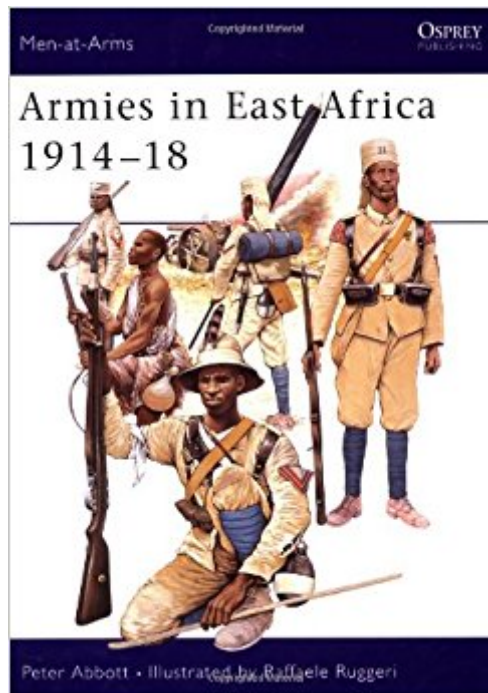




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# Armies In East Africa 1914-18 (Men-at-Arms)



## Synopsis

One of the least-published campaigns of World War I (1914-1918) was that fought in East Africa by forces of colonial troops of the British Empire, Belgian, Portuguese and German. Short of resources, many European, African and Indian soldiers recorded epics of endurance as they hunted the outnumbered but brilliantly led German colonial forces across a disease-ridden wilderness. The achievements of Paul von Lettow Vorbeck – the last German commander in the field to lay down his arms – brought him fame and respect comparable to that won by Rommel in World War II. The events and the forces are described here in concise detail, and illustrated with rare photographs and striking colour artworks.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Packed with specially commissioned artwork, maps and diagrams, the Men-at-Arms series is an unrivalled illustrated reference on the history, organisation, uniforms and equipment of the world's military forces, past and present.

Peter Abbott has co-authored several titles for Osprey, including Men-at-Arms 131: 'Germany's Eastern Front Allies 1941-45' and Men-at-Arms 202: 'Modern African Wars 2: Angola and Mozambique'.

THE COLONIAL TROOPS SERVING IN EASTERN AFRICA CANNOT BE AN EASY TOPIC TO

COVER; AND AFTER AN INITIAL READING OF THIS ENTRY IN THE SERIES, I REALLY NEED TO GO BACK AND RE-READ CERTAIN SECTIONS. MOST IRRITATING IS THE POOR QUALITY MAP AT THE BEGINNING OF THE VOLUME. I GUESS AFTER YOU BECOME A SENIOR CITIZEN THEY FIGURE YOUR EYESIGHT SHOULD IMPROVE???????? STILL THIS LITTLE TOME HAS DATA AND INFORMATION YOU'D SPEND HOURS TRYING TO GLEAN FROM A LARGER WORK, AND I CANNOT HELP BUT RECOMMEND IT AS A STARTING POINT.

Nicely put together with great illustrations and photographs showing the various major participants's forces. When read with other books about the time and place it greatly enhances some of the detail. I read two full-sized books on the campaign and this still enhanced my knowledge of events there. Unlike many short-length books this had a nice "operational-level" map!

A good reference. I would recommend it.

Well done!

This book is almost a necessity if you're studying World War One in Africa. As always, this format is limited but typically packed with information available nowhere else. I only wish there had been some black and white plates of some of the regimental badges and other insignia.

Well-done book. I have not seen a bad Osprey book yet. This book outlines the uniforms, equipment and OOB's as well as the history of the Great War in East Africa. Paul Von-lettow Vorbeck was able to outsmart and outmarch the allies (Britain, Belgium and Portugal).

Since the amazing resistance of the German colony in Tanganyika in the First World War is rarely covered in any kind of detail, Osprey's Men-at-Arms volume *Armies in East Africa 1914-1918* is a welcome addition to the slim literature on that subject. While certainly not comprehensive, the author manages to pack a fair amount of data into less than fifty pages and is not distracted from his subject with trivia about collar piping or various types of footwear (a common flaw in the Men-at-Arms series). Instead, the author delivers a succinct summary of the campaign, with notes on equipment, organization, and uniforms. The best aspect of the volume is the considerable order of battle data provided on all combatants, included the usually neglected Belgian and Portuguese forces. *Armies in East Africa 1914-1918* is divided into short sections on the pre-war colonial forces

in place (Germany, Britain, Belgium and Portugal), a campaign chronology, the campaign of 1914-1915, the 1916 Allied offensive, and then stalemate and pursuit in 1917. There are eight pages of color plates, covering the uniforms of all the combatant powers. The author also provides a surprisingly detailed bibliography, which readers may find quite useful. The detail on Belgian and Portuguese forces provided is particularly welcome, since most sources virtually ignore non-Commonwealth participation in the war in East Africa. Portugal was unique in sending several large expeditionary forces from Europe to fight in East Africa, instead of relying on colonial troops as everyone else did. The author also details the rather self-inflated reputation of the South African troops, who initially disparaged the black German Askaris and even their Indian allies. Perhaps the only area that is slighted is the German ground unit formed from survivors from the cruiser *Königsberg*, and the role of the cruiser's salvaged 4.7" guns (they are briefly mentioned and depicted in illustrations, but the fact that these naval troops performed poorly in bush warfare - not surprisingly - is not mentioned). Otherwise, *Armies in East Africa 1914-1918* is a fine summary of one of the more unusual campaigns and adaptive commanders of the 20th Century.

The Great War was a sincere World War, not only was Europe involve on both the East and West Fronts, but also Africa (as well as China, the South Pacific islands of Samoa, New Guinea, the Carolines, the Solomons, Yap, and others). The German colonies in Africa were far greater in land mass than Germany itself. They yielded coffee, chocolate, metals, and a host of other products needed by the German homeland. When war broke out, many of the leading administrators of both the German and Entente colonies hoped not to fight each other but to keep the native blacks suppressed. This was not to be the case. Belgian, Portuguese, French, and British troops all invaded German African territory. German Togo, Cameroon, and Southwest Africa (Namibia) were speedily attacked and overwhelmed, since they were not prepared for war. German East Africa (Tanzania) wasn't such a pushover due to the military brilliance displayed by General Paul Emil von Lettow-Vorbeck. While this book is only a overview of the campaigns in East Africa during WWI it is very valuable because of it's illustrations of various uniforms and of native garb. It is of particular interest to collectors of toy soldiers, since similarities of khaki uniforms of WWI are specifically delineated.

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