilton.

16th October. Another Royal visitor, the Duke of Edinburg. MEPS children line the streets opposite Wardle's chemists.

Interesting Mombasa Times report, undated.

European Primary School 1st 11 beat their reserve side 5-0.

1st team: McFarnell, Cowen, Wilson, Van Aardt, Potter, Jones, Jackson, Jupp, Wylie, Snaith (who got 4 goals), Eaton.

Reserves: Saward, Campbell, Cousins, Ford, walker, Jupp, Metcalfe, Davies, Hoarau, Bates, Czyzewski.

18th November. Service at Mombasa Cathedral to be conducted by the Rev R B Jupp, Provost of Mombasa Cathedral.

1957.

Term 1- 410 pupils.

Term 2- ??

Term 3- ??

Headmaster- C J Metcalfe.

Staff- Mrs Jupp (7A0), Mrs Holloway (7B), Miss Hatfield (6A), Mrs Wheatcroft (6B), Mrs Hodgeson (5A), Miss Bull (5B), Mrs Beresford (4A), Mrs Lockwood (4B), Mrs Walker (3A), Mrs Potgeiter (3B), Mrs Ashby (2A), Mrs Strickland (2B), Mrs Green (1A), Miss Whittle (1B), Mr Usher (PT), Miss Doshi (Clerk).

Mrs Margaret Drysdale joined as a temporary appointment as Miss Hatfull in hospital with dysentery. Mrs Turner and Mrs Carlton-Holmes joined in the September term.

Boxing matches, undated.

Coach, Max Cable of MOW (was PWD).

Mike McFarnell bt Barry Jupp.

Anthony Cowan bt Chris Jupp.

Dave McFarnell bt Peter Castley

Mike Gazzard bt Shaun Metcalfe

On 11th March, more boxing.

H Sadd bt D Morley

Bruce Yeowart bt C Moore

D Black beaten by M Morton

P Davis bt Ian Cousins

Chris Wylie bt Henry Czyzewski

Mike McFarlane vs Mike Bisker, draw??

Lloyd Pickwell bt Tony Chetham

Shaun Metcalfe bt Mike Gazzard

Andrew Cowen bt Chris Jupp

Barry Jupp bt Mike Thompson

M Wilson bt M Wilson

Dave McFarnell bt P Weissner

15th June 1957. Boxing match, MEPS vs Hill School Eldoret. Hill School win by 9 bouts to 7.

5th October. Arbor Day. The PC, Desmond O'Hagan, plants a tree.

18th May 1957, Mombasa Times report that Michael John Oldham of MEPS has been chosen to play the Kenya part of Tarzan's son in "Tarzan and the Trappers". Gordon Scott played Tarzan.

5th October. Sports Day.

Livingstone, 103

Wavell, 82

Mackinnon, 78.

This was Livingstones 1st Cup. Martin Wilson and Susan Cottenham received the Cup from PEO Mr A V Hatfield.

22 October. Kenya European Preliminary Examinations (KPE) introduced.

29th November. C J Metcalfe handed the school over to Mr Usher on Mr Metcalfe's departure on UK leave.

9th December 1957. Mombasa Times.

C J Metcalfe stated that the record of acceptances for secondary education was as good as, if not better, from other primary schools in the Colony (i.e. MEPS acceptances). These successes were due to the sincere and healthy devotion of the staff, who taught in Mombasa under peculiar difficulties not apparent in other parts of the Colony.

One of the major problems of the staff at the school was the bad language used by the boys. Mr Metcalfe urged parents to help suppress "this evil and iniquitous habit".

1958.

No pupil numbers recorded.

Acting Head, Mr K C Usher.

Teachers- Mrs Holloway, Mrs Drysdale, Mrs Garvey, Mrs Carlton-Holmes, Mrs Hodgson, Mrs Simons, Mrs Beresford, Miss Streckland, Mrs Kier, Mrs Walker, Mrs Ashby, Miss Foat, Miss Whittle, Mrs Cain.

In early January Mrs Humphreys and Mrs Cook reported for duty.

On February 3rd, Mrs Hodgson resigned and was replaced by Mrs Jones.

Mrs Wallace Jones and Mr Heany joined the staff in Term 2.

Miss P MacDonald also joined the school on 29th April as Senior Mistress

24th March. Sadly Claire Cure, Standard II, drowned at Mombasa Swimming Club, English Point.

Mr Heany left the school on 28th May. He appeared to be an emotional person; was reprimanded for swearing in front of students, refusing to accept the Nature Study syllabus and being generally offensive in the Staff Room.

2 June 1958. C J Metcalfe returned to duty as Head.

10 July. 30 children go to visit HMS *Bulwark*, a converted Aircraft Carrier (to helicopters and Marines). <http://www.fleetairmarchive.net/ships/Bulwark.html>

17th and 18th July- KPE exams!

23rd July. Mr K C Usher leaving as he was posted to Kitale.

23rd July. MEPS host a Fashion Show for Young Ladies. £55 was raised for the school building fund.

12th November. Materials delivered on site for the new School Hall.

28th November. MEPS show at the Little Theatre Club. £1500 raised for the New Hall; £2500 still required!

1958 House Points-
Mackinnon, 576
Livingstone, 322
Wavell, 449.

1959.

Head- C J Metcalfe.

Staff- Miss Whittle, Miss MacDonald, Miss Norrie, Mrs Stock, Miss Foat, Mrs Walker, Mrs Kier, Miss Strickland, Mrs Humphries, Mrs Alcock, Mr Raki, Mrs Wallace-Jones, Mrs Holloway, Mrs Drysdale, Mrs Beresford.
We now have a stenographer! Miss Payet.

9th February. The visit of the Queen Mother. MEPS lined the route at Government House. On the 10th February the Queen Mother visited the Coal Wharf (*why?? Dreadful place*) and the Golf Course.

In 1959 we find references to the New European Primary School (MEPS new name). *We are not sure why? Poetic licence? Anyway, it stayed as MEPS!*

13 June. MEPS School Dance in the new Hall. A great success. £165 taken.

22nd July. The official opening of the new School Hall by Mr W Stokes, Assistant Director of Education (European).

21st September, Std VII visit the Oil Refinery at Changamwe.

24th September, Std VI to the Oil refinery.

13th December. School visit to HMS *Gambia*.

1960.

Head- C J Metcalfe.

Staff- Mrs Smith, Mrs Stock, Mrs McCormick, Mrs Thompson, Mrs Walker, Mrs Humphries, Miss MacDonald, Mrs Garvey, Mrs Austin (stenographer), Mrs Stock, Miss Vickers, Mrs Kemp, Mrs Kier, Mrs Alcock, Mrs W Jones, Mrs Drysdale, Mrs Hogan.

16th March. Party of 15 children to party on board HMS *Centaur*, Aircraft Carrier.
<http://www.seavixen.org/index.cfm?fa=contentGeneric.amsybmvkhafrbbal&pageId=56719>

23rd March. The whole school went down to the sea front to watch the departure of HMS *Centaur*, HMS *Loch Fyne* and HMS *Lagos*.

9th May. Mr Metcalfe falls ill with Typhoid. He is in Katherine Bibby Hospital and does not return to school until 31st October. His wife, Olive Metcalfe, also had typhoid fever- this was tracked down to a waiter at the Sinbad Hotel in Malindi.

11th October. A film show was given by Dr Rosenwald. 100 children attended.

17th October. There was a holiday granted in honour of the Sultan's Accession to the Throne of Zanzibar.

19th October. Everyone at MEPS given a free drink of Nesquik. *What a marketing ploy on behalf of Cadbury's!*

21st October. 290 MEPS children visit Circus Brazil- "A very poor show, but the children enjoyed it"!!!

9th and 10th November. KPE exams!

22nd November. Std VII visit the Coca Cola factory. *Another marketing ploy?*

Livingstone, 1506 points
Wavell, 1388 points
Mackinnon, 1331c points for the year.

A good year was had by all!

1961.

441 children at the school.

Head- C J Metcalfe.

Staff- Mrs Faulkner, Mrs McCormick, Mrs Walker, Mrs Thompson, Mrs Alcock, Mrs Drysdale, Mrs Holloway, Miss MacDonald (Deputy Head), Mrs Kemp, Miss Foat, Mrs Kier, Miss Strickland, Mrs Humphries, Mrs Gallagher, Mrs Hatfield.
Secretary- Miss de Souza.

26th January. Children's party on HMS *Bulwark*.

27th January. Mr Metcalfe goes on home leave to the UK on the SS *Durban Castle*.
<http://www.the-weatherings.co.uk/pccship0258.htm>

27th February. There was a storm of bees in Std 1 roof- precautions taken, and no one was stung!

10th March 1961. There is mention of a Boxing Match between Tim O'Hare and P Webster. *This must have been news!!*

21st March. MEPS played Junior Goan High at Hockey. MEPS lost 10-1.
22nd March. MEPS played Star of the Sea School at hockey. MEPS won 6-1.

Mr Metcalfe returned from leave 19th April.

8th May. The first ever Guide Pack was started at the school.
On 28th May, the School Choir, Guides, Brownies and Cubs went off to the Commonwealth Youth Sunday (*note that the word "Empire" has now been dropped*).

13th June. The "Coca Cola people" talk to the school on Wild Life- *another marketing ploy. No doubt cokes were free?*

7th July. 20 MEPS children go to a party on United State warship USS *Yorktown*.

14th July. First Mombasa Schools Music Festival, organised by The Goan High School. Many, many schools in the Coast Province attended. 1000 children attended! MEPS had the Std II Percussion Band, English Songs by the MEPS Choir, Scottish Dancing (Mrs Drysdale), and participated in the Finale. GOD SAVE THE QUEEN! was sung.

22nd July. MEPS PTA Annual Dance at the School Hall. *Five bob entrance fee!*

25th November. Arts and Crafts Exhibition. MEPS were awarded 13 certificates, plus the Certificate of General Excellence and The Shield. Awesome! Presented to Felicity Champion and Richard Scordoulis

29th November. Open Day and Prize Giving. Mr and Mrs Chetham presented the prizes.

Livingstone, 6231 points.

Mackinnon, 6009 points.

Wavell, 5537 points.

A good crowd turned up!!

30th November. Swimming Gala at the Florida Club. CJ Metcalfe writes "A damned good effort". *Hmm, swearing? See Mombasa Times report above 9th December 1957.*

370 pupils was the roll call at the end of the year, as to 441 at the beginning.

1962.

346 children present on 8th January, with 14 on leave.

Head- C J Metcalfe.

Staff- Mrs Drysdale, Mrs Beresford, Mrs Holloway, Mr Hornsby, Mrs Alcock, Mrs Humphries, Mrs Thompson, Miss Strickland, Mrs Walker, Mrs Kier, Mrs Hogan, Miss Foat (what a warrior still there!!!), Mrs Faulkner, Miss Atkins, Mrs Hatfield.
Secretary- Miss de Souza.

29th March. Mrs Drysdale on long leave and not returning to the school.

26th/27th March. Swimming Gala, Mombasa Schools. MEPS “cleared the board” in the Inter-Schools Cup and won The General Award (Patel Shield) and The Competition Cup (New Florida Dolphin Cup)! 1500 children from all schools in Mombasa attended this event at the Florida Pool.

18th September. Film “Serengeti Shall Not Die” shown at the school.

17th to 22nd September. Mr Butt, the Government Stores Auditor/Verifier turned the school upside down. All eventually went well.

“7th September. 20 children went on board HMS *Anzio*, Assault Ship,
http://www.navyphotos.co.uk/landing_ship_3003.htm

18th October. MEPS becomes fully integrated. All races welcome. School fees Shs 175 per term. The school will be renamed Mombasa Primary School.

7th December. Miss Foat retires. Mrs Alcock, Mrs Hogan and Mrs McCormick resign.

Miss Foat (first mentioned in 1947) and Mrs Holloway (first mentioned in 1946) have been with the school for around 25 years. That’s pretty amazing. Mr Metcalfe was the longest serving Headmaster, 1954-70, 16 years.

That’s all that we have!

Mombasa European Primary School (MEPS) became Mombasa Primary School at the end of 1962 and a new and exiting era began for the school.

In 1963 Kenya became independent and Kit Metcalfe was transferred from the Overseas Civil Service to the Coast Region of the Government of Kenya. . In April 1970 he resigned from the headship of Mombasa Primary School and took a job as Factory Manager in Kenya Casements, an aluminium window-making firm in Mombasa. He built a house at Nyali, just north of Mombasa (PO Box no. 90270). He also owned another house at Nyali, given to him in payment of a debt (he lent money to the husband of one of his teachers). He rented out this house. Kit and Olive Metcalfe stayed in Mombasa until January 1975, when they decided to leave Kenya now that their children all lived in England and had families of their own. They bought a house in Chinnor, Oxfordshire (50 The Avenue), at the foot of the Chiltern Hills. There Olive died, of lung cancer, on 28 July 1982. Kit died of retro-pharyngeal cancer on 31 July 1986, at Victoria Cottage Hospital, Thame, Oxfordshire. Olive and Kit were cremated and their ashes buried in St Andrew’s churchyard, Chinnor.