anxious to avoid buying special equipment - the safari was already expensive enough! I knew that I would be operating from either very high locations or on the edge of the Indian ocean and that probably a simple balun fed dipole would suffice. This was made up in the UK and carefully 'tuned' to 14.220 MHz. We would only operate 20 metres, the propagation forecasts being quite good for the band and our guiding principle being 'lets not make things too complicated'. The equipment consisted of a Trio TS130S transceiver with the DFC-230 frequency controller. The latter proved to be invaluable. We carried a Yaesu FP707 power supply and the FC707 tuner. The case was filled with a few accessories, assorted old and new type mains plugs, two eight foot lengths of 40 amp cable with jumbo clips, some small hand tools, mike, phones and a multimeter. Some 100 feet of terviene cord and 50 feet of RG-59 co-ax completed the package which, together with wads of foam packing, nicely filled the case measuring  $60 \times 42 \times 20$  cms. This weighed in at 30 kilos (10 kilos overweight), even without allowing for clothes, cameras, etc! Needless to say the rig was thoroughly air tested before departing the UK - which was as well as a couple of minor faults showed up and were corrected before final packing.

I would like to pass on two good tips about packing radio equipment. 1. Don't use foam packing. Use only expanded polystyrene blocks and cut out 'frames' to ensure that there is no pressure on the controls. 2. Even when the case is locked and appears to be secure, wrap 2'' PVC tape around the seams (to keep the dust out) and 3'' carpet bonding tape over the locks to prevent the case opening if the locks break. One did.

## **Final Preparations**

Just before 'D' day two other friends decided to join us. Shauna was coming. Her husband phoned me 'see whether you can get her eaten by a lion'. And Heather was coming too to keep an eye on Shauna — or was it Shauna was coming to keep an eye on Heather? We were all old friends and the party of six would be more fun than four. We could not all travel out on the same plane. Three of us departed Swiss Air, Maurice carrying almost as



First site of operation 5Z4AC.

much photographic equipment as I had radio equipment. They were tolerant about our overweight and did not charge for the excess baggage. Thank you Swiss Air. Clearing customs was no problem although the 'Ober-fuhrer' was temporarily demoted when he had difficulty in finding his passport and money. I estimated he had a pocket for everything and at least six spares. Maurice indeed knew the form and I soon learned that I was over kitted-out. Half the clothes I took were never worn. One needs very little and the 'dhobiing' facilities were excellent wherever we went.

Upon arrival in Nairobi we were met by a car and whilst Maurice contacted our agents I hot footed it to the General Post Office and found my way to the Managing Directors office. There was no problem except that they had not got the licence ready. After plenty of handshakes and smiles they verbally authorised me to use the call 5Z4AC but said it would take a week to type the licence. I gave the QTH as a PO Box number in Nairobi but was told that I could not operate portable. In the event everyone was co-operative - they eventually decided I was not a spy - just a mad ham. Next came a very important trip to the bank - one cannot take Kenvan currency into or out of Kenya. In the afternoon we left for the equator. Mount Kenya Safari Club, QTH, Latitude 00° 00' Longitude 37° 7' east and at 7000 feet AMSL. We decided to rest up after the arduous journey. What a location! The amenities of this luxurious club left nothing to be desired. Twenty miles from Mount Kenya, towering to 17,058 feet, snowcapped and on the equator! We were allocated a three room bungalow and next morning, as soon as it was light, l wasted no time in surveying the surrounding trees for suitable forks over which to throw the halvards for hitching up the antenna. I soon became expert at selecting the right sized stone and achieved 'double-top' with most throws. A 13 amp. UK square pin socket was found behind the bar (How fortunate - Ed.) - 221 volts 48 Hz - Good enough - and we went on the air at 1200 GMT, 1500 hours Kenyan local time.

## Powering Up

Operating hours were somewhat limited as usually the camp generators would run from dusk to about 0030 local. We occasionally requested an extension when we had a schedule with the UK. The heavy leads came into their own when I was forced to 'float' a 12 volt battery across the FP707 output. The governor of the generator had been giving trouble and the frequency and voltage fluctuations were too much for the TS130S without the float! Be warned, there is an awful mixture of mains sockets in Kenya. Most of the time I wired direct into a suitable line - when the generators were not running.