



A postal history of the First World War in Africa and its aftermath – German colonies

II Kamerun

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A postal history of the First World War in Africa and its aftermath

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WORK IN PROGRESS, SUGGESTIONS WELCOME

German Colonies

II

Kamerun

Version February 2015

Table of Contents

Introduction	2
Postal services in German Kamerun, vorläufer, 1884-1897	6
Post stamps of German Kamerun, 1879-1914	8
Post offices of German Kamerun, with their cancellations, 1897-1914	10
The occupation of German Kamerun by British and French troops	28
Cameroon as a trusteeship of the League of Nations, 1920 onwards	36
Used and suggested references	40

Introduction



<http://www.deutsche-schutzgebiete.de/kamerun.htm>



<http://www.jennes-und-kluettermann.de/auktion201412/jpg/big/61-2580-1.jpg>



<http://www.deutsche-schutzgebiete.de/kamerun.htm>

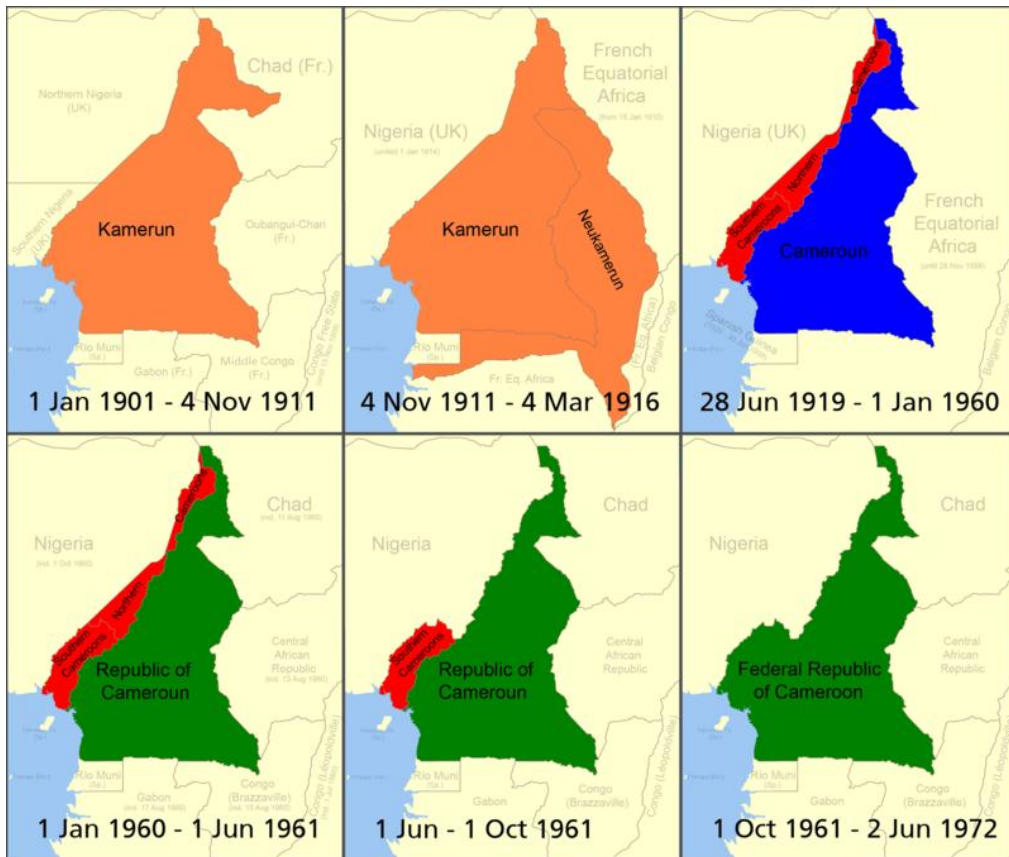
Wikipedia-de about Deutsch Kamerun:

“Kamerun war von 1884 bis 1919 eine deutsche Kolonie (auch Schutzgebiet). Die Kolonie hatte anfangs eine Fläche von 495.000 km², nach der Angliederung Neukameruns im Jahre 1911 hatte sie eine Fläche von 790.000 km² und war damit etwa 1,3 mal so groß wie das Mutterland“, “Seit 1862 waren deutsche Handelshäuser in [Gabun](#) tätig, darunter das Hamburger [Haus Woermann](#), dessen Agent Emil Schulz zugleich als kaiserlicher [Konsul](#) mit Amtsbefugnissen bis zum [Kamerunästuar](#) fungierte. 1868 errichtete Woermann die erste deutsche [Faktorei](#) in [Douala](#). Am 19. März 1884 ernannte Reichskanzler [Bismarck](#) den Afrikaforscher und bisherigen deutschen Generalkonsul in Tunis, [Gustav Nachtigal](#), zum kaiserlichen Kommissar für die Westküste Afrikas, mit dem Auftrag, die für den deutschen Handel interessanten [Gebiete](#) unter deutsches Protektorat zu stellen. Hierzu gehörte auch der Küstenstrich zwischen dem [Nigerdelta](#) und [Gabun](#), insbesondere der gegenüber der Insel [Fernando Poo](#) in der [Bucht von Biafra](#) gelegene Teil. Am 10. Juli 1884 traf der von [Togo](#) kommende Reichskommissar Nachtigal auf der „Möwe“ in [Duala](#) ein. Nach der Unterzeichnung von Schutzverträgen zwischen der deutschen Delegation und den wichtigsten Führern der [Duálá](#), [Ndumb´a Lobe \(Bell\)](#) und [Ngand´a Kwa \(Akwa\)](#), am 11. und 12. Juli 1884 kam es am 14. Juli in [Duala](#) zur Hissung der deutschen Flagge und Erklärung der „[Schutzherrschaft](#)“. Der fünf Tage später eintreffende britische Konsul [Hewett](#), der Kamerun für England in Besitz nehmen wollte, musste sich mit einem förmlichen Protest begnügen. Er erhielt den Spitznamen „The too late consul“.

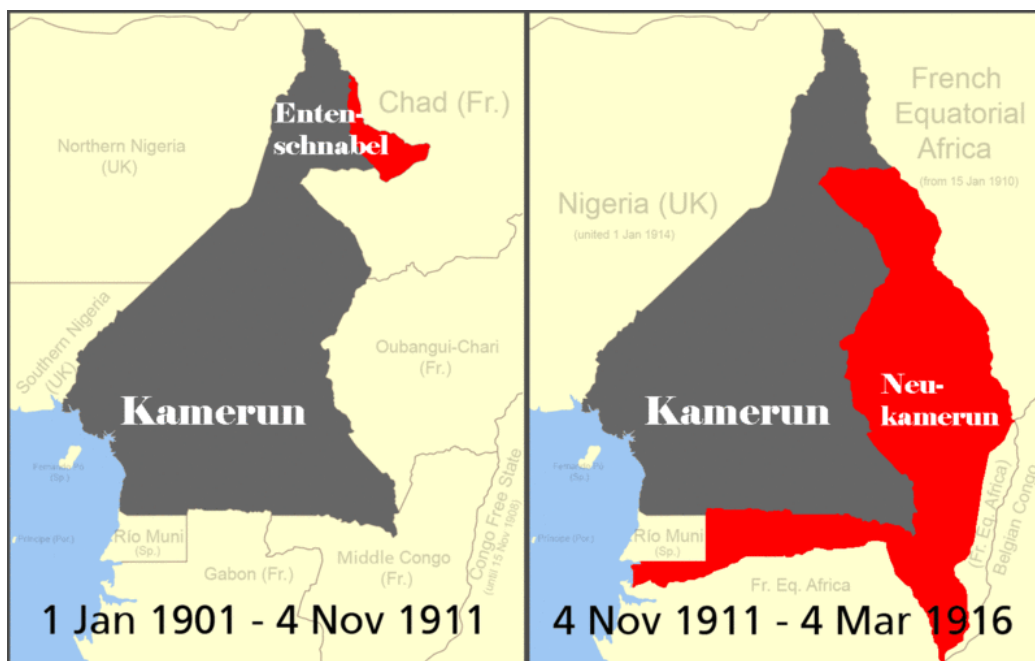
Auseinandersetzungen zwischen rivalisierenden [Duálá](#)-Clans wurden im Dezember 1884 durch Mannschaften der [Korvetten](#) [Bismarck](#) und [Olga](#) unter dem Befehl von Konteradmiral [Eduard Knorr](#) unterdrückt. Die Kämpfe richteten sich zwar nicht primär gegen die deutsche Herrschaft, markieren aber mit der Unterdrückung durch die Reichsmarine den Beginn der militärischen Unterwerfung der Kolonie.

Die vorläufigen Grenzen der [Kolonie](#) wurden ein Jahr später auf der [Kongo-Konferenz](#) (Kongo-Akte) in [Berlin](#) festgelegt. Der endgültige Grenzverlauf beruhte auf den Verträgen vom 3. Mai 1885 (mit [Großbritannien](#)), 24. Dezember 1885 (mit [Frankreich](#)), 27. Juli 1886 (mit [Großbritannien](#)), 2. August 1886 (mit [Großbritannien](#)), 14. April 1893 (mit [Großbritannien](#)), 15. November 1893 (mit [Großbritannien](#)), 15. März 1894 (mit [Frankreich](#)), 1901 und 1902 (mit [Frankreich](#)) und 1908 (mit [Frankreich](#)).

Bedeutend vergrößert wurde die Kolonie noch einmal im Jahr 1911 im [Marokko-Kongo-Abkommen](#) auf Kosten der französischen Kolonien in Zentralafrika ([Neukamerun](#)). Ein kleineres Gebiet im Nordosten Kameruns, der sogenannte [Entenschnabel](#), wurde stattdessen [Französisch-Äquatorialafrika](#) einverleibt. Die vorherige Fläche der deutschen Kolonie wurde nachfolgend [Altkamerun](#) genannt. Durch ein deutsch-britisches Grenzabkommen kam 1913 noch die [Bakassi-Halbinsel](#) zu Kamerun, deren Zugehörigkeit aber umstritten blieb“.



http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kamerun_%28deutsche_Kolonie%29#mediaviewer/File:Cameroon_boundary_changes.PNG



also see:

http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Kameruner_Entenschnabel_und_Neukamerun_1901-1916.gif

The colonial government was first established in Duala (1884–1901), then moved to Buea (1901-1915) and finally to Jaunde (Yaoundé)

Wikipedia-de also gives details about colonial leadership: *“Die Leitung der Verwaltung lag bei einem Gouverneur und war, im Gegensatz zu den Kolonien Deutsch-Ostafrika und Deutsch-Südwestafrika, stets in den Händen von Zivilbeamten. Erster Leiter der Zentralverwaltung vor Ort war der interimistische Kaiserliche Kommissar Max Buchner vom 14. Juli 1884 bis 17. Mai 1885.*

Die Reihe der Gouverneure war folgende:

Julius Freiherr von Soden (26. Mai 1885 bis 14. Februar 1891)

Eugen von Zimmerer (15. April 1891 bis 13. August 1895)

Jesko von Puttkamer (13. August 1895 bis 9. Mai 1907)



(Jesko von Puttkamer;

http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kamerun_%28deutsche_Kolonie%29).

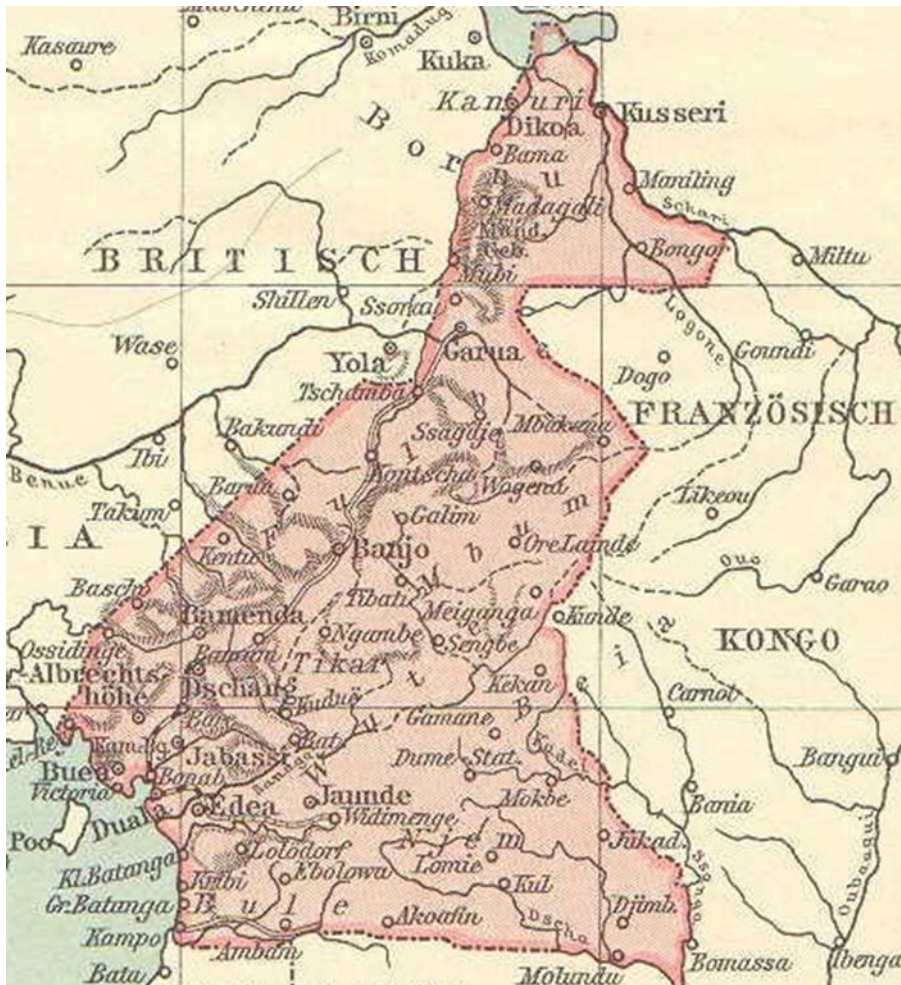
Theodor Seitz (9. Mai 1907 bis 27. August 1910)

Otto Gleim (28. August 1910 bis 29. Januar 1912)

Karl Ebermaier (29. Januar 1912 bis 1916/19)

Karl Ebermaier trat während des Ersten Weltkrieges im Februar 1916 mit dem größten Teil der Schutztruppe auf neutrales spanisches Gebiet (Rio Muni) über und führte in Madrid bis 1919 eine Interniertenverwaltung“.

http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liste_der_Gouverneure_der_deutschen_Kolonie_Kamerun



Map of German Kamerun; situation until 1911; http://www.stamp-collecting-world.com/kamerun_postmarks.html

Postal services in German Kamerun, Vorläufer 1884-1887

The area of Cameroon became a German 'Schutzgebiet' in 1884. From 1 February 1887 the 'Reichspost' started to operate in the new colony, using German stamps, with 'Kamerun' or 'Viktoria Kamerungebiet' or Rio del Rey as cancellations. See Cameroon-1.



Cameroon-1: 5 pf: http://www.stamp-collecting-world.com/kamerun_stamps.html ; 2M; 50 pf: <http://www.deutsche-schutzgebiete.de/kamerun-briefmarken.htm> ; 20 pf:

<http://www.ebay.de/sch/Kamerun-/40321/i.html> and <http://www.ebay.de/sch/Kamerun-/40321/i.html>;



<http://www.jennes-und-kluettermann.de/auktion201412/jpg/big/61-2553-0.jpg>



<http://www.jennes-und-kluettermann.de/auktion201412/jpg/big/61-2569-0.jpg>

Post stamps in German Kamerun 1897-1914

The postal authorities started to issue post stamps in 1897, with six 'Kamerun' overprints on German post stamps (Michel Nrs 1-6, see Cameroon-2, valid until 30/9/1901), followed by the regular German post stamps for its colonies, showing the Imperial Yacht 'Hohenzollern', in 1900 (thirteen post stamps, Michel Nrs 7-19, see Cameroon-3, valid until February 1916), with some of those stamps also printed on watermark paper in 1905-1915 (Michel Nrs 21-25; as well as one extra stamp sold in Berlin in 1918; Michel Nr 20, but never used in Cameroon itself; see Cameroon-4).

Cameroon-2: the first Kamerun stamps:



<http://www.deutsche-schutzgebiete.de/kamerun-briefmarken.htm>

Cameroon-3: Hohenzollern stamps for Kamerun





Series: <http://www.briefmarken-sieger.de/deutsche-kolonie-kamerun-freimarkenserie-katalog-nr-7-19-gestempelt.html>; 3pf (2x) and 5pf and 10 pf on envelope: <http://www.deutsche-schutzgebiete.de/kamerun-briefmarken.htm>

Cameroon-4: Idem, with watermark



<http://www.deutsche-schutzgebiete.de/kamerun-briefmarken.htm>

Post offices in German Kamerun, with their cancellations, 1897-1914

Between 1897 and 2014 the following postal services existed in German Cameroon, with their own cancellations (not yet complete):



Akoatim:

<http://www.ag-deutsche-kolonien.de/index.php?pageid=14>



Akonolinga:

http://www.briefmarkenfischer.de/de/i_9089_137842/Deutsche_Kolonien_Kamerun/michel_10.html?breadcrumbId=142420552.9279



Bamenda:

<http://www.ebay.de/sch/Kamerun-/40321/i.html>



Banjo:

<http://www.ebay.de/sch/Kamerun-/40321/i.html>

and <http://www.briefmarkenfischer.de/de/dosearch.php3?treeparent=100000190>



Bare:

<http://www.ebay.de/sch/Kamerun-/40321/i.html>



Bibundi:

<http://www.ebay.de/sch/Kamerun-/40321/i.html>



Bipindihof:

http://www.briefmarkenfischer.de/de_4u6kttqners8l4qfrcah7a7e84/i_9089_140939/Deutsche_Kolonien_Kamerun/michel_7.html?breadcrumbId=1424205466.0949



Bonaberi:

<http://www.ebay.de/sch/Kamerun-/40321/i.htm>



Buea:

<http://www.ebay.de/sch/Kamerun-/40321/i.htm>



Colonial capital city
1901-1915

<http://www.ag-deutsche-kolonien.de/index.php?pageid=14>



also see Kampo

Campo:

<http://www.ebay.de/sch/Kamerun-/40321/i.htm>;



Dschang

www.stampcircuit.com



Colonial capital city 1884-1901

Duala:

<http://www.ebay.de/sch/Kamerun-/40321/i.htm>



<http://www.jennes-und-kluettermann.de/auktion201412/jpg/big/61-2559-0.jpg>



Dume:

<http://www.ebay.de/sch/Kamerun-/40321/i.htm>



Ebolwoa or Ebolowa:

<http://www.ebay.de/sch/Kamerun-/40321/i.htm>



Edea:

<http://www.ebay.de/sch/Kamerun-/40321/i.htm>



Ekododo:

<http://www.briefmarken-sieger.de/briefmarken/deutschland/deutsche-kolonien/kamerun.html>



Fontemdorf:

<http://www.ebay.de/sch/Kamerun-/40321/i.html>



Garua:

<http://www.ebay.de/sch/Kamerun-/40321/i.html>



Jabassi:

<http://www.ebay.de/sch/Kamerun-/40321/i.html>



Jaunde:

<http://www.ebay.de/sch/Kamerun-/40321/i.html>

Colonial capital city 1915 onwards



Johann Albrechtshöhe:

www.Stampcircuit.com



Joko:

<http://www.ebay.de/sch/Kamerun-/40321/i.html>

Also:



<http://www.jennes-und-kluettermann.de/auktion201412/jpg/big/61-2551-0.jpg>



Jukaduma:

<http://www.jennes-und-kluettermann.de/auktion201412/jpg/big/61-2552-0.jpg>



Kamerun:

<http://www.ebay.de/sch/Kamerun-/40321/i.html>



Kampo:

<http://www.ebay.de/sch/Kamerun-/40321/i.html>



Kribi:

<http://www.ebay.de/sch/Kamerun-/40321/i.html>



<http://www.jennes-und-kluettermann.de/auktion201412/jpg/big/61-2555-1.jpg>



Kusseri:

<http://www.ebay.de/sch/Kamerun-/40321/i.html>



Lobetel:

<http://www.briefmarkenfischer.de/de/dosearch.php3?treeparent=100000190>



Lolodorf:

<http://www.ebay.de/sch/Kamerun-/40321/i.html>



Longji:

<http://www.ebay.de/sch/Kamerun-/40321/i.html>



http://www.gert-mueller-auktion.de/de/Highlight_77_161.html



Molundu:

<http://www.ebay.de/sch/Kamerun-/40321/i.html>



<http://www.jennes-und-kluettermann.de/auktion201412/jpg/big/61-2561-0.jpg>



Mundek:

<http://www.ebay.de/sch/Kamerun-/40321/i.html>



Ngaundere:

<http://www.briefmarken-sieger.de/deutsche-kolonien-kamerun-waagrechtes-paar-katalog-nr-21-stempel-ngaundere.html>



Njassi:

http://www.kniffka-philatelie.com/de/briefmarken/kategorie/918-Kamerun-Kolonie/index_1.html



Nola:

www.stampcircuit.com



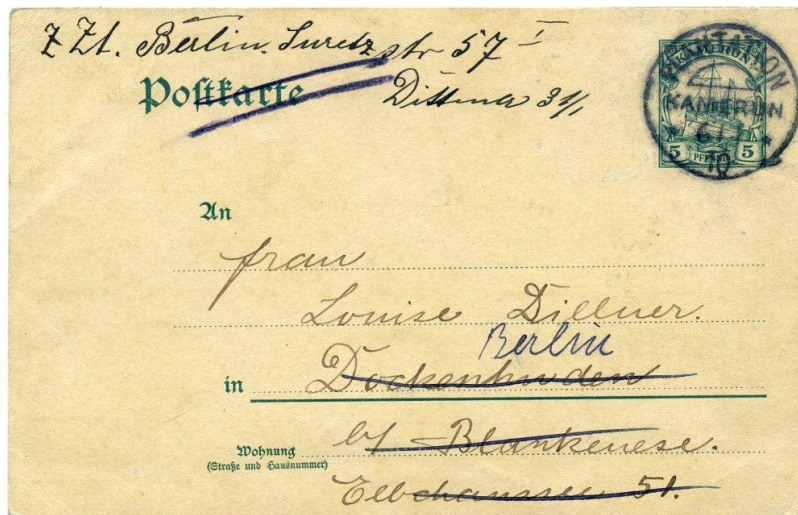
Ossidinge:

<http://www.ebay.de/sch/Kamerun-/40321/i.html> and http://www.kniffka-philatelie.com/de/briefmarken/kategorie/918-Kamerun-Kolonie/index_1.html



Plantation:

<http://www.ebay.de/sch/Kamerun-/40321/i.html>



<http://www.jennes-und-kluettermann.de/auktion201412/jpg/big/61-2568-0.jpg>



Rio del Rey:

<http://www.ebay.de/sch/Kamerun-/40321/i.html>



http://www.briefmarkenfischer.de/de/i_9189_696/Deutsche_Kolonien_Kamerun/michel_P5.html?breadcrumbId=1424205980.9771



Sangmelima:

<http://www.jennes-und-kluettermann.de/auktion201412/jpg/big/61-2570-0.jpg>



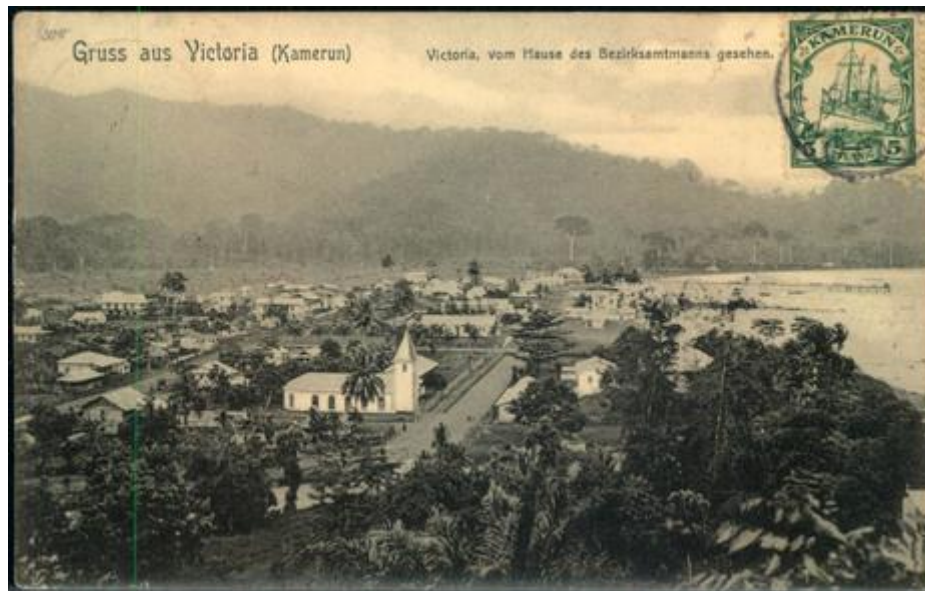
Ukoko:

<http://www.briefmarkenfischer.de/de/dosearch.php3?treeparent=100000190>



Viktoria:

<http://www.ebay.de/sch/Kamerun-/40321/i.html>



http://www.briefmarkenfischer.de/de/i_9089_140938/Deutsche_Kolonien_Kamerun/0020023059.html?breadcrumbId=1424206124.2643

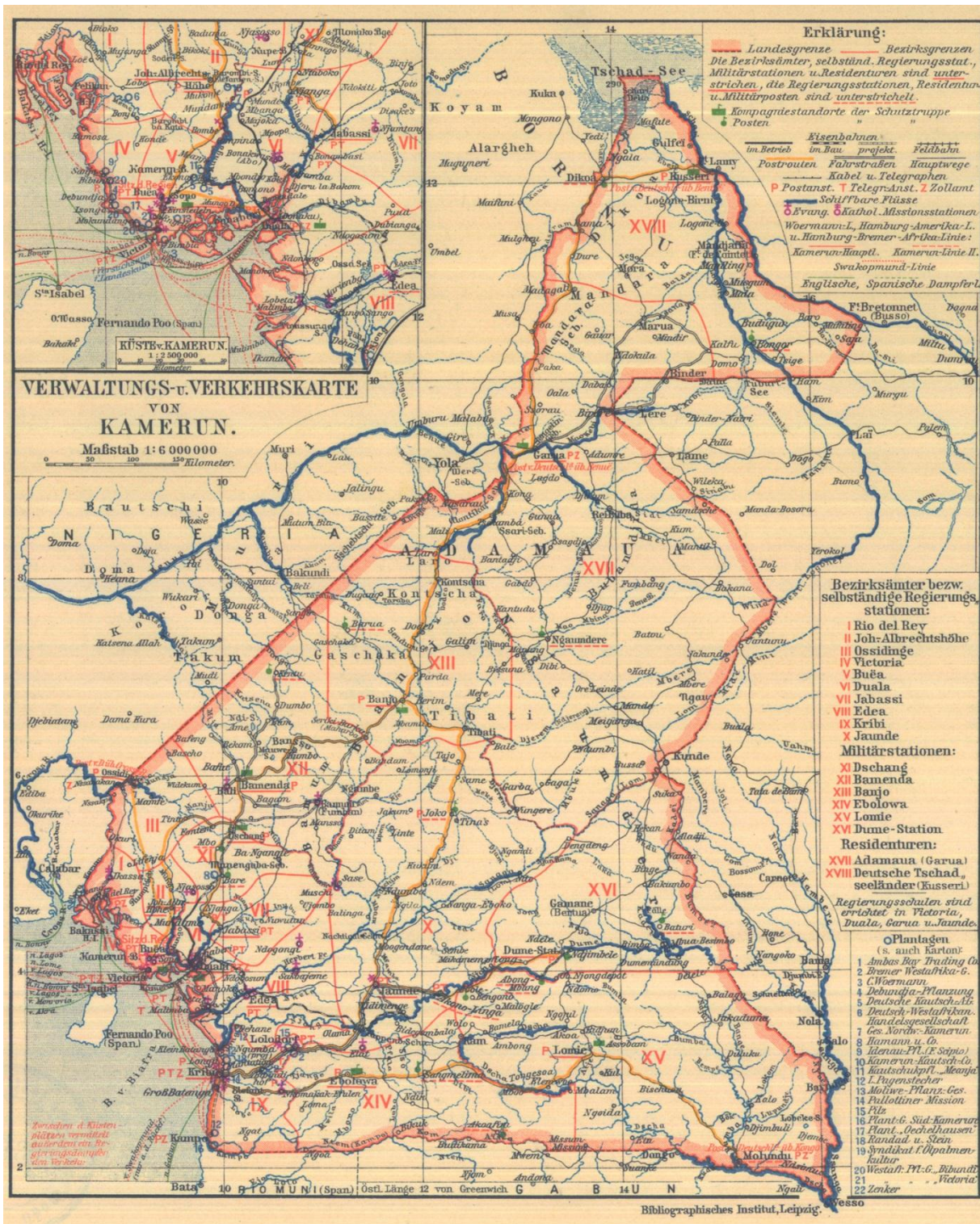


Deutsche Seepost:

http://www.kniffka-philatelie.com/de/briefmarken/kategorie/918-Kamerun-Kolonie/index_1.html



<http://www.jennes-und-kluettermann.de/auktion201412/jpg/big/61-2578-0.jpg>



<http://www.snipview.com/q/1900s%20in%20Kamerun>, " Image via <http://www.zum.de/whkmla/region/cen>".

[So far I have not yet found cancellations by German Kamerun of places in Neukamerun, acquired in 1911; some of these places did have postal services, though, for instance Ouesso, in 1910 still in French Congo:



http://www.stampcommunity.org/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=11866&whichpage=30 , adding “Ouessou, on the border between Middle Congo and Cameroun. Less than a year after this stamp postmarked it would become part of German Kamerun as part of the deal that ended tensions over Morocco”.

The occupation of German Kamerun by British and French troops



Positions of German soldiers just before the outbreak of the First World War, in 1914;

<http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schutztruppe>

Wikipedia, English version, 22/2/1915: “(Kamerun campaign, 1914–1916)

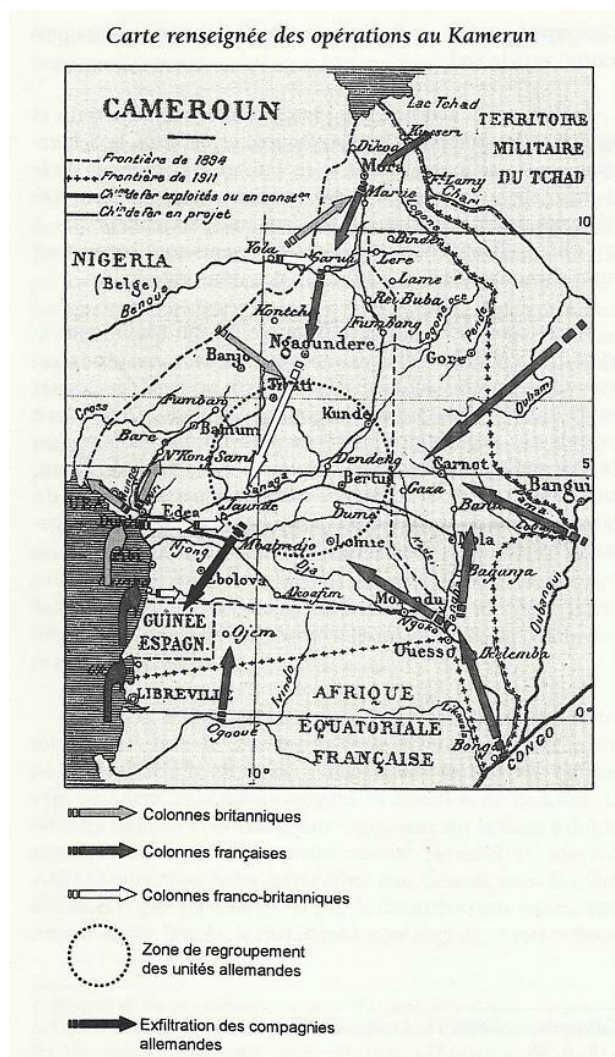
*By 25 August 1914, British forces in Nigeria had moved into Kamerun towards Mara in the far north, towards Garua in the center and towards Nsanakang in the south. British forces moving towards Garua under the command of Colonel MacLear were ordered to push to the German border post at Tepe near Garua. The first engagement between British and German troops in the campaign took place at the **Battle of Tepe**, eventually resulting in German withdrawal. In the far north British forces attempted to take the German fort at Mora but failed and began a siege which lasted until the end of the campaign. British forces in the south attacked Nsanakang and were defeated and almost completely destroyed by German counter-attacks at the **Battle of Nsanakang**. MacLear then pushed his forces further inland towards the German stronghold of Garua, but was repulsed in the **First Battle of Garua** on 31 August.*

*In 1915 the German forces, except for those at Mora and Garua, withdrew to the mountains near the new capital of Jaunde. In the spring the German forces delayed or repulsed Allied attacks and a force under Captain von Crailsheim from Garua, conducted an offensive into Nigeria and fought the **Battle of Gurin**. General*

Frederick Hugh Cunliffe began the *Second Battle of Garua* in June, which was a British victory. Allied units in northern Kamerun were freed to push into the interior, where the Germans were defeated at the *Battle of Ngaundere* on 29 June. Cunliffe advanced south to Jaunde but was held up by heavy rains and his force joined the *Siege of Mora*. When the weather improved, Cunliffe moved further south, captured a German fort at the *Battle of Banjo* on 6 November and occupied several towns by the end of the year. In December, the forces of Cunliffe and Dobell made contact and made ready to conduct an assault on Jaunde. In this year most of Neukamerun had been fully occupied by Belgian and French troops, who also began to prepare for an attack on Jaunde.

German forces began to cross into the Spanish colony of *Rio Muni* on 23 December 1915 and with Allied forces pressing in on Jaunde from all sides, the German commander Carl Zimmermann ordered the remaining German units and civilians to escape into Rio Muni and by mid-February, c. 7,000 Schutztruppen and c. 7,000 civilians had reached Spanish territory. On 18 February the *Siege of Mora* ended with the surrender of the garrison. Most Kamerunians remained in Muni but the Germans eventually moved to *Fernando Po* and some were allowed by Spain to travel to the *Netherlands* to go home. Some Kamerunians including the paramount chief of the *Beti* people, moved to Madrid, where they lived as visiting nobility on German funds.”

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_theatre_of_World_War_I



Carte sur les opérations militaires au Kamerun entre 1914 et 1916
 (Source : Rémy Porte, *La conquête des colonies allemandes*, 2006) from:
http://pedagogie.lycesavioudouala.org/histoire-geographie/app_grande-guerre/pages/page_4a.htm

In 1915 a major part of the area was conquered by the British and French armies.

British military activity: C.E.F

The Cameroons Expeditionary Force issued thirteen stamps with a 'C.E.F.' overprint on stamps of German Cameroon (see Cameroon-5; Michel 1-13).

Cameroon-5: CEF overprints, British Expeditionary Force



<http://www.sandafayre.com/topics/militarywarstamps.html> (small) and <http://www.fixandfix.com/cam/camcatbrit.htm> (large)





CEF stamp with Cancellation from Kumba: <http://www.jennes-und-kluettermann.de/auktion201412/jpg/big/61-2585-0.jpg>



LA CONQUÊTE DU CAMEROUN. — Entrée solennelle des troupes anglo-françaises à Garoua, le 11 juin 1915: le Salut aux Couleurs.

Soldats du corps expéditionnaire franco-britannique embarquant à Freetown (Sierra Leone), en direction de Douala (septembre 1914) (Source : www.gallica.fr and Prise de Garoua par les troupes franco-britanniques (Source : L'illustration)) from: http://pedagogie.lyceesavioudouala.org/histoire-geographie/app_grande-guerre/pages/page_4a.htm

French military activity: Corps Expéditionnaire Franco-Anglais CAMEROUN'



www.specialcollections.blog.lib.cam

On November 10, 1915 the French army used stamps of (French) Gabon with an overprint 'Corps Expéditionnaire Franco-Anglais CAMEROUN' (fifteen stamps; Michel 1-15; see Cameroon-6a), followed by overprints on stamps of Moyen Congo and Congo with 'Occupation Française Cameroun' (thirty-one stamps altogether, Michel Nrs 16-46 (see Cameroon-6b for Michel Nrs 30-44 and 46).

Cameroon 6a: Corps Expéditionnaire Franco-Anglais CAMEROUN'





<http://stampdata.com/stamps.php?fovpt=Corps%20Expeditionnaire%2F%2FFranco-Anglais%2F%2FCAMEROUN> [35c double print and 2 f with cancellation Duala:
<http://stampauctionnetwork.com/f/f13513.cfm>

A postcard with both a British and a French occupation stamp



<http://stampauctionnetwork.com/f/f13513.cfm>

Cameroon-6b: 'Occupation Française Cameroun', 1916, example



<http://stampauctionnetwork.com/f/f13513.cfm>



<http://www.catawiki.de/catalog/briefmarken/lander-gebiete/216661-kamerun-cmr>

Cameroon as a trusteeship of the League of Nations, 1920 onwards

In 1922 Cameroon had been officially declared a trustee area of the League of Nations, but it was clear what the status would be since about 1920¹. On 15 July 1921 seventeen stamps were printed with an overprint of 'Cameroun' on Moyen Congo for the areas to be administered by France (Cameroon-7; Michel 47-63). Those areas became autonomous in 1957 and independent as 'République du Cameroun' in 1960. Areas to be administered by Great Britain were using British-Nigerian stamps from 1919 (?) onwards (see Cameroon-8), and issued their own stamps in 1960 and 1961 (starting 1 October 1960), after which a referendum resulted in the northern area joining Independent Nigeria and the southern area Independent Cameroon, which then became the Federal Republic of Cameroon/République Fédérale du Cameroun. (see Cameroon-10), and later the United Republic of Cameroon/République Unie de Cameroun (see Cameroon-11).

Cameroon-7: Overprint 'Cameroun' (example; 1921)



<http://www.catawiki.de/catalog/briefmarken/lander-gebiete/216661-kamerun-cmr>

Cameroon-8: Nigerian stamps used for the areas of former German Cameroon occupied by British forces.

¹ www.cameroon-tour.com has this to say: "During the First World War 1914 to 1918 Germany was defeated in Cameroon in 1915 by a combined force of British, French and Belgian troops. The British and French thereafter established a joint administration of the territory (condominium) for a few months, and then partitioned it. The British took a smaller Western band with the Mountain range forming a natural frontier between her sector and the larger eastern French sector. The British sector was disjointed by the Benue Valley thus providing Northern British Cameroon and Southern Cameroons. Cameroonians were henceforth subjected to two other types of colonial experiences with problems of adaptation to new languages: French and English respectively; new attitudes and cultures. This was a new start all over again. While British ruled their sector of Cameroon as part of Nigeria to which they attached it for administrative convenience, the French ruled the French Cameroun as an entity after carving out of it that part which she had earlier ceded, under pressure, to Germany in 1911 in exchange for German hands-off in Morocco where France wished to have a free hand. At the end of the war, the newly formed League of Nations confirmed the partition of Cameroon and awarded the sectors as Mandates to the British and French respectively in 1922".



<http://www.deutsche-schutzgebiete.de/kamerun-briefmarken.htm>



Map of Cameroon, partitioned between France and Great Britain, but still called 'Kamerun' in a 1923 atlas, source: <http://www.linns.com/howto/refresher/20140428/refreshercourse.aspx>

German revisionist vignettes after the War

After the Great War vignettes have been issued to commemorate the German colonies, also for Kamerun; see Cameroon-9

Cameroon-9: German vignettes about the colonies



<http://www.deutsche-schutzgebiete.de/kamerun-briefmarken.htm> and <http://stampforgeries.com/forged-stamps-of-kamerun/> as well as http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deutsche_Kolonien_und_Schutzgebiete

English-speaking Cameroons around Independence

Cameroon-10: Cameroons UKTT area, 1960-1961 1 Sh with Mubi cancellation, now in Nigeria; 3d with Kumba Cancellation, now in Cameroon.



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postage_stamps_and_postal_history_of_the_British_Cameroons

Not everyone was and is happy with the position of (English-speaking) Cameroon as part of the independent Cameroonian state after 1961. In 2011 unofficial stamps have been issued for the 'Free State of Southern Cameroon(s)'.



http://www.africastamps.org/Southern_Cameroon_Stamps.htm

Independent Cameroon and memories about German colonial rule

Cameroon-11: Stamp of the United Republic of Cameroon in 1979 celebrating Sir Roland Hill, with a German Kamerun post stamp!



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