

We Remember



diversityHOUSE
SUPPORT. DIGNITY. RESPECT.



Be different: buy direct
from the author or
tslbooks.uk

We Remember

their responsibilities, the risks to their lives, and the lives that were lost in the war. In fact, most of the porters interviewed seemed angry about their experiences in the war.

Some successful deserters lived in fear for the rest of their lives even after colonialism ended. In the Imperial War Museum recordings, one interviewee scolds the African interviewer about asking him questions about how he was able to escape and desert service in the presence of the white American researcher. Many porters tried to desert with varying results. The fear of the consequences of desertion more than six decades since the war ended and about two decades since the end of colonial rule in Kenya was an important pointer to the experiences of porters in service and on the run. Interviews with former soldiers implied either indifference or pride.

Broader questions about the social and economic impacts of the removal of large numbers of preferably young unmarried men from a sparsely populated region can only be addressed with an in-depth analysis of trends during and after the war. The issue of finding accurate data for this type of research is always a concern.

Maingi Solomon, PhD is a Lecturer in the Department of Geography and the International Affairs Program at the University of New Hampshire, USA. He is a development and geospatial technologies expert with research and training experience in the political economy of agrarian systems, Geographic Information Science (GIS), and conflict.

