

The First World War in Northern Rhodesia: Experiences of

and the

"Askari" Foot Soldiers "Tenga-Tenga" War Carriers



20th November 2018 to 31st March 2019



Ministry of Tourism and Arts



National Museums Board
Moto Moto Museum

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Acknowledgements

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1. Northern Province Administration for spearheading the preparations of the Northern Province Investment and Tourism Exposition and Commemoration of the End of First World War in Mbala.
2. The Ministry of Tourism and Arts and its statutory bodies for contributing to the coining of the storyline for this exhibition.
3. The National Museums, National Archives of Zambia for allowing our research team to research on this war leading to this captivating exhibition. The contribution of the Research and Exhibition Team was enormous given the financial and time constraints they faced.
4. The Moto Moto Museum management and staff for their tireless effort to ensure the exhibition was ready for the End of World War 1 Centenary Celebrations on 25th November, 2018.
5. The National Museums Board Secretariat for the financial contribution to this project.

The First World War in Northern Rhodesia:
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Foreword

The National Museums Boards would like the people of Zambia to know the story of the First World War in Northern Rhodesia. Although it has often been referred to as a European War, it actually affected the whole world. Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia) was not spared. This war was fought on the Zambian soil and a lot of its people participated and others were deeply affected by it.

The purpose of the exhibition is firstly, to tell the story of this war from the Zambian perspective; secondly, to remind the people of Zambia that war disrupts all forms of life, environment and destroys property and infrastructure. Zambia as a haven of peace should remain exemplary to the world.

Visit this exhibition at the Moto Moto Museum in Mbala, Zambia.

Flexon M Mizinga
DIRECTOR GENERAL

The First World War in Northern Rhodesia:

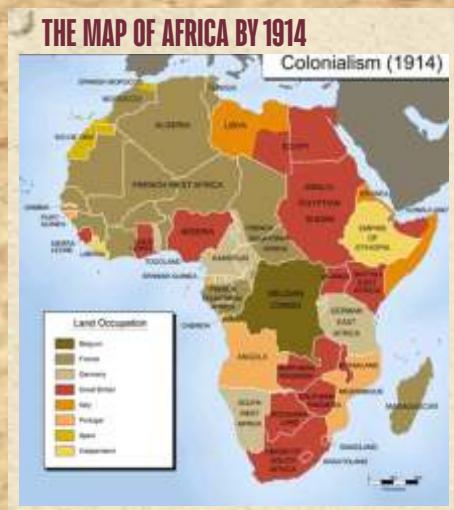
Experiences of "Askari" Foot Soldiers and the "Tenga-Tenga" War Carriers

Introduction: The Last Gunshots of the First World War

2018 marks 100 years since the end of the First World War.

What is significantly historical for Zambia is the fact that the last gun shots of this war were fired in this country then known as Northern Rhodesia. On 11th November 1918 when the war was declared over everywhere else in the world, hostilities in Northern Rhodesia between British and German forces continued and only ended on 25th November 1918 in the Northern town of Mbala then known as Abercorn. The war which broke out in Europe in 1914 over rivalries unknown to Africans then, had spread to Africa because by the turn of the twentieth Century European Powers had acquired territorial sovereignty over about 90% of the land that made up Africa in the "scramble for Africa". Zambia, then known as Northern Rhodesia was a Protectorate of Britain. Like other colonized African countries, Northern Rhodesia was dragged into this conflict in support of Britain, her colonizer. Thus, Northern Rhodesia with other British colonies went to war with Germany the British enemy. German's colonies in Africa were German East Africa (today's Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania), German South West Africa (today's Namibia), Togo and Cameroon.

In Central and East Africa the war between the British Colonies and the German colonies was referred to as East African Campaign in which Northern Rhodesia was heavily involved due to her position; sharing borders with German East Africa on the North and German South West Africa on the South. With reinforcement from other Colonies of Britain and her Allies, Northern Rhodesia was determined to thwart invasion of German troops. Equally, German troops were determined to conquer British Territories in Central Africa and bridge the gap between German East Africa and German South-West Africa with the aim of putting the land mass between the Indian Ocean and the Atlantic Ocean under German influence. Because of this background, Zambia has a very rich history of this war.



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A European War on African Soil

During the last half of the 19th Century, a considerable number of European countries had desire to expand their borders and attain global influence to support their industrial developments that characterized the time. This gave rise to imperialism and militarism. Consequently, a military build-up was witnessed among European countries, this led to an arms race among European Powers as nations got engaged in a military competition in a bid to surpass each other. Britain and Germany were especially big competitors in the arms race. In order to reinforce national protection and ensure national sovereignty for weaker nations, treaties and alliances were signed among European Powers, with the most prominent being:

- **The Triple Alliance (formed in 1882), comprising Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy.**
- **The Triple Entente (formed during 1904-1907), comprising Britain, France and Russia.**

While Germany was preoccupied with European hegemony, Britain and other European Powers (France, Belgium, Portugal and Italy) had ventured beyond Europe in their quest for territorial expansion. By the close of the nineteenth century and following the Berlin Conference of 1884-1885, European Powers had acquired territorial sovereignty in Africa in what has been referred to as the Scramble for Africa. Germany being a late comer into Africa only managed to acquire four territories that were surrounded by territories controlled by Britain, France, Belgium and Portugal. The rivalries that existed among European Powers continued as each country felt threatened in the face of growing imperialism and militarism. The result was the outbreak of war on a scale that had never been witnessed before in human history, hence the name- First World War. European interest in the continent had increased dramatically.

British colonies in Africa compared to German



The Green color is for the British, French and Belgium and the yellow is for the German and ottomans

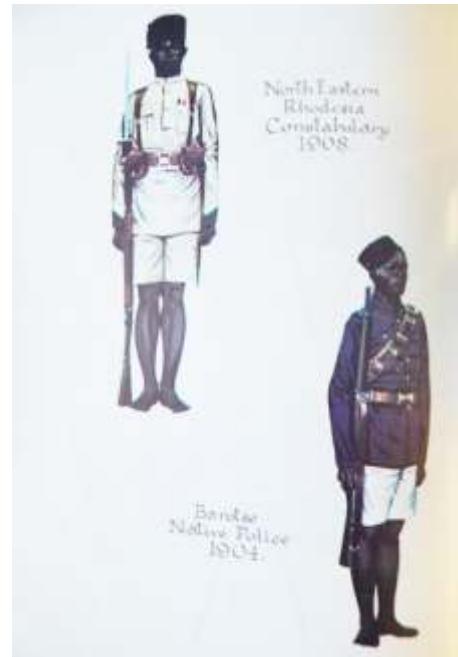


A German Cartoon showing the British Empire in three continents, Europe, Africa and Asia

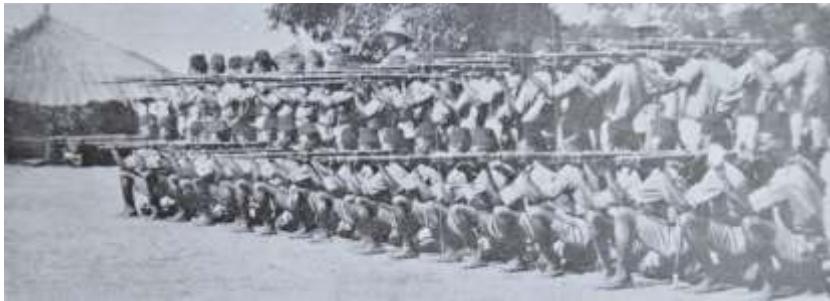
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The making of Northern Rhodesia Police

The British South African Company (BSA Co.) took over Northern Rhodesia in the 1890s by controlling two major parts of the Territory known as North-Eastern Rhodesia and North-Western Rhodesia. In 1911 the two parts were amalgamated to form one country which was now called Northern Rhodesia. Being a Chartered Company, the BSA Co. was not allowed to have an army. In its place it formed a Police Force with some military training called the Northern Rhodesia Police (NRP).



North -Eastern Rhodesia Constabulary
and the Barotse Native Police



North - Eastern Rhodesia Police with rifles

The Headquarters of the NRP was in Livingstone where a mobile column of the military branch was stationed. On engagement, a man had to serve four years in the military branch of NRP before they could be accepted as a Policeman. Therefore, all members of the NRP had military training which proved useful when war broke-out in 1914 and they were engaged on the Northern Front.

The First World War in Northern Rhodesia: Experiences of "Askari" Foot Soldiers and the "Tenga-Tenga" War Carriers

Purpose of this exhibition

Africa is an important element in the war history because one of the key reasons this particular war would later enlarge in scope and be called the first world war, was the fact that it was executed in various regions around the world that included the African region. Unfortunately the war in Africa, especially in Zambia and its effect on its people, environment and history has quite often been downplayed and does not feature so much in the world history of the war. The image of the war in Africa is dominated by accounts of European soldiers. It is seen as a white man's war in an exotic place with adventures rather than battles. The devastating effects of this war on Africans, their environment and history was so immense that its effect and aftermath are still a part of Africa and Zambia in particular, 100 years after it ended.

This exhibition therefore is a remembrance of all those that were affected in one way or another, especially those who lost their lives for the cause of this war. In a subtle manner the exhibition also pays tribute to many civilians that suffered numerous undocumented atrocities like rape, murder, raids etc during the war.

However, the exhibition focuses on the Northern Rhodesia Police (NRP) "ASKARI", who more often than not were poorly equipped, exposed to many

diseases and fought bare-foot, yet showed great bravery and sacrifice up to the very end of the war. Of great importance and emphasis to this exhibition is the 80,000 +, nameless carriers locally known as "TENGA TENGA", who suffered a great deal on their long routes carrying equipment, food and other things for the purpose of the war.

The "Tenga Tenga" sacrificed so much for so little and in most cases for nothing, losing their lives in the process. These are the men and women whom we shall never know by name but are commemorated at the Mbala Cenotaph and whom through this exhibition we would like to uphold as our heroes and heroines that came from all corners of this great nation of Zambia and through their sacrifice have forever ensured a place for us as a nation in the books of history and on the world map.

Furthermore, the exhibition seeks to provide lessons to all, on the evils of war. War is humanity's universal enemy that should be looked at as a threat to the human race. It has the potential to bring about indescribable human suffering and misery, wipe out entire human communities and render the environment unproductive. It can also bring about terrible socio-cultural disruptions, negatively affecting social development and lead to undesirable human relations.

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The making of Northern Rhodesia Police



The NRP was divided into 5 Companies

A Company at Headquarters at Livingstone

B Company at Mongu

C Company at Kasempa

D Company at Kasama

E Company at Fort Jameson (now Chipata).

Northern Rhodesia Police training session

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The Northern Border

One area of the British territory that was very vulnerable when war broke out was what was known then as the "Northern Border". The Northern Border was located between the two great Lakes of Lake Tanganyika and Lake Malawi, running from the South -end of Lake Tanganyika, South-East to the Songwe River which was the Northern Nyasaland border with German East Africa. From here the northern Nyasaland border ran on to the northern end of Lake Malawi. This was the frontline of the war in Northern Rhodesia.



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The movements in the war 1916-1918



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Recruitment: Volunteering and enlistment

When war broke out, the (NRP) needed more men. Therefore, the British colonial officials engaged in widespread propaganda, which managed to attract many locals. Initially, many volunteered for war service, especially the warring groups such as the Ngoni, the Lozi and those that were involved in the slave trade raiding such as the Bemba, the Yao, the Bisa and the Chikunda. The relatively high wage scale provided a clear incentive to enlistment not merely as a means of meeting colonial tribute obligations such as poll tax, but as a means of purchasing luxury goods with the surplus cash.



Tax Receipts between 1910 and 1918

Hut Tax receipts of 1910 to 1918. Hut Tax or Poll tax was imposed on all male and was paid according to the number of huts in one's homestead.



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Recruitment: Resistance and Desertion

By 1916, there was generally a widespread resistance to war service, because at this point the war had intensified and the demand on military labor had also increased, while the conditions of war service, sharply deteriorated. Desertion emerged as the most widespread form of evasion. As Government recruiters approached, significant numbers of young males would disappear into the surrounding bush.

Force and coercion Women: a bait to recruitment

To force the men to be recruited the Government officials started arresting the wives of the men who ran away from recruitment. The arrested women were subjected not only to 'false imprisonment' but also to rape, torture and serious assault, only to be released when their husbands came forth to be conscripted.



Recruitment: Chiefs and Missionaries as recruitment agents

As recruitment became increasingly difficult African chiefs and missionaries were called upon as primary recruiters. However, the chiefs' collaboration with recruitment officers, undermined their authority and the people regarded them as sell outs. Many of their subjects quarreled with their chiefs and tried to hide.



Recruitment parade

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AEROPLANE FUNDS FROM RHODESIA.

GIFTS FROM SETTLERS AND NATIVES.

A CABLE message has been received from Salisbury, asking the British South Africa Company to pay to the Imperial Government the sum of £1500 deposited with the Treasury there by Colonel Raleigh Grey, C.M.G., for the purchase of a 70 horse-power Renault aeroplane, as a gift from the people of Rhodesia for the use of the Royal Flying Corps, and to form a unit of the Imperial Aircraft Flotilla. The aeroplane, it is requested, should carry the name "Rhodesia No. 1."

From Northern Rhodesia, through the Administrator, also came the intimation a short while since that certain Angoni Chiefs in the Fort Jameson district had voluntarily subscribed £32 1s. as an expression of loyalty to His Majesty the King, the money to be utilised as a contribution towards the cost of an aeroplane for the British Army.

Ngoni Chiefs contribution towards the cost of an aeroplane for the British army.

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Military equipment

World War One brought with it new and sophisticated arms. For signaling, the NRP held 5-inch heliographs. The rifles were single-shot .303-inch Martini Metfords with triangular bayonets plus some older Martini-Henrys, and there was a .303-inch Maxim gun detachment



British Rifle Enfield 2



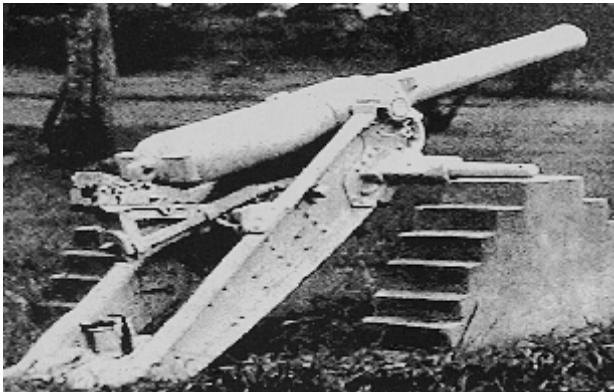
German Rifle Gewehr 98

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Military equipment



77mm captured German field Gun



Askari holding a Mortor round

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Military equipment



North Eastern Rhodesian Constabulary with field gun

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Composition of the British Army

At the outbreak of the war, the NRP consisted of only 31 Europeans compared to 768 Africans. Later European settlers joined the war, yet by 1916, African recruits were in high demand because as a result of the environmental impact on the troops, it was felt that whites were unsuited for fighting in Africa. By 1917, the British command began to withdraw the South African, Rhodesian and Indian troops and replace them with Askari, such that by the start of 1917, more than half the British Army in Africa was composed of Africans and by the end of the war, it was nearly all-African.



The Barotse Native Police



The Northern Rhodesia Police on parade

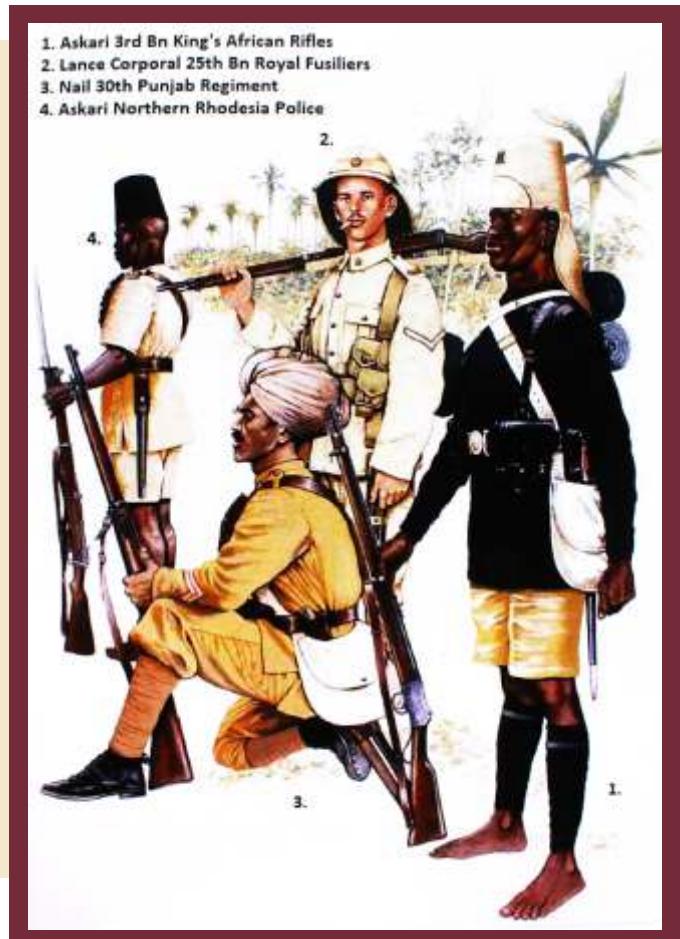


The Northern Rhodesia
Police

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"The Foot Soldier"

During the First World War the British sphere of control in terms of colonies in Southern Africa consisted of Northern Rhodesia (Zambia), Botswana, Nyasaland (Malawi) and South Africa. From here came racially different men that represented the British Empire, composed of South Africans including Boers, British, Rhodesians (White settlers in both Northern and Southern Rhodesia), Indian and African troops. These soldiers had different military wear according to their military unit. What is noticeable about the African soldier is that he fought barefoot, on the rationale that the heavy military boots of the period were unsuitable for African recruits who had not previously worn footwear.



Multiracial Army

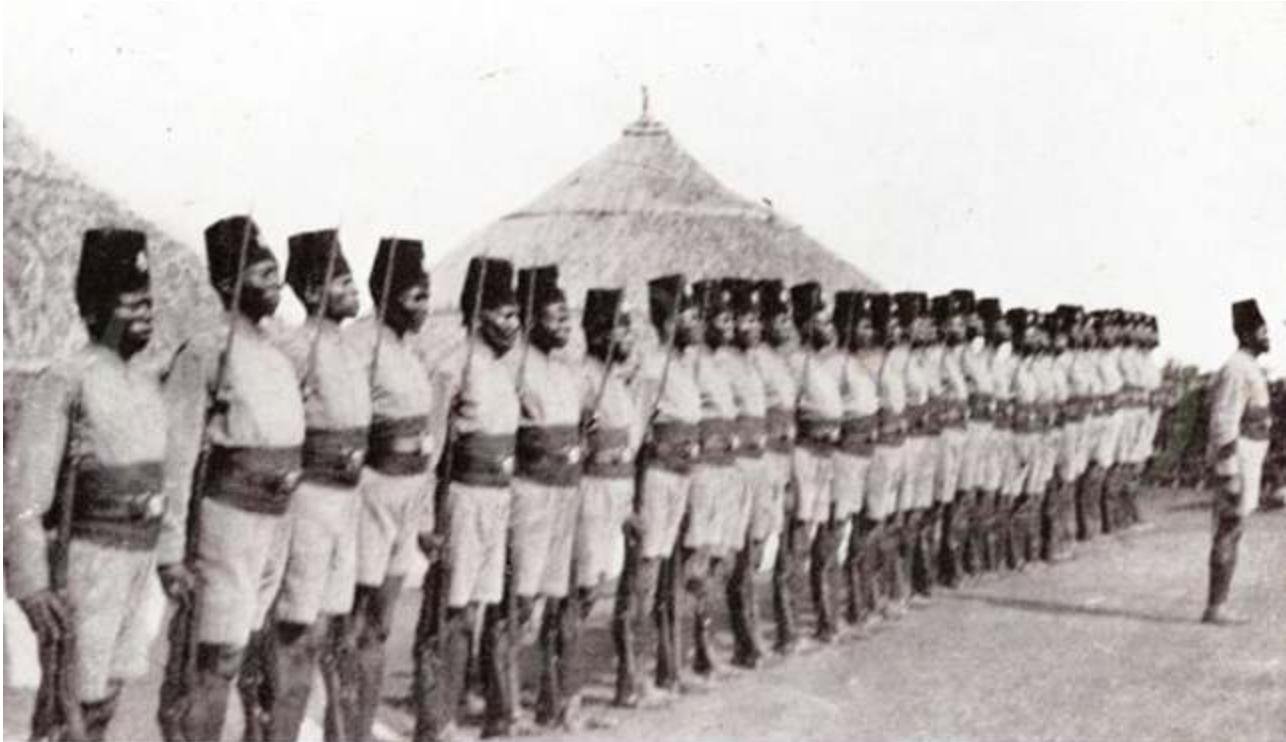
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"The Foot Soldier"



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A war fought on foot



EMPIRE TROOPS: THE 4th KING'S AFRICAN RIFLES.

Another reason the soldiers were called foot soldiers is because they fought mainly on foot covering great distances. This is because unlike in Europe the African region's road network was mostly nonexistent

by 1914. In most cases carriages and wagon could not be used in most areas of Northern Rhodesia and East Africa where the war was being fought.

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Rail transport



Transporting goods, troops and porters by railway
Source: Livingstone Museum



Northern Rhodesian troops enroute to the battle front
Source: Livingstone Museum

The headquarters of the NRP was in Livingstone, a long way away from the Northern Border and East Africa where the war was fought. The only other major form of transport was the railway line, however the railway line did not reach all places especially the north where the war front was.

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FIGHTING THE WAR ON FOOT NO ROAD NETWORK

Between the nearest point on the railway line and the Northern border there was about 1000Km of land in which no suitable road had been made for wheeled and motor traffic. This is because the land was infested with tsetse flies where domestic animals could live such that ox, horse, mule, or donkey transport was not sustainable. Therefore, to a large extent wagons could not be utilized, thus there were no suitable roads. This meant that soldiers could not use neither motorcars nor wagons for most parts of the distances that they had to cover.



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ON FOOT TO ABERCORN AND FIFE

One of the first tedious and laborious marches was made by the NRP Mobile Column from Livingstone to Mbala immediately after the war broke out in 1914. The NRP used a train from Livingstone up to the North of Ndola and then marched to Kasama on foot. Upon arrival the column started off for Mbala without resting and speed-marched the 160 kilometers to Mbala in 66 hours.



Northern Rhodesia Police at Fife 1915



Northern Rhodesia Police at Fife 1915

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FROM THE INTERIOR TO THE BORDER ON FOOT

Even though the war that might not have been intensive in the interiors of Northern Rhodesia, soldiers were sent from almost all the districts of Northern Rhodesia. Therefore different soldiers walked from their regions to the nearest railway station before getting on the train to either Broken hill (Kabwe) or Ndola, and then proceed from there on foot to the Northern border. Soldiers from western province started their journey from Lealui, on foot to Kalomo then in Kalomo they got on a train to Ndola. From Southern Province the main railway stations were Livingstone, Monze and Kafue. Those from North Western Province marched up to Chingola where they would get on the train to Ndola. All those that disembarked at Ndola continued the rest of the journey on foot using the pedicle route to Luapula and then Northern Province to Kasama before marching on to Abercron. Other routes had no railway line and the soldiers covered the whole distances on foot. For instance Eastern Province had no railway line, therefore the soldiers marched from Chipata via Lundazi, to Fife (Nakonde). One of the longest and quickest marches was from Salisbury (Harare) to Mbala that took forty four days to complete. The hard marching, short rations, harsh weather and illnesses affected most soldiers such that most deserted within the first year of the war.



EMPIRE THOOPS: THE 4th KING'S AFRICAN INFANTRY.

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The Navy and the Battle for Lake Tanganyika.

"It is...the duty and the tradition of the Royal Navy to engage the enemy wherever there is water to float a ship"

A series of naval engagements took place between the combined forces of the British Royal Navy and the Belgian Force Publique against the German Kaiserliche Marine, between December 1915 and July 1916, making it the only naval battle in the war to be fought on a Lake, rather than the open sea. The intention was to secure control of the strategically positioned Lake Tanganyika, which had been dominated by the German naval unit since the beginning of the war. After the declaration of war, the Germans had taken complete control of the Lake. To make sure that there was no chance of the British attempting to control the Lake, the Germans sank the old British Steamer Cecil Rhodes, which was on Kasakalawe Bay on the southern end of the Lake. They also shelled the Good News Steamer, which had been used on the Lake from the mid-1880's. The British responded by creating the Lake Tanganyika Naval Expedition, acquired two boats, HMS Mimi and Toutou in July 1915. With these two boats the British managed to capture the German ship called Kingani on 26 December, and renamed it HMS Fifi.



"The Battle for Lake Tanganyika"

Fifi on
L. Tanganyika



Mimi



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SS Liemba: the Kaiser's gunboat - 100 years later.

The Germans maintained a third large and heavily armed ship on the Lake called Graf von Götzen . After the capture of the German ship Kigani , the Germans scuttled Graf von Goetzen to prevent it from falling into British or Belgian hands, after which they withdrew from the Lake. Thus, by mid-1916 the Anglo-Belgian control of Lake Tanganyika was secured.

After the war Graf Von Gotzen was raised by the Belgians and towed to Kigoma, but sank at her moorings in a storm. She was raised again by the British in 1921 under their mandate for Tanganyika. She was refurbished and returned to service on 16 May 1927 under the name S.S Liemba. Today the Liemba still ploughs the waters of Lake Tanganyika as the MV Liemba.



Today the MV Liemba also marks 100 years of service, not as a war boat but as an essential lifeline for the people who live along the lakeshore as the main safe means of transport.

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Challenges faced by the Soldiers

Sickness, Hunger and Exhaustion

After long marches, the soldiers were often affected by the weather such as the cold or the rains and would be hungry, soaked to the skin, footsore and suffering from different illnesses such as dysentery and all kinds of fevers like malaria. Many of them contracted a number of diseases due to exposure to unhygienic conditions. Surprisingly diseases such as dysentery, typhoid, and pneumonia were common causes of death among the soldiers than gunfire. Around 75 percent of those serving died from malnutrition, malaria, dysentery and blackwater fever. The final calamity was the influenza pandemic of 1918-1919 which affected many soldiers and local communities. Soldiers returning home contributed to the spread of the disease to the local communities.



The First World War in Northern Rhodesia: Experiences of "Askari" Foot Soldiers and the "Tenga-Tenga" War Carriers

Challenges faced by the Soldiers

The Wild Environment

Apart from having to worry about the diseases and the human enemy, the wild nature of the war zone and the wild animals had also to be considered: lions were recorded as having carried some sentries from their posts and men from their tents. Crocodiles and hippos also proved to be fatal when crossing rivers and swampy areas. Although soldiers were prey to the wild animals, the prevalence of wild animals also provided food for the soldiers.



Racism

While the nature of the composition of the British army made it possible for the soldiers to fight shoulder to shoulder, irrespective of class and color, racial tensions could still not be avoided. This was especially so for the local settler military unit - the Northern Rhodesian Rifles (NRR) - who found it had to work with NRP which was predominantly black.



Multi-racial patrols were particularly resented especially by the European settler unit, the Northern Rhodesian Rifles.



Spending long time in the trenches brought racial tensions between the predominantly European NRR and the predominantly African NRP

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"TENGA-TENGA"

the war carriers – "We carried the war on our backs"

The Tenga-Tenga formed one of the largest unit part of the manpower for in the war. They were heavily depended upon and the British army required up to six carriers per soldier.



Carriers on the Stevenson Road



Carriers crossing a river on a makeshift bridge



Carriers crossing a river

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"TENGA-TENGA"

the war carriers – "We carried the war on our backs"

The War Carrier Unit was a military organization created in Kenya in World War One to provide military labor to support the British soldiers. By 1917, about 80,000 Africans were conscripted as carriers. Yet only 1,467 of the Northern Rhodesian contingent of the War Carriers are commemorated on the War Memorial at the entrance to the town of Mbala (formerly Abercorn). The War Carriers were locally known as the Tenga-Tenga.



The Boma at Abercorn - 1914



The Mbala cenotaph

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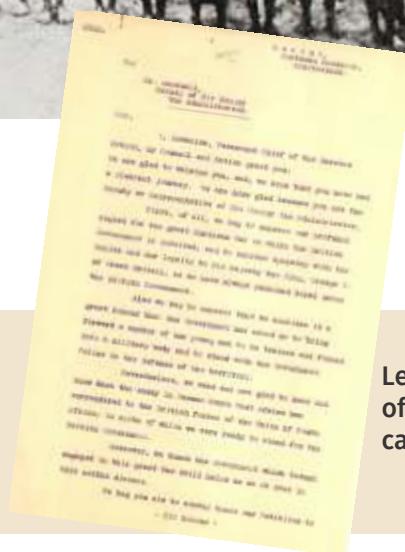


2,000 carriers from Barotseland

"TENGA TENGA"

the carrier corps – "We carried the war on our backs"

The Tenga - Tenga came from across the territory, with a large single contingent from what was then Barotseland in Northern Rhodesia. Lewanika the Barotse King offered 2,000 of his subjects as war carriers and appointed his son Mwanawina to serve as commander of the Barotse Carriers in the East African Campaign from 1914 to 1916.



Lewanika's letter offering 2,000 carriers

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"TENGA-TENGA"

the war carriers - "We carried the war on our backs"

Female Carriers

Women were also conscripted as Tenga-Tenga. They were mainly used to carry food to the war front and/or water to fill the traction engines of the Lake Tanganyika Expedition.



Transporting water



Women training session at Fife



Women transporting elephant meat to the war front

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"TENGA-TENGA"

the war carriers – "We carried the war on our backs"

The Hierarchy of the Tenga-Tenga

As with the military hierarchy, the carriers also had a hierarchy. At the top was the gun carriers who enjoyed greater status than all the carriers. Next from the gun carriers were the food carriers. At the lowest of the rank were the officer's own personal servants or batmen, also known colloquially as "boys", and then the cook. The "boy" and/or cook were directly employed by the soldiers themselves. Soldiers often shared the cost of employing a "boy" and/or cook.



Gun Carriers



Food Carriers



Cooks

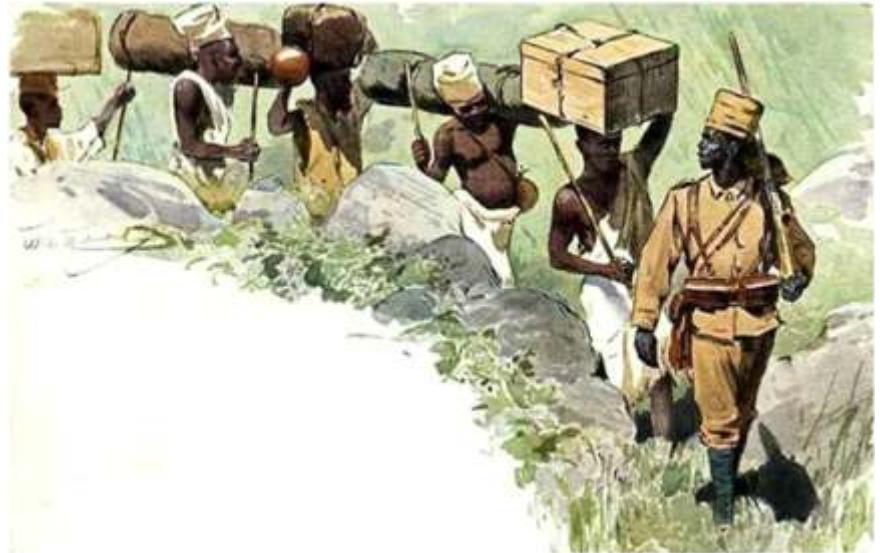
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Hardships faced by the "Tenga-Tenga" – War Carriers. The Distances and the weights



Official figures estimated that the average carrier travelled about 24km per day (seven days a week), a net load totaling 27 - 37Kg, to which was added personal cooking pots, blankets etc. They carried machine guns and personal machine guns for European officers as gun bearers and medical supplies to the fields.



The First World War in Northern Rhodesia:

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Hardships faced by the "Tenga-Tenga" – War Carriers.

Poor working conditions:

The carriers worked under very difficult conditions. They were frequently overloaded beyond the standard of 60 Kgs and their commanders who were mostly European soldiers were allowed to whip any an unsatisfactory performer such as slow marchers with a sjambok (rawhide whips) . The conditions of service of the Carriers were also grossly breached. In particular, carriers lacked suitable clothes or tents to protect them from bad weather. They used roads and paths that turned into mud-holes with rain or dusty roads where there were exposed to unbearable heat. More often than not the terms of their contracts were not observed.



Tenga-tenga crossing a river with loads on their heads

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Hardships faced by the "Tenga-Tenga" – War Carriers.



Tenga-Tenga being treated at a makeshift military hospital

High Death Rates

Although official statistics of the death rates of the Tenga - Tenga have not been kept, observers, especially mission stations, indicate a very high death rate because of the carriers' exposure to the cold weather and a shortage of food. There were exceptionally huge losses of first line Tenga - Tenga (those that marched close to the war front).

Death rates were also high even amongst Tenga-Tenga employed along internal lines of communication. For instance large numbers of Lozi second-line carriers died of pneumonia and dysentery on the Lealui to Broken Hill route.

Poor Medical Care

Having no medical arrangements along the carrier routes meant that the care of the sick and dying Tenga-Tenga largely depended upon mission stations that were on these routes. Reports of carriers dying and abandoned by their companions on the road were very common. Many more never made it but perished on the roads all over German and Portuguese Africa (today's Tanzania and Mozambique). Some White Fathers volunteered to nurse the sick carriers and were deployed to Fife military hospital.

Paltry Death Gratuity

For all this suffering the families of dead carriers were only entitled to a paltry death gratuity of two pounds. These are the men and women that the Mbala Cenotaph was erected to remember and honor. They suffered and sacrificed their lives to satisfy European needs in a war that was alien to them and from which they had no reward to speak of.

The First World War in Northern Rhodesia:

Experiences of "Askari" Foot Soldiers and the "Tenga-Tenga" War Carriers

Bravery and sacrifice

"As Men we are all equal in the presence of Death".

Despite the many hardships faced during the war and the high deaths rates from both diseases and the battlefield, the foot soldiers put up a brave fight. Worse still little or nothing is known of these soldiers. However, some records do indicate the bravery displayed by the African soldiers at particular battle fields and the rewards given.

Killed in Action at Fife

A battle between the British and the Germans on 6th December 1914 at Fife records the death of 1102 Private Ndarama of NRP who died in action

Awarded at Fife

Before the end of 1914, Lance Sergeant Ndandalika and Lance Corporal Mpepera fought so bravely that they both received a promotion for their conduct during the action.

On 24th April 1915, in a clash with the Germans were the NRP lead by Lieutenant G. P. Burton, Corporal Geza and Lance Corporal Chikusi, of the NRP, were both promoted for their performances during the fight.

Awarded at Zombe

During another clash at Zombe's village were a Belgium Sous-Officier Verscheuren was mortally wounded. NRP soldier, Sergeant Mwombera together with a Belgium Askari Staff Sergeant Borazi evacuated Verscheuren under heavy fire. Sergeant Mwombera was granted a cash award by the British South Africa Company for his bravery during this fight. In the same attack, 399

Private Kambowe, of the NRP also lost his life.

Killed in Action at Zombe

In the attack at Zombe, 399 Private Kambowe, of the NRP also lost his life

Killed in Action at Saisi

In the attack of Saisi by the German army on 28 June 1915, 3 NRP Privates, 559 Buleya, 1184 Msapenda and 842 Mulundi were killed. On 31st July 1915, another attack was mounted against the British at Saisi which lasted for days at the end of which, 1185 Private Malizani of the NRP was killed



The First World War in Northern Rhodesia: Experiences of "Askari" Foot Soldiers and the "Tenga-Tenga" War Carriers

Bravery and sacrifice "As Men we are all equal in the presence of Death".

Sir Mwanawina

Mwanawina, the Lozi Prince that accompanied the Lozi war carriers, was Knighted for his role in the war as the Leader of the Barotse War Carriers.



Sir Mwanawina being honored with Allied Victory and British War medals for his role in the war

List of those who died

Northern Rhodesia Police : List of ranks and file killed in action and died of wounds

Man #	Rank	Name	Date	Cause	Place	
1.	0190	Private	Madi	9.9.14	Killed in action	ABERCORN
2.	1102	Private	Ndarama	6.12.14	Killed in action	FIFE
3.	074	Private	Bwanali	27.1.15	Killed in action	FIFE
4.	1117	Private	Fungulu	24.4.15	Killed in action	MWAZI
5.	0399	Private	Kambove	21.5.15	Killed in action	ABERCORN
6.	842	Private	Mulundi	28.6.15	Killed in action	SAISI
7.	559	Private	Buleya	28.6.15	Killed in action	SAISI
8.	0219	Private	Bulaya	28.6.15	Killed in action	SAISI
9.	1185	Private	Malizani	29.7.15	Killed in action	SAISI
10.	1201	Private	Bwana-Makao	22.10.15	Killed in action	LANDILA
11.	748	Private	Mumbwe	23.3.16	Killed in action	KAWIMBE
12.	503	Private	Waziz	7.6.16	Killed in action	KALAMBO BRIDGE
13.	717	Private	Lemberani	29.7.16	Killed in action	LUTENGO
14.	4269	Private	Thomas	5.8.16	Killed in action	LUPEMBE
15.	888	Sgt.	Cheoko	13.8.16	Killed in action	
16.	1365	Private	Pandavipa	6.9.16	Died of wounds	NJOMBE
17.	1573	Private	Kasanta	23.9.16	Killed in action	
18.	948	Private	Mundati	18.10.16	Killed in action	MLANGALI
19.	761	Private	Mipando	10.11.16	Killed in action	MLANGALI
20.	1318	Private	Wanabuko	8.12.16	Died of wounds	NJOMBE
21.	209	Private	Benjamin	26.12.16	Killed in action	MFRIKA
22.	335	Private	Kunema	1.1.17	Killed in action	SYLVESTER FALL ROAD
23.	832	Private	Malidadi	22.1.17	Killed in action	PINTO
24.	0346	Cpl.	Makonde	22.1.17	Killed in action	IRINGA
25.	1463	Private	Lijonyo	22.1.17	Killed in action	MUESI RIVER
26.	641	Bglr	Johnny	22.1.17	Killed in action	MUESI RIVER
27.	1131	Private	Cheswenga	22.1.17	Killed in action	MUESI RIVER
28.	0382	Private	Uleya	25.1.17	Killed in action	MUESI RIVER
29.	1537	Private	Ngungu	26.1.17	Killed in action	MUESI RIVER
30.	1571	Private	Pondani	20.3.17	Killed in action	St. MORITZ
31.	367	Sgt.	Gwiranipakamwa	23.3.17	Killed in action	St. MORITZ
32.	566	L/Cpl.	Ulaya	23.3.17	Killed in action	St. MORITZ
33.	8.55	Private	Jeremani	30.3.17	Died of wounds	St. MORITZ
34.	8.76	Private	Lafyet	31.3.17	Killed in action	St. MORITZ
35.	623	Private	Shamonga	31.3.17	Killed in action	St. MORITZ
36.	1128	Private	Kachaza	31.3.17	Killed in action	St. MORITZ
37.	116	Private	Salimu	31.3.17	Killed in action	St. MORITZ
38.	0377	Private	Zingani	31.3.17	Died of wounds	St. MORITZ
39.	0410	Private	Muwango	31.3.17	Died of wounds	St. MORITZ
40.	1203	Private	Kundangwi	31.3.17	Died of wounds	St. MORITZ
41.	443	Cpl.	Mashonga	29.9.17	Killed in action	MKAPIRA
42.	1544	Private	Muwita	9.8.17	Killed in action	INTURU
43.	1380	Private	Kalungu	9.8.17	Killed in action	INTURU
44.	1198	Private	Wazia	9.8.17	Killed in action	INTURU
45.	5.104	Private	Kataka	9.8.17	Killed in action	INTURU
46.	1171	Private	Kafaleza	30.8.17	Killed in action	LUSAKA
47.	1421	Private	Kaleyia	30.8.17	Killed in action	LUSAKA
48.	0329	Private	Mitimngi	30.8.17	Killed in action	LUSAKA
49.	5.99	Private	Solomon	30.8.17	Killed in action	LUSAKA
50.	0416	Private	Chipandi	30.8.17	Killed in action	LUSAKA
51.	0287	Private	Chindi	20.10.17	Killed in action	KAZIMOTO
52.	1474	Private	Zalila	25.10.17	Killed in action	MPILO
53.	1199	Private	Kachikumba	9.11.17	Died of wounds	KARATIMTOTO
54.	1601	Private	Chikobi	2.8.18	Believed killed	P.E.A
55.	1699	Private	Siyeya	4.10.18	Killed in action	FUSSI VILLAGE
56.	5.33	Private	Mwanawamba	4.10.18	Believed killed	FUSSI VILLAGE
57.	420	Private	Chinthona	3.11.18	Killed in action	FIFE
58.	0112	Private	Chasea	9.9.14	Killed in action	ABERCORN
59.	1184	Private	Maapenda	28.6.15	Died of wounds	SAISI

The First World War in Northern Rhodesia: Experiences of "Askari" Foot Soldiers and the "Tenga-Tenga" War Carriers

Local Materials, Knowledge and Skills

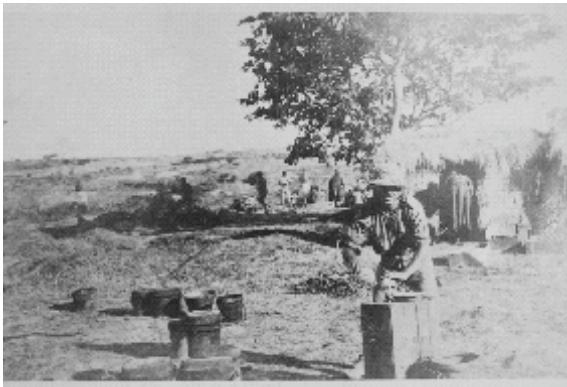
The war was a difficult one in Africa. The terrain, the weather and the distance from Europe meant a short supply of materials needed for the war. In order to sustain the war, both the British army and the German army depended on what the local environment and local people could provide them in terms of materials and knowledge.



Setting up of a camp



Fishing party



The army tailor

The First World War in Northern Rhodesia: Experiences of "Askari" Foot Soldiers and the "Tenga-Tenga" War Carriers

Cessation of hostilities The war ends

1 918 marked the end of World War One .The Armistice of November 11, 1918 ended fighting on land, air and sea. This successful move was marked by the signing of the Versailles Treaty of 1919.

The end of the war in Northern Rhodesia

However, hostilities in Northern Rhodesia did not end immediately following the signing of the Armistice. Fighting continued until November 25 due to challenges in communication. While the Armistice was signed on 11th November, 1918, the German Commander, Von Lettow Vorbeck only received the news on 14th November through a telegram.



Copy of the telegram indicating the end of the war



Tree under which Von- Lettow received the telegram



German soldiers after the surrender

The First World War in Northern Rhodesia:
Experiences of "Askari" Foot Soldiers and the "Tenga-Tenga" War Carriers

Cessation of hostilities

The war ends



PURSUER AND PURSUED.
General von Lettow-Vorbeck (left), the resourceful enemy commander in German East Africa, photographed after surrender with his British pursuer, Major E. B. Hawkins.

Von Lettow (German Commander) and Hawkins (British Commander) after the surrender



Peace Celebrations in 1919



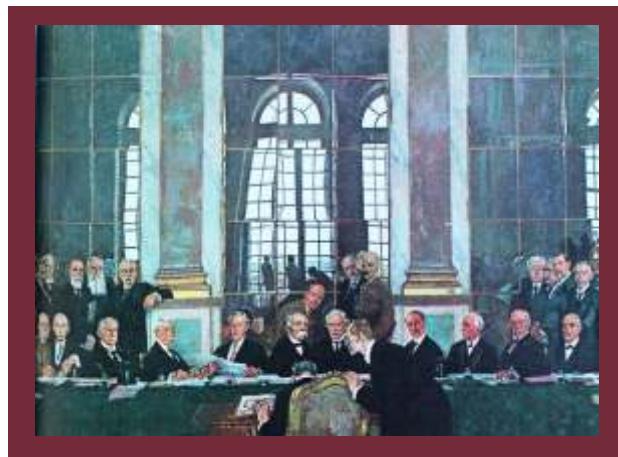
Col. Edwards accepts a flag sent as a token of appreciation by the League of Empire to Rhodesians armed forces.

The First World War in Northern Rhodesia: Experiences of "Askari" Foot Soldiers and the "Tenga-Tenga" War Carriers

The re-drawing the map of Africa: "the new scramble for Africa"

Allied victory offered opportunities to realize plans for colonial expansion. Opposition to returning any of Germany's colonies was almost universal among Allied leaders. The results redrew the map of colonial Africa, establishing new boundaries and changing nationalities for Africans. The long-term consequences of these changes still influence modern African states.

The Paris Peace Conference in 1919 resulted into the creation of the League of Nations Mandate System in which the Allied Powers acquired German territories as mandates rather than colonies. Behind this altruistic cloak, a renewed scramble for African territory occurred. 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 was ceded to Portugal.



The Treaty of Versailles



The Map of Africa after 1919

The First World War in Northern Rhodesia: Experiences of "Askari" Foot Soldiers and the "Tenga-Tenga" War Carriers

Effects of the war on Northern Rhodesia

The outbreak of war directly and disproportionately affected Northern Rhodesia. It was a total war for many Africans in which African interests were greatly sacrificed to meet European needs, as the death, suffering and destruction resulting from the fighting and wartime were very high.

The Environment (Land and Water bodies)

Trenches were dug for war purposes destroying villages, forests and routes to water sources.



Typical Trenches



Battle fields left foreign bodies such as bullets and other elements destroying farming fields. Bullets shells picked at Saisi



Guns And A German Helmet Fished Out Of Lake Chila

Foreign bodies such as guns and bullets were dumped in water sources. For instance, the Germans dumped their weapons in Lake Chila

The First World War in Northern Rhodesia:

Experiences of "Askari" Foot Soldiers and the "Tenga-Tenga" War Carriers

Effects of the war on Northern Rhodesia

Hunger and famine

Hunger was a common feature during the war as most people could not cultivate their fields because of the war or they lost their harvest as hungry troops feasted on their fields before they could harvest. In addition most of the able-bodied men were taken to fight leaving villages with only the weak, the sick, the old, women and children, making it difficult to sustain their economies.

Soldiers feasting
on bananas



Meal time for the
soldiers – Food
was never enough



The First World War in Northern Rhodesia: Experiences of "Askari" Foot Soldiers and the "Tenga-Tenga" War Carriers

Effects of the war on Northern Rhodesia

Depopulation

The conscription of soldiers and war carriers was so vast that it depopulated many parts of the country. By August 1916, Abercorn which had an estimated 8,500 taxable males, had about 5,000 males registered as carriers and about 800 more on roads and telegraphs. Kasama, which had about 5,000 taxable males, had close to 5,000 war carriers recorded.



A German East African Askari bidding farewell to his family



Northern Rhodesian bidding farewell to his son

Change of the African Diet

World War One also meant a shift in people's diet, from millet and sorghum to cassava in the areas that the war was intense. Millet and sorghum require extensive labour and was more easily stolen by the soldiers; on the other hand cassava required less labour and was much safer from soldiers as it is grown in the ground.

The First World War in Northern Rhodesia:

Experiences of "Askari" Foot Soldiers and the "Tenga-Tenga" War Carriers

Effects of the war on Northern Rhodesia

Displacements

Villages along the border zone were repeatedly attacked, suffering tremendous social dislocation. Huts were burned, crops and livestock plundered and the inhabitants robbed and sometimes killed.

From March to September 1915, many Lungu, Mambwe, Iwa and Inamwanga villages were forcibly removed from places near the war front to the interior. Fife and mission stations, notably Kawimbe and Mwenzo, were evacuated during the first half of 1915.

Diseases

During the war most soldiers contracted a number of diseases due to exposure to unhygienic conditions. Around 75 percent of those serving died from malnutrition, malaria, dysentery and blackwater fever.

The Spanish flu of 1918 did not only affect soldiers but also communities who were on the main routes used by soldiers and carriers.



A sick soldier being attended to by a medical orderly

NORTHERN RHODESIA POLICE: LIST OF RANKS AND FILE DIED OF DISEASE NORTHERN RHODESIA BORDER AND GERMAN EAST AFRICA

MAN #	RANK	NAME	DATE	CAUSE	PLACE
-	L/Cpl.	Gabriel	16.11.15	Sleeping Sickness	ABERCORN
-	Private	Jonasi	11.6.16	Dysentery	KASANGA
-	Private	Tebulo	6.9.16	Dysentery	NJOMBE
-	Private	Chiwaya	10.10.16	Rheumatism & Heart Failure	NAMANYABE
-	Private	Lafwaedi	27.12.16	Dysentery	LUFEMBE
-	Private	Zakaria	15.1.17	Enteric & Pneumonia	ABERCORN
1206	Private	Pensulo	24.1.17	Pneumonia	LUFEMBE
-	Private	Kambuwi	13.2.17	Exhaustion	LUFEMBE
-	Private	Subuni	13.2.17	Exhaustion	LUFEMBE
-	Private	Sambo	15.4.17	Exhaustion	KASAPI VILLAGE
-	Private	Siansingu	8.5.17	Enteric	MTONGWE
-	Private	Mwandi	12.5.17	Debility	KASAMA
-	L/Cpl.	Chaponda	26.5.17	Enteric	KITUNDA MISSION
-	Private	Minangu	10.6.17	Dysentery	TANIRAMALI
-	Private	Kasonko	21.6.17	Dysentery	RUNGWE RIVER
-	Private	Zuzi	18.7.17	Enteric	SONGEA
-	Sgt.	Koza	16.9.17	Pneumonia	LUNDAZI
-	Private	Tonana	18.9.17	Pneumonia	SALISBURY
-	Private	Edawani	15.10.17	Enlarged Spleen	MWENZO
-	Private	Libebe	19.11.17	Collapse following Dysentery	SALISBURY
-	Private	Bulanda	10.12.17	Poisoning	ITETE
-	Private	Zoroman	16.12.17	Pneumonia	IRINGA
-	Private	Tabamwendo	17.12.17	Dysentery	NAMANYELE
-	Private	Chombo	18.2.18	Dysentery	LIPUMBA
-	Private	Masikini	8.3.18	Perforation intestinal Ulcer	MBAMBA BAY
-	Private	Chipalamutata	9.3.18	Dysentery	LIPUMBA
-	Cpl.	Potani	28.3.18	Dysentery	LIPUMBA
-	Private	Mwapi	22.4.18	Enteric	MAMBA BAY
-	Private	Chisha	28.5.18	Dysentery	MBAMBA
-	Private	Makunta	20.7.18	Dysentery	PALIGARA
-	Private	Kaliza	24.10.18	Enteric	BLANTYRE
-	L/Cpl.	Mpanta	16.12.18	Pneumonia & Influenza	ABERCORN
-	Sgt.	Wasavila	20.12.18	Pneumonia & Influenza	MILIMA
-	Cpl.	Ngungu	23.12.18	Pneumonia & Influenza	MILIMA
-	Private	Fundikera	24.12.18	Pneumonia & Influenza	MILIMA
-	Private	Dulani	28.12.18	Pneumonia & Influenza	MILIMA
-	Private	Cheyingwa	13.1.19	Pneumonia & Influenza	MILIMA
-	Private	Lusale	6.12.18	Dysentery	BLANTYRE
-	Private	Taleke	14.12.18	Pneumonia & Influenza	BLANTYRE
-	L/Cpl.	Anlerianu	14.1.19	Pneumonia & Influenza	Vua
-	L/Cpl.	Ulaya	14.1.19	Pneumonia & Influenza	Vua
-	Private	Ndandalika	25.10.18	Pneumonia & Influenza	Ft. JOHNSTONE
1841	Private	Whale	29.11.18	Pneumonia	LIMBE
1804	Private	Lusali	6.12.18	Dysentery	SOMBA

The First World War in Northern Rhodesia: Experiences of "Askari" Foot Soldiers and the "Tenga-Tenga" War Carriers

Effect of the war on Northern Rhodesia



Donald Siwale: Was a founder member of the Mwenzo Welfare Society in 1923.



Dauti Yamba: He was the leader of the Federation of Welfare Societies formed in 1946 to champion workers' rights.



David Julizya Kaunda



Mbikusita Lewanika



Harry Mwangi Nkumbula

Early Northern Rhodesia freedom fighters such as these were influenced by the war veterans ideas

Politicized African Population

While the war entrenched colonial rule in Africa, it also politicized many military veterans. The war linked people from Northern Rhodesia to people and ideas elsewhere.

This could be seen in the early African resistance against colonial rule shown through labor resistance by early African religious groups such as the Watch Tower Movements who picked up their ideas from Southern Rhodesia. From 1918 onwards the movement was composed mainly of ex-carriers and ex-soldiers. The political impact of the Watch Tower Movement on colonial rule was so great that the first ever Labor strikes on the Copperbelt region of 1935 were blamed on the influence of the Watchtower, and as such the sale of Watchtower tracts was banned until 1946.

The politicized War Veterans and the struggle for independence in Northern Rhodesia

Dance societies such as the Mbeni dance that spread to Northern Rhodesia through the interaction of Northern Rhodesian soldiers with the East Africans provided the first structures for civil societies. The war veterans made use of the alternative medium of their Mbeni dance societies to provide an important vehicle for action and protest during the Copperbelt disturbances over fifteen years later which heralded Northern Rhodesia's first entry into the world of urban worker consciousness and future independence.

The First World War in Northern Rhodesia: Experiences of "Askari" Foot Soldiers and the "Tenga-Tenga" War Carriers

First World War Memorials/ Monuments

Several World War One memorials have been erected in memory of the war and the war dead. One of them is the Chambeshi Monument or the Von Lettow Monument located in the Northern Province of Zambia at Chambeshi, North of Chambeshi Bridge. This memorial marks the place where the German General Von Lettow Vorbeck received the news of the armistice ending World War One on November 14th 1918 from the District Commissioner of Kasama, Hector Croad. This monument commemorates the final cessation of hostilities of the First World War. In Mbala, other sites of memory include the Old Prison where some Prisoners of war were kept, and the Mutambalike Grave Yard where some of the war dead were buried.

In addition to these sites of memory, there are also some in other parts of the country such as at Kansenshi Cemetery in Ndola, the cenotaph in Lusaka, Ndola City Council War Memorial (Cenotaph) - Situated in front of the Ndola City Council Offices, Livingstone Police Camp War Memorial, and the Victoria Falls War Memorial.



World war one cemetery at Kansenshi in Ndola, where European soldiers that were buried at Mutambalika Cemetery in Mbala and elsewhere were exhumed and re-buried.



The Cenotaph at the Police Camp in Livingstone which records the names of the fallen NRP on the Old Parade Ground.



Cenotaph at the Victoria Falls, which records the European Settlers (NRR) and the British South Africa Police who lost their lives in the war.



Plaque at the Chambeshi war memorial.

The First World War in Northern Rhodesia: Experiences of "Askari" Foot Soldiers and the "Tenga-Tenga" War Carriers

Routes, Points and Places of the War in Zambia

Kasakalawe village:

Located on the shores of Lake Tanganyika, Kasakalawe village was turned into a battlefield when the German and the combined British and Belgium forces clashed on 20th November 1915. It is also at Kasakalawe that the German soldiers shot the "Good News" ship which was on the shore.

Mprokoso and Nsumbu:

A Belgium military post was based at Nsumbu on Lake Tanganyika and there was another base at Mporokoso and which was a reserve for the Belgium Military.

Fort Fife (Nakonde):

Fort Fife was Garrison number five where the Germans and the British forces fought many times during the early part of the war.



The Belgium Cycle Corps – Belgium Congo joined forces with the British Northern Rhodesia to fight the Germans



Northern Rhodesia Police Training at Fife



Fife 1915

The First World War in Northern Rhodesia: Experiences of "Askari" Foot Soldiers and the "Tenga-Tenga" War Carriers

Routes, Points and Places of the War in Zambia

One of the key reasons why the 1914 War was called the World War was its presence in different regions of the world which included Africa. The African battlefields of the First World War are now much better known than in the past, however, those of Northern Rhodesia (Zambia) remain the least known among them all.

Sesheke:

A bloodless attack on the German forces from the British Territory of Northern Rhodesia was launched from Sesheke, when the NRP with the BSA Co. Police from Southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) occupied the Caprivi strip of German West Africa (Namibia) on 21st September 1915.

Livingstone:

Livingstone was the headquarters of the NRP and initially had a training depot for the NRP where troops were supplied from to strengthen the fighting units in Abercorn and Fife (Nakonde). When Abercorn was first attacked by the Germans, Livingstone provided over 70 African Police to go and help their counterparts in Abercorn. To reach Abercorn they used the train up to Ndola then marched to Kasama. Very significant is the two and a half days "speed march" which the Askari undertook on 9th Sept 1915 from Kasama to Abercorn covering a distance of 160 Km that the Livingstone Police are known for.

N.R.P on parade at Livingstone. The World War One memorial for NRP is located on this parade ground.

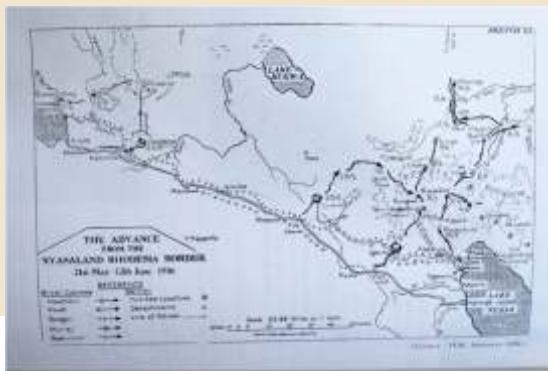


Kasama:

Kasama became the new training depot from NRP taking over from Livingstone which was far away. From this position Kasama supplied both man power and food for Abercorn and Fife (Nakonde) which were at the war front.

Abercorn:

Abercorn suffered the brunt of the war due to its position and many places within Abercorn are of significance to the war history.



Military routing from the Nyasaland - Rhodesia Border

The First World War in Northern Rhodesia: Experiences of "Askari" Foot Soldiers and the "Tenga-Tenga" War Carriers

Routes, Points and Places of the War in Zambia

Mbala Old Prison:

At the beginning of the war in 1914, the prison was turned into a defense post for the NRP to repel German attacks from Abercorn. As the war progressed it was turned into a prison of war where captured German soldiers were kept. Towards the end of the war as the German army captured Abercorn, the German prisoners of war were released and the British were detained in the same prison. When the war ended in 1918, the retreating German Askaris were accommodated in the Prison while awaiting to be repatriated to their homelands.



Mbala Old Prison



Captured German Askari, 1915



Testing the ranges at Abercorn Prison, 1915



German prisoners of war



The defense post at Abercorn Prison

The First World War in Northern Rhodesia: Experiences of "Askari" Foot Soldiers and the "Tenga-Tenga" War Carriers

Routes, Points and Places of the War in Zambia

Malwilo in Zombe area:

A place so called because the British and the Germans clashed at this place.



Malwilo in Chief Zombe area where the British and the Germans clashed



Zombe fortification where the British camped to watch over the approach of the Germans from the other side in German East Africa. The trenches are still visible today and a water point where the soldiers drew their water is still used today by local people.



Fort at Saisi

Saisi:

A fort between Abercorn and Fife, specially constructed to reduce the distance between the two war fronts. At Saisi was the famous Jericho farm where the farm house was converted into a fort, complete with defensive trenches around it. Many battles were fought at Saisi between the Germans and the British

The First World War in Northern Rhodesia: Experiences of "Askari" Foot Soldiers and the "Tenga-Tenga" War Carriers

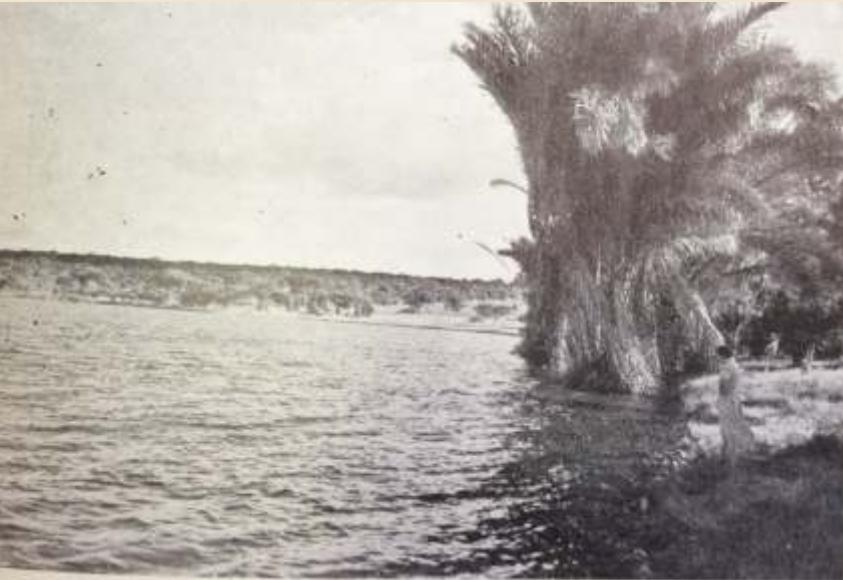
Routes, Points and Places of the war in Zambia

Namema:

The major German fort at the Northern border from where they were attacking the British forces at Saisi and Fife.

Lake Chila:

After laying down guns near the site where the Mbala Cenotaph was later erected, Von Lettow Vorbeck instructed his army to dump their gun in



Lake Chila



A captured German Trench on the Northern Border

Kamba Hill:

Located in Chief Mwamba's area near Saisi. On this hill was a British Camp which was a spy point for the soldiers to monitor the German forces on the other side of the border.

The First World War in Northern Rhodesia: Experiences of "Askari" Foot Soldiers and the "Tenga-Tenga" War Carriers

Zambia's local collective memory

The Zambian tradition has a way of recording and keeping a collective memory of events that affect the whole community. Even though the First World War does not feature so much in local lore, some of this memory has been kept up until today through songs, dances, names of people, names of places and family stories.

Mbeni, Muganda, Malupenga Dances and the First World War

Perhaps one of the most popular means to reflect on the war were done through the Mbeni dance societies. The Mbeni dance originated from the coastal culture of the 19th Century. Shortly before the war, the Mbeni dance had spread to German East Africa, but its most rapid dissemination occurred during the First World War. Mbeni dances became a very popular pastime of soldiers and carriers of German and British troops. Returning home, the Askari and carriers introduced the dances into their societies. The dances mimicked the violence of the marauding soldiers and the brutal treatment of carriers with the Sjambok, the whip. The dancers portrayed the idiosyncratic rules of Europeans in the war and when they were taken as prisoners of war. When Mbeni was introduced into the interior it developed into several different but same dance type such as the Muganda and the Malupenga.



Muganda dance



Collective memory (People's names)

Abilikoni localized name for Abercorn
Bikiloni from Abilikoni

Mphikila Nkhondo (Nick names for mothers whose sons went to war meaning one who prepares food for the war)

Wamazama (self-praise name for "mazama" a soldier that went to war and came back alive "waza" meaning "he has come". Translated Mazama has come back (from war).

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Zambia's local collective memory Family stories of people that fought in the war

Sir Mwanawina III Lewanika of Barotseland

As told by Mbanga Mwanawina (son of Mwanawina III) and Prof. Ilyayambwa Mwanawina and Muliokela Wamunyima (Grandsons of Mwanawina III)

Mwanawina III Lewanika was one of the sons of King Lewanika of Barotseland. He was born at Lealui in 1888 and studied medicine at Lovedale College in South Africa.

When the war broke out, his father Lewanika was requested by Britain for manpower in the East African Campaign. Lewanika managed to raise 2,000 volunteers from his subjects but they demanded that they be led by one of his sons. Thus, Mwanawina was recalled back home interrupting his studies, to lead a Barotse volunteer force of 2000 carriers to the East African campaign. His Father sent him off with a gun, ammunition, war provisions for the volunteers and 200 pounds cash as a contribution towards the war. He served in the war as a commander of Barotse carriers.

Mwanawina came back home in 1916 in following the death of his father King Lewanika. He became King of Barotseland after his brother in 1948. He was Knighted for his role in the war by the British Queen in 1959. In 1964, together with Kenneth Kaunda, he signed the Barotse Agreement in the creation of Zambia by uniting Barotseland to the rest of the country. He died in 1968, fifty years after the war ended.



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Zambia's local collective memory

Family stories of people that fought in the war



Dr. Rodger Chongwe'

Chilemba, Liwonde and Moses Zulu Ngoni brothers
from Chipata District: As told by their Grandson Dr. Rodger Chongwe.

Ngoni brothers, Chilemba, Liwonde and Moses gladly volunteered into the British army to fight in the East African Campaign in 1914. After the Ngoni were defeated and colonized by the British in the 1890s, they were not allowed to fight anymore wars. The Ngoni are said to have been greatly aggrieved by this development because wagging wars was part of their livelihood. Therefore the invitation by the British army to go and fight in a war and be paid for it was received with great pleasure.

The brothers were proudly sent off by their mother who after their departure nicknamed herself "Mphikila Nkhondo" (Cook for the war/soldiers). Chilemba left behind a wife and children, of which the youngest daughter was only 3 years old. This little girl later became the mother to Dr. Chongwe.

Chilemba never made it back home after the war. He was killed in action in Abercorn. His mother received the news of his death with pride because the Ngoni regarded a death in war as an honor to the family unlike dying as a coward at home. His two brothers Liwonde and Moses survived to tell the story of the war and Abercorn which they referred to as "Abilikoni" as many of the Africans at the time did. Moses inherited Chilemba's widow as was per tradition and raised his brother's children as his own. Because of his bravery in the war he was recruited in Southern Rhodesia as a policeman. Up until his death he only swore by Abercorn as he revered the place of the Great war and the place where his brother died.

Chief Mfwambo of Mbala District: As told by the local people of Mbala

When the war broke out in Northern Rhodesia, Chief Mfwambo and his people found themselves at the war front as their chiefdom was close to the border with German East Africa, the German base and Mbala Boma, the British base.

His village being in British territory, Chief Mfwambo was loyal to the British Empire. From the position of his chiefdom, he was able to observe the German activities and report to the British. One day he observed the Germans advancing towards Mbala and he quickly started off for Mbala Boma to inform the British. Unknown to him, the Germans were aware of his activities. Thus, before he reached the Boma, the Germans attacked, shot and killed him. On his grave, his people placed mortar shells that were found at the scene of his death.

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Zambia and its contribution to World Peace One Zambia One Nation:

As we commemorate the end of the First World War, we want to promote and encourage **World Peace** and celebrate Zambia as a symbol and **Beacon of Peace** on the African continent. After 54 years of independence Zambia has had no experience of war, remaining a united nation with 73 ethnic groups. She has been home to refugees from many countries that have been at war at different times in history, ranging from the Second World War Polish refugees; Southern African liberation struggle refugees and refugees from armed conflict across the world.



So diverse yet one –
Zambia's Ethnicity Map



Polish Refugee
Camp Memorial



Burundian Refugees on banks of
Lake Tanganyika



Refugees at home
in Zambia



School Children at Maheba Refugee
Camp flying the flag of Zambia

IN A WORLD OF PEACE THERE IS:-

- Mutual tolerance
- Inter-cultural dialogue
- Harmony
- Mutual understanding
- Cooperation

