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## **Tanzania 1895-1920: Part III: 1914-1920s**

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## African Studies Centre Leiden

# African Postal Heritage

APH Paper Nr 3

Ton Dietz

Tanzania 1895-1920

Part III: 1914-1920s

Version November 2016

### Introduction

Postage stamps and related objects are miniature communication tools, and they tell a story about cultural and political identities and about artistic forms of identity expressions. They are part of the world's material heritage, and part of history. Ever more of this postal heritage becomes available online, published by stamp collectors' organizations, auction houses, commercial stamp shops, online catalogues, and individual collectors. Virtually collecting postage stamps and postal history has recently become a possibility. These working papers about Africa are examples of what can be done. But they are work-in-progress! Everyone who would like to contribute, by sending corrections, additions, and new area studies can do so by sending an email message to the APH editor: Ton Dietz ([dietzaj@asc.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:dietzaj@asc.leidenuniv.nl)). You are welcome!

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URL of this Working Paper: <https://openaccess.leidenuniv.nl/handle/1887/32071>

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Countryportal	<a href="http://countryportal.ascleiden.nl">http://countryportal.ascleiden.nl</a>

Illustrations cover page:

ASC Leiden postage stamp Nederland (2011): ©African Studies Centre Leiden

Cape of Good Hope postage stamp 1853:

[http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/7/7c/Cape Triangular Postage Stamp.jpg/400px-Cape Triangular Postage Stamp.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/7/7c/Cape_Triangular_Postage_Stamp.jpg/400px-Cape_Triangular_Postage_Stamp.jpg)

Egypt postage stamp 1914:

[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/4b/Post Stamp Egypt.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/4b/Post_Stamp_Egypt.jpg)

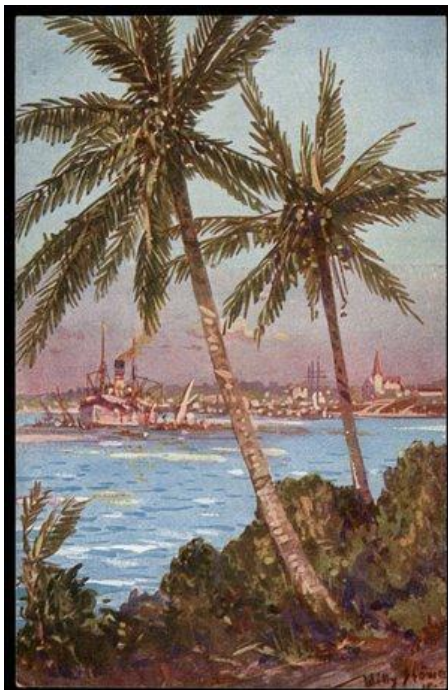
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## The Great War in East Africa, 1914-1919

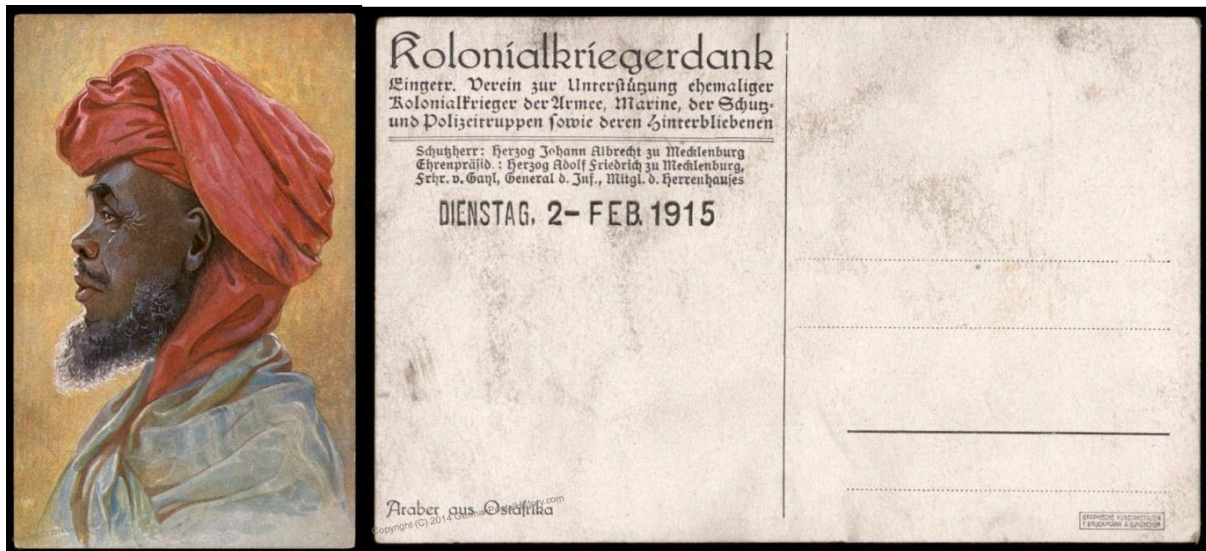


<http://www.germanpostalhistory.com/php/viewitem.php?itemid=69074&germany%20cover=search&>



[http://www.germanpostalhistory.com/php/searchviewpage.php?country\\_spec=Political.Germany.Colonies.East%20Africa&pagenum=3&orderby=5&](http://www.germanpostalhistory.com/php/searchviewpage.php?country_spec=Political.Germany.Colonies.East%20Africa&pagenum=3&orderby=5&) "WWI Patriotic Kolonialkriegerdank donation postcard"





<http://www.germanpostalhistory.com/php/viewitem.php?itemid=69075&germany%20cover=search&#itempic1>

Wikipedia, English version (Febr. 22, 2015):

*"The East African Campaign was a series of battles and guerrilla actions, which started in German East Africa and spread to portions of Mozambique, Northern Rhodesia, British East Africa, Uganda and the Belgian Congo. The campaign was effectively ended in November 1917. The Germans entered Portuguese East Africa and continued the campaign living off Portuguese supplies.*

*The strategy of the German colonial forces, led by Lieutenant Colonel (later Generalmajor) Paul Emil von Lettow-Vorbeck, was to divert forces from the Western Front to Africa. His strategy achieved only mixed results after 1916, when he was driven out of German East Africa and Allied forces became composed almost entirely of South African, Indian, and other colonial troops. South African troops were not considered for European service as a matter of policy while all Indian units had been withdrawn from the Western Front by the end of 1915; the campaign in Africa consumed considerable amounts of money and war material that could have gone to other fronts. The Germans fought for the whole of World War I, receiving word of the armistice on 14 November 1918 at 7:30 a.m. Both sides waited for confirmation and the Germans formally surrendered on 25 November. German East Africa became two League of Nations Class B Mandates, Tanganyika Territory of the United Kingdom and Ruanda-Urundi of Belgium, while the Kionga Triangle became a mandate of Portugal."*

*On 2 August 1914 the Colonial Office in Berlin instructed Heinrich Schnee the Governor of German East Africa to play down fears of war and he ordered that no hostile action was to be taken. To the north, Governor Sir Henry Conway Belfield of British East Africa stated that he and "this colony had no interest in the present war." The colonial governors, who often met in pre-war years, had discussed these matters and wished to adhere to the Congo Act of 1885, which called for overseas possessions to remain neutral in the event of a European war.*

*The British and Germans only maintained small forces to deal with local risings and border raids. It was considered dangerous to have Africans fight white troops, even where both sides were predominantly composed of Africans with European officers. On the outbreak of war there were 2,760 Schutztruppen in fourteen field companies. The King's African Rifles ("KAR") had 2,319 men but most were operating on the northern frontier*

of *British East Africa*. In East Africa, the Congo Act was first broken by the British. On 5 August 1914, troops from the Uganda protectorate assaulted German river outposts near Lake Victoria, and on 8 August a direct naval attack commenced when the *Royal Navy* warships *HMS Astraea* and *Pegasus* bombarded *Dar es Salaam* from several miles offshore. In response, the commander of the German forces in East Africa, Lieutenant Colonel *Paul Emil von Lettow-Vorbeck*, bypassed Governor Schnee, nominally his superior, and began to organize his troops for battle. At the time, the German *Schutztruppe* in East Africa consisted of 260 Germans of all ranks and 2,472 *Askari* and was approximately numerically equal with the two battalions of the *King's African Rifles* (KAR) based in the British East African colonies.

On 15 August, German Askari forces stationed in the *Neu Moshi* region engaged in their first offensive of the campaign. *Taveta* on the British side of Kilimanjaro fell to 300 askaris of two field companies with the British firing a token volley and retiring in good order. In September, the Germans began to stage raids deeper into *British East Africa* and *Uganda*. German naval power on Lake Victoria was limited to *Hedwig von Wissmann* and *Kingani* a tugboat armed with one "pom-pom" gun, causing minor damage but a great deal of news. The British then armed the *Uganda Railway* lake steamers *SS William Mackinnon*, *SS Kavirondo*, *Winifred* and *Sybil* as improvised gunboats. Two of these<sup>[which?]</sup> trapped the tug, which the Germans scuttled. The Germans later raised her, dismounted her gun for use elsewhere and continued to use the tug as an unarmed transport; with the tug disarmed "teeth removed, British command of Lake Victoria was no longer in dispute."<sup>l</sup>

In an effort to solve the raiding nuisance and to capture the entire northern, white settler region of the German colony, the British command devised a two-pronged plan. The British *Indian Expeditionary Force "B"* of 8,000 troops in two brigades would carry out an amphibious landing at *Tanga* on 2 November 1914 to capture the city and thereby control the Indian Ocean terminus of the *Usambara Railway* (see *Battle of Tanga*). In the Kilimanjaro area, the Force "C" of 4,000 men in one brigade would advance from British East Africa on *Neu- Moshi* on 3 November 1914 to the western terminus of the railroad (see *Battle of Kilimanjaro*). After capturing Tanga, Force "B" would rapidly move north-west, join Force "C" and mop up what remained of the broken German forces. Although outnumbered 8:1 at Tanga and 4:1 at *Longido*, the *Schutztruppe* under Lettow- Vorbeck prevailed. In *Military Operations East Africa: August 1914 – September 1916*, C. Hordern the British Official Historian, described the events as one of "the most notable failures in British military history."<sup>l</sup>

(Naval War) A light cruiser *SMS Königsberg* of the *Imperial German Navy* was in the Indian Ocean when war was declared. *Königsberg* sank the cruiser *HMS Pegasus* in *Zanzibar* harbour and then retired into the *Rufiji River* delta. After being cornered by warships of the British Cape Squadron, including an old battleship, two shallow-draught monitors with 6 in (150 mm) guns were brought from England and demolished the cruiser on 11 July 1915. The British salvaged and used six 4 in (100 mm) from the sunken *Pegasus*, which became known as the *Peggy* guns; the crew of *Königsberg* and the 4.1 in (100 mm) main battery guns were taken over by the *Schutztruppe*.

(Lake Tanganyika Expedition) The Germans had controlled the lake since the outbreak of the war, with three armed steamers and two unarmed motor boats. In 1915, two British motorboats, *HMS Mimi* and *Toutou* each armed with a 3-pounder and a Maxim gun, were transported 3,000 miles (4,800 km) by land to the British shore of *Lake Tanganyika*. They captured the German ship *Kingani* on 26 December, renaming it *HMS Fifi* and with two Belgian ships under the command of Commander *Geoffrey Spicer-Simson*, attacked and sank the German

ship *Hedwig von Wissmann*. The *Graf von Götzen* and the *Wami* an unarmed motor boat, were the only German ships left on the lake. In February 1916 the *Wami* was intercepted and run ashore by the crew and burned. Lettow-Vorbeck then had its *Königsberg* gun removed and sent by rail to the main fighting front. The ship was scuttled in mid-July after a seaplane bombing attack by the Belgians on Kigoma and before advancing Belgian colonial troops could capture it. It was later refloated and used by the British.

(British Empire reinforcements, 1916) General *Horace Smith-Dorrien* was assigned with orders to find and fight the *Schutztruppe*, but he contracted pneumonia during the voyage to *South Africa* which prevented him from taking command. In 1916, General *J.C. Smuts* was given the task of defeating Lettow-Vorbeck. Smuts had a large army (for the area), some 13,000 South Africans including *Boers*, British, and *Rhodesians* and 7,000 *Indian* and African troops in a ration strength of 73,300 men. There was a Belgian force and a larger but ineffective group of *Portuguese* military units based in *Mozambique*. A large *Carrier Corps* of African porters under British command carried supplies for Smuts' army into the interior. Despite all these troops from different allies, it was essentially a South African operation of the *British Empire* under Smuts' control. During the previous year, Lettow-Vorbeck had also gained personnel and his army was now 13,800 strong.

Smuts attacked from several directions: the main attack was from the north out of British East Africa, while substantial forces from the *Belgian Congo* advanced from the west in two columns, over Lake Victoria on the British troop ships *SS Rusinga* and *SS Usoga* and into the Rift Valley. Another contingent advanced over Lake Nyasa (*Lake Malawi*) from the south-east. All these forces failed to capture Lettow-Vorbeck and they all suffered from disease along the march. One unit, 9th South African Infantry, started with 1,135 men in February, and by October its strength was reduced to 116 fit troops, without doing much fighting at all. However, the Germans nearly always retreated from the larger British troop concentrations and by September 1916, the German Central Railway from the coast at Dar es Salaam to *Ujiji* was fully under British control.

With Lettow-Vorbeck's forces now confined to the southern part of German East Africa, Smuts began to withdraw his South African, Rhodesian and Indian troops and replaced them with askaris of the *King's African Rifles*, which by November 1918 had 35,424 men. By the start of 1917, more than half the British Army in the theatre was already composed of Africans and by the end of the war, it was nearly all African troops. Smuts himself left the area in January 1917 to join the *Imperial War Cabinet* at London.

(Operations, 1917–1918)



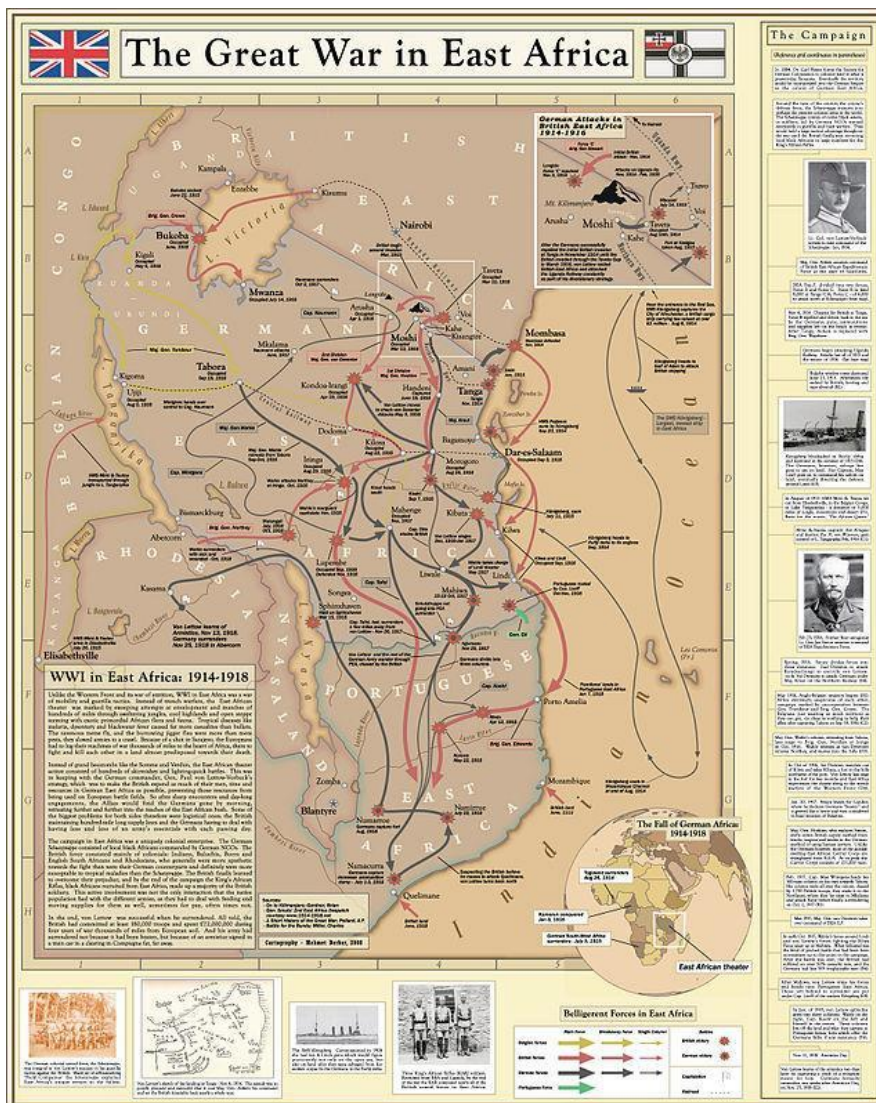
Lettow surrendering his forces at Abercorn, as seen by an African artist

Major-General Reginald Hoskins (KAR) took over command of the campaign and was then replaced by Major-General *J.L. van Deventer* of South Africa. Van Deventer began an offensive in July 1917, which by early autumn had pushed the Germans 100 mi (160 km) to the south. From 15–19 October 1917, Lettow-Vorbeck fought a mutually costly battle at *Mahiwa*, with 519 German casualties and 2,700 British casualties in the Nigerian brigade. After the news of the battle reached Germany, Lettow-Vorbeck was promoted to Generalmajor. British



units forced the Schutztruppe south and on 23 November, Lettow-Vorbeck crossed into Portuguese *Mozambique* to plunder supplies from Portuguese garrisons. The Germans marched through Mozambique in caravans of troops, carriers, wives and children for nine months but were unable to gain much strength. Lettow- Vorbeck divided the force into three groups on the march. One detachment of 1,000 men under Hauptmann Theodor Tafel, was forced to surrender, after running out of food and ammunition; Lettow and Tafel were unaware they were only one day's march apart. The Germans returned to German East Africa and crossed into *Northern Rhodesia* in August 1918. On 13 November two days after the *Armistice* was signed in France, the German Army took *Kasama*, which had been evacuated by the British. The next day at the *Chambezi River*, Lettow-Vorbeck was handed a telegram announcing the signing of the armistice and he agreed to a cease-fire. Lettow-Vorbeck marched his army to *Abercorn* and formally surrendered on 23 November 1918.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East\\_African\\_Campaign\\_\(World\\_War\\_I\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_African_Campaign_(World_War_I))



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African\\_theatre\\_of\\_World\\_War\\_I#mediaviewer/File:World\\_War\\_I\\_in\\_East\\_Africa.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_theatre_of_World_War_I#mediaviewer/File:World_War_I_in_East_Africa.jpg)

### German occupation of Taveta, 1914-1915

After Germany and Great Britain declared war, German troops moved to Taveta, in British East Africa, where they had a Feldpoststation between 1.10.1914 and 31/7/1915.

German occupation of Taveta



<http://www.germanpostalhistory.com/php/viewitem.php?itemid=69015&germany%20cover=search&>

### Postal services in areas still controlled by Germany

During the war some post offices continued their services, but ever more without being able to sell post stamps. Customers had to pay directly and local cancellations during 1915 and 1916 prove that letters and postcards have been delivered. In 1916, though, a new delivery of Hohenzollern stamps reached the area and could be used afterwards. This was thanks to a successful breaking of the British sea blockage by a ship called Marie.

War cancellations in German East Africa by German postal services, 1914-1919.



Dodoma 7/7/1915

<http://www.germanpostalhistory.com/php/viewitem.php?itemid=22233&germany%20cover=search&>

Mittellandbahnpost



<http://www.germanpostalhistory.com/php/viewitem.php?itemid=69534&germany%20cover=search&>



Bukoba cancellation 1916 on Germania stamp

[http://www.delcampe.net/items?catLists\[0\]=2678&language=G&searchOptionForm\[searchTldCountry\]=net&searchString=&page=2&useAsDefault=](http://www.delcampe.net/items?catLists[0]=2678&language=G&searchOptionForm[searchTldCountry]=net&searchString=&page=2&useAsDefault=)





Kilimatinde

[http://www.matthewbennettauctions.com/lotphotos\\_large/300/172094.jpg](http://www.matthewbennettauctions.com/lotphotos_large/300/172094.jpg) : "German East Africa 1916 (12 Mar.) censored envelope from the Internment Camp in Kilimatinde to Tabora (14.3), showing "Kilimatinde" c.d.s., unframed "Frankiert/mit 7½H", circular Sanitätsdienststelle/Kilimatind" and "Kaiserl. Postdirektor/Deutsch-Ostafrika" cachets in violet, Very Fine and one of great rarity. Kilimatinde operated from 1 October 1914 until May, 1916, and Tabora was the main camp from May, 1915 until the Belgian Occupation on 19 September 1916."



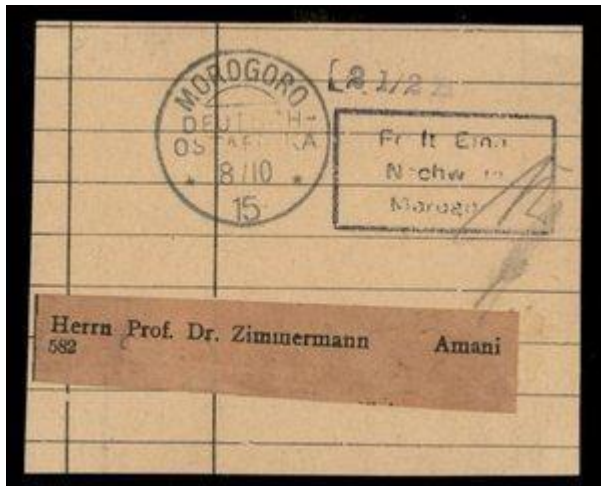
Korogwe cancellation on Germania stamp, 5/4/1916

[http://www.delcampe.net/items?catLists\[0\]=2678&language=G&searchOptionForm\[searchTldCountry\]=net&searchString=&page=3&useAsDefault=](http://www.delcampe.net/items?catLists[0]=2678&language=G&searchOptionForm[searchTldCountry]=net&searchString=&page=3&useAsDefault=)

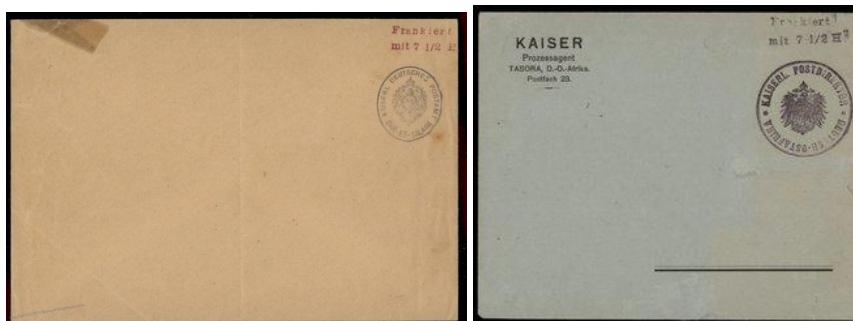


<http://www.germanpostalhistory.com/php/viewitem.php?itemid=69028&germany%20cover=search&>

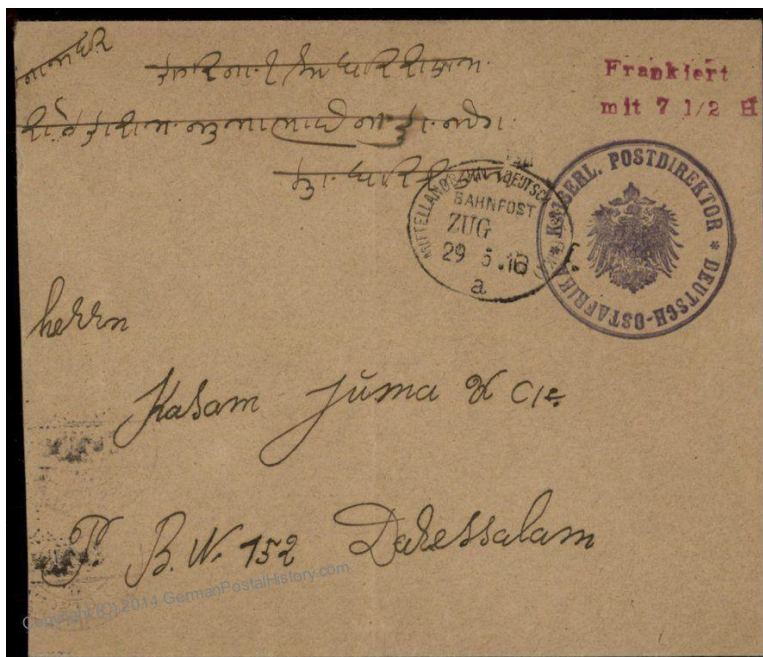




<http://www.germanpostalhistory.com/php/viewitem.php?itemid=69031&germany%20cover=search&>



<http://www.germanpostalhistory.com/php/viewitem.php?itemid=69034&germany%20cover=search&#itempic>  
0` Vorausfrankierungen / Cash prepaid cover from German East Africa / Deutsche Ostafrika (DOA)  
during WWI, when there was an absence of stamps`



<http://www.germanpostalhistory.com/php/viewitem.php?itemid=68190&germany%20cover=search&>

## Wuga

In March 1916 a mission station with its own printing services (Wuga, near Wilhelmsthal) had prepared a provisional series of three stamps, but those have never been used, because just when they were ready, official 'Hohenzollern' stamps had arrived.

Provisional stamps Wuga-Marienthal, 1916 (never used)



2½ and 7½H

[http://www.delcampe.net/items?catLists\[0\]=2678&language=G&searchOptionForm\[searchTldCount ry\]=net&searchString=&page=2&useAsDefault=](http://www.delcampe.net/items?catLists[0]=2678&language=G&searchOptionForm[searchTldCount ry]=net&searchString=&page=2&useAsDefault=)

1R <http://germancoloniescollectorsgroup.org/images/deutsch-ostafrika1.png>

## Mafia

In January 1915 Great Britain occupied the island of Mafia and started its postal services there, with 'G.R. Mafia' overprint on ten different 'Hohenzollern' stamps (Michel Mafia 1-10), followed by a 6c overprint on each of them in July 1915 (Michel Mafia 11-20), and six additional stamps with 'O.H.B.M.S. Mafia' overprint (Michel Mafia 21-26) and finally 'G.R. Post Mafia' on six 'Hohenzollern' stamps (Michel Mafia 27-32). In September 2015 the British-Indian Expeditionary Force issued 10 stamps on British India stamps (Georg V) with 'I.E.F. G.R. Post Mafia' (Michel Tanganjika 13-22).

British occupation of Mafia Island, overprints on 'Hohenzollern' stamps







2½h <http://www.deutsche-schutzgebiete.de/ostafrika-briefmarken.htm>

7½h

[http://www.delcampe.net/items?catLists\[0\]=2678&language=G&searchOptionForm\[searchTldCountry\]=net&searchString=&page=3&useAsDefault=](http://www.delcampe.net/items?catLists[0]=2678&language=G&searchOptionForm[searchTldCountry]=net&searchString=&page=3&useAsDefault=)

4h, 15h and 20h, 45h

[http://www.grosvenorauctions.com/dyn\\_pages/historic\\_sale\\_summary.php?for\\_cat=East+Africa:+Tanganyika:+Mafia+Island&Sale\\_no=21&histfcat=yes&button=Search](http://www.grosvenorauctions.com/dyn_pages/historic_sale_summary.php?for_cat=East+Africa:+Tanganyika:+Mafia+Island&Sale_no=21&histfcat=yes&button=Search)

30h [http://www.cavendish-auctions.com/oldsite/site2\\_images/lot\\_images/734/734\\_1161.jpg](http://www.cavendish-auctions.com/oldsite/site2_images/lot_images/734/734_1161.jpg)

1R and 2R <http://vareah.com/2014/02/03/3369-lots-of-philatelic-material-apex-philatelics-public-auction/>

3R <https://www.picollecta.com/p/learned-bidders-spot-the-worth-of-30-000-board-of-education-stamp-1000508514>

Provisionals



<http://www.pickelhaubes.com/bb/viewtopic.php?f=9&t=6338>

Mafia cancellation on Zanzibar stamp



[http://www.grosvenorauctions.com/dyn\\_pages/historic\\_sale\\_summary.php?for\\_cat=East+Africa:  
+Ta nganyika:+Mafia+Island&Sale\\_no=21&histfc=cat=yes&button=Search](http://www.grosvenorauctions.com/dyn_pages/historic_sale_summary.php?for_cat=East+Africa:+Ta+nganyika:+Mafia+Island&Sale_no=21&histfc=cat=yes&button=Search)

O.H.B.M.S stamps



“GERMAN EAST AFRICA Mafia Island Issues 1915 German Fiscal Stamps overprinted "O.H.B.M.S. Mafia", 24p-1r, set of five, l.h., usual tropical staining, fine-v.f., with 1998 BPA cert. These stamps were found in July 1915 in the Mafia Customs House and were overprinted for civilian use”:

[http://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auction/results.asp?auction=201012&task=submit&count  
ry=  
GERMAN+EAST+AFRICA+Mafia+Island+Issues](http://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auction/results.asp?auction=201012&task=submit&country=GERMAN+EAST+AFRICA+Mafia+Island+Issues)



<http://www.fiskal-philatelie.de/artikel2/doa23.jpg> : "Deutsche Fiskalmarken mit Aufdruck „OHBM S MAFIA“ oder „GR POST MAFIA“ ; sind Ausgaben der englischen Besetzung von 1915 und sind unter den Ausgaben Englands aufzuführen!; Ergänzung: Dieses Bild mit Angebotstext sind mir von einer BK Auktion zugesendet worden; für wieviel dieser Brief verkauft worden ist, entzieht sich meiner Kenntnis! "

Losnummer: 16509

Preis: 16000,-

Beschreibung: 1915, STEMPELMARKEN, DER KOMPLETTE SATZ ZU 6 WERTEN JE MIT BLÄULICHGRÜNEM "O.H.B.M.S. MAFIA" IM KREIS, UND ZUSÄTZLICHEM DREIZEILER "G.R. POST MAFIA", AUF WEISSEM DIENST-UMSCHLAG. DER NACH ZANZIBAR ADRESSIERTE BELEG, IN GUTER GESAMTERHALTUNG, STELLT EINE BEMERKENSWERTE SELTENHEIT DIESER AUSGABE DAR. Fotoatteste BPSB., BPA. SG M27/32, Sc.60/65, Gibbs 48/53. #Dieser Brief ist im Gibbs-Handbuch auf Seite 248 abgebildet. Der übergehende Einkreisstempel diente hier als Abstempelung. #The complete set on official cover with bluish-green circular stamp as cancellation as well as additional handstamp. Illustrated in Gibbs on page 248. #Provenance: Robert M. Gibbs.





### British Occupation of Mainland Tanganyika

When the German troops started to withdraw to more inland positions, from October 1915 onwards, ever more Coastal areas became administered by the Indian Expeditionary Force. First they used the Mafia stamps but, unlike stamps used on Mafia Island, this time with cursive letters (Michel Tanganjika 23-32).

British occupation of mainland Tanganyika, 1915 onwards; Mafia stamps



<http://www.stampworld.com/en/stamps/Mafia/>



[http://www.gbos.org.uk/index.php/Country\\_List/47](http://www.gbos.org.uk/index.php/Country_List/47)



In 1914 the British forces issued propaganda stamps, with 'G.E.A. British Occupation on (large) Yacht stamps, claiming victory. The source adds: "**GERMAN COLONIES German East Africa 1914 seven propaganda labels (two unused), same design as the German East Africa Yacht (but much larger), five overprinted and surcharged "G.E.A. British Occupation", apparently printed early to celebrate the anticipated British victory, cancelled on cover addressed to Mogadiscio, Italian Somalia, with arrival pmk, all markings probably bogus**"

<http://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auction/results.asp?task=submit&auction=201409&country=GERMAN+COLONIES+German+East+Africa&startlot=331>



### British Nyasaland Forces

In 1916 the Nyasaland Forces of the British Empire, under General Northey entered the war area in Tanganyika and issued five different stamps, with 'N.F.' overprint on Nyasaland stamps (Michel Tanganyika 33-37).

British Nyasaland Forces in Tanganyika, 1916



<http://www.stampworld.com/nl/stamps/Tanganyika/>

### G.E.A.

In 1917 the postal authorities in the areas occupied by the British issued a series of seventeen post stamps, with 'G.E.A.' overprint on British East Africa and Uganda (Michel Tanganyika 38-54).

G.E.A. (German East Africa) overprints on British East Africa and Uganda, a) 1917

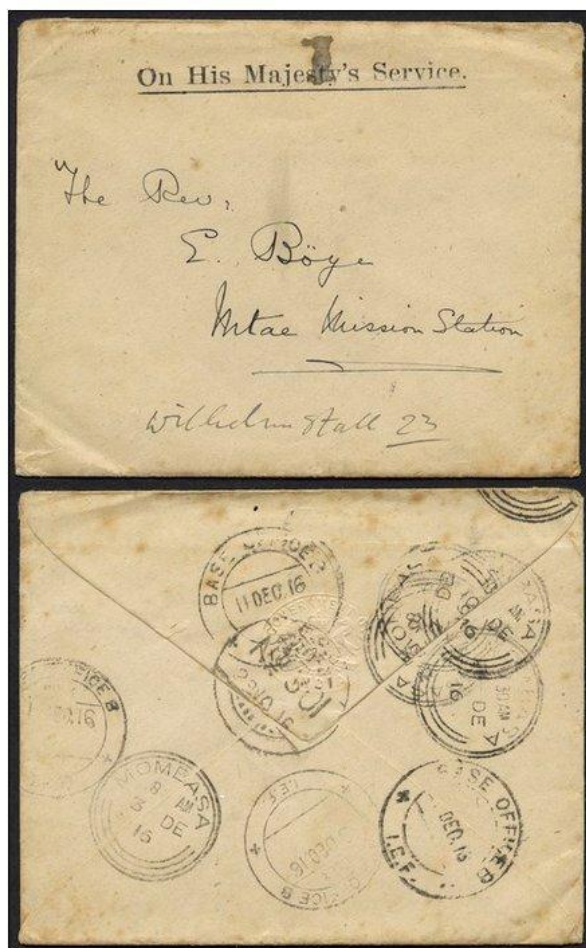






<http://www.stampworld.com/en/stamps/Tanganyika/>

German prisoners of war could send letters using British mail services.



Nordphila

[www.delcampe.net](http://www.delcampe.net)

[http://www.delcampe.net/items?catLists\[0\]=2678&language=G&searchOptionForm\[searchTldCountry\]=net&searchString=&page=2&useAsDefault=](http://www.delcampe.net/items?catLists[0]=2678&language=G&searchOptionForm[searchTldCountry]=net&searchString=&page=2&useAsDefault=)



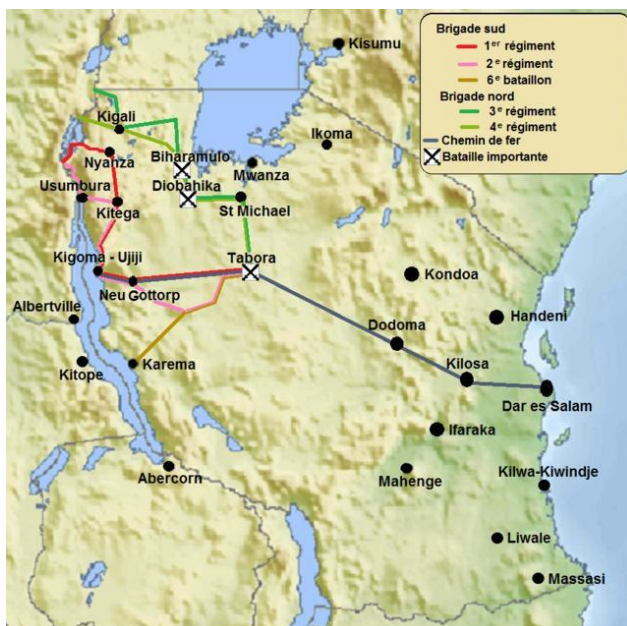
## Belgian occupation of Ruanda and Urundi

In the meantime Belgian troops had occupied the areas of Ruanda and Urundi. In July 1916 the Belgian authorities used eight stamps of Belgian Congo with an overprint of 'Ruanda' or 'Urundi' (Michel Belgisch-Kongo Belgische Besetzung von Deutsch-Ostafrika 9-24). This was followed by a series issued in November 1916 (Michel 1-8). On 15 May 1918 new stamps were issued, with an overprint of 'A.O' (Michel 25-33).

Wikipedia (English version):

*"(Belgian operations, 1916)*

*The British conscripted 120,000 carriers to move Belgian supplies and equipment to Kivu from late 1915 to early 1916. The lines of communication in Belgian Congo required 260,000 carriers, which were barred by the Belgian government from crossing into German East Africa and Belgian troops were expected to live off the land. To avoid the plundering of civilians, loss of food stocks and risk of famine, with many farmers already conscripted and moved away from their land, the British set up the Congo Carrier Section of the East India Transport Corps ("CARBEL") with 7,238 carriers, conscripted from Ugandan civilians and assembled at Mbarara in April 1916. The *Force Publique*, started its campaign on 18 April 1916 under the command of General Charles Tombeur, Colonel Molitor and Colonel Olsen and captured *Kigali* on 6 May. The German Askaris in Burundi were forced to retreat by the numerical superiority of Force Publique and by 6 June, Burundi and Rwanda were occupied. The Force Publique and the British *Lake Force* then started a thrust to capture *Tabora*, an administrative centre of central German East Africa. They marched into German territory in three columns and took *Biharamuro*, *Mwanza*, *Karema*, *Kigoma* and *Ujiji*. After several days of battle, they secured Tabora. During the march, CARBEL lost 1,191 carriers died or missing presumed dead, a rate of 1:7, which occurred despite the presence of two doctors and adequate medical supplies. To forestall Belgian claims on the German colony, Smuts ordered their forces back to Congo, leaving them as occupiers only in Rwanda and Burundi. The British were obliged to recall Belgian troops in 1917 and the two allies coordinated campaign plans."*



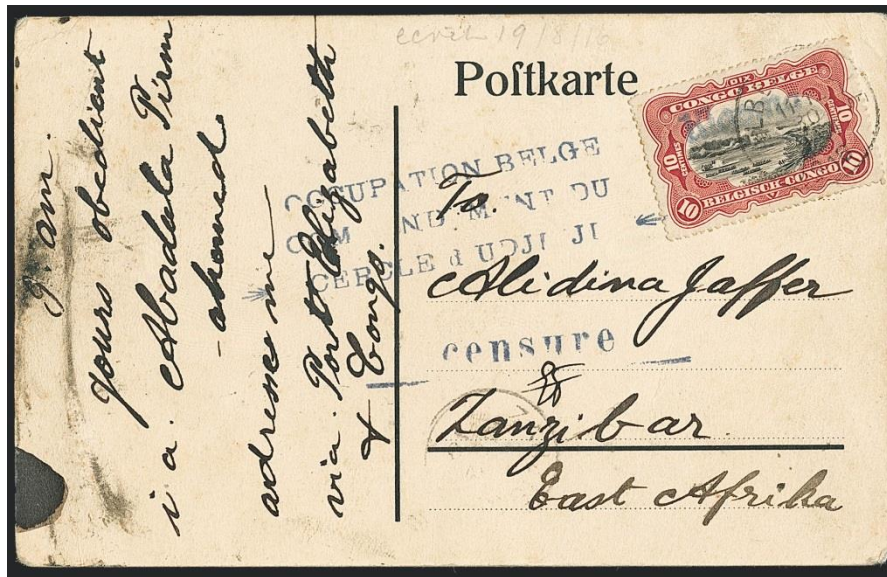
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East\\_African\\_Campaign\\_\(World\\_War\\_I\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_African_Campaign_(World_War_I))

## Belgian occupation of Ruanda and of Urundi, 1916

Provisionals Kigoma and Usumbura, as well as Tabora, Udjidji and Karema, both on stamps of GEA and of Belgian Congo and the 'official' occupation stamps of 'Ruanda and Urundi, plus provisionals as well







[https://siegelauctions.com/image\\_manip/image.php?src=/2016/1130/1689.jpg](https://siegelauctions.com/image_manip/image.php?src=/2016/1130/1689.jpg): "BELGIAN CONGO, 1915, 10c Carmine & Black (61a; COB 65). Tied by "Albertville 30 Aout 1916" circular datestamp on post card to Zanzibar, stamp also cancelled by blue "Kigoma" handstamp in gothic type (Du Four Ty. A) with "Occupation Belge Commandement du cercle d'Udjidji Censure" handstamp, card datelined in Aug. 19 in Udjidji, Zanzibar arrival datestamp, Fine, a rare handstamp of which only ten are believed to exist, with Gudenkauf signed attestation".



<https://siegelauctions.com/2016/1130/1690.jpg>: "BELGIAN CONGO, 1912, 10c Carmine on Buff, Postal Card (Stibbe 43). Cancelled by blue Albertville 1916 circular datestamp on picture postal card showing Lukula Bridge in Mayumbe to the Belgian Army in France, also cancelled by violet "Kigoma" handstamp (Du Four Ty. B) with "Postes Militaires Belgique" transit datestamp, Very Fine, with 1999 Belgian Congo Study Circle certificate".



<https://siegelauctions.com/2016/1130/1691.jpg>: "BELGIAN CONGO, 1912, 5c Yellow Green on Buff (Stibbe 42). Two, each cancelled by light Albertville 1916 circular datestamp on picture postal card showing Bay of Mobimbi and Kasongo artillery to Netherlands and France, one cancelled by black "Kigoma" handstamp and the other in violet (Du Four Ty. B), each with "Occupation Belge Commandement du cercle d'Udjidji Censure" handstamp, black "Kigoma" with stamp missing, Fine, with 1992 (black) and 1993 (violet) Belgian Congo Study Circle certificates".







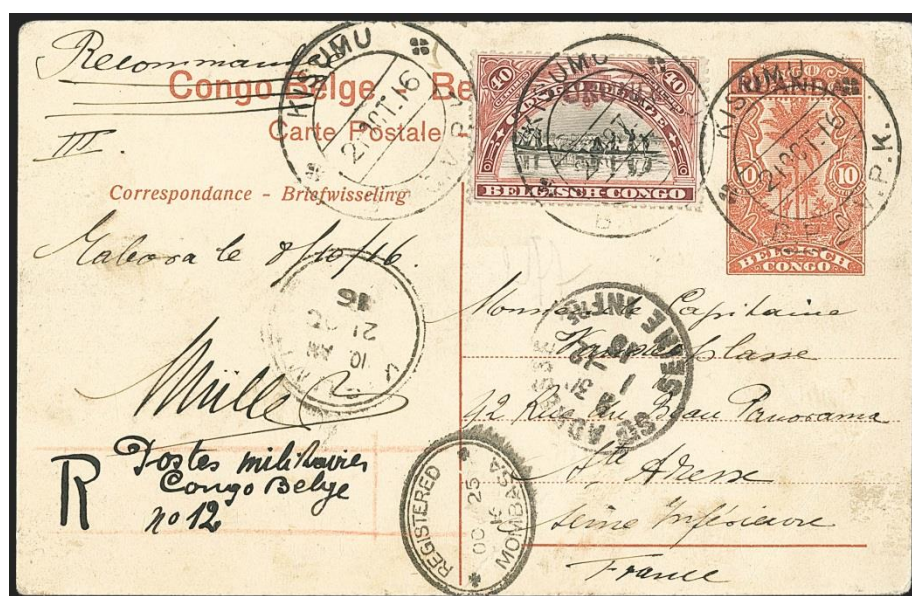


<http://www.postoveznamky.sk/briefmarken-sammelgebieten-belgische-besetzung-von-deutsch-ostafrika-doa>





<https://siegelauctions.com/2016/1130/1692.jpg>: "GERMAN EAST AFRICA, Belgian Occupation, 1916, 40c Brown Red & Black, Local "Ruanda" and "Urundi" Handstamps (N5, N13). Singles of both, along with unoverprinted 5c, tied by "B.P.C.V.D.K./ No. 4" circular datestamp on 1916 (Nov.) registered cover to Holland, Albertville registry label, British censor tape at right, Fine and very rare, less than ten such covers are recorded".



<https://siegelauctions.com/2016/1130/1693.jpg>: "GERMAN EAST AFRICA, Belgian Occupation, 1916, 40c Brown Red & Black, Local "Ruanda" Handstamp (N5). Tied on 10c Red Postal Card with "Ruanda" handstamp by Kisumu Oct. 21, 1916 circular datestamp, sent to France, ms. "Postes Militaire" and hand-drawn registry cachet, oval "Registered Mombasa", arrival postmark, Fine and quite rare".



Belgian Occupation of German East Africa, 1916



<http://www.catawiki.de/catalog/briefmarken/lander-gebiete/1655115-belgien-besetzung-von-deutsch-ostafrika-1916-1922>







<http://www.postoveznamky.sk/briefmarken-sammelgebieten-belgische-besetzung-von-deutsch-ostafrika-doa>



[https://www.philasearch.com/de\\_idadvegcg23mfdbbe87tbq3kj2/i\\_9402\\_139319/countryurl/2-3006905904.html?breadcrumbId=1424446863.9667&row\\_nr=2](https://www.philasearch.com/de_idadvegcg23mfdbbe87tbq3kj2/i_9402_139319/countryurl/2-3006905904.html?breadcrumbId=1424446863.9667&row_nr=2)

Belgian occupation of GEA, 'A.O.' stamps



Passion\_phi

www.delcampe.net

<http://www.delcampe.net/items?catLists%5B0%5D=676&language=G>



<http://www.postoveznamky.sk/briefmarken-sammelgebieten-belgische-besetzung-von-deutsch-ostafrika-doa>



<http://the-collecting-adventure.blogspot.nl/2013/01/germany-on-stamps-new-east-africa.html>

### Portuguese occupation of Kionga

In 1916 Portuguese troops in Mocambique occupied the most southeastern part of German East Africa, Kionga, after a military campaign in 1915-1916.



[http://www.cfportugal.pt/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=264%3Ahistoria-postal-do-territorio-do-kionga-marcas-postais-militares&catid=28%3Aboletim-no-412&Itemid=15](http://www.cfportugal.pt/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=264%3Ahistoria-postal-do-territorio-do-kionga-marcas-postais-militares&catid=28%3Aboletim-no-412&Itemid=15)

"Portuguese postcard of marines in Africa."

<http://www.kaiserscross.com/188001/394001.html>

After occupation the Portuguese Mocambiquan authorities issued a series of four stamps on 29 May 1916 (Michel Kionga 1-4).

Kionga overprints on Portuguese Mocambiquan stamps





<http://www.delcampe.net/page/item/id,0211868484,language,E.html>



[http://pt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tri%C3%A2ngulo\\_de\\_Quionga](http://pt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tri%C3%A2ngulo_de_Quionga)



<http://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auction/results.asp?auction=201301&task=submit&country=PORTUGUESE+COLONIES+KIONGA> , 'The Kionga Triangle was a tiny territory on the border between German East Africa (largely overlapping the present-day United Republic of Tanzania) and the Portuguese colony of Portuguese East Africa (present day Republic of Mozambique). Originally, the Germans established this as their outpost south of the Rovuma River, and there was a settlement called Kionga (now Quionga). After the war, the Treaty of Versailles defined the border as running along the Rovuma, thus allotting the triangle to Mozambique'



<http://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auction/results.asp?auction=201301&task=submit&country=PORTUGUESE+COLONIES+KIONGA>



Together with a stamp from Portuguese Mocambique, [www.iusc.org](http://www.iusc.org)



Additional information about Kionga on <http://www.dcstamps.com/?p=3929>:

*"FAST FACTS (SELECTION)"*

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**Classification:** Military Occupation, Portugal

**Prior Regime:** German East Africa

**Key Dates:**

1887 – Portugal occupies the Kionga Triangle

1892 – Germans retake the Kionga Triangle Area

1892, May 20 – Kionga Triangle split between Germany and Portugal

1916, Apr 10 – Portuguese troops seize the northern area of the Kionga Triangle from the Germans

1919, May 6 – The Allied Supreme Council assigned the Kionga Triangle as a mandate to Portugal.

**Following Regime:** Mozambique Colony

**Currency:** 1000 reis = 1 milreis, beginning 1912 100 centavos = 1 escudo

*HISTORY*

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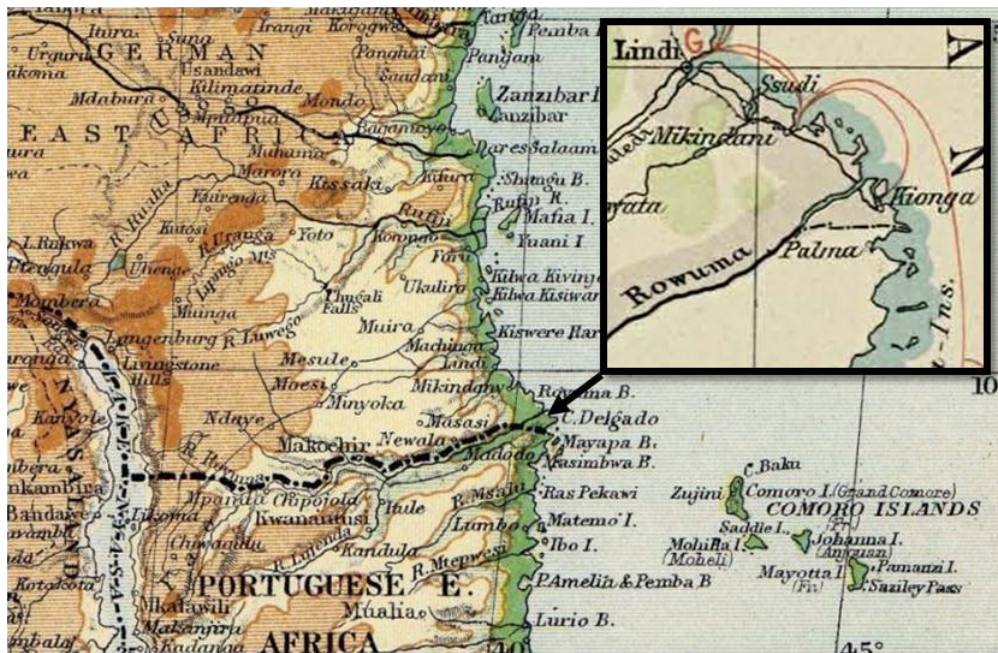
THE PORTUGUESE POST AT KIONGA

*The Kionga Triangle is a small section of land between German East Africa and Portuguese East Africa (Mozambique Colony) lying between the Rovuma and Minengani rivers. In the "Scramble for Africa" in the 1880's where the European powers divided Africa for colonization, the Kionga Triangle remained unresolved.*

*In an effort to take the land by force, on 18 Feb, 1887 ships from the Portuguese Navy bombarded the German settlements Minangani and Tungi for five days. This was followed by landing parties, which secured the triangle for Portugal up to the Rovuma River. The Germans retaliated, but ultimately the conflict went to arbitration between Germany, Portugal and Great Britain, and the final decision*



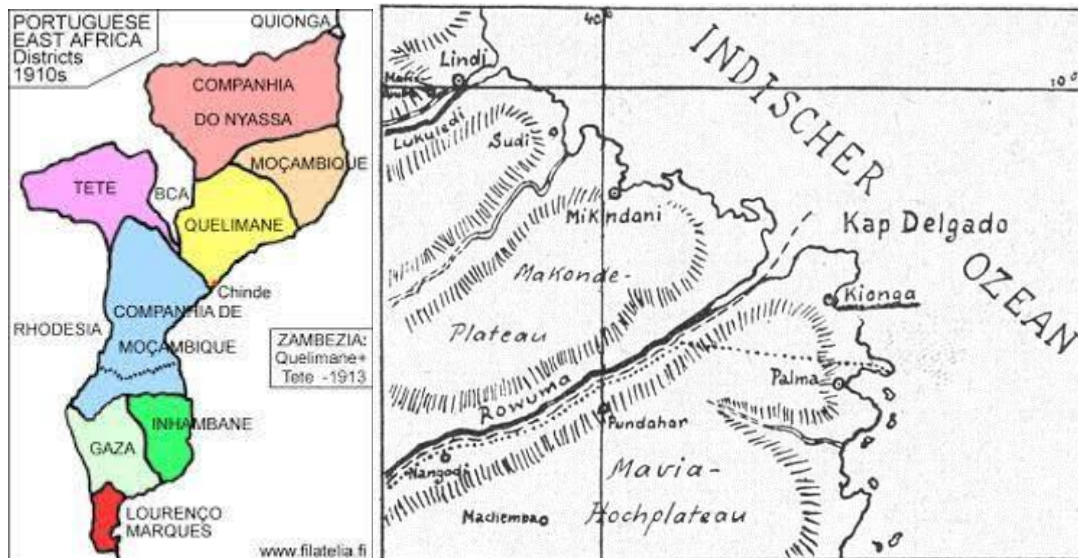
divided the land; allotting the northern portion to the Germans, and the south to the Portuguese. The Portuguese were extremely unhappy with the decision, and considered the outcome an “injustice”.



When WW1 began in Aug 1914, Portugal proclaimed neutrality and did not enter the war. Despite Portugal’s neutral stance, this did not stop the Germans from attacking Portuguese posts both in the colony of Angola on the west coast of Africa, as well as Mozambique Colony on the eastern coast. Eventually, Portugal decided to enter the war on the side of the Allies on 9 Mar, 1916, and four weeks later, on 10 April, they attacked and occupied the German half of the Kionga Triangle.

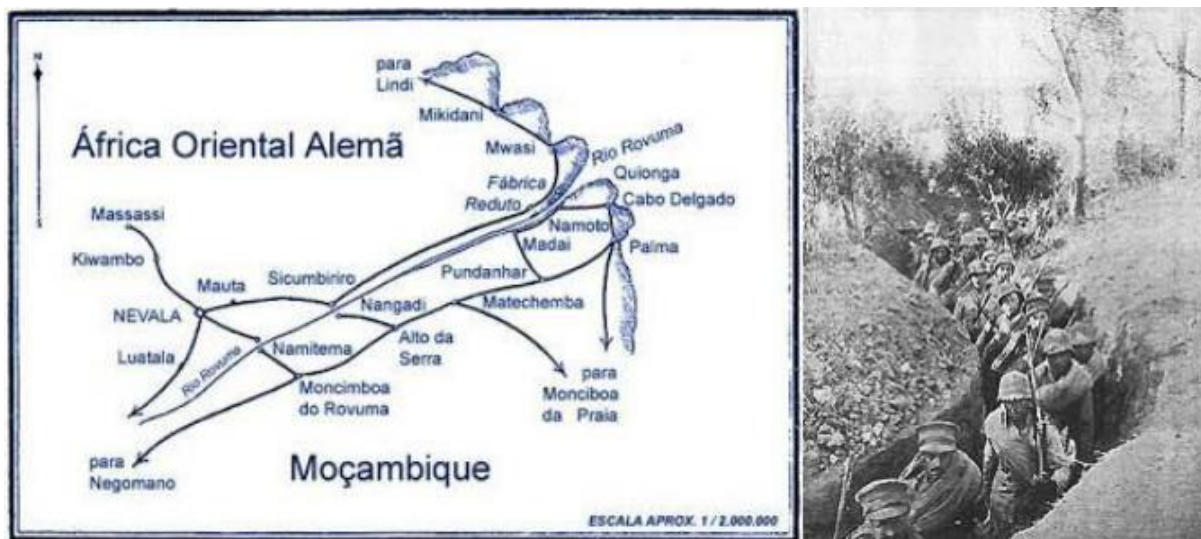
Although the Portuguese troops suffered from the poor conditions and poor leadership, they continued to push north along the coast of German East Africa. With varied success, skirmishes continued throughout the war.

At the conclusion of World War 1, Portugal was awarded the entire Kionga Triangle in the 1919 Treaty of Versailles and the Kionga Triangle became part of Mozambique Colony.”



<http://www.filatelia.fi/articles/mozambique.html>

<http://www.briefmarkenverein-berliner-baer.de/vereinszeitung/250-1-kionga.htm>



<http://coisasdeabrantes.blogspot.nl/2009/11/diario-de-um-combatente-i.html>

(including picture: "Kionga - Trincheira 1916")



## Former German East Africa after the Great War



[http://www.deutsche-schutzgebiete.de/ostafrika\\_landkarten.htm](http://www.deutsche-schutzgebiete.de/ostafrika_landkarten.htm)





<http://www.stampworldhistory.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/German-East-Africa2.png>

## Tanganyika

After Britain received a mandate for the Tanganyika area from the League of Nations in 1920, and could rule it as a trustee area, it issued a series of six stamps in 1921 with 'G.E.A.' on the newest series of British East Africa and Uganda (Michel Tanganjika 55-60), followed by two provisionals with local overprints in 1922 (Michel Tanganjika 61-62).

But before 1920 there was a 'bogus stamp issue' in 1918.



[http://img.collectorcircuit.com/files/grosvenor-auctions/stampauction/auction-british-empire-and-foreign-countries-postage-stamps-and-postal-history/8522\\_0.jpg](http://img.collectorcircuit.com/files/grosvenor-auctions/stampauction/auction-british-empire-and-foreign-countries-postage-stamps-and-postal-history/8522_0.jpg) "German Colonies: German East Africa: 1918 "Karissimbi Provisionals", bogus issue, set of five unoverprinted, and overprinted and surcharged "G.E.A/BRITISH/OCCUPATION" mint and used and one of two known sets used on cover".

G.E.A. overprints on British East Africa and Uganda, 1921.

a) 1921 and b) 1922



<http://www.stampworld.com/en/stamps/Tanganyika/>

In 1922-1925 nineteen definitive stamps were issued, each showing a giraffe, and 'Tanganyika' as an imprint.

Tanganyika, 1922-1925







<http://www.stampworld.com/nl/stamps/Tanganyika/>

In 1927 a series of sixteen stamps was issued with 'mandated territory of Tanganyika' (Michel Tanganyika 82-97), followed by stamps of Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika from 1935 onwards

Stamps with 'mandated territory of Tanganyika', 1927-1931







<http://www.stampworld.com/nl/stamps/Tanganyika/>

Stamps of Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika, 1935







### Ruanda-Urundi

Belgium received a mandate for Ruanda-Urundi, and ruled this area as a separate colonial territory, with Usumbura as administrative headquarters. In 1922 stamps issued in 1918 received an additional overprint on five stamps (Michel Belgisch-Kongo Belgische Besetzung von Deutsch-Ostafrika 34-38) . In 1924 eighteen stamps of Belgian Congo were overprinted with 'Ruanda Urundi ', followed by others, before Ruanda-Urundi received its definitive in 1927.

Ruanda Urundi as Belgian-administered area, 1922 overprints on Belgian Congo





<http://www.bdpd.de/forum/showthread.php?3611-Belgische-Besetzung-Deutsch-Ostafrika>



[http://www.germanpostalhistory.com/php/viewitem.php?itemid=69082&germany%20cover=search  
&#itempic1](http://www.germanpostalhistory.com/php/viewitem.php?itemid=69082&germany%20cover=search&#itempic1)



#### Ruanda Urundi overprints on Belgian Congo, 1924



<http://www.stampworld.com/nl/stamps/Ruanda-Urundi/>

#### Quionga

In 1919 in the Treaty of Versailles it was agreed that Kionga would remain part of Portuguese Mocambique, where it is known as Quionga, When Mocambique became independent in 1975 it was integrated into the province of Cabo Delgado.

#### German revisionist vignettes after the War

After the war German revisionists issued vignettes to remember the German colonies.

German post-war vignettes to remember the Colonies



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



[www.bdph.de](http://www.bdph.de)

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  - o Deutsch-Ostafrika, pp 210-212
- Nord- und Ostafrika, 2005
  - o Ruanda Urundi, pp 1040-1046
  - o Ostafrikanische Gemeinschaft, pp 965-977
  - o Tanganjika, pp 1197-1199
- Süd- and Zentralafrika, 2007,
  - o Belgische Besetzung von Deutsch-Ostafrika, p. 178
  - o Kionga, p. 335