

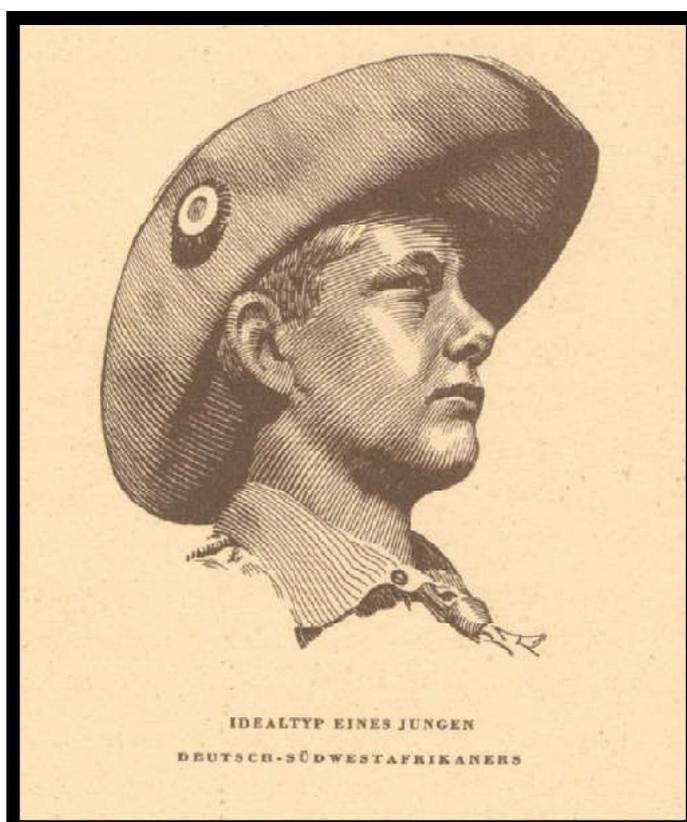
POSTAL HISTORY OF NAMIBIA

including the Exclave of Walvis Bay

**Part 1: The Pre-History of the Territory
& German SWA Colonisation to the Start of WW1**

Steve Hannath

with contributions from Tony Howgrave-Graham and Robert Hill.



Circa 1938. 'The Ideal Type of Youth, GSWA'.
Deutschlands Kolonien. Sidol-Bilderdienst, Köln, Braunsfeld.

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PREFACE

Part 1: The Pre-History of the Territory and German SWA colonisation: 1888 - 1914

Part 2: SA's GSWA Campaign and the Period of 'Forerunner' Stamps: 1914 - 1923

Part 3: The Era of the South African Mandate and Apartheid Rule: 1920 - 1989

Part 4: Namibia: 1990 to date.

This is the first of a four part display that shows some of the Postal History of Namibia, the independent African nation that arose free of the shackles of colonialism and the prejudices of South African segregationists. I use the terms 'south-west Africa' and 'SWA' to describe the pre-colonial, colonial and mandated 'territory' before the birth of Namibia as a new sovereign democratic nation. As I am more intrigued by southern Africa's history than I am about its postal services, the introduction of Open Class displays comes as a form of liberation from the shackles of philately's old-fashioned display rules. Despite this new freedom, I include more text than Open Class allows. I make no apologies for this.

As a boy in South Africa I was shown a shocking 'Blue Book' that documented the brutality of German colonialism in SWA against the Herero, Nama and others. A lifetime later, the German government has now recognised what happened and has called it what it was, a genocide. Germany's admission of guilt is honest, brave, overdue but unpunished. Today the descendants of many 'settlers' in Namibia still deny the genocide. Their arguments can be heard on farms wherever native land was seized by the colonial administration and sold to incoming settlers and ex-soldiers. They argue that SWA was a German possession in which the natives 'rebelled' against a lawfully constituted colonial authority - and then paid for their acts of violence with their lives and land. This display attempts to show how that happened.

The Herero and Nama never agreed to becoming a German colony. That decision was made in 1884 in Europe by European Powers at the Berlin Conference which legitimised (in European eyes only) the "Scramble for Africa". While Europe granted Germany a colony in SWA, the reality was that it was the indigenous people who owned the land. Acquiring African land for European settlement became a priority of the German colonial administration. African people were soon made to negotiate the sale of their land to racist German interlopers. The more land the Germans gained, the more the indigenous people were driven to hold onto the rest at all costs. This and other simmering humiliations led to armed resistance in 1904, a development that surprised Germany but which suited its plans. Using the legal pretext of suppressing a colonial 'rebellion', 80% of the Hereros were exterminated and their land seized. Nama land was similarly taken and its owners made serfs. The colonial authority then sold the land to German settlers and soldiers from whom it percolated down to those who defend their rights to own it today.

Some will say this is "*too political*". I have suffered such accusations all my life while simply attempting to understand history. What my accusers seem to be saying is that we should ignore and dismiss the lessons of history. I cannot. To those who say "*what has this to do with philately?*", my answer is that the Post Office is an arm of government. Just as in SA where every letter posted before 1994 is an example of institutionalised White minority rule, so every letter from the GSWA period of Namibian colonial history, be it missionary, Schutztruppe, trader or settler, is an item from a time and place where German racial superiority went unchallenged as it slowly metastasized into the coming Nazi creed. What Germany practised in its SWA colony - ethnic cleansing and genocide for 'lebensraum', death camps, slave labour and racial medical experiments - later became the heart of the Nazi holocaust.

I welcome your comments, criticisms, corrections and contributions to this display.

Finally, I dedicate this to Francis Alexander, my parent's long-suffering cook who made the most memorable smooed snoek and pickled fish. Ugly, bearded and out of breath in old age, she must have been a real beauty as a young 'Coloured' girl. One day in the kitchen after school and quite out of the blue, Francis told me that as a girl she had been ridden down by a man on a horse and raped on the beach in Walvis Bay. "He was a German," she said. "It was my first time." That act of violence against her was not uncommon in a time when Europeans could get away with murder. And did for over 110 years.

Steve Hannath,
July 2021.

To comment on this display, please [CLICK HERE](#).

The Pre-Colonial People of Namibia

SAN

The hunter-gatherer San (‘ Bushmen’) were the earliest human inhabitants of southern Africa.

Long before the Bantu (Black African) expansion, the San occupied much of south and east Africa. The pastoral Khoi (Hottentots) who arrived in southern Africa before the Bantu some 2000 years ago came to share the same language as the San. Together, they are known as the ‘Khoisan’ language group.



African and European migrants seeking grazing for their cattle drove the San from their ancient hunting grounds. Because the San killed valuable cattle, Africans and Europeans pushed the San into the arid, inhospitable marginal areas they had no use for. Additionally, the Cape Dutch waged a brutal genocidal race war against them.

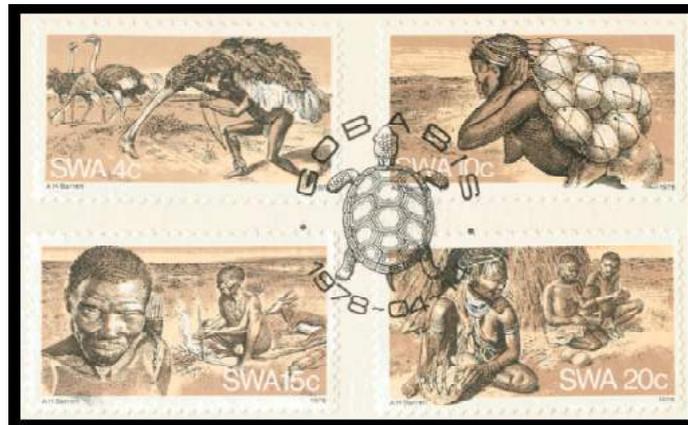
Circa 1938. Bushman Family. Card 29.

Deutschlands Kolonien. Sidel-Bilderdienst, Koln, Braunsfeld.

The barest trappings of civilisation - tin cups, pans and buckets - have reached these desert dwellers



**1954
1d Definitive.
San Rock
Painting.**



1978. Part First Day Cover (No. 23) ‘The Bushmen’ (San).

4c. Ostrich hunting; 10c. Carrying eggs; 15c. Hunters kindling fire. 20c. Musical instrument.



**1954
2d Definitive.
San Rock
Painting.**



**1954
3d and 4d
Definitive.
San Rock
Painting2.**



The southern migration of Black African cattle-herders 2000 years ago and especially the more recent arrival of European colonists into southern Africa deprived the region’s oldest people, the San and the Khoi, of their traditional hunting, foraging and grazing lands, in fact their entire way of life. Today, post-Apartheid and post-independence, Black and White South Africans and Namibians now have claim to ownership of the land and its wealth but the descendants of the original inhabitants who were so cruelly displaced, the San, Khoi, Nama and Herero, have been left with very little of what was once theirs.

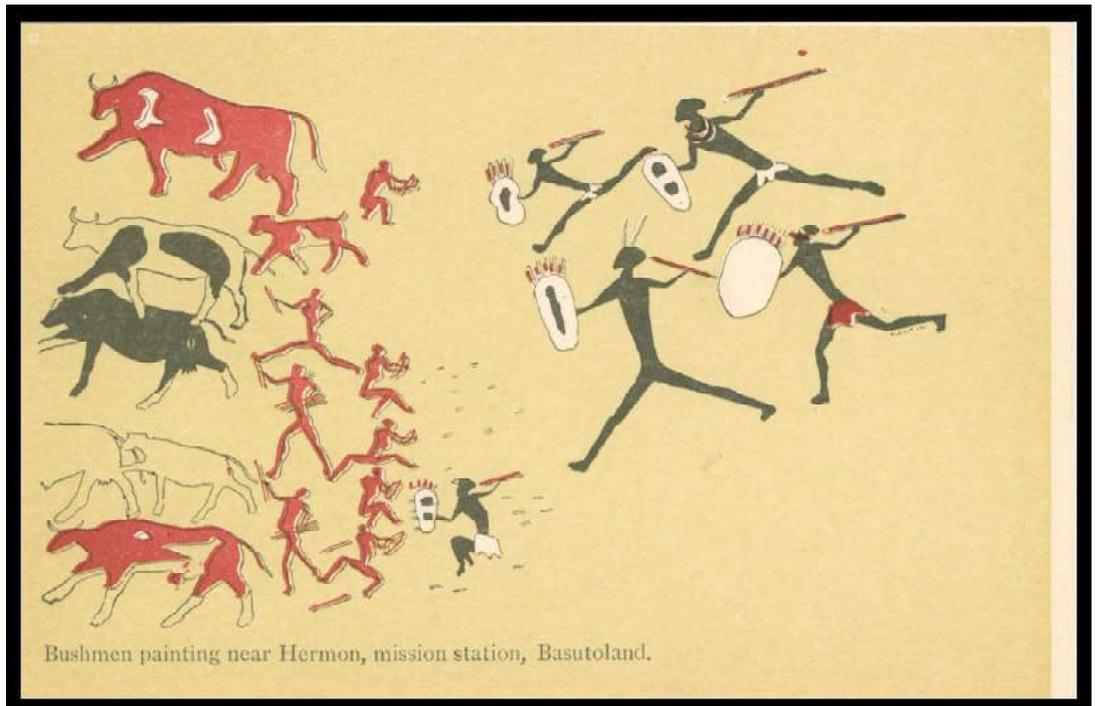
**SWA
Khoisan
Place Names**



1908 Guchab
‘Mountain Kloof
where stolen sheep
are hidden’.

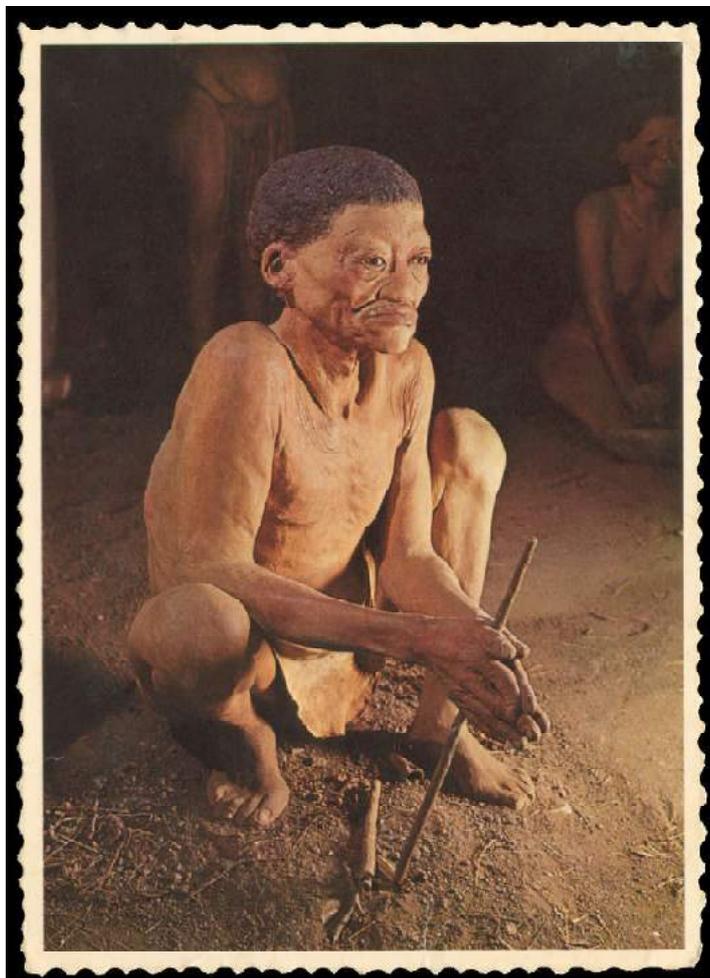


1928 Asis
‘Reed Fountain’

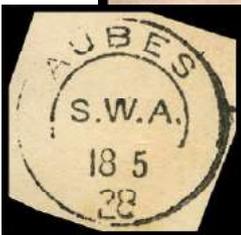
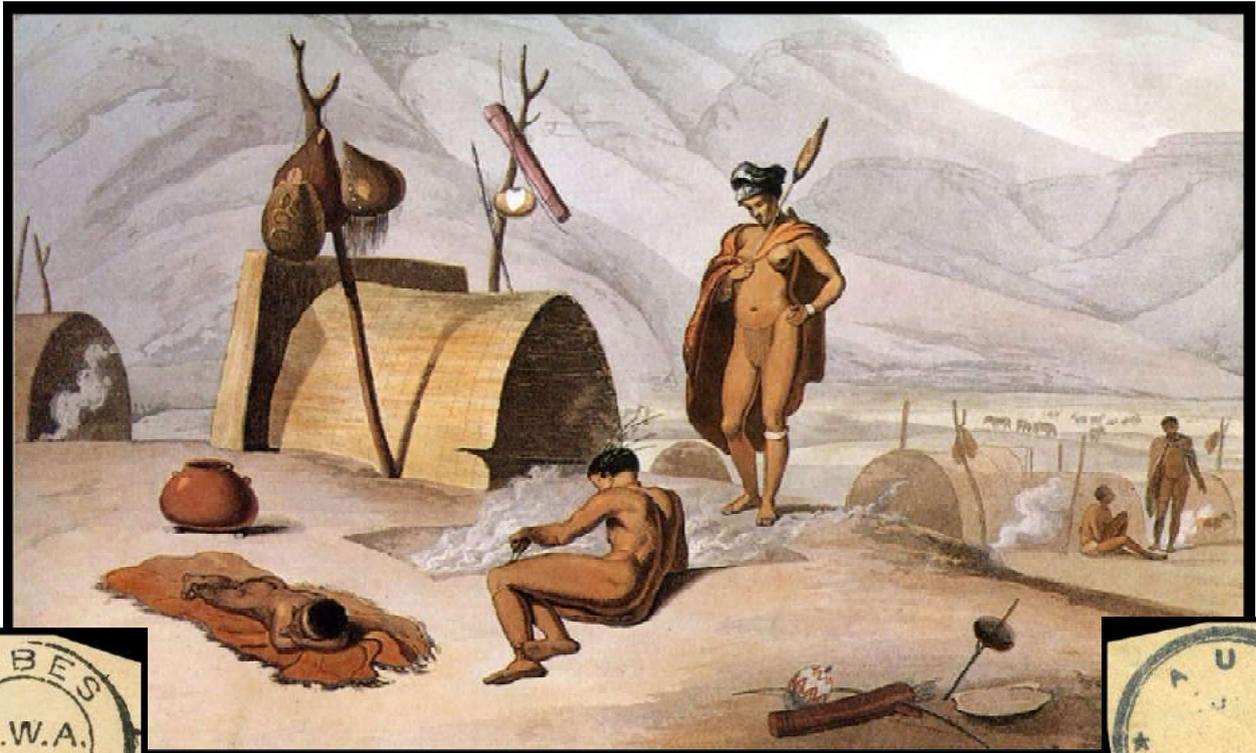


Bushmen painting near Hermon, mission station, Basutoland.

Top: Postcard ex-Sesotho Book Depot shows red ‘little people’, the San with bows and arrows, attempting to drive off cattle of the tall, spear and shield-wielding ‘Long Feet’, (the San's name for Black people). **Bottom right. Reduced Postcard.** Circa 1900. A ‘Bushman. 100 Years Old’ wears civilisation’s hand-me-downs. **Bottom left. Reduced Postcard.** A lifecast made in 1912 from the controversial ‘Bushman Diorama’ now removed from the SA Museum after criticism that the San (‘Bushmen’) were treated as racial “Specimens in a Natural History Display”.



Khoi Paradise Lost



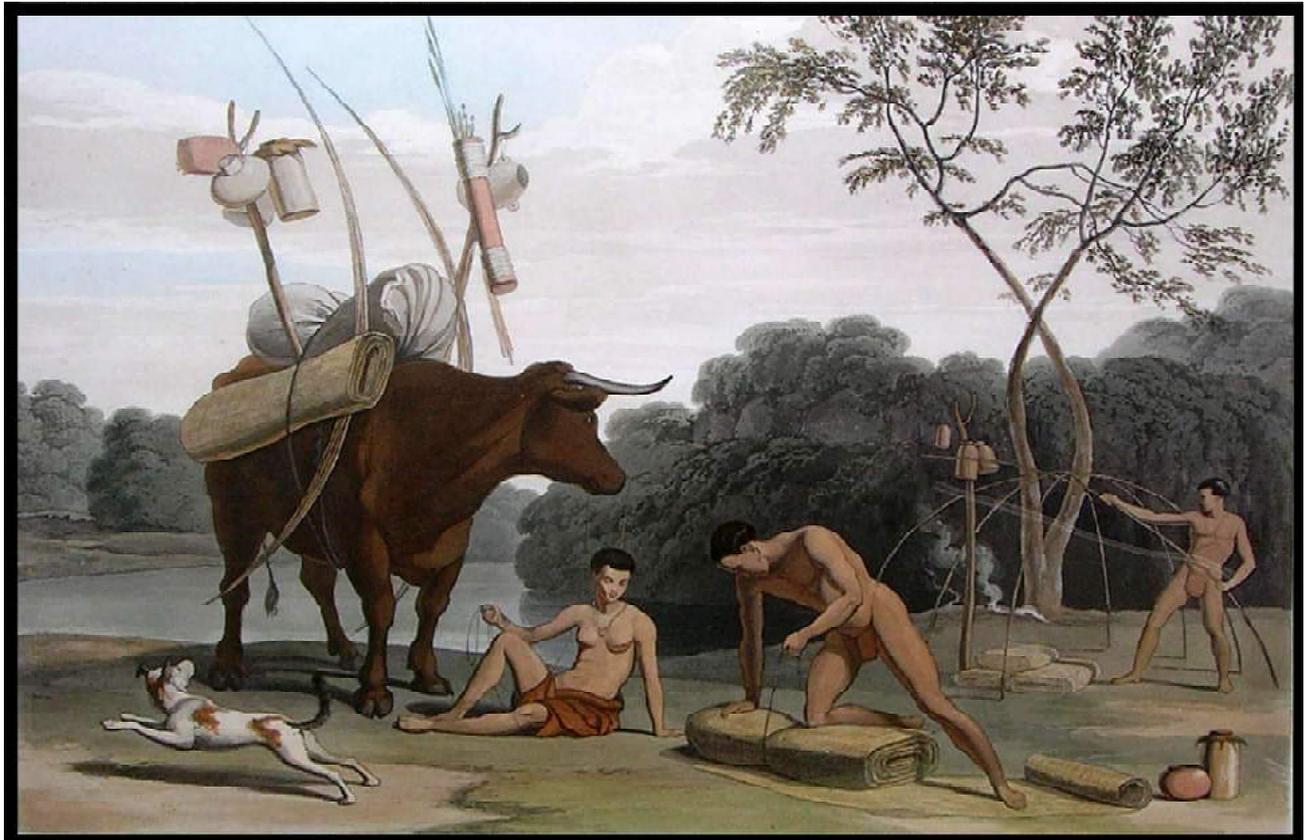
1928 Aubes
'Blood Place'

1804. Aquatint. Khoikhoi cooking locusts over an open fire.. (Samuel Daniell).

These idyllic images of 'noble savages' in a perfect state of nature were painted on a 1799-1802 expedition to Bechuanaland. They provide wonderful details of nomadic Khoi life as lived across southern Africa on the eve of great change and upheaval.



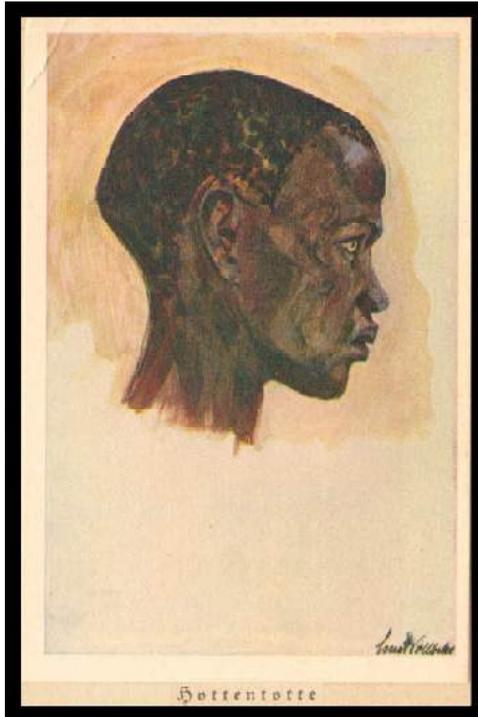
1928 Aus
'Spring'



1805. Aquatint. Nomadic Khoikhoi dismantling their huts. (Samuel Daniell).

The 'Khoi-Na' (Nama People)

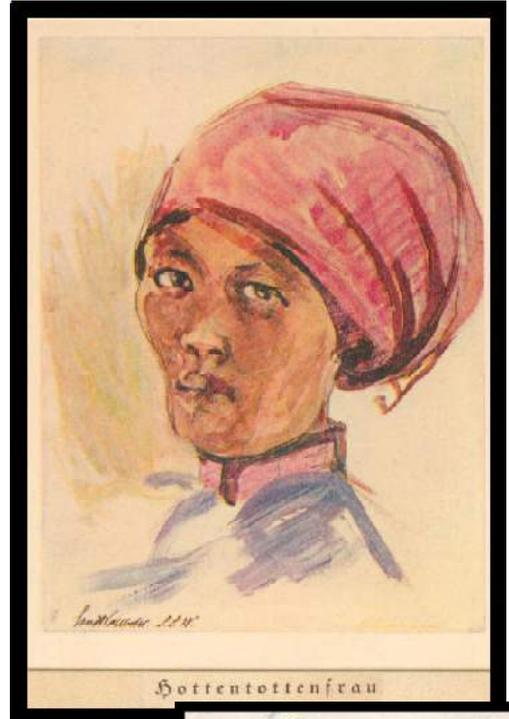
The short and slightly-built Nama were a Khoi tribe whose territory straddled the Gariep (Orange River). Their Greater Namaqualand included the north-west Cape and all of southern SWA. Over time the Nama assimilated other Khoi groups, including the Oorlam, mixed race Khoi who had left the Cape to escape colonial rule. The semi-nomadic cattle-grazing and raiding Nama came into conflict with the Herero over cattle pastures in SWA's central highlands. As proof of the power and reach of the Nama, the Damara, a Bantu tribe related to the Herero and Himba, spoke the Khoisan language of the Nama. In justifying their colonial policies the Germans argued that the Nama were 'Hottentots' from the Cape and were not an indigenous SWA people. This argument always ignored the fact that Germans were the most recent arrivals of all.



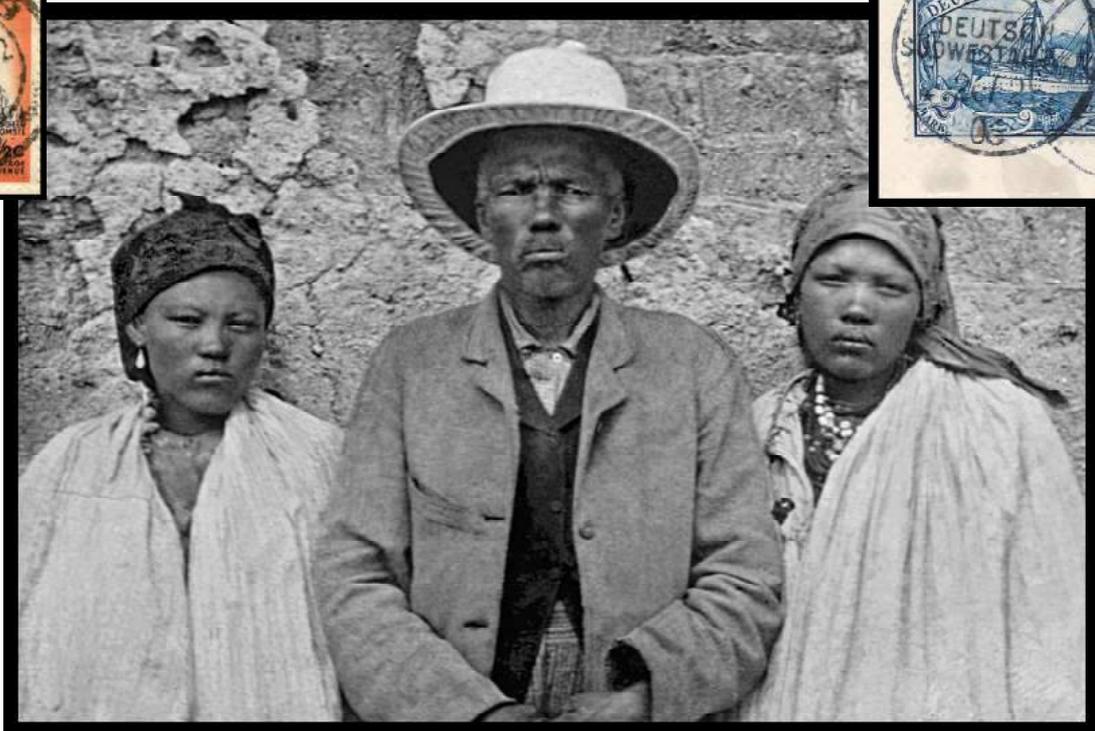
**Nama 'Hottentotten'.
Circa 1935.
Collectors' Cards
66 & 67 (L&R)
Deutschlands
Kolonien.
Hinz & Kuster A.G.,
Berlin.**



**1973. Succulents.
Sarcocaulon Rigidum
'Desert Rose'.
A succulent found in
semi-arid Namaland.**



**1962.
Gobabis
'Place of
Elephants'.**



The 'Chief of Great Namaqualand', Hendrik Witbooi, with probably his granddaughters.



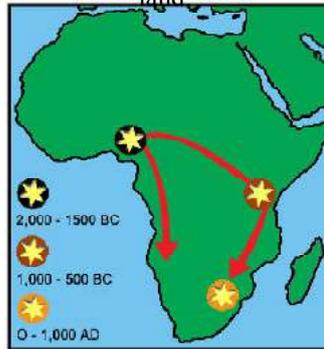
**1906.
Kub
'Place of
Thorns'.**

Herero

The tall Herero were one of two dominant tribes in pre-colonial GSWA. At the fore of the south-western Bantu migration, these Otjiherero-speaking cattle grazers fought a crippling pastoral war against the Nama over grazing land, a territorial struggle that would exhaust both parties. The Herero were encouraged by missionaries to sign 'treaties of protection' with Germany. The hope of many Rhenish missionaries was that a colonial Pax Germanica would end fighting between Herero and Nama. Belief in Germany's civilising influence would end when it murdered 80% of the Herero population in order to acquire their land.



1954
6d Definitive.
Cattle Horn.



The Bantu Migration into southern Africa.
Best estimates are 2000 BC - 1000 AD.



1954
1/3d Definitive.
Herero Woman.



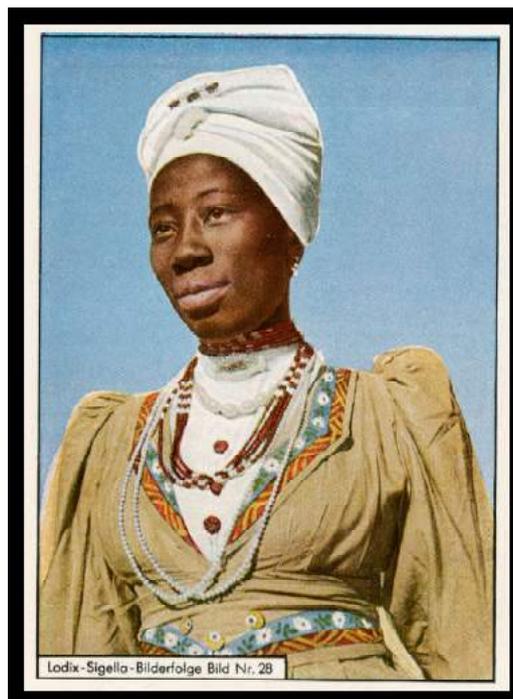
1931 5/- Definitive. Herero Huts.

The Herero's southward migration was slowed by the Nama, then stopped by seaborne German newcomers entering SWA through the inhospitable Namib desert. The near total extermination of the Herero is perhaps the only example of a Bantu migration being defeated by European colonists in southern Africa.

Otjiherero speakers comprise the Ovaherero, Ovambanderu, Ovajimba, Ovatjimba, Ovazemba and Vakwandu tribes.

According to the relatively powerless (and thus largely benign) German Governor of GSWA, Major Theodor Leutwein, *"The Hereros from early years were a freedom-loving people, courageous and proud beyond measure."*

After missionaries arrived in SWA, some Herero women adopted



Circa 1938. Herero Woman. Card 28.

Deutschlands Kolonien. Sidel-Bilderdienst, Köln, Braunsfeld.

their Victorian style of dress and made it distinctively their own.

The Hereros owned large herds of cattle in the best farmland in the northern highlands. The GSWA colonial administration saw them as SWA's most important African tribe.

The Herero ceded a third of their land to Europeans in 1888 in return for 'German protection'. The question German settlers constantly asked was *"how do we acquire more Herero land for German settlement?"*

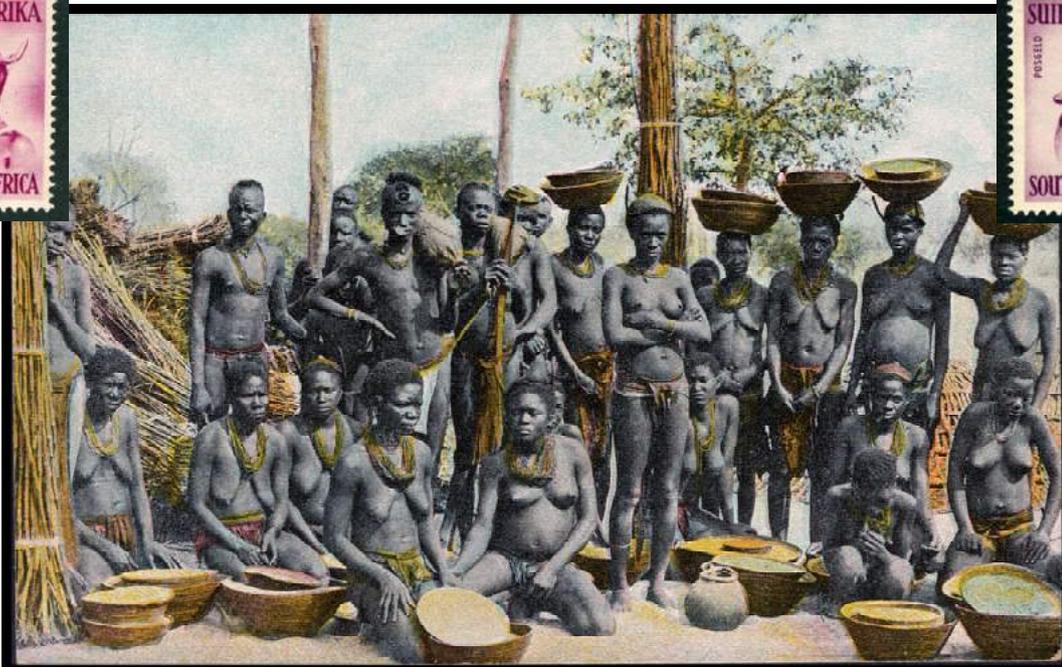
The unpunished rape of Herero women by Germans was a provocation that fuelled the anger that led to war.

Ovambo

The Ovambo tribe's territory straddles the northern border with Portuguese West Africa (Angola). Only the Ovambo's Ondonga sub-tribe actively resisted the German colonisers. Today, the Ovambo represent 50% of Namibia's diverse population. The Ovambo were in the vanguard of the liberation struggle.



1954
Definitive.
Ovambo Girl.



1954
Definitive.
Ovambo
Woman.

Circa 1910. Postcard. 'Ovamboneger' (No. 6005. Swakopmund Buchhandling GmbH.).
This image was intended to convey a message about the superiority of German/ European culture.



1977. 'Ovambo Traditions'.
4c. Kraal - Ovambo; 10c. Grain Baskets; 15c. Pounding grain; 20c. Tribal Activities.

When these stamps were issued in 1977 a guerilla war was being waged in Ovamboland by SWAPO (South West African People's Organisation) against South African forces in SWA. Much of the fighting against SWAPO would take place in Angola. This set of stamps was issued during the period when Apartheid was the policy in South Africa. These stamps attempt to show the Apartheid regime's respect for Ovambo traditions through the policy of 'Separate Development' in tribal Bantustan Homelands.

Other Smaller Tribes

There were other smaller tribal groups like the Himba, Damara, Kwanyama and the Ngandjera, etc. They were dominated by the Herero and or Nama and did not participate in resistance to German rule. The Herero and Nama were so often at war with each other they could not agree to unite and fight the Germans together.

Portuguese Voyages of Discovery reach SWA: 1486



1931 Definitive Pictorial. 1d red SWA 'Padrão at Cape Cross'. (Enlarged).

The Skeleton Coast

In 1486, Diogo Cão, a Portuguese explorer, sailed further down the African west coast than any previous European sailor. Reaching Cape Cross in present-day Namibia, near the Tropic of Capricorn, he planted a padrão (stone cross).

In late 1487 Bartholomew Dias followed the same route but ventured further south to Walvis Bay from where he became the first European to sail around southern Africa. The discovery of the sea route to India would be made by Vasco da Gama in 1498.

During their voyages of discovery, the Portuguese and other seafarers found no reason to venture inland. The 1000km long coastline of south-west Africa is a long, desolate and impenetrable desert of drifting sand dunes. Over time, this coastline became infamous as *'The Skeleton Coast'*. Its lack of drinking water, a decent harbour and the hostile Namib Desert between the sea and whatever lay beyond deterred European colonial expansion. As the coastal area offered little that could be easily exploited, the indigenous people living in the SWA interior remained relatively safe from invasion from the sea during the first two centuries of devastating Dutch ('Boer') Cape colonial expansion.



1988 First Day Maximum Card. LUDERITZ '1988 01 07' Celebrating the 400th Anniversary of Bartholomew Dias Arrival.

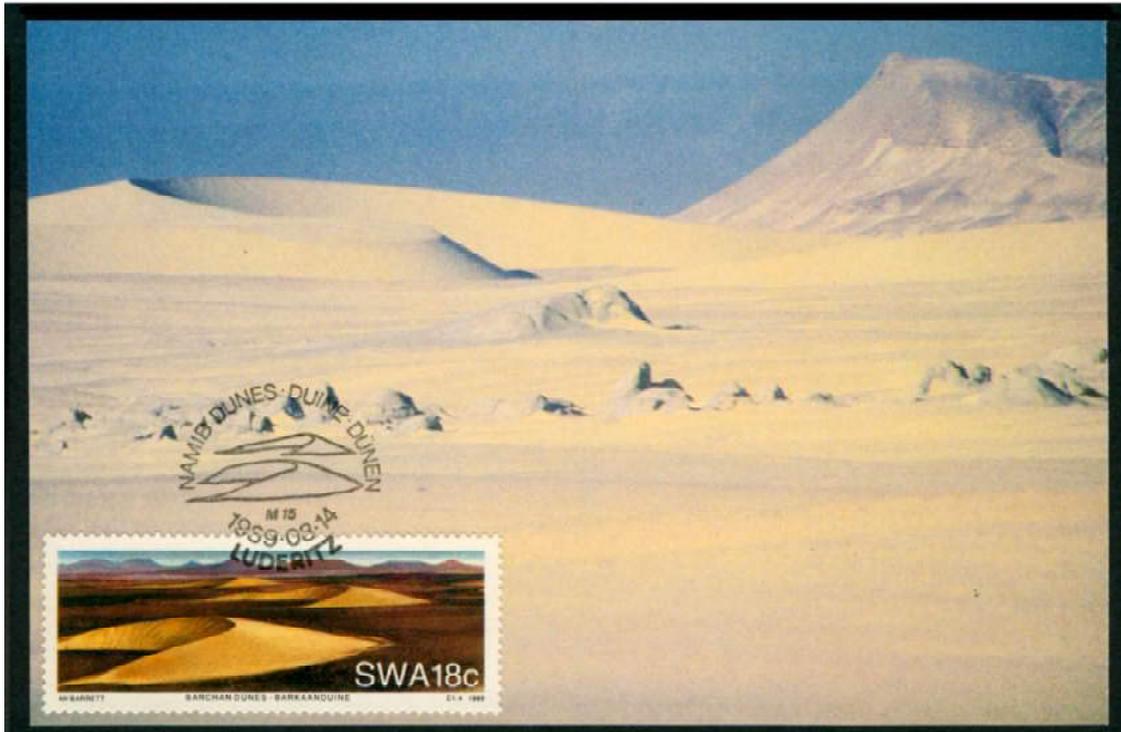
The Great Coastal Barrier of the Namib Desert



1977 Pictorial Set of 4 'The Namib Desert'. 4c. Coastline near Pomona; 10c. Dunes Sossusvlei.



Robert Hill

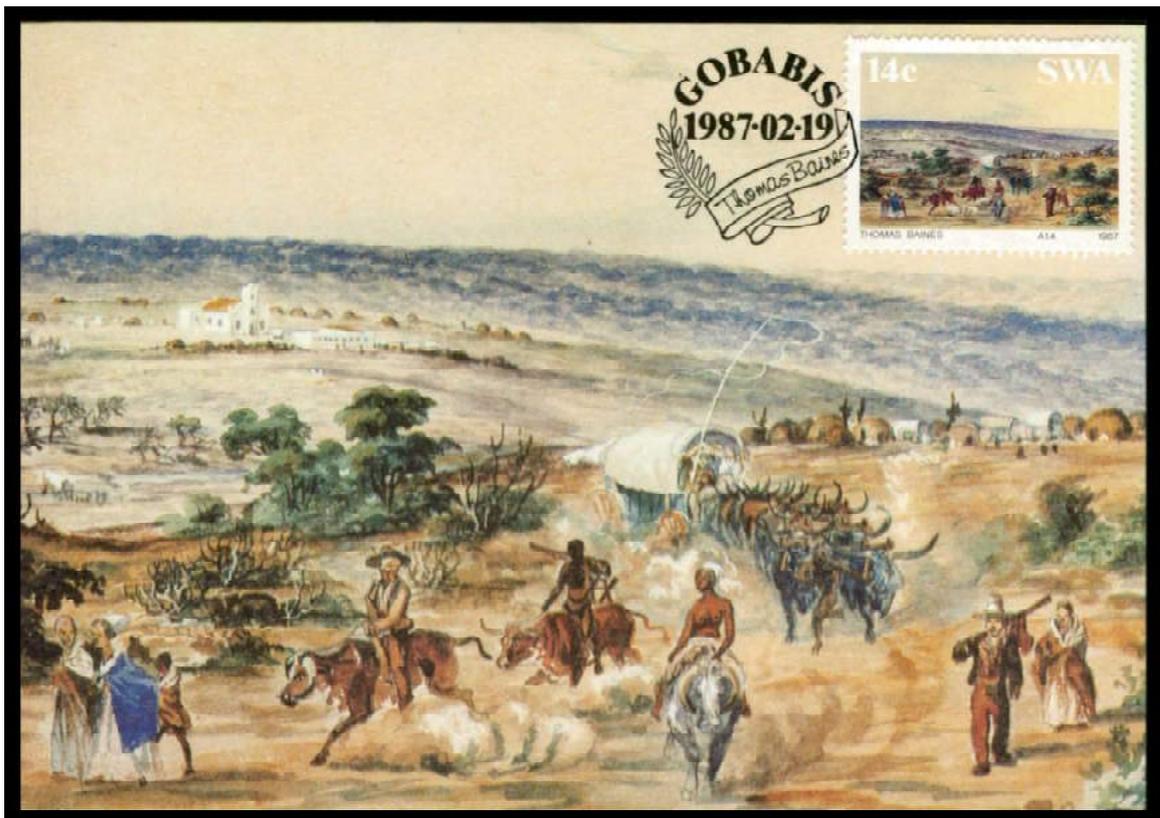


Robert Hill

1989 First Day Maximum Cards SWAKOPMUND and LUDERITZ 'Namib Sand Dunes '1989 08 14'

Missionaries

German influence in SWA began with the arrival of missionaries who came via the Cape in 1805. Passing up through the Cape's Little Namaqualand, they crossed the Orange River and entered SWA's Great Namaqualand to found a mission station among the Nama east of Warmbad. Over the next 80 years, the RMS (Rhenish Missionary Society) played a leading role in developing the territory as an area of largely German missionary influence, even going so far as to start to colonise it. The missionaries' need to communicate with the outside world, especially Germany, led them to start a postal route that fed into the Cape postal system. When a second RMS mission station was started at Bethanien in 1814, there was a regular exchange of mail between it and Warmbad by postal runner. As more RMS mission stations were founded, they were linked together through an ad hoc postal system based on Bethanien. In 1846, the various RMS mission stations assumed responsibility for the conveyance of mail along 'their' section of the 'postal route' to the Cape.



1987 First Day Maximum Card. 'Painting by Thomas Baines' No. 46 '1987 02 19'

Baines painted this image of the Nama at RMS Gobabis Mission Station on a visit to SWA in 1863. In Baines' painting the Nama can be seen riding cattle, the traditional Khoi means of transportation.

In 1845 a Wesleyan missionary reached Gobabis which he named '*Elephant's fountain*'. It derived from two Khoi words, khoa (elephant) and bes (place). In 1856 Friederich Eggert of the RMS established a mission station at Gobabis which was populated by the warring Nama and Herero. An alternative explanation for its town name is '*the place where people quarreled*'. Many RMS missionaries believed that a German SWA would bring Christianity, Commerce, Civilization and, above all, peace between Herero and Nama.

This Church had a largely Herero congregation



This Church had a largely Nama congregation

1978 'Historic Churches in SWA'

15c. Rhenish Church Otjimbingwe, 1867: 20c. Rhenish Church Keetmanshoop, Rebuilt 1895.

Two German Missionaries

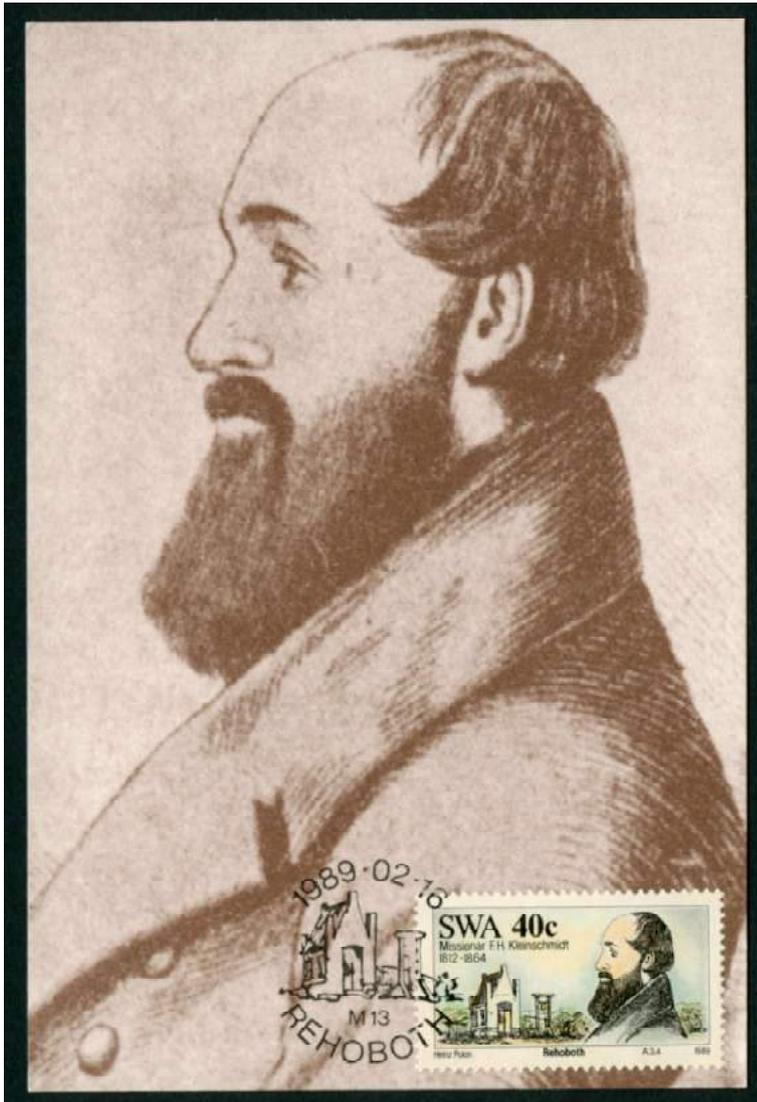
Franz Heinrich Kleinschmidt (1812–1864)

Born in Prussia, trained as a carpenter and blacksmith, Kleinschmidt was sent to Windhoek by the RMS in 1842 at the request of Jonker Afrikaner, chief of the Oorlam. In 1844 he went to Damaraland with Carl Hugo Hahn to set up the first RMS mission station to the Herero in Otjikango, (today Gross Barmen). In 1845 he founded the mission station and town of Rehoboth. With Jonker Afrikaner and Hahn he initiated a trade route, 'the Bay Road' from Walvis Bay via



Robert Hill

Windhoek to Otjimbingue. Fluent in Khoikhoigowab, he translated the Bible into the Nama language. When the Oorlam attacked Rehoboth in August 1864, Kleinschmidt fled to Otjimbingue where he died of exhaustion. His missionary zeal introduced SWA to Germany.



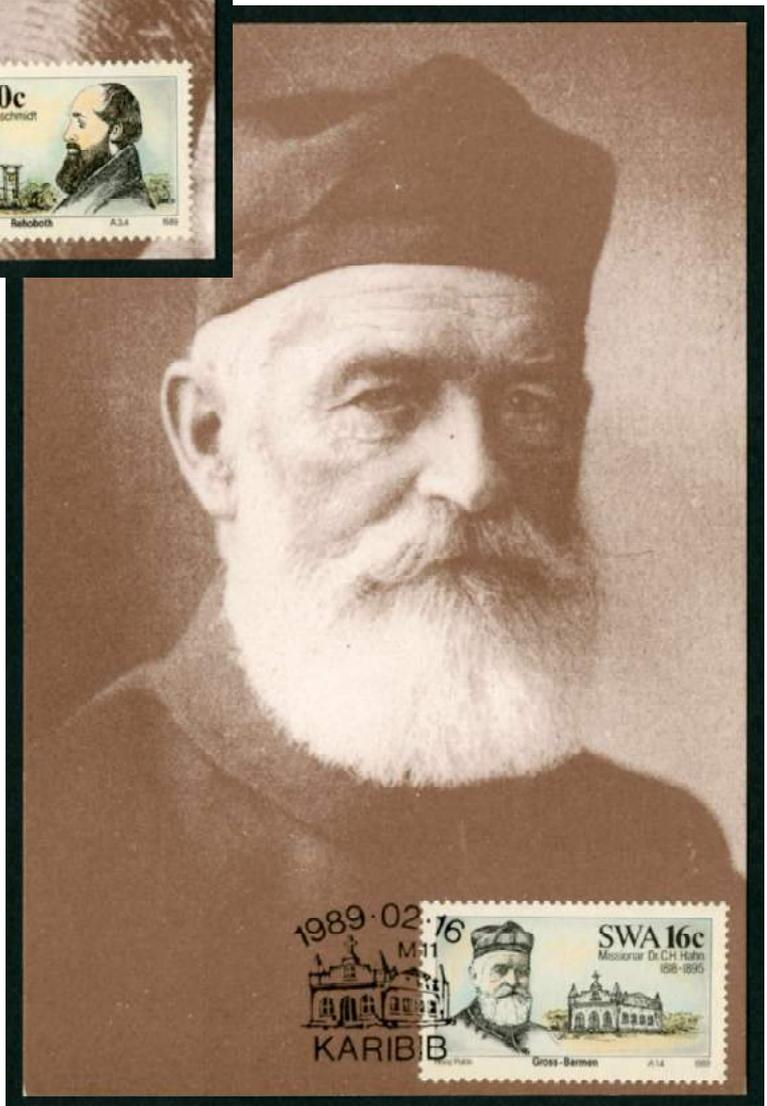
Robert Hill

Dr Carl Hugo Hahn (1818–1895)

Born in Riga in the Russian Empire, Hahn studied as an engineer before joining the RMS. Ordered to bring Christianity to the Herero and Nama of SWA he arrived in Windhoek via the Cape in 1842 and was received by Jonker Afrikaner, Captain of the Oorlam. At Afrikaner's invite, he and Kleinschmidt moved to Otjikango in 1844. In 1850 the Nama defeated the Herero who fled the area. His attempt to convert the Ovambo almost cost him his life. In 1864 he founded a mission station at Otyimbingue after the Herero defeated



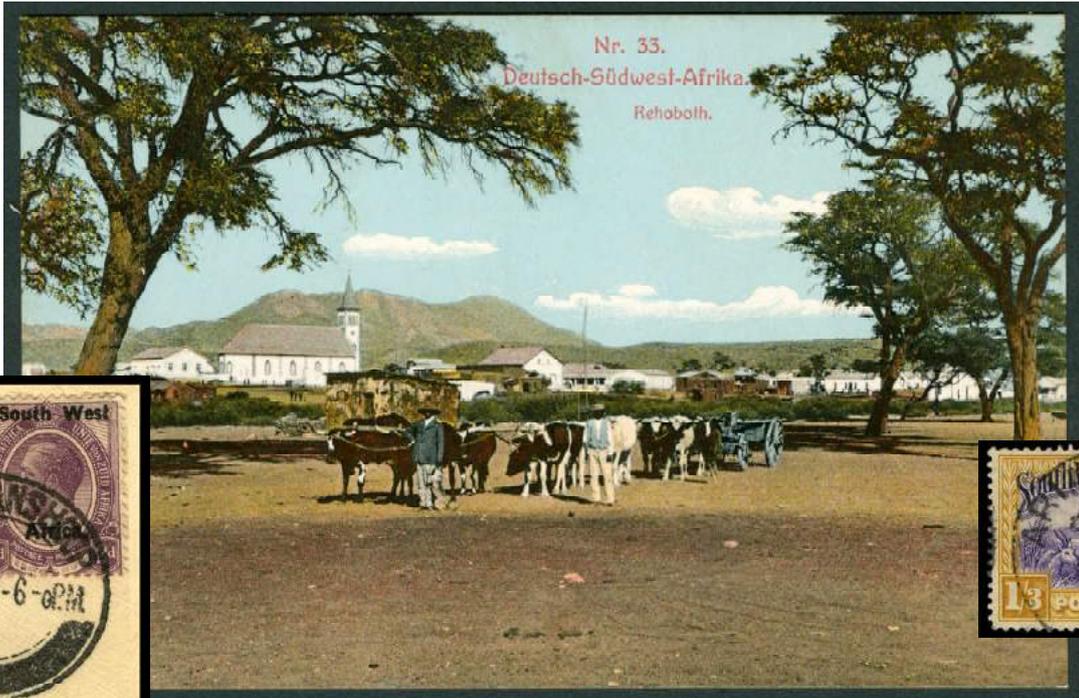
the Nama. Importantly, he encouraged German settlement as a means of securing supplies and services, (thereby furthering the idea of a 'German' SWA). In 1868 the Nama returned and the Herero fled. Hahn then brokered a 10-year Peace Treaty between the two tribes. In 1872, unhappy that the RMS was trading for profit (including selling guns to the Herero) and promoting colonisation, he left SWA having founded 13 mission stations.



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Basters & Boers

Like the Oorlam, the Basters were a proud mixed race descended from Europeans, Khoi and slaves who migrated to SWA from the north-west Cape in the mid-18th Century to escape the prejudices of colonial rule. They spoke Dutch, gave many places Dutch names and practised a Boer way of life. By 1870, (long before Germany occupied SWA), they had produced written laws for the land they controlled south of Windhoek. Another small group were Boers descended from hunters and the 'Dorsland' (Afr. Thirstland) Trekkers. The Boer experience in GSWA was largely an unhappy one as the Germans neither liked nor trusted them. Boer numbers grew after the end of the South African War when unreconciled Boers relocated to GSWA. Some would form the Vrijkorps (Dutch. Free Corps) and fight for Germany in WWI.

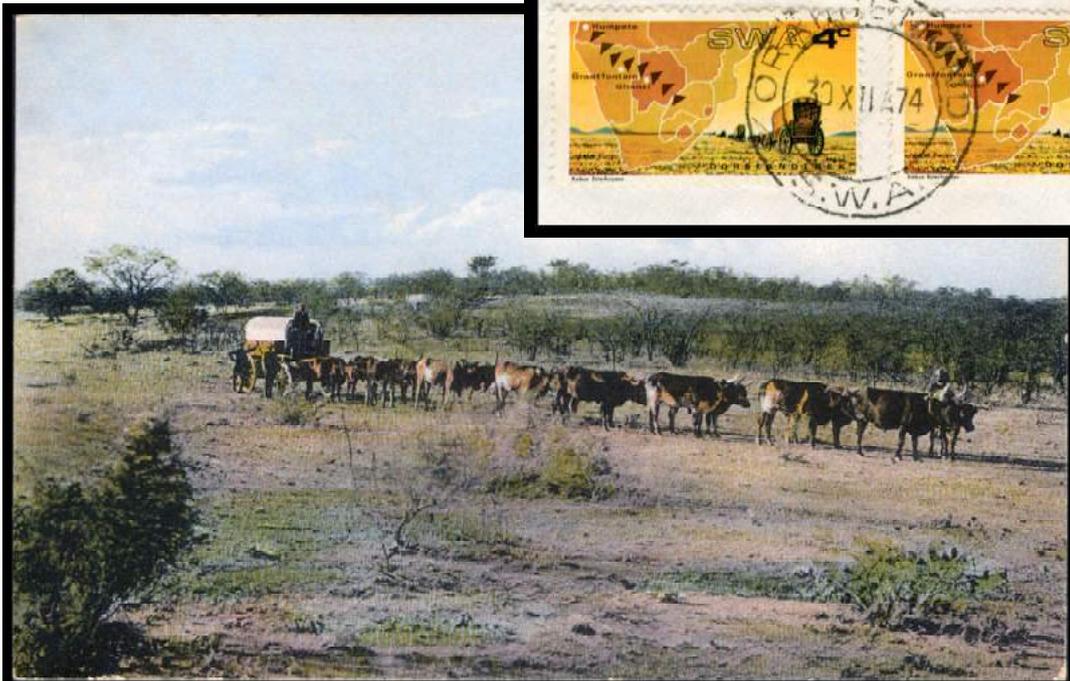


1923
Keetmanshoop
'...hope'.



Undated.
Ariams-Vlei
'...-Marsh'

Circa 1910. Postcard. 'Nr. 33. GSWA. Rehoboth'. Unposted.
The Basters were one SWA's pre-German 'European-ised' groups.



1974.
Oranjemund
'Orange
Mouth'

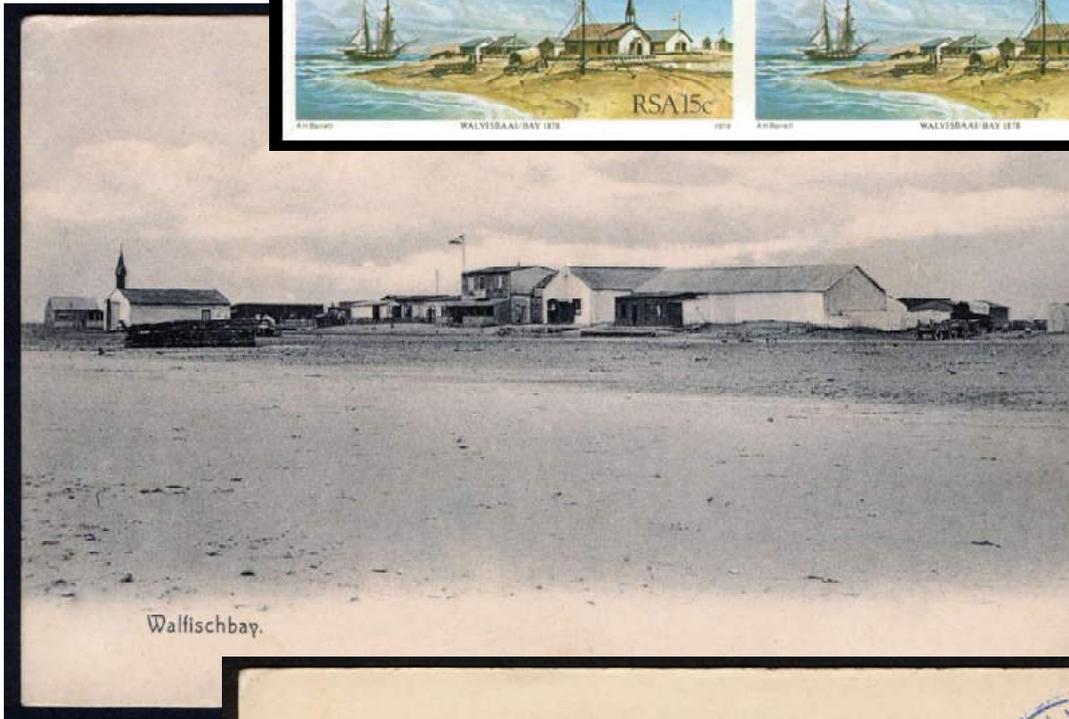
Circa 1910. Boers with Inspanned Ox-wagon. Inset: 1974. 4c 'Centenary Dorsland (Thirstland) Trek.'

The Exclave of Walvis (Walfish / Walfisch) Bay: 1878

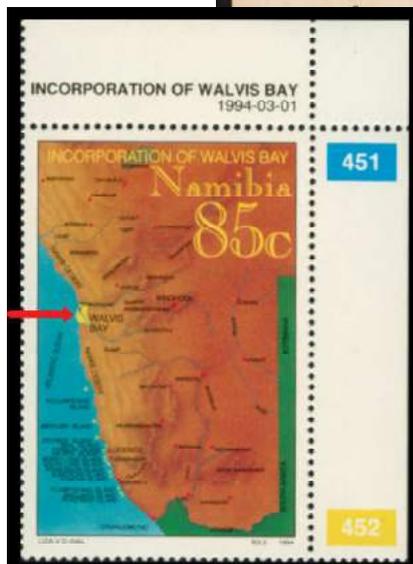
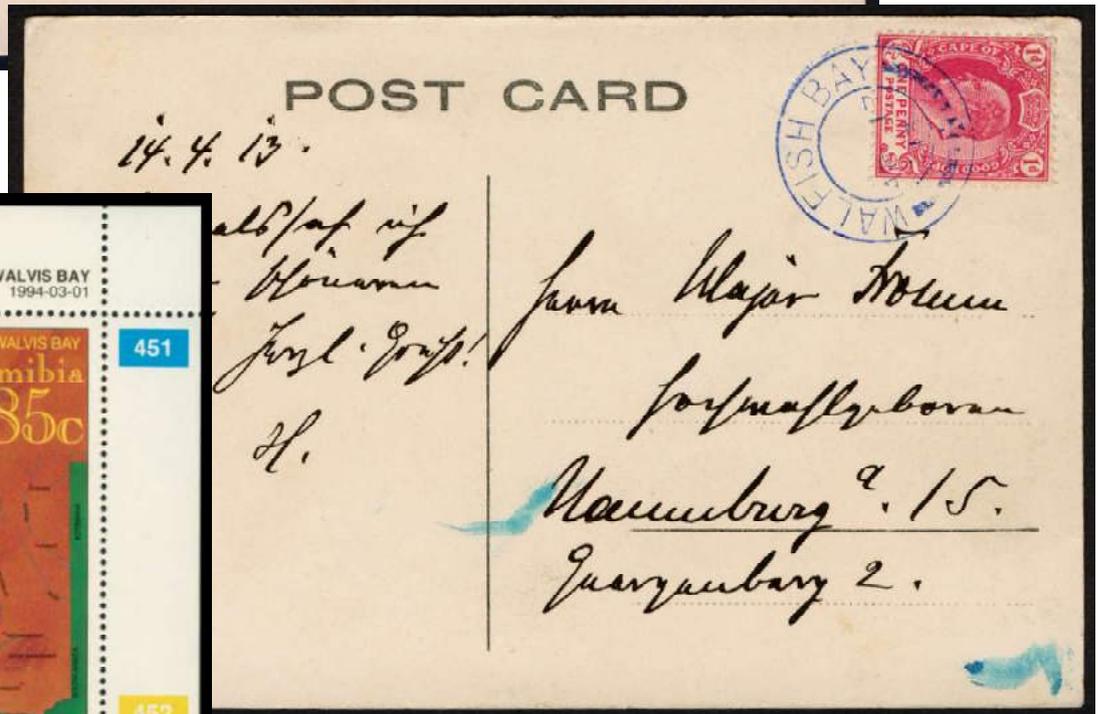
Many in the Cape thought the territory of south-west Africa was a part of the Cape and wanted it absorbed into the Cape Colony. The British government disagreed on account of the costs involved. However, when Germany began to express interest in the territory, Britain annexed Walvis Bay, the only deepwater port on the south west African coast to prevent it from falling into German hands. By making it an exclave of the Cape Colony, in 1878, Britain had made it much harder for Germany to develop SWA as a colony. The history of southern Africa might have been very different had Germany possessed Walvis Bay.

1978. RSA. Centenary of Annexation (of Walvis Bay).

Scarce imperforate pair printed in deeper shades than the issued 15c stamps.



**Circa 1910.
Postcard.
'Walfisch Bay'.**
First visited by Europeans in 1485, Walvis Bay remained a remote but safe haven for many years, attracting mostly fishermen, whalers, sealers and guano collectors.



1994. Post-Colonial Incorporation of Walvis Bay with Namibia.

1913. Postcard. WALFISH BAY 'AP 17 13' to GERMANY.
Cape Colony 1d red cancelled with uncommon 'Walfisch Bay' datestamp. The blue ink of this datestamp makes it even scarcer.

'The Scramble for Africa'



GREAT BRITAIN



FRANCE



GERMANY



ITALY



PORTUGAL



SPAIN



THE KING OF BELGIUM



★ UNCOLONISED COUNTRIES



Equator

Six European countries and the King of Belgium carved Africa up without any respect for ethnic and language boundaries. African people had little or no say over the occupation of their lands. Treaties made by Europeans or promises given were soon broken. Some 10 million square miles with 110 million African subjects were swallowed up "in the name of Commerce, Christianity, 'Civilization' and Conquest". By 1910, European states claimed nearly 90 percent of all African territory. Only Liberia and Ethiopia remained unconquered. Italian fascists would conquer Ethiopia in 1935.

1000 miles
0 (1600km)

British miles,
not German ones!
See next.

Ethiopia - Lion of Judah

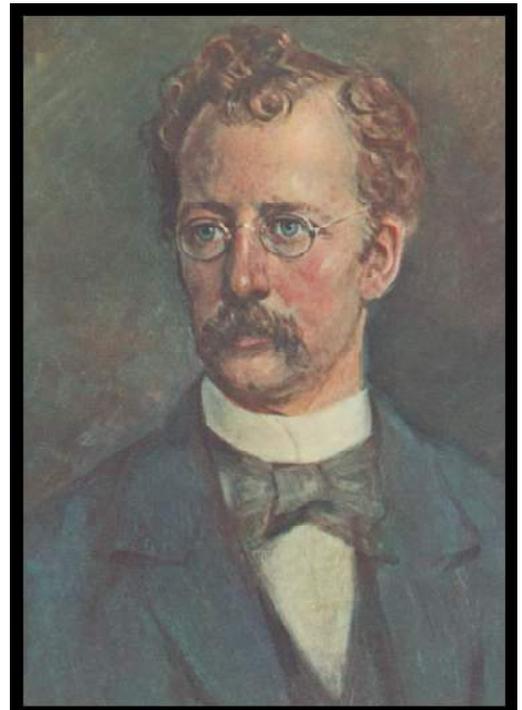
Under the terms of the Treaty of Versailles, Germany would lose all her African colonies following her defeat in World War 1. GSWA would be assigned to the Union of South Africa under a League of Nations Mandate. GEA would become the British possession of Tanganyika. Its acquisition realised the dream of the arch-British imperialist, Cecil John Rhodes - British Africa stretching from the 'Cape to Cairo'.

Trickery Gains a German Toe-hold in SWA: 1883



Map of Angra Pequena,
later Lüderitzbucht, later Lüderitz.
1983. Part Official
First Day Cover No. 40.

In May 1883, the German trader, Franz Lüderitz, made the founding of GSWA possible when his agent, Heinrich Vogelsang, bought the anchorage at Angra Pequena from Captain Joseph Fredericks of the Bethanien Oorlam. By using longer German rather than English miles, Fredericks was tricked into selling more land than he intended. 'The Mile Swindle' proceeded with the support of the witness, a German missionary. Backed by German traders and missionaries, Lüderitz would persuade the German Chancellor to take control of SWA.



Franz 'Lying Fritz' Lüderitz
Deutschlands Kolonien.
Hinze & Kuster A.G., Berlin.
Circa 1935.



1983. Registered First Day Cover. Centenary of Luderitz. LUDERITZ '1983 03 16' to GERMANY.
Clockwise: Two views of Angra Pequena; Joseph Fredericks, Luderitz and his partner, Heinrich Vogelsang

Certified to Colonise - The Berlin Conference: 1884 - 1885



Togo,
Cameroon,
GEA.



Samoa,
New Guinea,
Kiautschou.

1884. Collectors Portrait. German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck at the time of the founding of GSWA. Frontispiece. 'The Greats of World History' (Eckstein-Halpaus GmbH, Dresden. Circa 1940.)

Otto von Bismarck was a Prussian aristocrat who masterminded the unification of Germany in 1871. He served as the first Chancellor of the North German Federation until 1890. Despite provoking three short and decisive wars against Denmark, Austria, and France, he was committed to maintaining peace between the European powers. He was not keen on African colonies. Bismarck repeatedly said "*I am no man for colonies*".

Bismarck argued that the burden of obtaining, maintaining, and defending colonial acquisitions outweighed any benefit - their development should be at private expense. However, the public in Germany increasingly wanted colonies like those of Britain, France, Spain and Portugal as colonial possessions spread the host country's cultural values and language worldwide. Many Germans wanted their culture, arguably one of the finest in Europe, to have equal opportunity to spread its influence internationally.

In SWA the prayers of missionaries for intervention fell on deaf ears until industrialists and traders like Luderitz pointed out to Bismarck that colonies provided natural resources to Germany's European rivals, as well as a market for goods from their factories. Bismarck reversed his anti-colonial stand in 1883 and entered the race to build a colonial empire in Africa and the South Pacific. Britain had previously advised Bismarck that it would not accept a foreign power entering the south-west African territory. However, when Britain denied protection to a growing number of German missionary settlements within the territory, Bismarck interpreted this as Britain abandoning its interest in SWA. This encouraged Bismarck to declare SWA a German protectorate in 1884. The German Empire showed its preparedness and willingness to protect the region by quickly sending three warships to the area's African coast.

Realising that smash-and-grab colonial free-for-alls held the potential for conflict, Bismarck called a series of meetings of European powers in Berlin. Known as 'The Berlin Conference' (1884-1885), it formalised "The Scramble for Africa" and legitimised (in Europeans eyes) the colonisation of Africa. It created a formal European legal process whereby the major powers could negotiate between themselves to agree and define claims to African territory. In endorsing Germany as SWA's legally constituted colonial authority, the Berlin Conference signatories must bear some responsibility for the future (1904) genocide. Their dictat allowed Germany to call an anti-colonial war of resistance a 'Rebellion' and crush it with 'justifiable' consequences.

The Occupation of Luderitz Bay: 1884

During the 'Scramble for Africa' Germany took possession of the uncolonised SWA territory. It occupied Luderitz Bay on 7th August 1884. A First Day- Cover, (No. 46), celebrates the event.



1984. Enlarged Part of First Day Cover (No. 46) 'Centenary of German Colonisation'.

- 11c. The German Flag now covers the territory; 25c. The German Flag is raised in Luderitz;
- 30c. Colonial Borders with the Cape and Bechuanaland are defined by Boundary Markers;
- 45c. Imperial Navy corvettes S.M.S. Elisabeth and Leipzig assert German authority.

The Wilhelmian town of Luderitzbucht, later Luderitz, was developed with a distinctly Bavarian style of architecture. It was slow to adopt the 'Sudwest' style that incorporated shaded verandahs. Swakopmund, which was closer to Windhoek, became the more important port as GSWA developed.

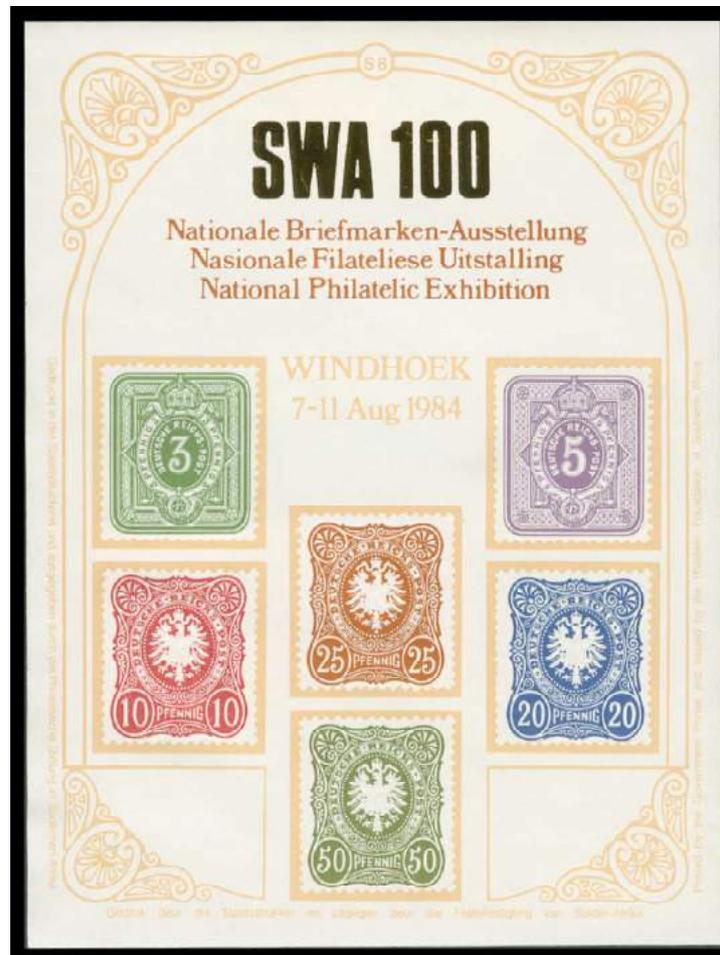


1981. Miniature Sheet. 'Luderitz Buildings'.

- 5c. Paul Weiss-Haus; 15c. Deutsche Afrika Bank. 20c. Schroederhaus; 25c. Altes Postamt (General Post Office).

Use of German Reichs 'Vorlaufer' Stamps in GSWA: 1886

The stamps of Germany were used in the colony from July 1886 until the 1897 introduction of the colonial Provisional issue. GSWA came under the control of the German Postal Administration on 7th July 1888.



1984. Label. SWA 100 National Philatelic Exhibition WINDHOEK 7-11 AUG 1984. This publicity label celebrates the Centenary of the Founding of the German Colony. It shows stamps of the 1888 - 1891 German Reichs-Post issue used in GSWA.

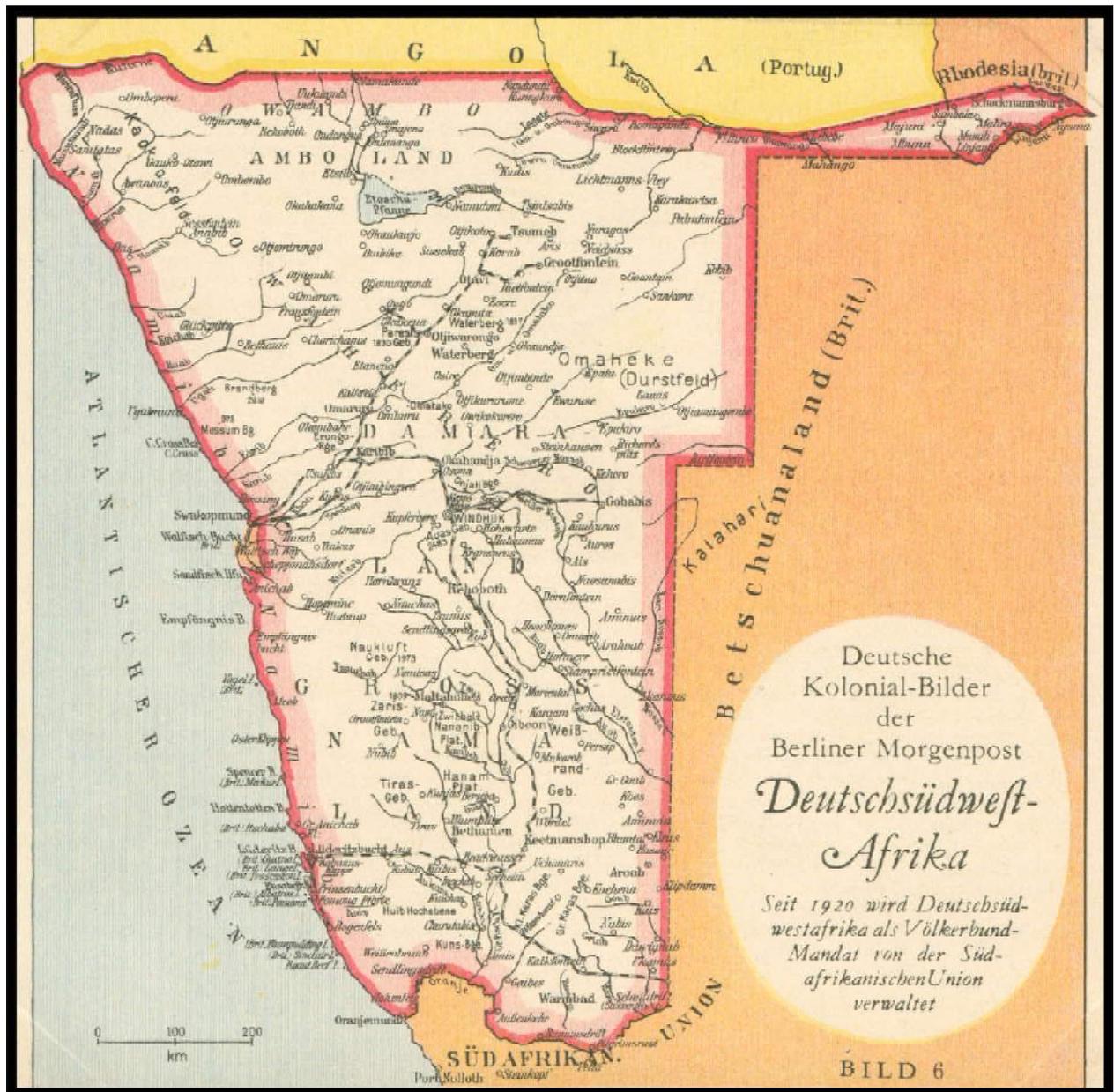
SINGLE CIRCLE DATESTAMP: 1892 - 1895



This display draws heavily on Ralph Putzel's indispensable work*. The above and many other postmarks shown are copies taken from his book. The above are examples of the first datestamp used in Luderitzbucht, Windhoek and Swakopmund. The Type 1 Single Circle datestamp shown above was first issued in Windhoek in March 1892. With the exception of the Otyimbingue datestamp of 16. 7. 1888, the above type of datestamp is the one most likely to be found cancelling the German Reichs-Post forerunner (vorlaufer) stamps in GSWA. There were many different varieties of this datestamp. After 1907, when the Double Circle Bridged datestamps were introduced, Type 1 was used as a reserve canceller until 1914.

* Ralph Putzel. (The Comprehensive Handbook of the Postmarks of GSWA/ SWA/ Namibia. 1991.)

European Maps Define New Colonial Territories



A Map of German South West Africa (GSWA) 9 - 15 February 1941. Berlin Morning Post. Picture 6. 'German Colonial Pictures from the Berliner Morning Mail. GSWA. Since 1920, GSWA has been administered by the Union of SA as a national associated mandate'. This Map above is from the Nazi era when Germany hoped to reclaim its lost colonies.

To deter other European powers, Luderitz placed his purchased lands under Imperial German protection on 24th April 1884. Following visits by German warships and British acquiescence, the German flag was raised on 7th August 1884. The Berlin Conference confirmed Germany's claim to the territory. The southern half of the territory that the Germans claimed was already partially "Europeanised" through the activities of missionaries and the presence of literate mixed race Christian Basters, Orlam and Nama.

With Bismarck believing that private not public money must be used to develop colonies, the German Colonial Society was founded in April 1885 with support from bankers, industrialists and politicians. Granted monopoly rights, it purchased Lüderitz's failing enterprise. Heinrich Göring, father of the Nazi Herman, was appointed Commissioner for the colony. He established an administration at Otyimbingwe in May 1885. In 1886 he presented a dual legal system for GSWA that had different laws for Europeans and natives who were to continue to be ruled by their chiefs in the tribal areas. This introduction of colonial laws, while sounding fair, formalised a loss of native control over their own affairs.

Curt von Francois: 1889 - 1894



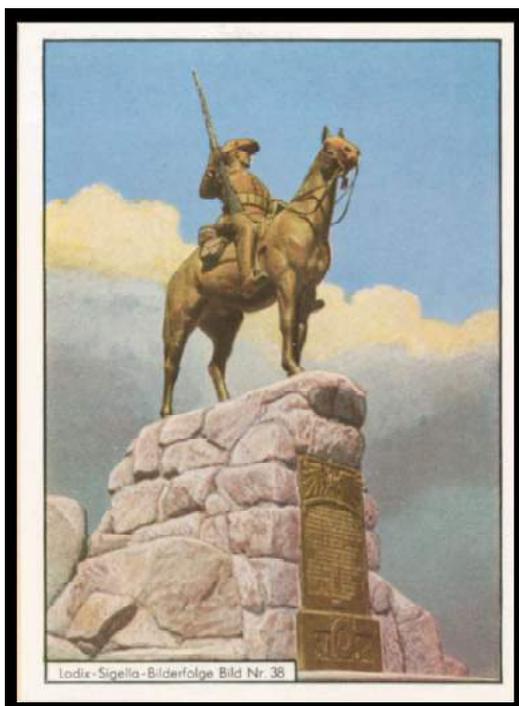
1965. 75th Anniversary of Windhoek.
3c Mail Runne4r; 15c Kurt von Francois

Curt von François (1852 - 1931) was a German military officer, geographer, cartographer and administrator. A colonial strong-arm man sent to enforce German rule, his actions caused more resentment than goodwill among the indigenous people. He founded modern Windhoek in 1890 and Swakopmund in 1892.

The colony of GSWA was established under Reichskommissar Governor Gustav Nachtigal in 1884. German rule was resisted by the Herero who expelled German officials from Okahandja in 1888. The German Colonial Society, founded to promote German colonialism, employed Hauptmann (Captain) von François to secure the territory. He arrived in Walvis Bay in June 1889 with 42 mercenaries. Ignoring acting-Commissioner Göring's advice he proceeded to Otyimbingwe to enforce German authority over the Herero opponents of colonialism.

In 1890 he renewed a peace agreement with the Herero and occupied the destroyed settlement of Windhoek, making it the headquarters for the German occupation of SWA. When new chief Samuel Maharero ascended the Herero throne, von François made him reaffirm the peace treaty. In March 1891 von François was appointed Reichskommissar parts of the territory and Swakopmund as the he was promoted to Major

In 1892, Hendrik Witbooi, Namaqualand, appealed for German colonialism. With treaty with the Germans, by 225 German soldiers on Hoomkrans, west of the kraal and its storming women and children. The the "Massacre of precedent damaged von colonial reputation. Witbooi Mountains with most of his Francois did not have guerilla war, he offered which were reluctantly but



of GSWA. He mapped large planned the layout of colony's main port. In 1893, with the title of 'Governor'. the Nama Chief of 'Great national unity against Witbooi refusing to sign a von Francois led an attack Witbooi's kraal at Rehoboth. The shelling of led to the deaths of some 50 international press dubbed it Hoomkrans". This violent Francois' and Germany's escaped into the Naukluft fighting men. As von enough men to counter a Witbooi generous terms shrewdly accepted.

Circa 1938. Schutztruppe Memorial in Windhuk. Card 38.
Deutschlands Kolonien. Sidol-Bilderdienst, Koln, Braunsfeld.

In 1894, after he was replaced by Major Theodor Leutwein as Governor, von Francois returned to Germany. His legacy was the motley military force he had assembled. It was formally established by Reich Law in 1895 as the Imperial Schutztruppe for GSWA. They would become the Einsatzgruppen of the Genocide.

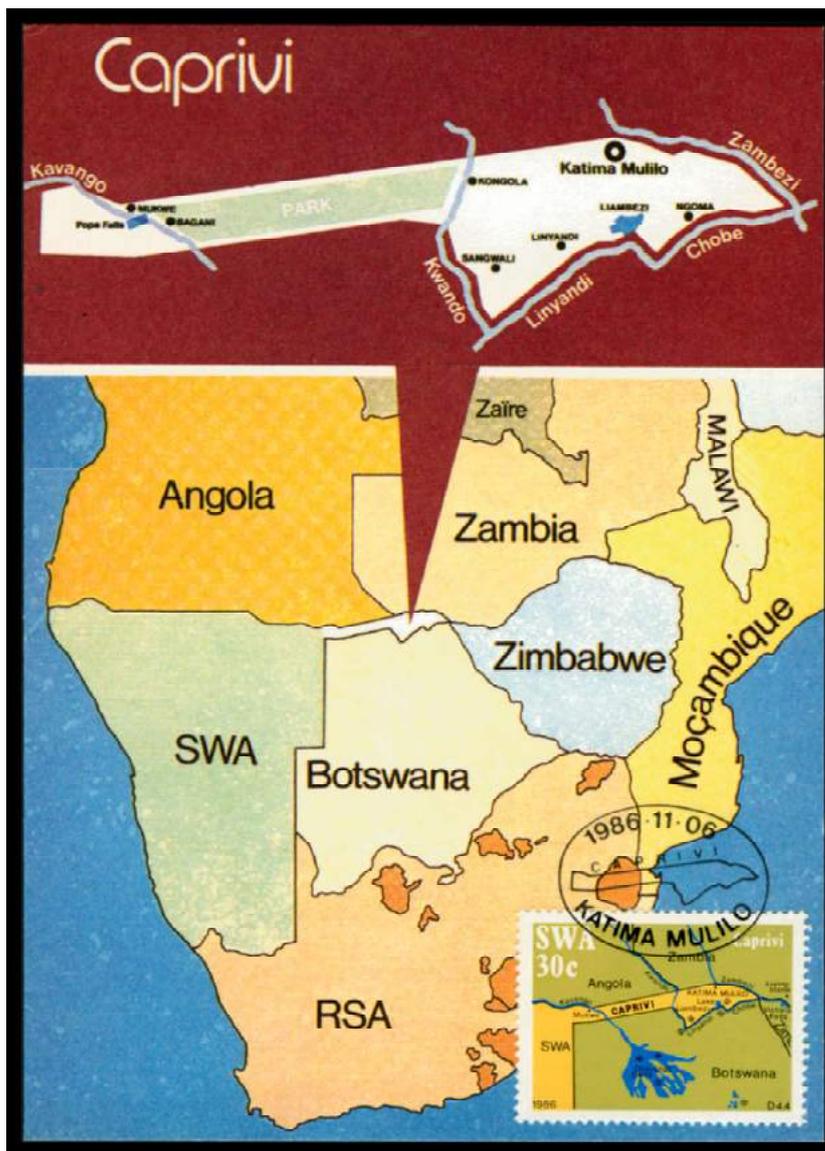


Left. 1961 1st Decimal Definitive. 'Schutztruppe Monument'.
Right. 1971 'Posgeld Inkomste Postage Revenue' Omitted.



“Trousers for a Button”: 1890

In July 1890, Great Britain and Germany played colonial ‘swapsies’. In a treaty known as the Anglo-German Agreement, (aka Heligoland–Zanzibar Treaty), GSWA gained a narrow finger of land, the Caprivi Strip in its far northeast. Arranged by Bismarck but concluded by his despised rival, the Kaiser’s new Chancellor Leon von Caprivi, Germany exchanged Zanzibar which it did not control for Caprivi Strip and the Danish Heligoland Islands that Britain had seized during the Napoleonic War in 1814. As these North Sea islands commanded the entrance to the new Kiel Canal through which the Kaiser’s expanding Imperial German Navy would pass, their ownership was thought vital to Germany’s naval interests. In addition to the Caprivi Strip, Germany received a free hand in East Africa (GEA) and the resolution of two West African colonial borders. For its part, Britain gained Zanzibar in the hope of ending the East African slave trade. Run by Omani traders, Zanzibar was the largest slave market in East Africa. Slavery was abolished in 1909.



Robert Hill

1986 Maximum Card Caprivi Strip. KATIMA MULILO ‘1986 11 06’

This colonial tidying-up was simply a great game of imperial politics. Heligoland not only gave Germany naval control over the entrance to the Kiel Canal but it also removed a refuge for political opponents of the German state and the Kaiser. In Africa, it extended its territory in the hope of gaining access to the sea via the Zambezi River. The problem with this was the small matter of the Victoria Falls that lay downstream. A more practical German hope was that the British would agree to the creation of a mutually beneficial central African trade route that connected GSWA with GEA. Britain would use Zanzibar to blockade GEA in WW1 and then keep it as ‘Tanganyika’. Control of Heligoland failed to allow Germany’s Navy to escape being ‘bottled up’ in Kiel during WW1. Britain got the best deal. Bismarck knew it. “Trousers for a button”, he huffed.



Fortress Windhoek: 1890

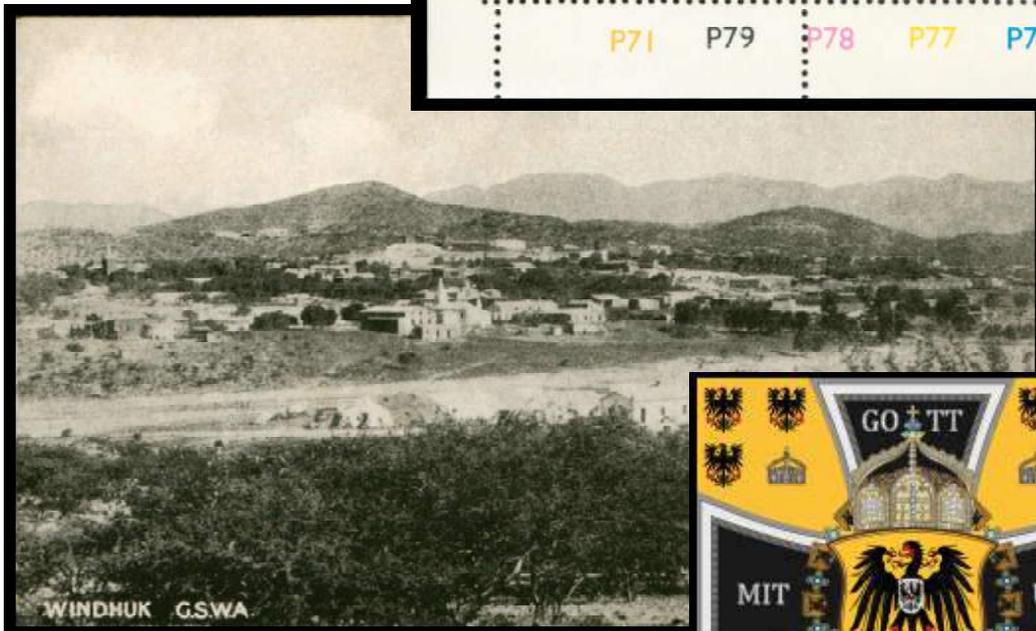
Windhoek became the headquarters for the German take-over of SWA. It lay between the southern Nama and the northern Herero, two strongly anti-colonial tribes more often at war with each other than not. Governor von Francois built a fortress for the Schutztruppe in Windhoek which he named 'Alte Feste' (Ger. Old Fortress). Its central position allowed the Schutztruppe to rapidly respond to any breach of Pax Germanica by either tribe. However, war with both tribes would prove more difficult.

1975. Control Block 15c 'Historic Monuments'. Alter Feste & Schutztruppe Monument

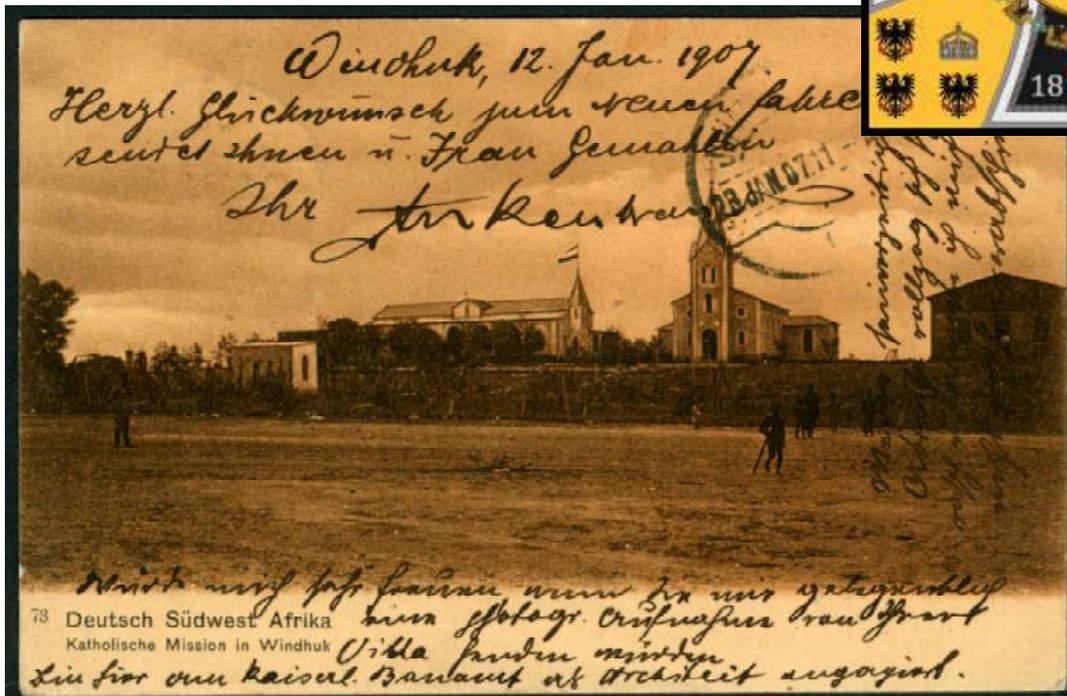


Circa 1900. Postcard. 'WINDHUK G.S.W.A.'

This card was produced for SAGI (The South African Garrison Institutes), Britain's post-South African War Imperial Garrison in South Africa, 1902 - 1914.

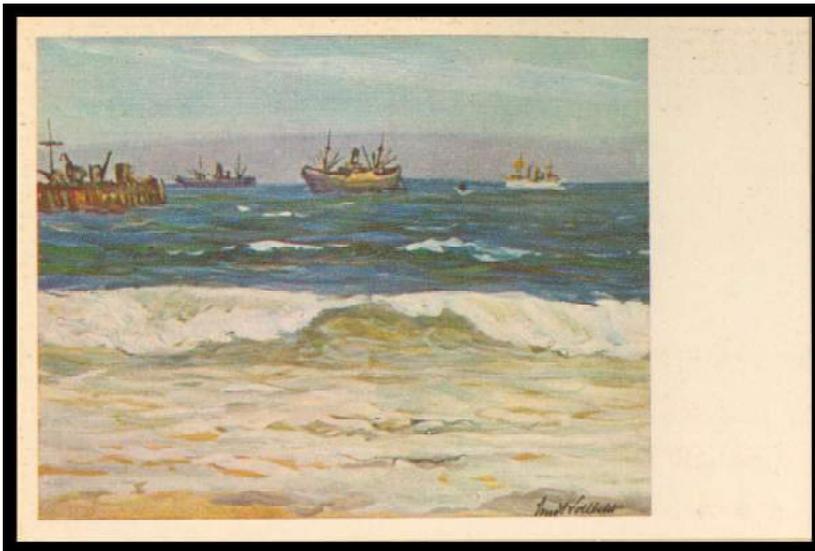


Right. Gott Mit Uns. 'Kaiser Bill's' Imperial War Standard 1871 - 1918.

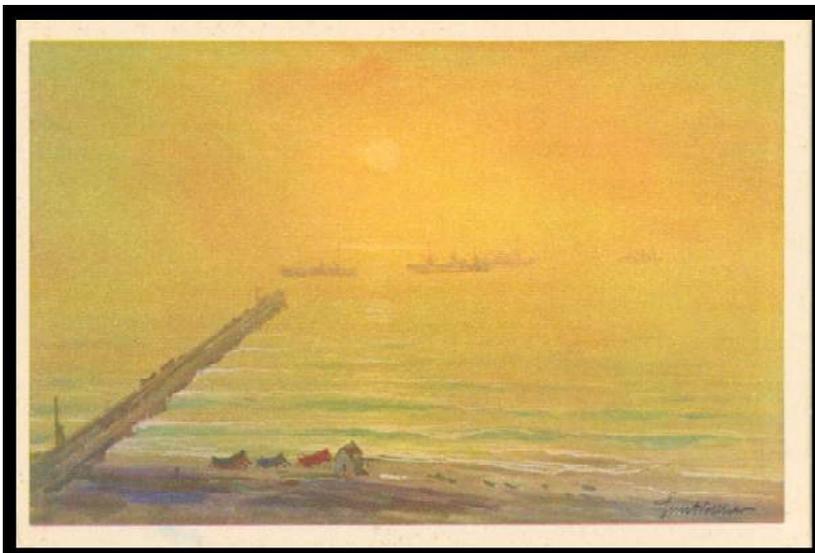


1907.
Postcard.
WINDHUK
'12 7 07' to
TRANSVAAL.
'Catholic
Mission in
Windhuk'.

The German flag flies from the steeple of the Catholic Church in Windhuk.



69. Ships stand offshore waiting to be loaded or unloaded by lighter.



70. The 'Mole' with ships waiting offshore in the Swakopmund fog.



71. Activity on the 'Mole' with Swakopmund behind.

Circa 1935. Collectors' Advert Cards 69 - 72
ex- Deutschland Kolonien. Hinz & Kuster A.G., Berlin.

Swakopmund: 1892



1896.
Swakopmund's
First Datestamp

Swakopmund (Ger. Mouth of the Swakop River) was founded in 1892 as the main harbour for GSWA (German South West Africa).



1977. 'Historic Houses'.
15c Woermannhaus, Swakopmund.
Built in 1905, it became the Woermann
Shipping Line's main office in 1909.

Swept by the west coast's cold Benguela current, Swakopmund offers no natural protection to ships anchored off the coast. All of GSWA's imports and exports that passed through Swakopmund had to be loaded or unloaded onto lighters. A mole had to be built before it could become a more efficient port.

Because of its milder coastal climate many colonial government departments chose to be located in Swakopmund rather than Windhoek. Many trading and shipping companies also founded branches in Swakopmund. This resulted in the port gaining an impressive legacy of German architecture.

After the primitive harbour created by the mole silted up, work began in 1905 on a wooden jetty. This soon had to be replaced with a steel alternative. Construction work started in 1914 but was suspended before completion due to the outbreak of WW1. The German colony's reliance on Swakopmund led it to develop more slowly than it might have done had it possessed the deepwater port at Walvis Bay.

Early GSWA Postal Services



1988. Enlarged Part of First Day Cover (No. 62) 'Centenary of Postal Services in SWA'.

16c. Otyimbingue: First Postal Agency 1888; 30c. Windhoek Post Office 1904.

40c. Posdraer (Post Carrier) 1888; 50c. Kameelpos (Camel Post) 1904.

The Karibib Post Office opened on '17 1900'.



Unusually, the first Rehoboth postmark has the date above 'DEUTSCH - SÜDWEST AFRIKA'.

Most other datestamps of the period place the date below. Also, 'AFRIKA' uses the same larger letters as the town name and is emboldened.

1901. Cover from REHOBOTH '26 3 01' to GERMANY.

Late use of 'vorlaufers' on most probably Rhenish Missionary Mail.

The 2, 3 and 5 Pfg German stamps correctly make up the GSWA letter rate of 10 Pfg.

Rehoboth Post Office opened 14 12 1896. The postmark above is its first datestamp.

**1897 Provisional Issue
German Stamps overprinted 'Deutsch-Sudwest-Afrika'.**

1897



The stamps of Germany were used in GSWA from July 1886.
The above overprinted issue was introduced in May 1897.
The 25 and 50 Pfg values were only sold at the Collectors' Counter in Berlin.



Tony Howgrave-Graham

1897. Registered Letter from WINDHOEK '10 11 97' to GERMANY.
Cancelled with the Windhoek Single Circle datestamp of 1892.
The Registered Letter (Ger. Eingeschrieben) rate is 40 Pfg. It comprises:
2 x Reichspost 'Eagle Issue' carmine-red 10 Pfg stamps from 1895 and
a single GSWA Provisional ultramarine 20 Pfg stamp of 1897 issue.

Tony Howgrave-Graham comments: "The importance of this cover lies in its mix of stamps. The two 10pf are unoverprinted 'vorlaufer' (Ger. precursor or forerunner) while the 20pf is overprinted GSWA issue."

**1898 Provisional Issue
German Stamps overprinted 'Deutsch-Sudwestafrika'.**



**15th November 1898. As previous issue but now the overprint is 'Sudwestafrika' in one word.
The 25 and 50 Pfg are now sold in GSWA.**



**1930. Postcard, 'Lüderitzbucht Turnhalle'. (Gymnasium).
KOLMANSKOP '12 Jun 30' to WINDHOEK.**

In large part, colonialism is the transplanting of a new and dominant culture within a pre-existing one. Unsurprisingly, the colony developed a distinctive German style of architecture.

Provisional Cancellers

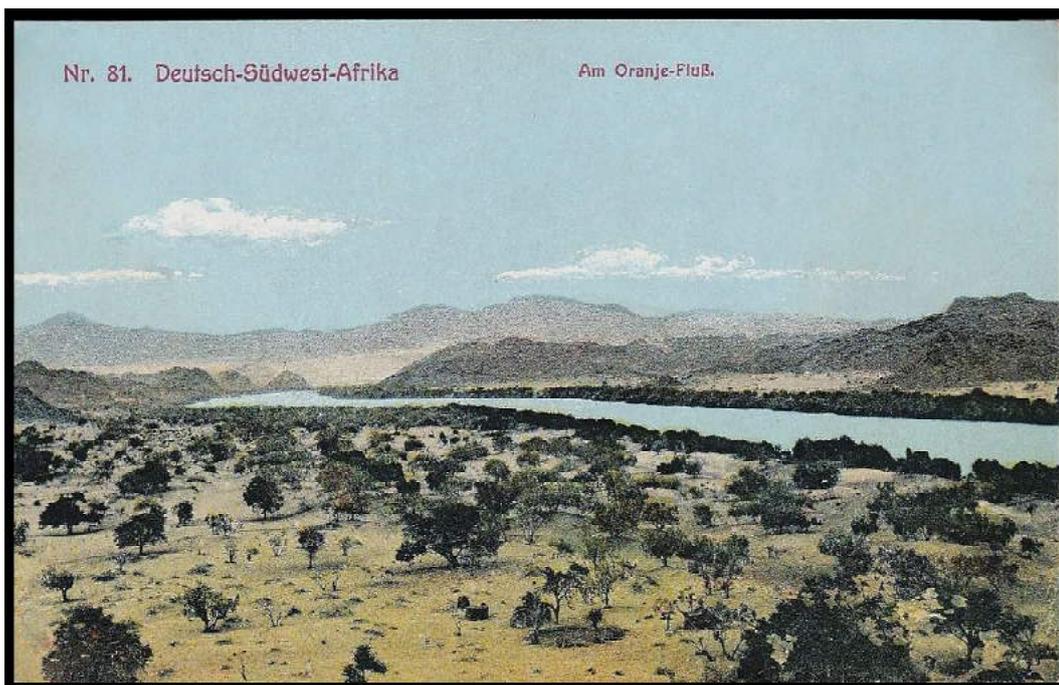


Tony Howgrave-Graham

1899. Postcard from RAMANSDRIFT '22 6 1899' to Germany '26 7 99'.
5 Pfg Postcard cancelled with Provisional Cancellor with MS date.

This highly prized item is in Putzel's Handbook. Ex. Chief Justice Hans Berker.

Tony-Howgrave Graham advises: "This Ramansdrift provisional canceller catalogues 32,000 points in Putzel's 'Comprehensive Handbook of the Postmarks of GSWA'. Apparently, a character called Raman settled here in 1897 and started a ferry crossing. It was on the old postal route from Steinkopf to Keetmanshoop. A Post Office opened on 21st June 1899 but had to use an improvised canceller until the standard arrived on 12th September 1899".



Tony Howgrave-Graham

1899. Postcard. 'At the Orange River'. (Nr. 81 Deutsch-Sudwest-Afrika.)
Looking south, the Orange River is the border between GSWA and the Cape Colony.

**1900 Definitivel Issue
Kaiser Wilhelm's Yacht 'SMS Hohenzollern'.
No Watermark.
1900 — Ohne Wasserzeichen**



November 1900. Set of 13 stamps. This issue is conspicuous for not having a watermark.
Two types of printing. The Pfennig values are typographed; the Mark values are recess printed.

FACSIMILES

Two Scarce Exhibition Commemorative Datestamps



1902 Windhoek Exhibition
1900 Definitive Issue

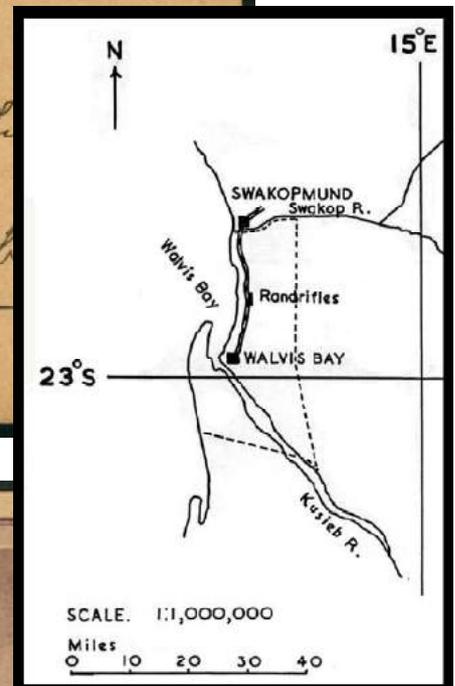
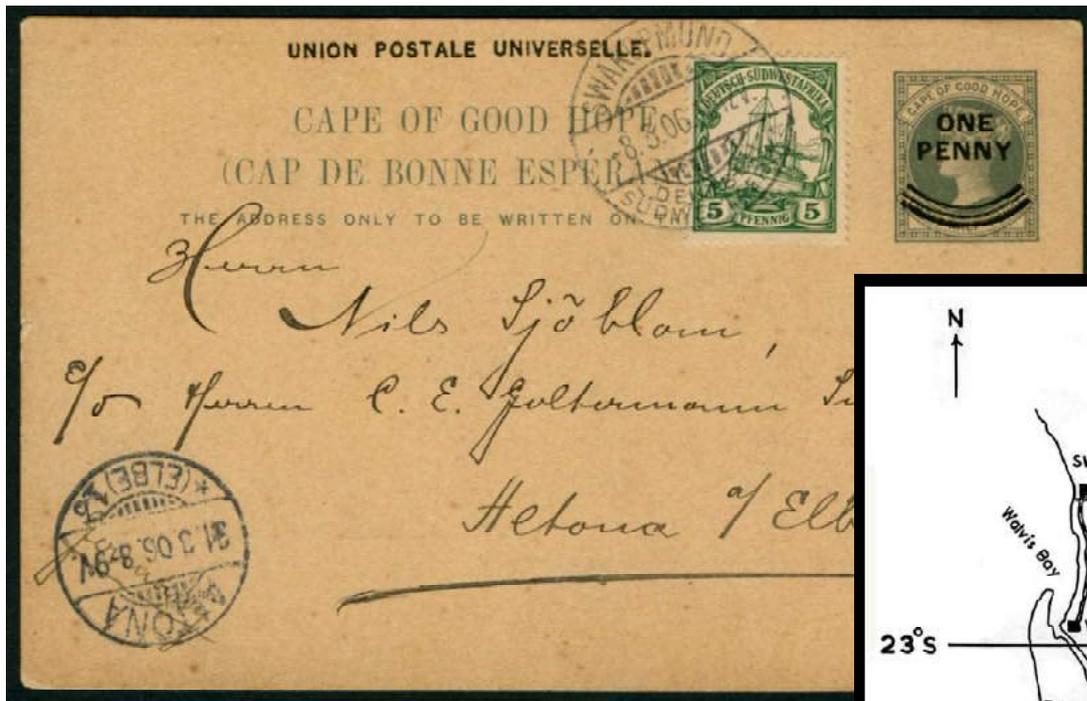


1914 Windhoek Exhibition
1906 Definitive Issue

A Tale of Two Ports - Swakopmund and Walvis Bay

Swakopmund lies 22 miles (36 km) up the coast from Walvis Bay, the exclave of the Cape Colony. Unwilling to be dependent on British goodwill, the Germans developed Swakopmund as an alternative port despite it not being a natural harbour. A 240 mile (387 km) railway line connecting Swakopmund to Windhoek began construction in 1897. SA forces would connect Walvis Bay to Swakopmund and the interior in 1914.

The sender below obtained a COGH stationary postcard from Walfisch Bay, most probably from Mertens & Sichel's Store which is illustrated on the front, below. This is presumably a privately printed card.



1915 WW1. Sketch showing Walvis Bay and Swakopmund. During WW1 SA forces built a railway line along the coast to connect the two ports.

Robert Hill

1906. Privately Printed COGH Postcard from SWAKOPMUND '8 3 06' to GERMANY '31 3 06'. Posted at the 5 Pfg postcard rate to Germany from GSWA.

Circa 1900. Front of Postcard. 'Mertens & Sichel's Store - Walfisch Bay' A scarce postcard. Because this COGH postcard was posted in GSWA, its Cape stamp was not cancelled.

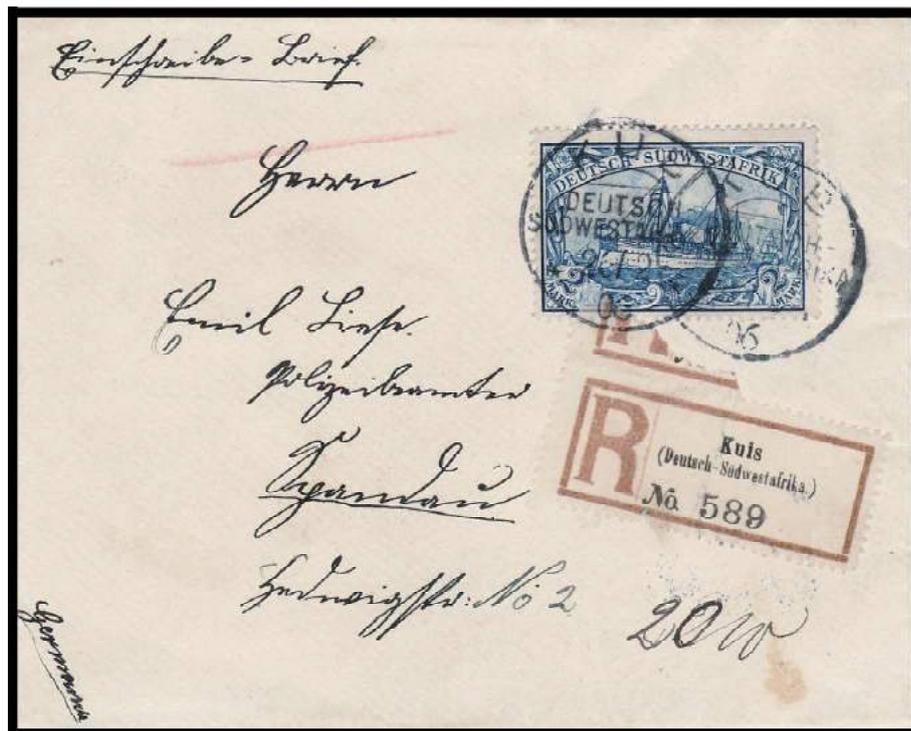
Double-cancelled Mark Value Stamps

In order to ensure that stamps could not be fraudulently re-used, thereby denying the Post Office revenue, German Postal Regulations required that all high value Mark stamps be double-cancelled. This requirement appears to have been meticulously observed.



Very late double-cancelled postal use of 3 Mark in WINDHOEK '5 1 15.

Note: The 3 Mark above and the 2 Mark on cover below indicate that high value mark stamps were consistently double-cancelled for much, if not all, the life of the German colony. A high value mark stamp cancelled with a single strike of the datestamp would be a rare find!



Tony Howgrave-Graham

1906. Recorded Cover from KUB '26 2 06' to GERMANY.
The 1900 2 Mark stamp has been double-cancelled with the KUB datestamp.
The Recorded label is from KUIS. The first datestamp used in Kub was from Kuis.

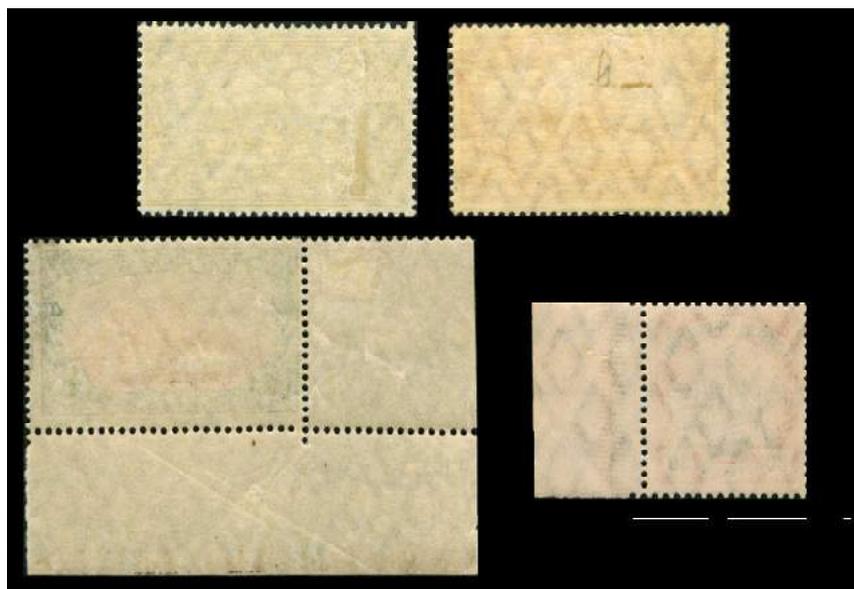
Tony-Howgrave Graham advises: "The PO at Kuis moved to nearby Kub in 1904 but there being no other available canceller available, the Kuis one continued to be used at Kub until mid-October 1905 - the registration labels for even longer, as you can see."

**1906 Definitivel Issue
Kaiser Wilhelm's Yacht 'SMS Hohenzollern'.
Watermark Lozenges!**



June 1906. As previous issue but 25, 40, 50 and 80 Pfg discontinued.

This issue is conspicuous for being the first with a watermark.



The Lozenge Watermark is generally easily seen but in my opinion harder to see in the lower value stamps, a statement that seems contradicted here.

Booklet Stamps: 1911 - 1913
Kaiser Wilhelm's Yacht 'SMS Hohenzollern'.
5 and 10 Pfg Values.



1913 Stamp Booklet 4 - SACC (South African Colour Catalogue). Resized.

There were three preceding booklets, marked A (1911), B (1912) and C (1913), all priced 2 Marks. The SACC says "Booklet 4 (1913) was sold in the Colony. Issuing price 2 Mk". The inference is that Booklets A, and B were not available in GSWA but only for sale in Germany, perhaps like the 1897 Provisional's 25 and 50 Pfg values being only available at the Collectors' Counter in Berlin.



1913 Stamp Booklet 4 - Block of 6 Stamps, 2 x 5 and 4 x 10 Pfg.

An assumption is that being post-1906, the booklet stamps are watermarked. My only examples of booklet stamps are shown here. They are not watermarked. That does not mean that other watermarked examples do not exist. Below are three of four possible booklet tete-beche varieties.



Otyimbingue /Otjimbingue: 1888



1888 - 1892
Otyimbingue first
datestamp.

In the pre-colonial era, Otyimbingue was SWA's most important centre. A mission station was founded here in 1849. The settlement became the seat of GSWA's colonial administration in 1886. The territory's first Post Office was started here in 1888 when the first troops arrived to man the military base at Otyimbingue. It was renamed Otjimbingue in 1895



1890
Replacement
date slugs

OTYIMBINGUE NEGATIVE SEAL.



This seal was chiefly used internally at OTYIMBINGUE (and elsewhere) 1888 - 1892.

Otyimbingue
Post Office opened
16.7.1888.
Closed 13.10.1891
Moved to Windhoek.
Opened 18.10. 1891.
Renamed 'Otjimbingue'.
Re-opened 1.7. 1895.
Closed 30. 4. 1915



1901. Postcard. 'Security Forces Garden in Otjimbingue'. (Tippelskirch & Co., Berlin NW 7).
From WINDHOEK '13 11 01' to GERMANY '15 12 01'.



1895. 'OTJIMBINGUE' Single Circle 1895 - 1915.

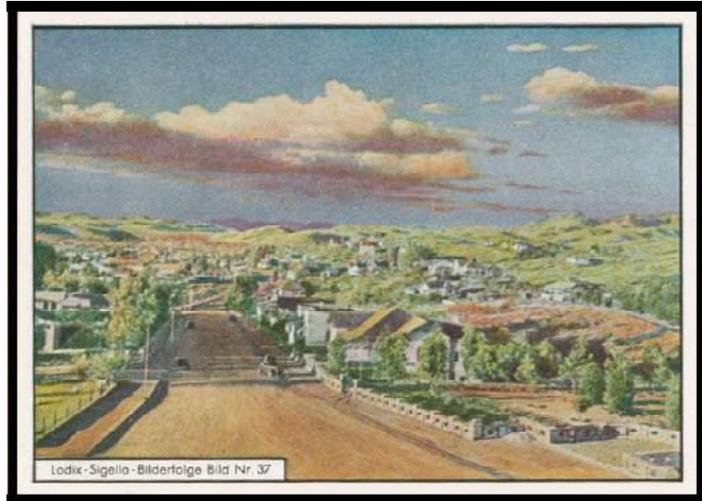
Many of the images of datestamps in this display are taken from Ralph Putzel's
"The Comprehensive Handbook of the Postmarks of German South West Africa / SWA / Namibia".

Windhoek / Windhuk

Three years after Otjimbingue, Windhoek was the site of GSWA's second Post Office.
Opened 18. 10. 1891. Closed 11. 5. 1915.
 It would take a further three years before another SWA town received a Post Office.

Windhoek in the greener central interior of the territory became the capital of GSWA. Because of troubles in Hereroland, when its post office opened in 1891 it used the OTYIMBINGUE datestamp as emergency relief canceller until March 1892 when WINDHOEK's first datestamp arrived. The town's name was changed from the Dutch (Oorlam) 'Windhoek' to the more Germanic Windhuk in 1903.

The WINDHOEK datestamp is the earliest example showing the town's name while those with WINDHUK are later ones. After the capture of GSWA by South African forces the town's name reverted back to Windhoek, the name it uses today.



Circa 1938. Collector's Card Image No. 37. 'Hauptstadt Windhuk', Deutschlands Kolonien. Sidol-Bilderdienst, Köln, Braunsfeld, 1940. Note the Nazi-era publishers use of the German colonial town name of 'Windhuk'. The Nazis wished to reclaim Germany's lost colonies.



Type 1. 1892. Windhoek Single Circle.
 Used from March 1892 to 31. 8.1903.



Type 2. 1900.. Windhoek Single Circle.
 Used from 1. 6. 1900 to 31. 8. 1903.

Types 3, 4 & 6 are similar but spelled 'WINDHUK'. The right-hand star is replaced by "a" (3), "b" (4) or "c" (6) time code letter.



Type 5. 1903. Windhuk Bridged Double Circle.
 Used from January 1906 to 11.5.1915.

The lower frame of the date bridge suffered early wear which increased with use.

Wanderstempel

Putzel states that 'Wanderstempel "is a word that cannot easily be translated into English". Odd, because 'wander' (to move around) and 'stamp' (stempel) are Anglo-Saxon words ie. Teutonic ones.

After the introduction of the postal system in the larger towns of the German colony, smaller towns accessed the postal system via a travelling post office. This used common types of dumb Wanderstempel (travelling datestamps) with no town name to date letters anywhere. The town name was usually applied with a separate handstamp but sometimes also written in by hand (manuscript) in early examples.

Putzel lists five different Wanderstempel datestamps used in conjunction with the town name handstamps but does not describe their differences. The differences in Types 1, 2 and 5 are obvious but not those in Types 3 and 4. The difference is text size, Type 3 being smaller, and circumference, Type 4 being bigger.



Type 1
 'SUDWEST-AFRIKA' on one line above date
 '3 / 8 99'.

JAKKALSWATER handstamp.
 (Town name in violet, stamp in black).



Type 2
 'DEUTSCH SUDWEST-AFRIKA' on two lines
 above date 14 / 3 04'.

OKAHANDJA handstamp
 (Town name in violet, stamp in black.)
 This is the 4th of 4 Okahandja handstamps.
 Used from 7. 2. 04 to 15. 3. 04.
 NOTE: 3 Mark stamp double-cancelled.



Type 3
 'DEUTSCH -' above 'SUDWESTAFRIKA'

NO EXAMPLE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE.
 Used in Hasuur, Epukiro and Osona.



Type 4
 'DEUTSCH -' above 'SUDWESTAFRIKA'

NO EXAMPLE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE.
 Used in Gochas, Abbabis, Kalkfontein-Sud,
 Gochagana, Seeheim, Feldpost 1.



Type 5
 'DEUTSCH -' above 'SUDWEST-AFRIKA'
 This is the smallest Wanderstempel handstamp.

GOCHAS handstamp '25 1 06' .
 Gochas is unique for its use of the only known
 wooden handstamp to accompany the
 Wanderstempel datestamp.

Some Later Common Types of Postmarks



Single Circle DSWA Datestamp (DEUTSCH SUDWESTAFRIKA)

During 1897 - 1898 Seeis had no datestamp. Its mail was sent to Windhoek and cancelled there. The datestamp shown left is the first permanent datestamp used from 1898 - 1915. A collectable and scarce example exists cancelled in violet. A lesser variety exists from 1904 in which the oblique between day and month is missing.



Single Circle Crescent DSWA Datestamp

The original Waldau datestamp was similar to the Seeis example above. It was lost in January 1904 when Hereros plundered the Post Office. In 1905, just over a year later, its replacement, the example above, was received. During 1906 a version of this datestamp was used with a corrected manuscript date. The scarce Prinzenbucht datestamp was introduced in December 1909 and used until March 1913.



Bridged Double Circle

This widely used datestamp was supplied to Swakopmund in 1905. It quickly began to show damage to the bridge. The damage to the Luderitz datestamp (supplied in 1906) led to it being replaced in 1911 by a similar one with no vertical lines above and below the date and DSWA within brackets. The Keetmanshoop datestamp (bottom) was supplied in January 1911 and used until 1915.



Prepaid Overprinted Reply Card



These Gibeon and Maltahohe datestamps are the only ones recorded for these two towns during the entire GSWA period.



1900. Pre-paid Reply Card from MALTAHOHE '20 12 99' via GIBEON '31 7 00' to GERMANY. The 5 Pfg rate is the postcard rate, the letter rate being 10 Pfg.

Overprinted Postcard



1900. Postcard from WINDHOEK '18 400' to GERMANY.
The 5 Pfg rate is the postcard rate, the letter rate being 10 Pfg.

German Reichspost Stationery used in GSWA



1901. Postcard from OKAHANDJA '16 9 01' to GERMANY '9 10 01'.
Germany 5 Pfg Green 'Germania' Postal Card Inscribed Deutsche Reichspost.
This 'New Millenium' postcard is commonly seen used in Germany.
The late use of this Greeting Card in GSWA is uncommon.

Colonial Mail



1900. Postcard from GOBABIS '15 4 02' to WALDSHUT, GERMANY '1 6 02'.
Sent at the standard 5 Pfg postcard rate.

Once teeming with elephant, Gobabis lies in central GSWA, about 70 miles (113 km) from the eastern border with British Bechuanaland. Kubub in the south-west lies about the same distance from Luderitz. In 1856, a Rhenish mission station was established at Gobabis, followed by a Schutztruppe fort with a field hospital in 1896 - 1897. Both settlements were connected to the railway system. The stark aridity of the Kubub area through which the SA Army would advance in 1915 can be seen in the postcard below.



1900. Postcard from GOBABIS '15 4 02' to WALDSHUT, GERMANY '1 6 02'.

Kaiser Wilhelm II Ascends the German Throne: 1888

In 1888, Wilhelm II (1859-1941) ascended the German throne as Emperor and King of Prussia. As Kaiser, (Ger. Caesar), he would employ no moderation in his pursuit of German power and prestige. He was determined for Germany to surpass Britain. He wanted a powerful army, navy, colonies and 'lebensraum' (Ger. living room). In 1890, he dismissed the country's cautious Chancellor von Bismarck. As the German



1888.
Miniature Photograph
Germany's Kaiser
Wilhelm II.

Envious, resentful, ambitious and crippled, he was the grandson of Queen Empress Victoria. His vain delusions contributed to Germany's ruin in two World Wars.

Social Darwinism was based on natural selection by the survival Darwin's theory was applied to proponents argued that as the in Europe. Germans were the grew, this belief gained SWA by Germans who saw (Ger. Master Race) and the

Colonial Society was failing and unable to administer the unprofitable territory of GSWA, the Kaiser declared SWA a Crown Colony.

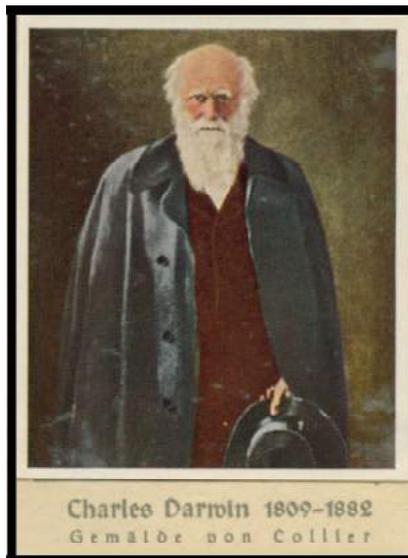
Kaiser Wilhelm played a leading role in starting WWI. His aggressive foreign policy made the outbreak of a major European war almost inevitable.

Described as mentally unstable, immature, narcissistic and a megalomaniac, he was a racist unsuitable for leadership. His rule bode badly for the indigenous people of SWA who had to suffer German soldiers and settlers who had a belief in their racial superiority based on the then popular theory of "Social Darwinism", one supported by German intellectuals, industrialists, the military and the aristocracy, including the Kaiser himself who had a pathological pet phobia about the 'Yellow Peril'.



Circa 1890.
Reduced Printed Cut-
out of Queen Empress
Victoria.

The Queen of Great Britain, Empress of India, Ruler of the World's largest Empire and the Waves, she was loved by her grandson who saw her country as his greatest rival.



Collectors Card 193.
'The Greats of World History'
(Eckstein-Halpaus GmbH, Dresden. Circa 1940.)

Charles Darwin's theory of of the fittest. In Germany, human social development. Its most cultured and civilized race fittest of all. As nationalism popularity. It was brought to themselves as the 'Herrenvolk' native people as 'baboons'.

The Kaiser makes a Speech about 'Huns': 1900

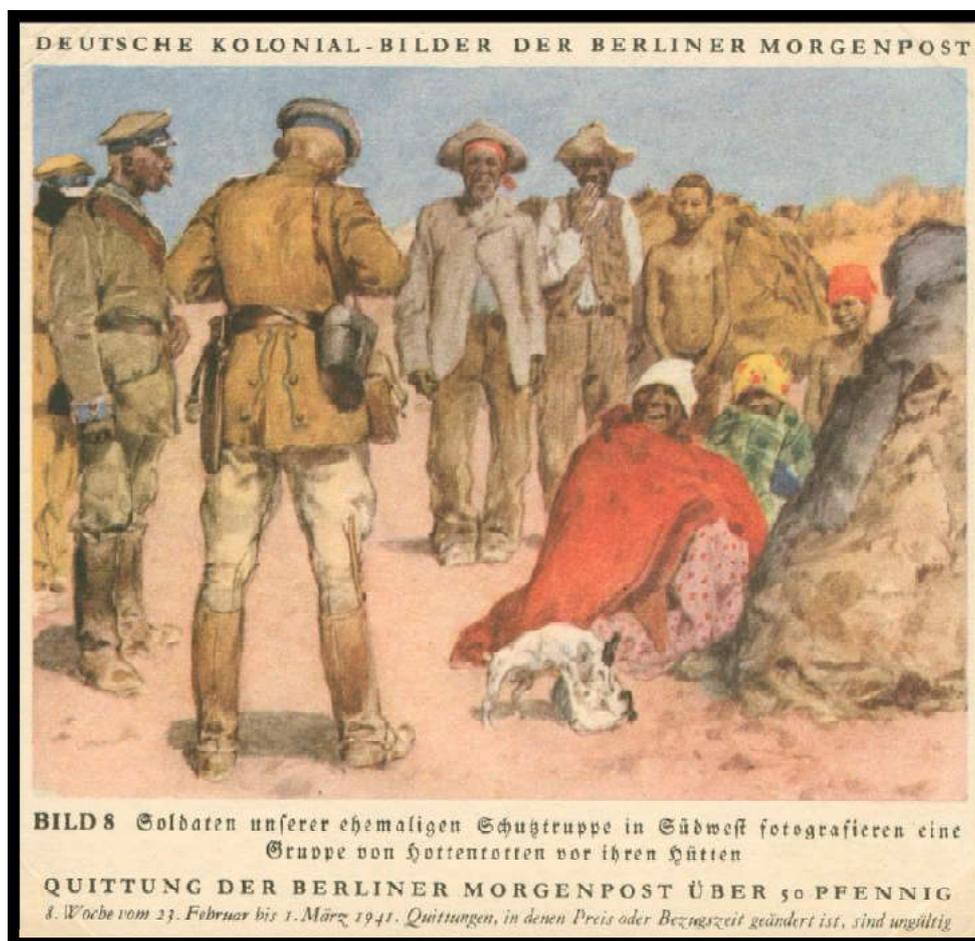
In July 1900, Kaiser Wilhelm II gave a speech to German soldiers leaving to fight Chinese rebels in the Boxer rebellion. His speech was widely criticised because of his encouragement to German soldiers to be merciless in battle. He said "*No quarter will be given! Prisoners will not be taken! Whoever falls into your hands is forfeited. Just as a thousand years ago the Huns under their King Attila made a name for themselves, one that even today makes them seem mighty in history and legend, may the name 'German' be affirmed by you in such a way in China that no Chinese will ever again dare to look cross-eyed at a German.*"

The sensitivities of the liberal British were outraged despite Britain having its own dark history of colonial crimes. Following German atrocities in SWA and again at the start of WWI during the perceived "Rape of Belgium", the name 'Hun' was resurrected and applied to all German combatants by the British.

The German Colony becomes Oppressive

While Germany had grabbed and Europe had granted it a colony in SWA at the Berlin Conference, the reality was that the native people were the owners of the best farm and grazing land. They neither agreed to colonisation nor to the sale of their land. In order to acquire land, Germany acted like a protection racket gangster. In 1888, it negotiated a third of Herero land in exchange for 'protection' from their enemies. The missionaries saw this as a civilising 'Pax Germanica'. Their faith was to be proved horribly wrong!

The need for more farmland for German settlement led to growing colonial demands, restrictions and controls. Among many grievances, the native people were also taxed. The fencing-off of land by German farmers came as a shock to the Herero tradition of free-grazing. This fuelled their resentment and resistance to imposed outside rule. Germany began to realise that complete occupation of the land and its resources could only be achieved by military conquest. Indeed, the liberal Governor Theodor Leutwein gave this some consideration. However, he decided that military action was out of the question while the cost-conscious Chancellor Bismarck remained in charge and only a small number of troops were stationed in GSWA.



**German Schutztruppe Photograph a Group of 'Hottentots' (Nama) Before Their Huts.
21 February - 1 March 1941. Berlin Morning Post. Picture 8.**

The above image was produced in 1941 when the Nazi's were triumphant about their early WW2 military success in Europe, despite defeat in the air over Britain. With most of western Europe under the Nazi heel, Hitler's jackbooted legions would invade Russia in June 1941. His goal was the eventual extermination, enslavement and mass deportation of non-German people from eastern Europe in order to create more "Lebensraum" (Ger. living space) for Germans. When the above image was published showing German security police (Schutztruppe) interrogating a group of Nama people in SWA, German troops were asserting the same sort of control over occupied Europe's civilian population. This image's unstated message to young Germans was that they were born to be natural overlords of the 'untermenschen' (Ger. lower races). As your grandfather did in GSWA, so you will do in Poland, Russia, the Ukraine.....

Heros and Villains

The Herero paramount chief, Samuel Maharero, was an alcoholic Christian convert and an exponent and beneficiary of working with the German colonial administration. After ceding over a third of his people's land to Germany in 1888, he believed there would be no further territorial demands. In 1903, he learned of a plan to run a railway through his land to make it more accessible to European settlement. This included building native reservations in which the Herero would be concentrated and used as a cheap labour pool. With his people's land and freedom under threat, Maharero began to prepare a war of resistance.

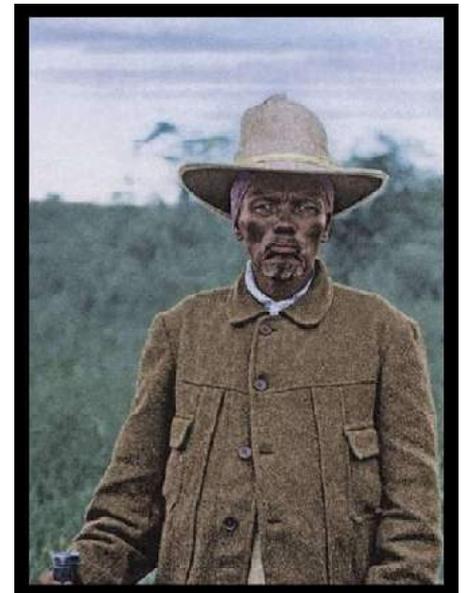


Samuel Mahahero 1856 - 1923
Herero Paramount Chief -
a collaborator pushed too far.

Left. 1895. GSWA Governor, Major Theodor Leutwein seated left with Maharero (right) and three aides, standing. Maharero would cede a third of his people's land in 1888.



Circa 1900. Kaptein Witbooi (centre, hands on stick) with Nama elders .
("Expelled from a Beloved Country". Source Stuhlmann.)



Hendrik Witbooi 1830 - 1905.
Nama leader - Namibian National Hero.

In October 1903, the southern Bondelswart Nama rose up in revolt in Wambad. Many of the Schutztruppe occupying Herero land left to fight the Nama. This gave Maharero the opportunity he had been waiting for. In January 1904 the Herero rose up. However, they did so largely alone. During the 19th c. the Herero and the Nama had been at war with each other more often than not and had not been able to agree a common strategy despite pleas by Witbooi to unite to fight the German menace. Even so, it would take the Witbooi-Oorlam until October 1904 to come out fighting by which time it was far too late to save the Herero.

Some Background to the War and the Genocide

GSWA Governor Major Theodor Leutwein saw the Herero as the most economically powerful native tribe. Their wealth lay in their land and cattle. Leutwein planned to remove the power of the chiefs without war and incorporate them as upper class civil servants into the German colonial system. However, in 1897 a rinderpest epidemic destroyed 90% of the Hereros' once flourishing cattle. The Herero unfairly blamed the Germans. The now impoverished Herero also had to suffer the strutting arrogance of incoming German settlers who called Herero men 'baboons' and who raped Herero women and, worse, escaped punishment.

A notable incident exacerbated anti-German sentiment. In January 1903, a drunken German trader named Dietrich attempted to rape the wife of a chief's son. When she resisted, he shot her dead. When he was tried for murder in Windhoek, Dietrich denied rape, saying that on waking up he thought the camp was under attack and fired into the darkness. The killing of the Herero woman, he claimed, was an unfortunate accident. The German court acquitted him, alleging that he was suffering from "tropical fever" and temporary insanity. This verdict satisfied the settlers but not the Herero. The Hereros were especially angry as the victim had been the wife of the son of a Chief and the daughter of another.

According to Leutwein, Hereros across SWA had begun to ask "*Have White people the right to shoot native women?*" Against the violent objections of German settlers, some of whom called him a "*race traitor*," Leutwein demanded a second trial in the colony's Supreme Court. This time, Dietrich was found guilty of manslaughter and imprisoned. This did little to satisfy the Hereros' need for justice and revenge. They would rise up in revolt but exactly how the shooting started is not clearly known. Some argue that the initial cause of the war was a simple misunderstanding and that nervous German troops fired on Herero revellers attending a wedding.

Whatever happened, Maharero did give orders for the extermination of all Europeans, excluding English, Boers and missionaries. Extra-judicial killing was standard Herero practice when dealing with stock thieves. Most German settlers including the Schutztruppe retreated into towns and forts. The massacre of over 120 German male colonists by the Herero, (most women and children were spared but seven were not), forced Germany to send troop reinforcements to its colony. It is alleged that some of the German men who were killed were guilty of abusing the Herero and or of raping their women.

Knowing that the wrath of the Kaiser and the German Empire would fall on the Herero, Leutwein hoped to soften the blow. He sent desperate messages to Maharero hoping to negotiate an end to the war. In this, Leutwein acted on his own, heedless of the prevailing mood in Germany and among the colonists who called for bloody revenge. However, the Hereros, were emboldened by their success. Believing that "*the Germans were too cowardly to fight in the open*," the Hereros initially rejected Leutwein's tentative offers of peace.

The military humiliations in the early months of 1904 and the Schutztruppe's inability to defeat barefoot "*half-naked savages*" was a blow to the notion of German racial supremacy. Strident cries came in the Reichstag and from the Kaiser for the eradication of the Hereros.

When a leading member of the Social Democratic Party pointed out that the Hereros were as human as any German, he was howled down by the conservatives. Of the colonists, one missionary wrote, they "*are filled with fearful hate... a blood thirst against the Hereros. One hears nothing but talk of 'cleaning up,' 'executing,' 'shooting down to the last man,' no pardon, etc.*"

Behind the murderous cries for revenge lay the dark heart of the matter - this was the chance for decisive military action that would seize Herero and Nama land and allow GSWA to be filled with the right people - German settlers.

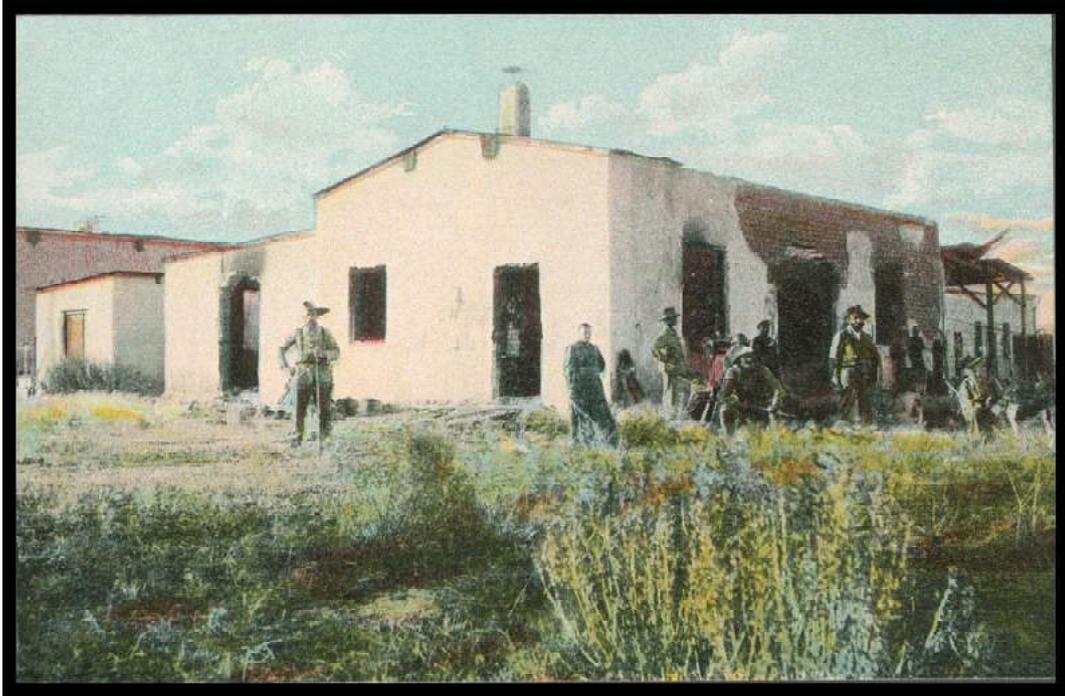
**"IDEALTYP EINES
JUNGEN DEUTSCH-
SUDWESTAFRIKANERS"**



The War of Anti-Colonial Resistance Begins: 1904

The Herero revolt came as a surprise to the security forces (Schutztruppe) who were unprepared and outnumbered. On 12th January 1904 several hundred mounted Herero arrived in Okahandja where the occupying Germans had built a fort ten years earlier. The Herero looted Okahandja, set government buildings and houses alight and killed a number of Germans. The postmaster fled with his cash box and stamps to the fort. His post office was looted and burned and the town's second datestamp was lost.

The German survivors and soldiers remained besieged in the fort for two weeks.



Circa 1906. Postcard. 'Wagon factory in Otjimbingwe destroyed by the Hereros 27. 1. 04'
(6024. Swakopmund Buchhandlung, GmbH.)



Circa 1906. Postcard. Hotel O. Gloditzsch, Otjimbingwe. (6023 Franz Spenker, Hamburg 19.)
'27. 1. 04. Occupied by Hereros under chief Zacharia, burned out inside and put in a state of defense.'

German Collectors' Advert Cards

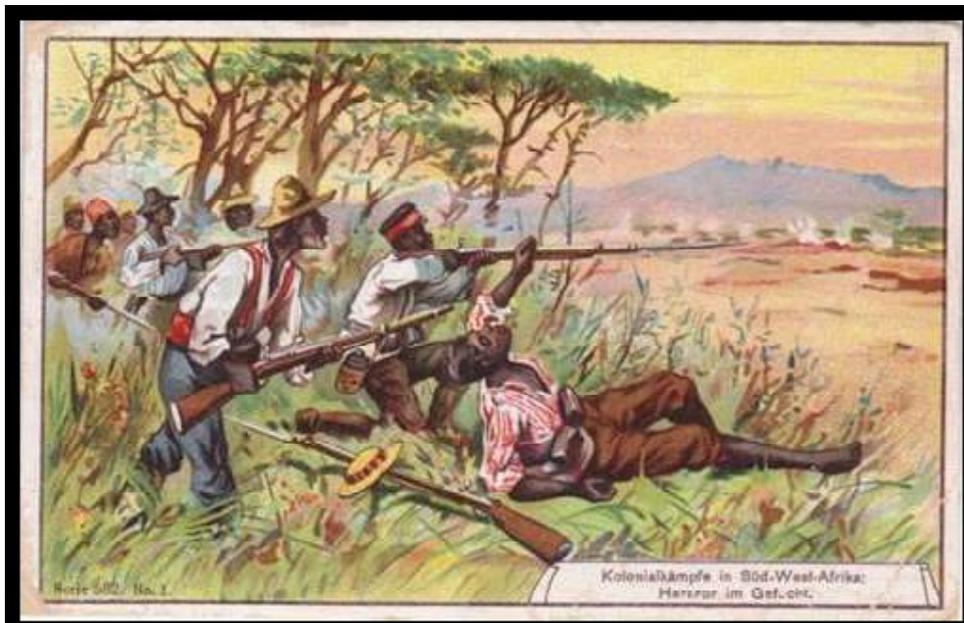
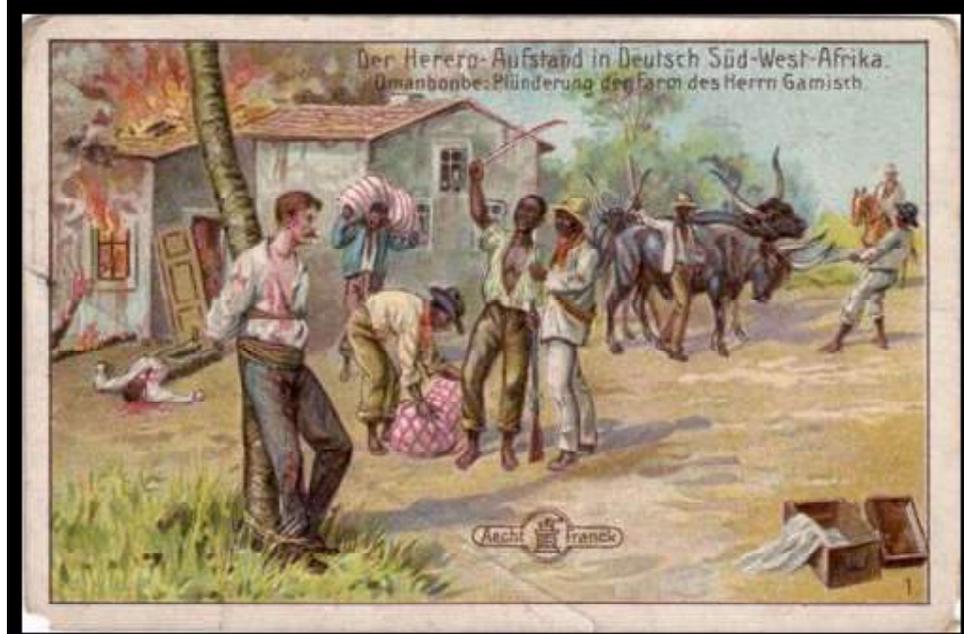
During and after the war / genocide, many German companies produced patriotic collectors cards (*Sammelbilder*) that were given away with a product.

The most widely circulated collectible image cards were from consumer products companies like Aecht Franck Coffee, Erkel Soap, Theodor Hildebrand Cocoa, Walser & Schwarz, and Hartwig & Vogel's Chocolate.

Many, if not all, these images attempted to legitimise the treatment meted out to the Herero, showing them as guilty of stealing cattle (top), murdering and plundering (centre) and attacking the Schutztruppe.

Like cigarette cards, these beautifully printed cards were purchased by adults but mainly collected by children. They most probably created lifelong impressions of the treachery of the Black Herero against the White German people.

They also suggested the justness of the Herero's punishment and fate. These impressions in conjunction with Social Darwinism probably served to support future Nazi ideology.



Internet Images courtesy David Ciarlo (2011). Advertising Empire: Race and War Visual Culture in Imperial Germany. London, England: Harvard University Press.

The 'Battle' of Namutoni: 1904



1961 12½ c Definitive 'Fort Namutoni'.
1971. 9c Reduced Additional Value.

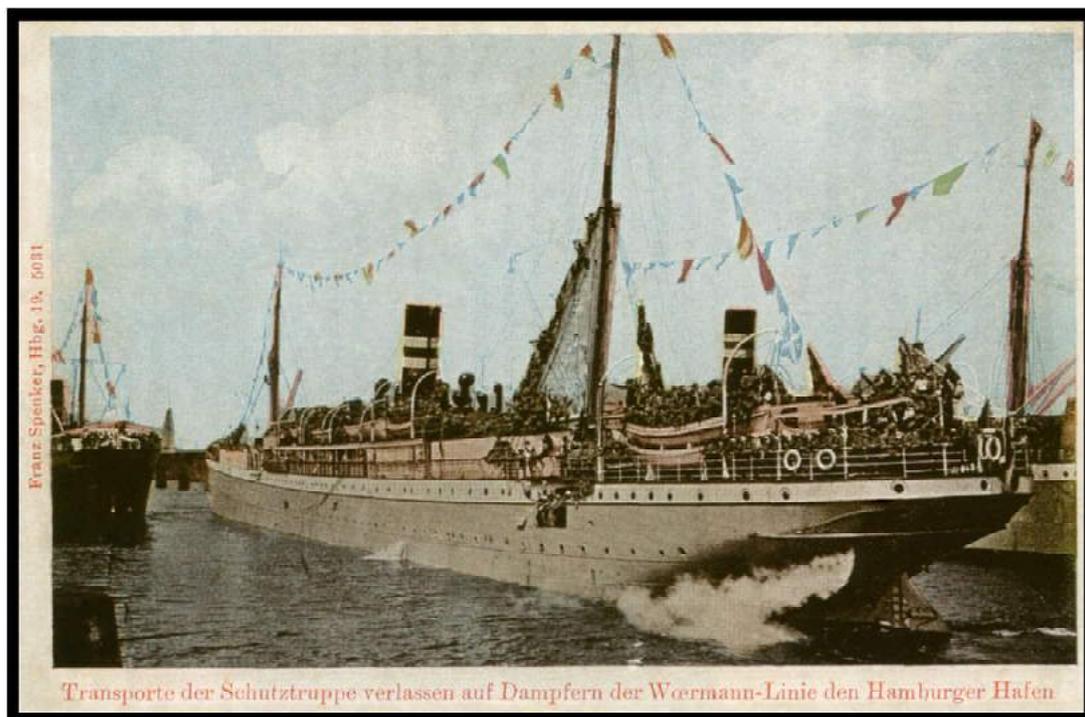


Top: 1976 Namutoni Tourist Postmark. Centre: Tourist postcard. Bottom: 1977. Owambo Kraal.

The Battle of Namutoni was fought between the Ondonga, a sub-tribe of the Ovambo people, and the seven man garrison of the German fort at Namutoni in the eastern Etosha on 28th January 1904. Known for his strongly-held anti-colonial stand after successfully repelling the Dorsland Trekkers in 1886, Chief Nehale Mpingana led 500 of his Ondonga warriors to attack the 'fort', then little more than a mud-brick building with two low crenellated towers and a covered verandah. After its small garrison fled under cover of darkness, the fort was sacked and destroyed. This action is thought the only one undertaken by the Ovambo against the German colonisers. Reinforced, the Germans returned and substantially enlarged the fort into what is shown in the central postcard. Tourists visiting Namutoni today arrive via the King Nehale Gate Road.

The Schutztruppe are Reinforced

The Woermann Line was a German shipping company founded in 1885 by Adolph Woermann. It became one of the leading shipping companies connecting Europe with Africa. From 1899 to 1942 the company was headquartered in Afrikahaus, in Hamburg. On just her second voyage to GSWA, the passenger / cargo ship, Gertrud Woermann II, (below), ran aground in thick fog 30 km north of Swakopmund on 20th November 1904. She was carrying 400 soldiers, horses, war material, mail and general cargo. The gunboat Vineta, which was on a visit at Swakopmund at the time, speedily assisted with the salvage operations. There were no casualties among men or horses but the ship was wrecked and much of her cargo was lost.



**Circa 1906. Postcard. (5031 Franz Spenker, Hamburg 19.) Photo taken 1904.
'The Embarkation of the Schutztruppe from Hamburg on Steamers of the Woermann Line'**
The ship is the Gertrude Woerman II. She transported Schutztruppe to Swakopmund twice.

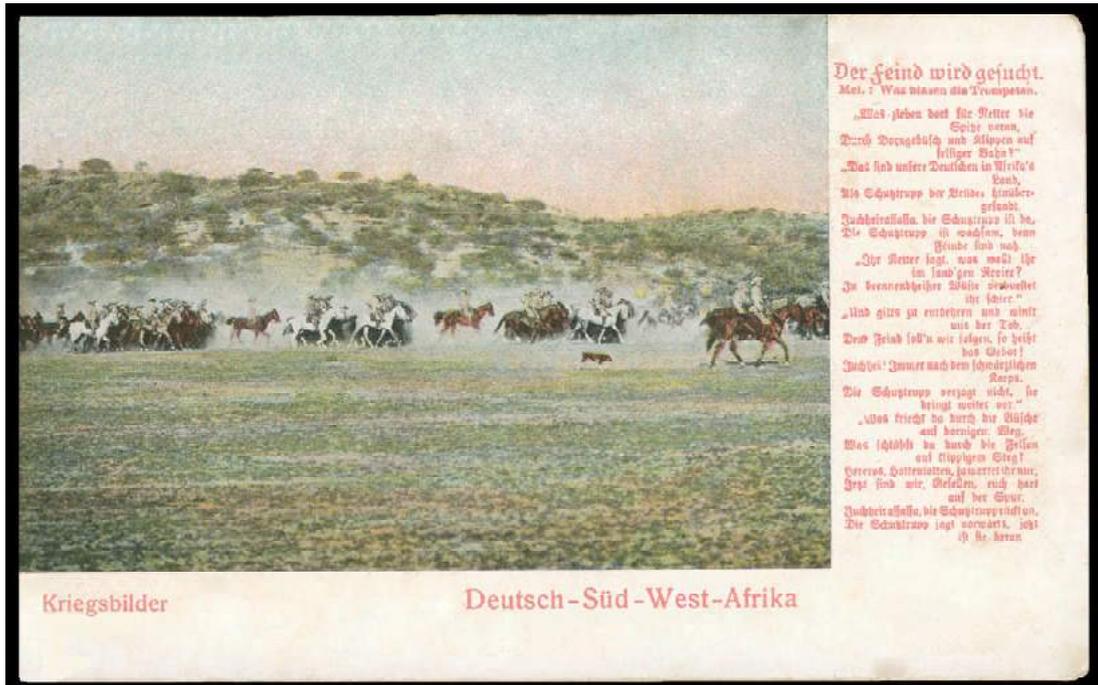
According to the "Schutztruppengesetz" (Schutztruppe Act), the Schutztruppe (Ger. Protection or Security Force) were expected to guarantee "public order and safety" in the overseas territories. As such, they were a mounted para-military police force supplied with artillery, cannon and machine guns. In this regard, they were much the same as the five army regiments in South Africa known as the South African Mounted Rifles who were given police and military duties specifically aimed at controlling the Black population.

SWA was Germany's only real settler colony. By 1903 some 3,000 Germans had settled in a colony twice the size of Germany, primarily in the central highlands. Those settlers who were not professionals, traders or artisans were farmers, all demanding land - Herero or Nama land. The needs of this German settler society, albeit small, disrupted the territory and resulted in conflict. The primary points of friction were access to resources such as land, water, cattle and the rape of native women by German settlers.

In reality, the task of the Schutztruppe was to protect Germans and extend the German territory by force. during the period 1894 to 1904. When waging war against the native tribes the Schutztruppe typically did so with the utmost brutality and contempt for humanity. They made no distinction between combatants and non-combatants, women and children being victims as much as fighting men. The Schutztruppe were to the 'Herero Genocide' what the Nazi Einsatzgruppen were to the Jews of Eastern Europe in WW2.

As the Herero and Nama tended to avoid open battle, the Schutztruppe employed a scorched earth strategy (as the British had done in the ZAR and OFS during the South African War). The idea was to force their opponents to surrender by systematically destroying their natural resources and support base. During the so-called 'Herero War' the Schutztruppe's campaign of genocide killed some 100,000 people in two years.

The Schutztruppe Go on the Offensive.



Circa 1906. Postcard. 'War Images'. (6031 Franz Spenker, Hamburg 19.)
 The song lauds the deeds of the Schutztruppe against the Hereros and 'Hottentots'.

A missionary reported that the bitterness felt by the Hereros toward the Germans “is without question the fact that the average German looks down upon the natives as being about on the same level as the higher primates, ('baboon' being their favourite term for the natives), and treats them like animals. The settler holds that the native has a right to exist only in so far as he is useful to the white man. This contempt led them to commit violence against the Hereros”, something the heavily-armed Schutztruppe perpetuated.



1904. Feldpostkarte from KARIBIB '89 04' to GERMANY '11 10 04'.
 Karibib is on the railway line from Swakopmund to Okahandja and Windhoek.
 Okahandja was the traditional centre of the Herero tribe who are now resisting the German invaders.

The Incident at Owikokerero: 1904

In February 1904, after the start of the defiant Herero War of Resistance, Major Franz-George Glasenapp, a veteran of the China campaign and leader of the Marine Expeditionary Force sent to GSWA, left Windhuk with the aim of bringing the Herero to heel. In a blow to German prestige, Glasenapp and his 230 Schutztruppe were ambushed at Owikokerero on March 12 and decimated. He lost 26 killed and 11 wounded, including himself. He retreated but was ambushed again on March 13 at Okaharui.



Tony Howgrave-Graham

**1906. Registered Letter from OWIKOKORERO '24 1 06' to WIESBADEN, GERMANY.
Cancelled with Negative Sealer and Owikokerero G.S.W. Afrika Wanderstempel
Sent at the 40 Pfg rate using a HASUUR Registered Label.**

Tony-Howgrave Graham advises: “After defeating the Herero, an outpost was established with a post office from July 1904. It was provided with a provisional mute canceller made from a negative seal. The place name was at first added in manuscript but by means of a handstamp from August 1905. The use of Hasuur labels is odd as this is a very distant place on the Bechuanaland border.”

Putzel states that “a Post Office opened 1904 and closed 12. 9. 1906.... Owikokerero was the seat of a Field Post Expedition from 13 June to 4. 7. 1904.... From Oct. 1904 until the end of March 1905, Owikokerero was the seat of Field Post Station 4”.

Defeat by the Herero did not end Major Glasenapp’s career. He became commander of the GSWA Schutztruppe and later still Supreme Commander of the Security Forces in the Reich Colonial Office.

To comment on this display, please [CLICK HERE](#).

Owikokerero Post Office: 1904 - 1906

Glaserapp's defeat at Owikokorero and Okaharui was no Isandhlwana or Adowa but the Kaiser was furious that Germans forces had now, like the effete British and Italians, been defeated by Black African tribesmen. To the Kaiser, it was understandable that the degenerate English and Italians should suffer such defeats but Germans? No! Never! It was humiliating! The Kaiser went into a rage.

He replaced Leutwein who remained Governor with a with a trusted new German military commander, the ruthless General Lothar von Trotha who had served him so well in GEA and in China against the 'Yellow Peril'. The Kaiser demanded nothing less than a decisive military victory. As a soldier, von Trotha's loyalty lay with the Kaiser with whom he was in regular communication. Germany's military campaign against the Herero and Nama in GSWA, is often said to be the first Holocaust of the 20th Century*. It would set the stage for further German atrocities in WW1 and WW2.

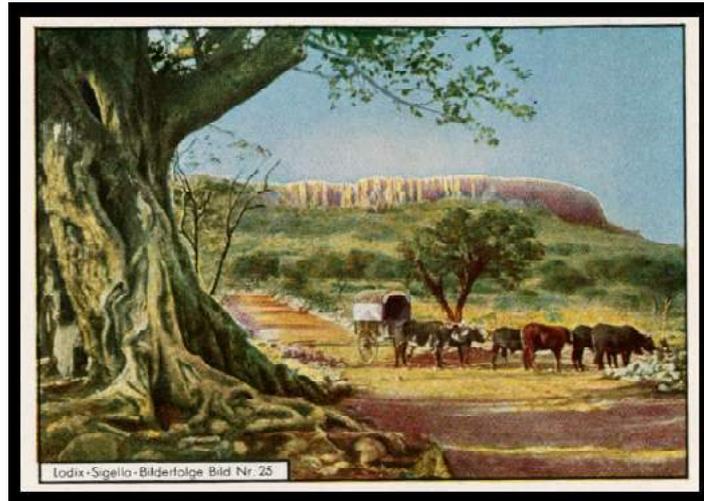


**1906. Registered Letter from OWIKOKORERO '1 05 06' to VOLPKE, GERMANY.
Cancelled with Negative Sealer and Owikokerero G. S. W. Afrika Wanderstempel
Sent at the 30 Pfg rate using a OWIKOKORERO Registered Label.**

Tony-Howgrave Graham advises: "Provisional labels are also known used here. After the closure of the post office in September 1906, the Owikokorero labels were used by the Otjosondo post office".

* This is not strictly true. The British Army had callously allowed some 26,000 Boer women and children to die in its 'Refugee Camps' in South Africa during the Anglo-Boer War. However, more deserving of the term 'genocide' were Turkish actions in Armenia which saw thousands murdered between the late 1890s and 1909, before WW1 when the main Turkish genocide against the Armenian people took place.

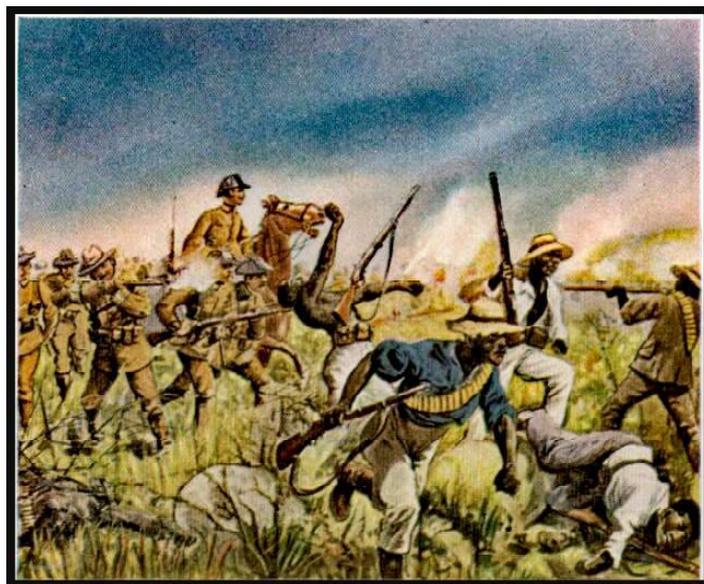
The Herero are Destroyed: 1904



**Circa 1938. Waterberg with Ox-wagon. Card 25.
Deutschlands Kolonien. Sidol-Bilderdienst Koln, Braunsfeld.**

The Battle of Waterberg (Battle of Ohamakari) took place on the Waterberg plateau on August 11, 1904 in north-western Namibia. It was the decisive battle in the German campaign against the Herero who had now changed his position and was seeking a peace treaty with Governor Leutwein. However, Leutwein was no longer GSWA's military commander. Berlin, had replaced him with Lieutenant General Lothar von Trotha, a favourite and confidant of the Kaiser, and ordered him to deliver a decisive military victory.

Some 50,000 Herero men, women and children had gathered on the Waterberg with Samuel Maharero. Although his 1500 men were outnumbered, von Trotha's plan was to use artillery to drive the Herero into German machine guns. His expressed strategy was to "*annihilate these masses with a simultaneous blow*". His attack decimated the Herero riflemen but a gap in the German flank allowed the Herero to escape into the Omaheke Desert. Von Trotha ordered the Schutztruppe to drive them deeper into the desert to die of thirst. Wells were poisoned. Those who attempted to surrender were shot. Some 1000 Herero soldiers under the command of Maharero escaped to British Bechuanaland where they were given sanctuary provided they did not use British territory as a springboard to attack GSWA. The German military victory under von Trotha was total, a savage demonstration to the people of SWA of the deadly consequences of anti-colonial resistance. The Kaiser was delighted with the outcome and wrote to von Trotha expressing his grateful approval.



**Circa 1905. Popular illustration by Richard Knötel.
German Schutztruppe Overwhelm the Herero at the Battle of Waterberg, 1904.
Richard Knötel (1857 – 1914) was a German artist and pioneer in the study of military uniforms.**

Surrounded by Schutztruppe and Driven into the Desert to Die



1961 Otavi
A 'Spring'



1961 Outjo
A 'Bad Place'.



1961 Okahandja
'Place of Gnats'

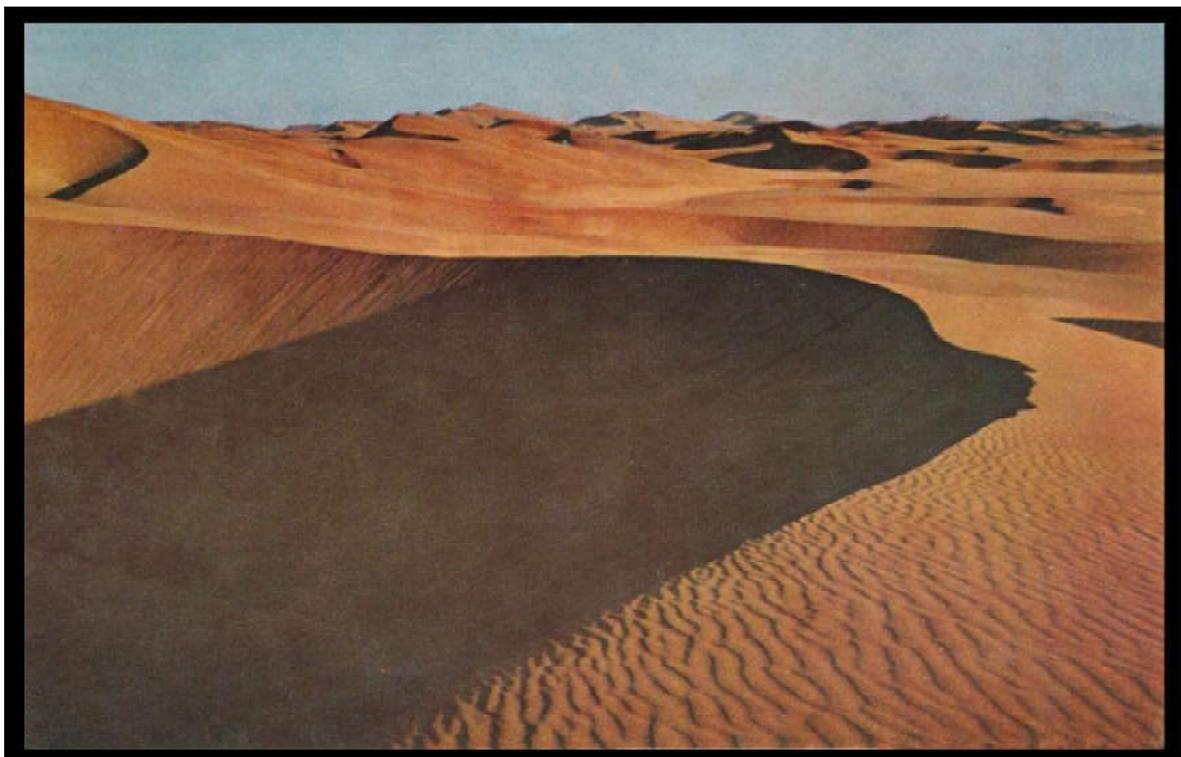


1961 Otjiwarongo
A 'Beautiful Place'



Caricature of 1906 which appeared in the socialist satirical magazine Der Wahre Jakob. It plays on the many thousands of deaths of Herero in the Omaheke sandveldt in the latter half of 1904. The caption reads: 'Even if it hasn't brought in much profit and there are no better quality goods on offer, at least we can use it to set up a bone grinding plant'

1906. Satirical Socialist Cartoon ex. 'Der Wahre Jakob'.
German industrialists, the supporters of colonialism, look on Omaheke as a new opportunity.



Circa 1970. Postcard. South West African Desert Sand Dunes.
The Herero desperately dug deep holes in the Omaheke Desert in a vain attempt to find water.

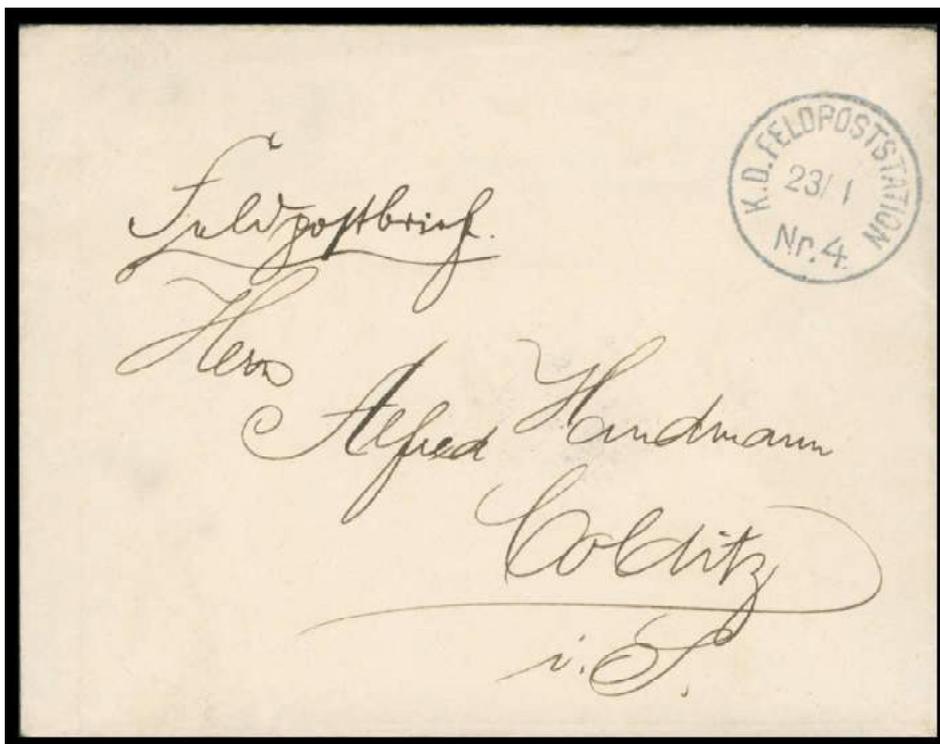
Survivors of Germany's Genocide



Circa 1905. Some of the few Hereros who survived the Omaheke extermination. Their fate is unknown. It is possible this photo was taken in British Bechuanaland.

Maharero ordered his people to flee through a gap in the German lines before they were encircled. Almost all the Herero non-combatants escaped into the Omaheke Desert with the aim of fleeing to British Bechuanaland.

Once their flight was detected, the Schutztruppe were ordered to create cordons to drive the Herero deeper into the desert and away from the wells in order that they should die of thirst. Any who attempted to surrender were shot. Tens of thousands of men, women, and children died. Very few survived. Later, however, due to his men's exhaustion and a lack of supplies, von Trotha was forced to abandon this tactic. Instead, in October 1904, at the water hole of Ozombu Zovindimba, he gave a *'vernichtungsbefehl'* or extermination order. "*Any Herero found inside the German frontier, armed or unarmed, with or without cattle, will be shot. I shall not accept any more women and children*". This proclamation was read out to German troops at roll-call.



1905. Feldpostbrief from Hereroland posted in a time subject to the *'Vernichtungsbefehl'*. K.D.FELDPOSTSTATION Nr.4. '23 1 05' to GERMANY '27 2 05'. Believed used at OTJURUTJONDUA from '20 08 1904'.

The 'Vernichtungsbefehl': October - December 1904.

The purpose of the German Extermination Order was first to punish its colonial subjects for their 'Uprising' or 'Rebellion' against what Germany perceived was its legitimate and duly constituted authority in SWA. This was a mask behind which it hid its more important second aim: the acquisition of African land for German occupation and settlement. The order stood for two months until rescinded by the Kaiser.



Postmark on Piece of Postal Stationery.
Windhoek. The Headquarters of the Schutztruppe and the Genocide.



1961 Oranjemund.



1904. Captured Herero men (and a woman) await their fate.
Between October to December 1904 Germany ran no POW camps.
It summarily executed all captured Herero combatants and civilians.



1961 Walvis Bay

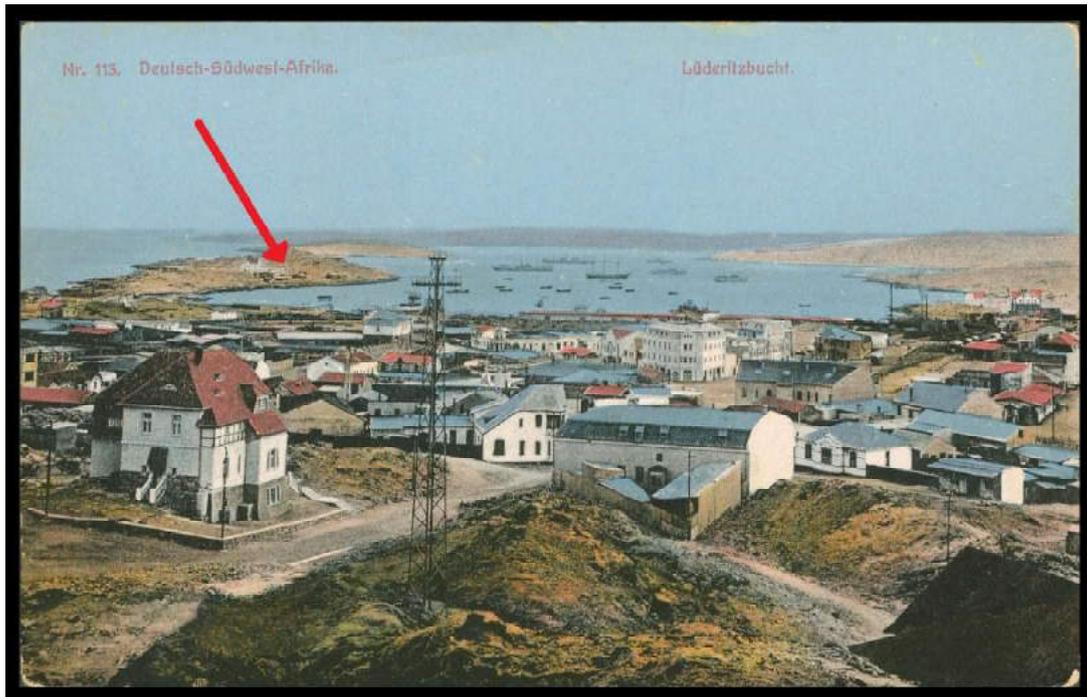
Photo (right).
A mass execution.
Nine men
executed by
hanging. The
scaffold may
extend to the
left.



In February 1905
von Trotha declared "*the operations in Hereroland ended*".
However,
"*cleansing actions*"
continued.

With the
assistance of
missionaries, the
Germans created
"holding camps",
aka concentration
camps for Herero
prisoners.

Shark Island Death Camp, Luderitzbucht: 1905 - 1907

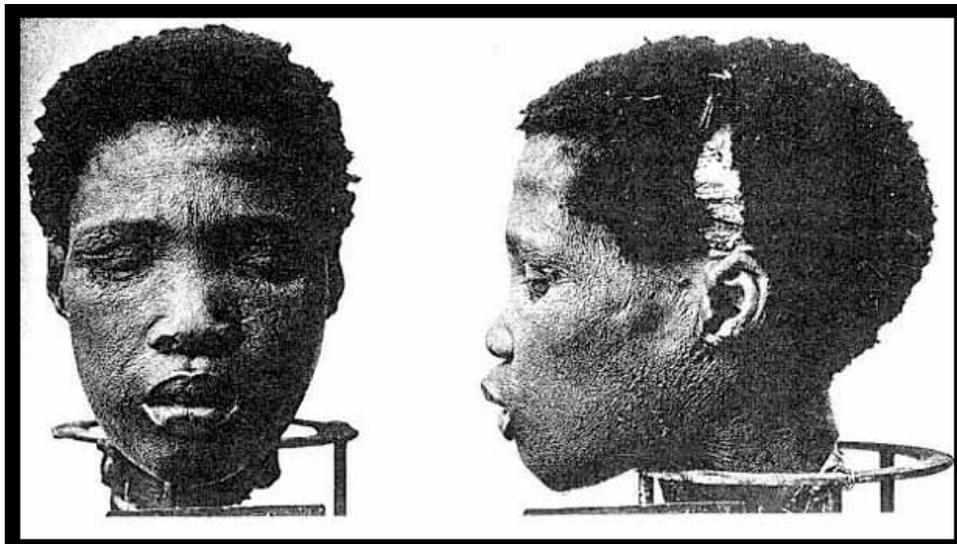


Circa 1905. Postcard. Luderitzbucht (Nr. 113. Deutsch-Sudwest-Afrika).

The red arrow shows Shark Island, a death camp set in the midst of colonial civilisation.

After the Extermination Order was rescinded, Germany introduced a system of human enclosures dubbed '*Konzentrationslager*', (Ger. Concentration Camp.). It argued that it was merely copying British policy in the South African war. These camps were set up in the largest towns where the need for labour was greatest. For three years, Herero prisoners, mainly women and children, were rented out to local businesses or forced to work on government projects. The conditions of work were so severe that more than half of all prisoners died within the first year. It was nothing less than slave labour.

Luderitzbucht has a small peninsula called Shark Island, the site of a notorious colonial era death camp. Many captured Herero and Nama were sent to Shark Island where an estimated 80% of prisoners died. Of several hundred Nama prisoners under Kaptein Cornelius Fredericks who were imprisoned here, nearly all 167 men, 97 women and 66 children died of disease, deprivation and or brutal treatment. What makes their slow murder so shocking and disgusting is that it took place in full view of the good colonial burghers of Luderitzbucht. "*A humane war cannot be waged against those who are not human,*" von Trotha argued.

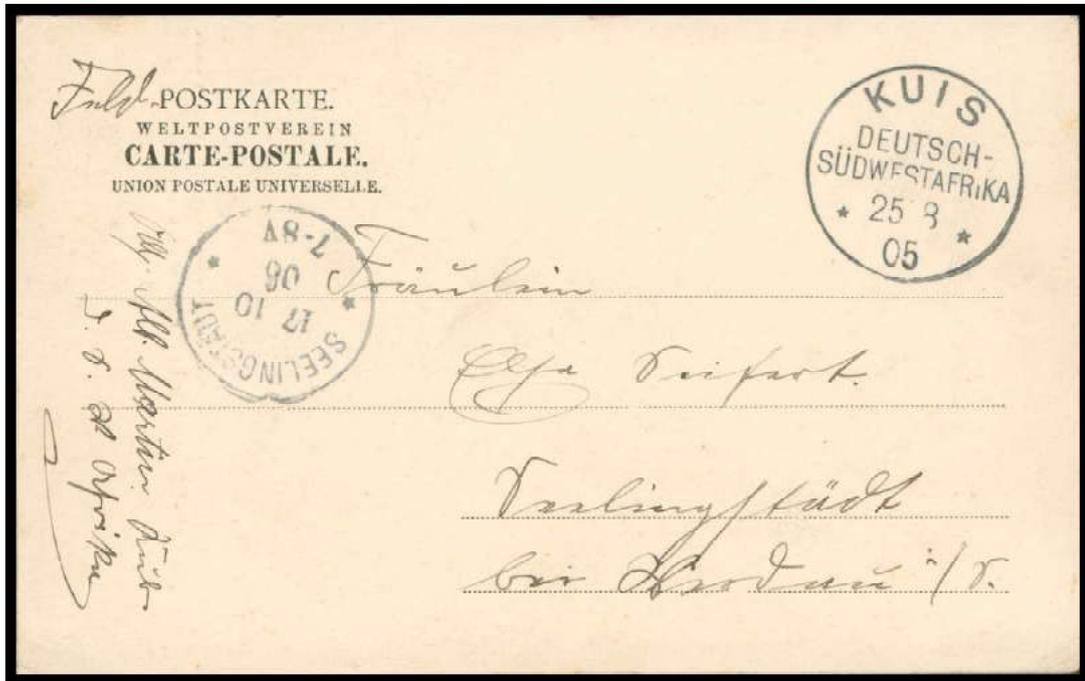


Circa 1905. Decapitated Head of Brutalised Female Shark Island Prisoner.

Dr Josef Mengele, the SS 'Angel of Death' in WW2's Auschwitz Death Camp studied SWA racial experiments.

Early Unendorsed Feldpost Mail

Having dealt with the Herero, von Trotha's attention turned to the southern Nama whose leader, Hendrik Witbooi, was a long-standing opponent of German colonial rule. Witbooi's attempts to find common cause with the Herero, his fiercest African enemy, mark him out as a great Namibian. Today, Witbooi's letters and diary (written in Dutch) are UNESCO world heritage documents.



1905. Postcard marked 'Feld' in MS from KUIS '25 8 05' to GERMANY '17 10 06' (!)
This card is from the German campaign against the southern Nama.



Circa 1904. Photo. Executed Nama Men.

"The Nama who chooses not to surrender and lets himself be seen in German territory will be shot, until all are exterminated. Those who, at the start of the rebellion, committed murder against whites or have commanded that whites be murdered have, by law, forfeited their lives. As for the few not defeated, it will fare with them as it fared with the Herero, who in their blindness also believed that they could make war successfully on the powerful German Emperor and the great German people. I ask you, where are the Herero today?" General Lothar von Trotha. 22nd April 1905.

“We did not give our land away”

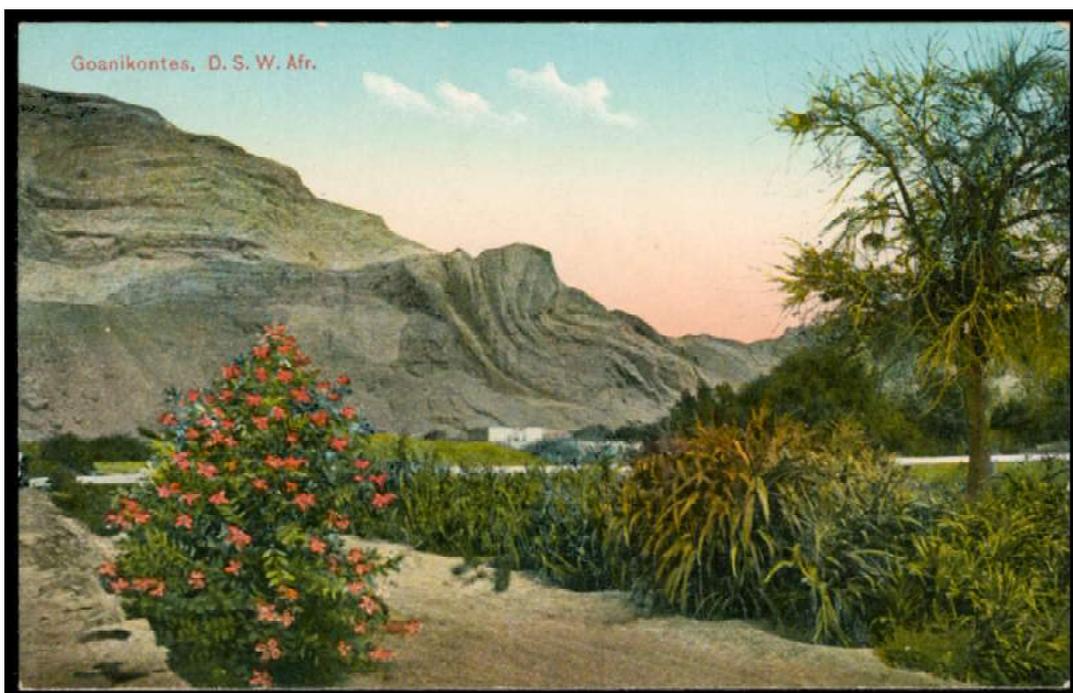
Accorded by his people the praise name of "Nanseb Gaib Gabemab", (Nama. The snake in the grass), Hendrik Witbooi exhorted his Nama people in October 1903 to rise up in a war of liberation against the German occupation of his land and country. Among the things Witbooi is recorded saying are *"We did not give our land away, and what has not been given by the owner, cannot be taken by another person"* and *"When one chief stands under the protection of another, the underling is no longer independent, and is no longer master of himself, or of his people and country."*



2001. Bank of Namibia N\$ 20 - Kaptein Hendrik Witbooi.

Witbooi was killed in action on 29 October 1905, near Vaalgras, near Koichas. His dying request was: *"It is enough. The children should now have rest"*. The location of Witbooi's grave has never been revealed.

Fransman Nama became leader until the Nama surrendered in 1908. Witbooi is one of nine national heroes of Namibia identified in the country's Heroes' Acre near Windhoek. Founding Namibian President Sam Nujoma stated in 2002 that *"Kaptein Hendrik Witbooi was the first African leader who took up arms against the German imperialists and foreign occupiers in defence of our land and territorial integrity."*



Circa 1910. Goanikontes GSWA. A German Settlers Farm with a Nama name (of unknown meaning).

Unendorsed Feldpostkarte (Field Postcards): 1906

Field Postcards were in use from the start of the campaign. Some were issued on board ship to the troops going out to GSWA. There are a surprising number of different designs of Field Postcards. Below are just two types, both used during the campaign against the southern Nama and sent within weeks of each other by the same soldier whose name and unit is written at bottom left. They have not been endorsed with the “Soldatenbrief-Stempel” and neither bear stamps.



1906. Feldpostkarte from KEETMANSHOOP '5 9 06' to GERMANY '2 10 06'.



1906. Feldpostkarte from GIBEON '23 9 06' to GERMANY '29 10 06'.

A German View of an Heroic War: 1904 - 1905

10

Nr. 247



1904. A German officer rides to the aid of a unit pinned down by Herero fire.

auf die Hauptabteilung zurückzugehen.

Nr. 248



1904. A German officer leads a bayonet charge that forces the Herero to retreat.

Bajonett auf die Hereros ein.

Nr. 249



1905. Maxim machine-gun fire suppresses long-range Nama (Khoi) rifle fire.

Nach Süden Gefechte verlor durch Manns von Koppj in die Dranje-Berge geworfen.

Nr. 250



1905. Hendrik Witbooi, the Nama leader, is mortally wounded in battle.

Im G haben Hotten Hendr deutsche Schutztruppe.

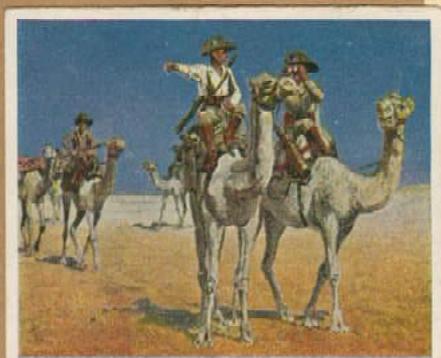
Nr. 251



1905. The Nama are driven across the Orange River into the north-west Cape Colony.

Flucht der Hottentotten über den Dranje in englisches Gebiet. 16. November 1905. Eine Gegen zur englischen Uniformstücken bekleideten Hottentotten gefangen.

Nr. 252

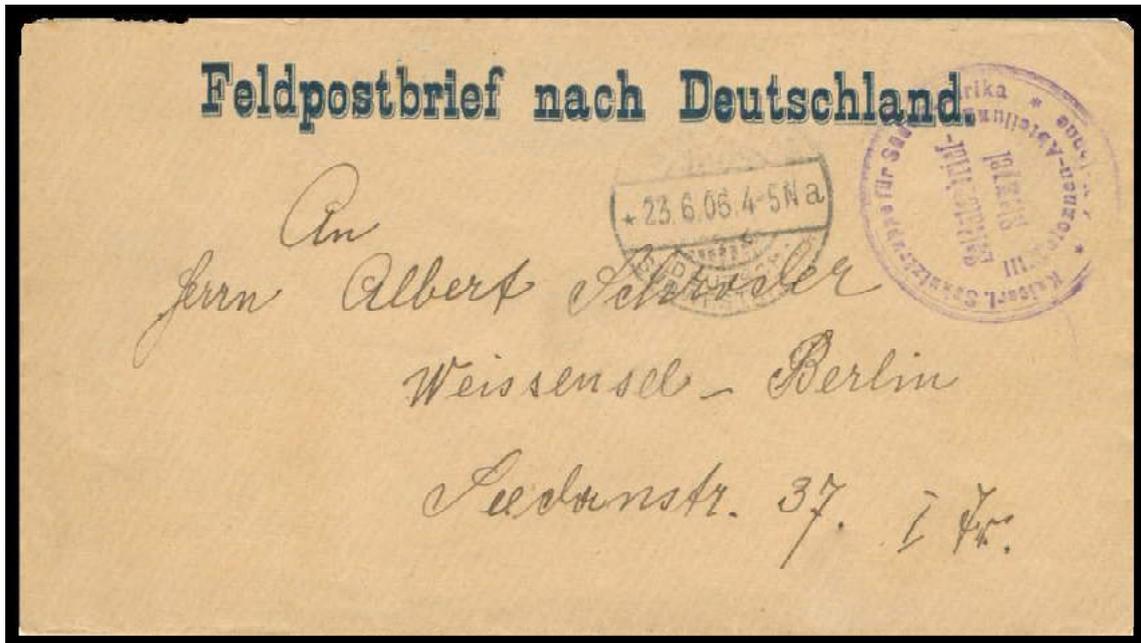


1905. The remaining Nama are driven into the waterless Kalahari Desert.

Auf der Verfolgung der Simon-Copper-Hottentotten in der Wüste Kalahari. 16. März 1905. Obgle waren lahari von Copper an und vernichtete die letzten Auführer.

Military Mail Endorsed with Soldatenbrief-Stempel cachet

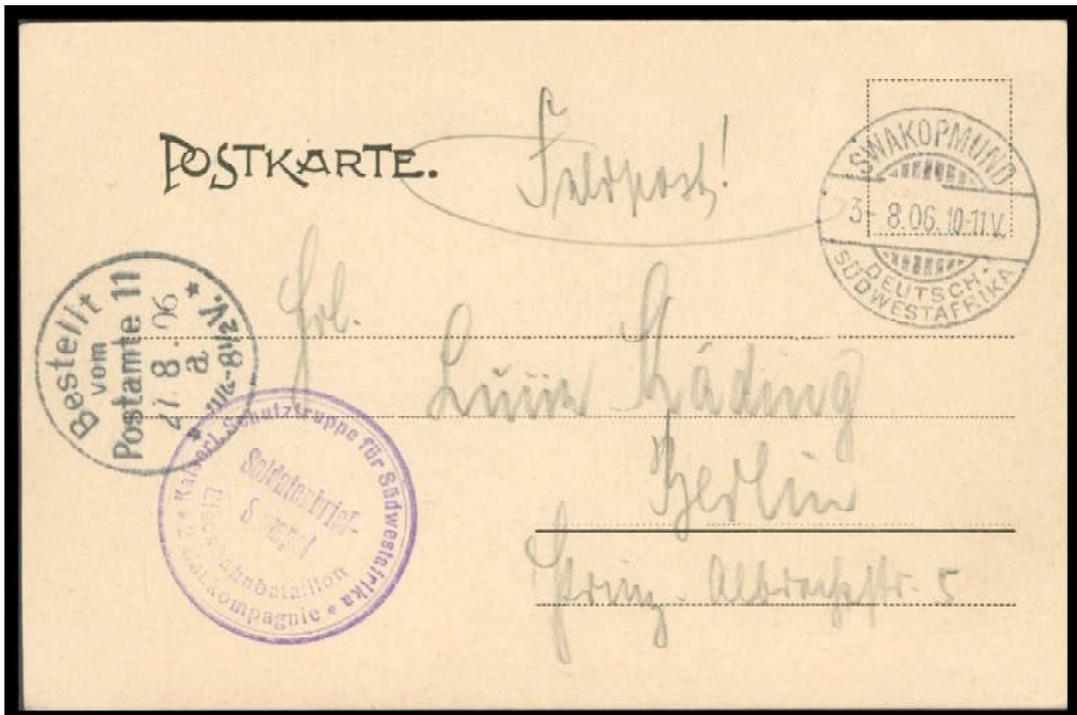
According to Putzel, "From October 1905, a cachet 'Soldatenbrief-Stempel' is frequently found in the lower left corner of the letters or cards, mostly in violet. This was added by the despatching Military Unit as proof that this was a Field Post item.' These 'Soldatenbrief-Stempel' cachets include descriptions of the unit at base ie. Hauptquartier (HQ), Lazarett (field hospital), Feld Regt. (Field Regiment), etc. Two of the four preceding Feldpostkarte were too early in the campaign to be endorsed with the "Soldatenbrief-Stempel". The last two from 1906 were for some unknown reason not endorsed.



1906. Field Post Letter from WINDHOEK '23 6 06' to GERMANY '22 7 06'.
Free of Charge Mail endorsed with purple Soldatenbriefstempel cachet.
Kolonnen-Abteilung - Column Detachment (Transport Column).



1906. Postcard from WINDHOEK '26 6 06' to GERMANY '22 7 06'.
Free of Charge Mail endorsed with purple Soldatenbriefstempel cachet.
Sanitätsamt - Medical Officer (Army Medical Installation).



1906. Postcard from SWAKOPMUND '3 8 06' to GERMANY '27 8 06'.
Free of Charge Mail endorsed with purple Soldatenbriefstempel cachet.
Eisenbahnbataillon 2 Baukompanie - Railway Construction Company.



1906. Postcard. Written OKAUKEJO '25 5 06' with dumb Wanderstempel '28 5 06'.
Received in Wiesbaden, GERMANY '9 7 06'.
2 x 3 Pfg stamps cancelled with possible dumb Wanderstempel date stamp.
Free of Charge Mail endorsed with purple Soldatenbriefstempel cachet.
Feldregiment No. 1. 6. Compagnie - Field Regiment, 6th Company (Infantry).

Schutztruppe: 1904 - 1907

Germany used more troops in SWA than there were Herero left at the end of the genocide. About 19,000 German troops were engaged in the genocide, of which about 3,000 saw actual combat.

German losses were 676 soldiers killed in action, 76 missing, and 689 dead from disease. The campaign cost Germany 600 million marks. The colony's normal annual subsidy to the colony was 14.5m marks. Bismarck turned in his grave!

The men seen in these photographic cards may not have seen action. However, they could have participated in enforcing the genocide and as such they would have blood on their hands.

Stamp below left. 1961 1st Decimal Definitive. 'Schutztruppe Monument'. Right. 1971 'Postgeld Inkomste Postage Revenue' Omitted.

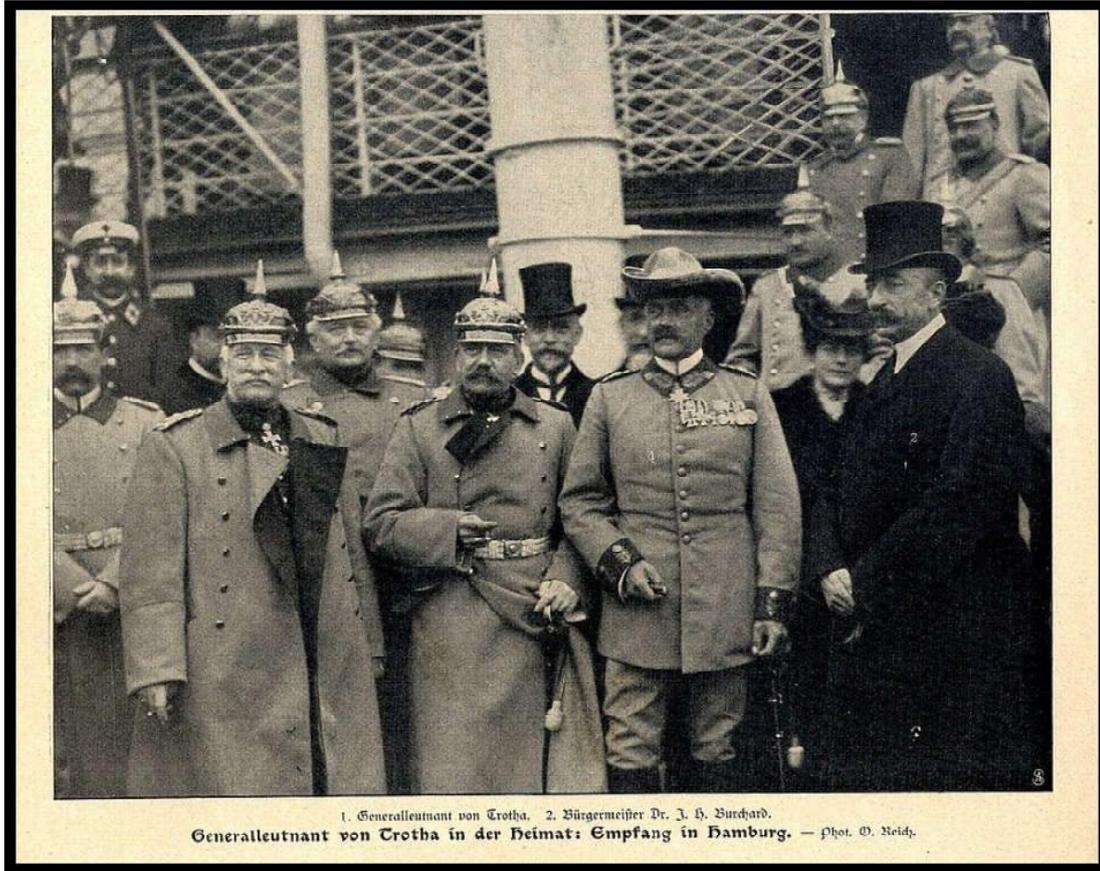


TOP. 'Auf Wiedersehn'.

Strking a heroic pose, this unashamed bemedalled soldier wears a corduroy uniform and a Südwester hat edged in blue. The backdrop is an imaginative painting of 'Veste Windhuk' (Ger. Fortress Windhuk') with battlements, a military camp, a leopard, a lake, sneaking savages and prisoners under guard, one tied to a tree, right. The photo was taken in a Berlin studio.

LEFT. This soldier wears a khaki corduroy uniform with aiguillette cords. His Südwester hat has blue edging showing service in GSWA. This unposted Post Card is printed in the main European languages on the back. It is a 'Real Photo' postcard. It is not known where the photo was taken.

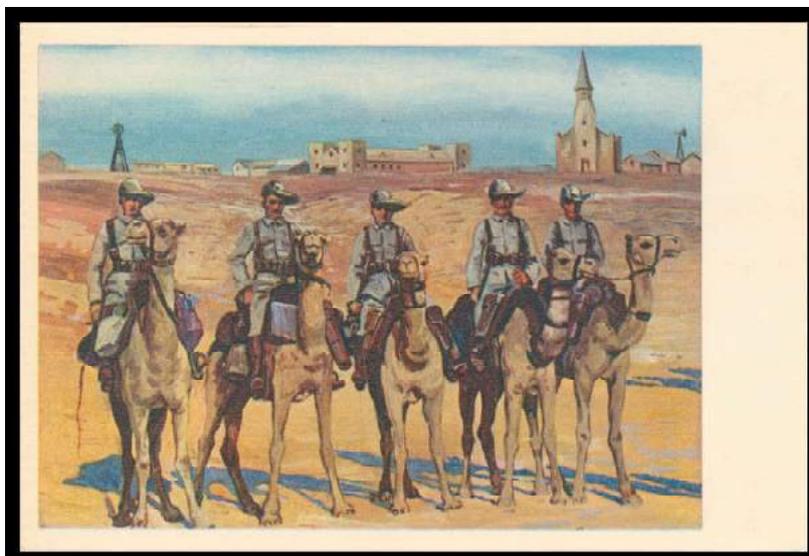
The Victor Returns Home: 1905



November 1905: With GSWA secured, Lieutenant General Lothar von Trotha returns to Germany. He is received by the Mayor of Hamburg, J. H. Burchard, and senior German military officers.

Despite the mood in Germany being for bloody revenge, it would be unfair to create the impression that the German people wholeheartedly approved of von Trotha's genocide. Even Imperial Chancellor von Bülow asked the Kaiser to relieve von Trotha of his command. This did not happen because von Trotha was a favourite of the Kaiser, a successful general who fought and won colonial battles in China and East Africa for the glory of the Imperial German cause. The Kaiser let the SWA dust to settle and in 1910 appointed von Trotha an infantry general. He lived to see GSWA occupied by South Africa 1915, GEA occupied in 1916 by the British and Germany humiliated in defeat in WW1. He died in 1920.

**Circa 1908.
German Camel
Corps based on
the border of
British
Bechuanaland.
This unit was
responsible for
policing the most
arid terrain in
GSWA.**



German cross-border attacks on the Herero inside Bechuanaland established a precedent for later SA "hot pursuit" operations.

**Circa 1935.
Collectors' Advert Card
ex-Deutschland
Kolonien. Hinz &
Kuster A.G.,
Berlin.**



Tony Howgrave-Graham

1905. Reichspost Postcard from HASUUR '5 8 05' to LUDERITZBUCHT '28 8 05'.

Putzel states this datestamp was "... black. Used from June 1904 to 4 DEC 1912'. He adds "1905: The colour of the postmark was violet from July to September".

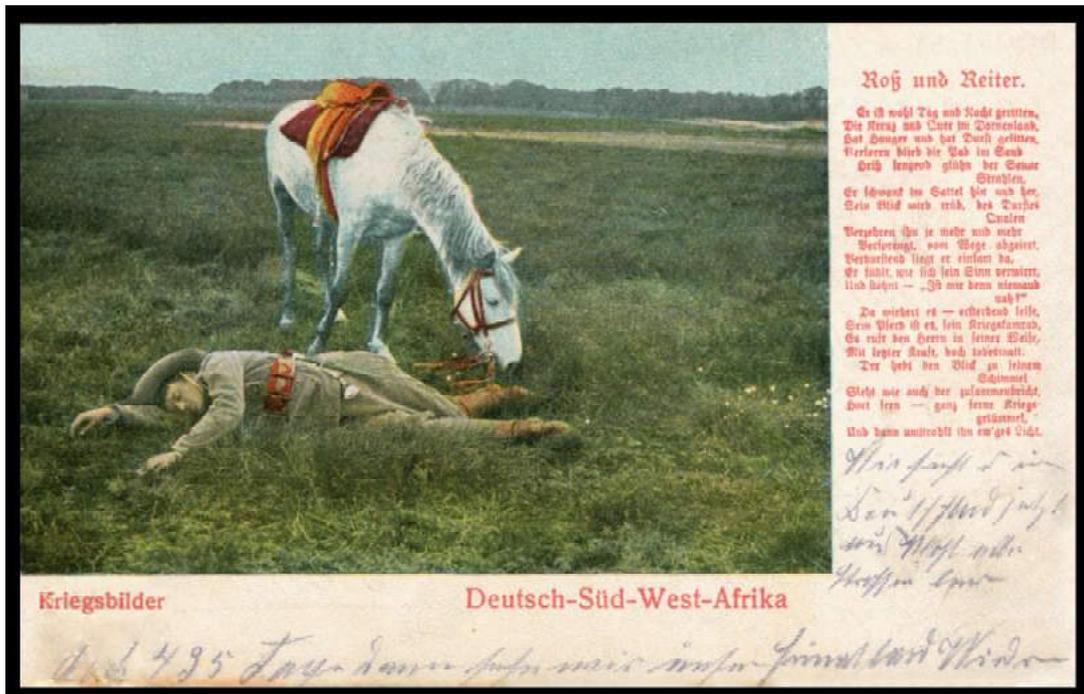


1916. Photo. General B. K. A. von Deimling wearing 'southwester' slouch hat.

1906. Photo. Colonel von Deimling (seated third right) with his staff. . ("Expelled from a Beloved Country". Source 'Stuhlmann'.)

On 21st May 1906, von Trotha was replaced as commander of the Schutztruppe in GSWA by the Prussian aristocrat, Colonel Berthold Karl Adolf von Deimling (1853-1944). A favourite of the Kaiser he was posted to GSWA in 1904. His "unyielding toughness" made him jointly responsible with von Trotha for the genocide against the Herero and Nama. He led the campaign against the Nama, negotiated a peace and returned to Germany after some three years service in GSWA. A Field Marshall in WW1, he commanded the XV Army Corps at Ypres (where he was known to his men as 'the Butcher of Ypres'), Verdun and the Somme. He was awarded the 'Pour le Merite' by the Kaiser for a success at Verdun that bled his army white. He was the first German commander to employ chlorine gas. He fell out of favour with the Supreme Command and by late 1918 was advocating peace. He was an outspoken post-war pacifist until attempting to curry favour with the Nazis who shunned him for his political weakness and moral ambivalence.

Winners and Losers: 1908



Circa 1906. Postcard. 'War Images'. (6039 Franz Spenker, Hamburg 19.)

This sentimental image of a fallen soldier was staged in Germany for patriotic consumption.

Germany was now in a position fill Herero and Nama land with its 'ideal type' of people.

"When one Nama group after the other capitulates and from the middle of 1907 more and more soldiers are sent back home, Alfons is starting to look around for suitable farmland. ... And now, after the victory over the Nama people, available land is plentiful. Before the war mining and property companies as well as settlers had to negotiate with the locals about obtaining mining rights or land. Often enough the other party to the negotiations was cheated, and here and there decisions were helped along with alcohol, but at least the population groups in question, or their leaders, received something in return, even if it was ridiculously small reimbursement. But now the colonial administration confiscates the rebels' land as reparation for damages suffered through the war effort. It is a crushing blow: the Nama people have no right to their traditional home areas any more, they find themselves sent to reservations or tolerated on the estates of new master as laboureres only. Scattered in tiny groups onto many farms they have to live without the community life which was part of their culture. ... In order to receive some revenue after the costly war and to advance settlement in the colony, the Empire sells the confiscated land to prospective settlers at very favourable prices. Even more favourable are the conditions for former members of the Schutztruppe. What turns into a catastrophe for the defeated Bondelswart-Nama in the south-east of the country is the chance of his lifetime for Alfons."*

'Expelled from a Beloved Country'. (Sven-Eric Kanzler. 2003.)

Like the Cape Dutch, the Germans had made the Khoi (Nama) dispossessed serfs on their own land. Like the Cape Dutch the Germans saw this as the natural order of things. The booklet, *'Expelled from a Beloved Country'*, sympathises with the German colonial point-of-view and fails to place in any meaningful historic context the expulsion of the Nama and Herero from their 'beloved country'. Instead, like many settlers of German descent living in Namibia today, it views Germans as the victims of history.



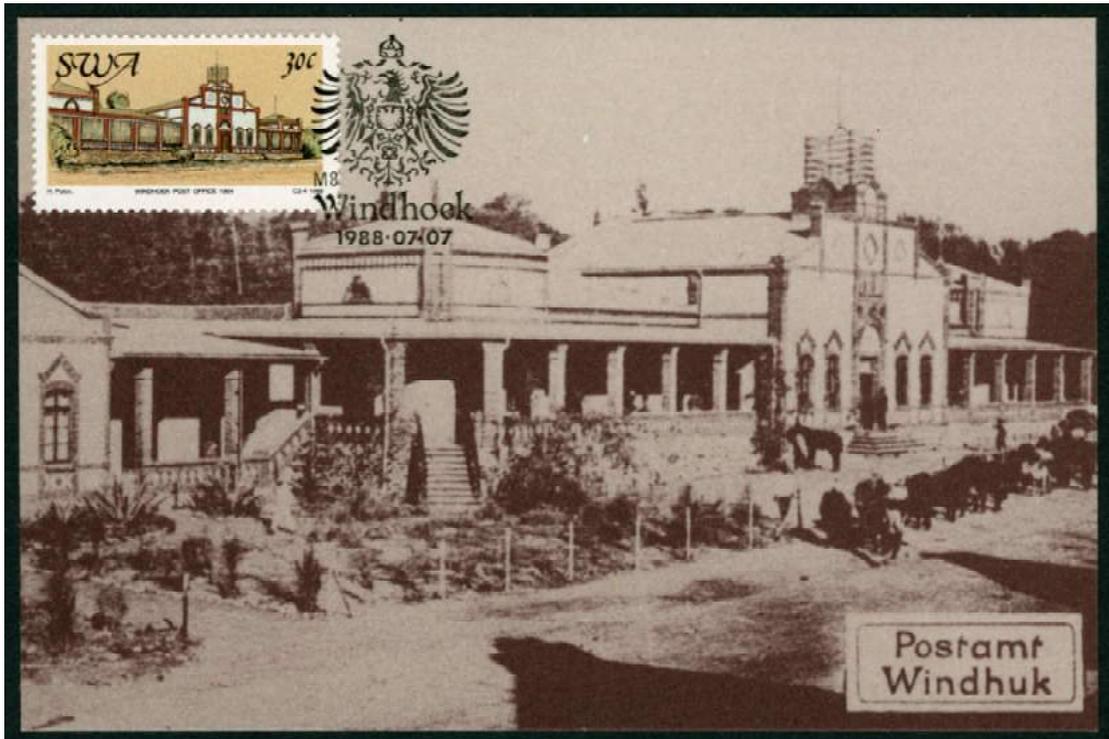
1973. Succulents. 30c.
Euphorbia virosa.

* Alfons Schanderl was an unquestioning Schutztruppe soldier who bought Nama land near the Orange River following their surrender in 1907. He was called up to serve in the 4th Ersatzkompanie in the defence of GSWA in WW1. He participated in the Battle of Sam Kubis against the Rehoboth Baster where he was wounded and later awarded the Iron Cross. As a reservist he was given parole and allowed to return to his farm. He was deported to Germany in 1919. He argued that it was unfair to deprive him of a life in SWA on a farm he had spent 12 years building up. Today his farm at Karios is the Gondwana Canon Park on the Fish River Canyon.



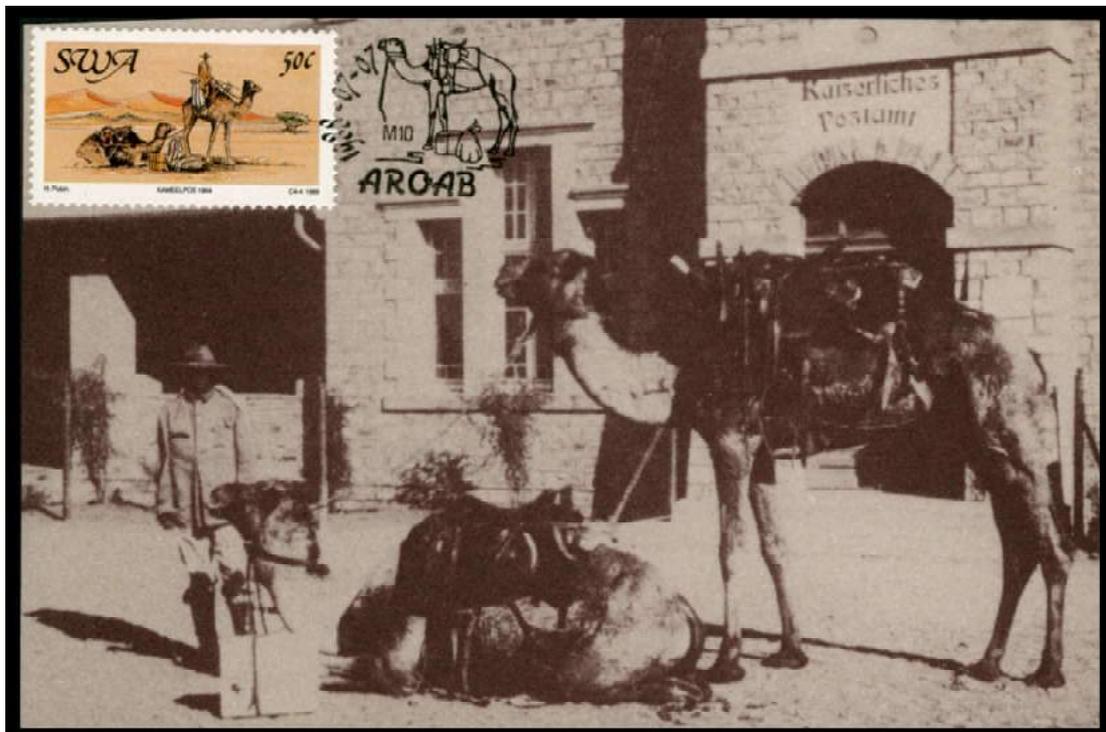
1973. Succulents. R1
Welwitschia bainesii.

The Development of GSWA Postal Services



Robert Hill

1988. First Day Maximum Card. LUDERITZ '1988 01 07'
Celebrating the 'Centenary of Postal Services'.
Photo taken circa 1905. Built in 1904, Windhuk Post Office was GSWA's main



Robert Hill

1988. First Day Maximum Card. AROAB '1988 01 07'
Celebrating the 'Centenary of Postal Services'.
If Aroab, this photo was taken circa 1912. The Aroab Office opened December 1912.
Using camels was sensible in inhospitable semi-desert areas not connected to the railway.



Robert Hill

**1988. First Day Maximum Card. KARIBIB '1988 01 07'
Celebrating the 'Centenary of Postal Services'.**

Circa 1895, this photo is of Otjimbingue Post Office which opened in 1888. It was GSWA's first Post Office. It looks like a fort because the PO was probably housed inside it. Two of the Schutztruppe are enjoying bottles of beer after a day's hard work!

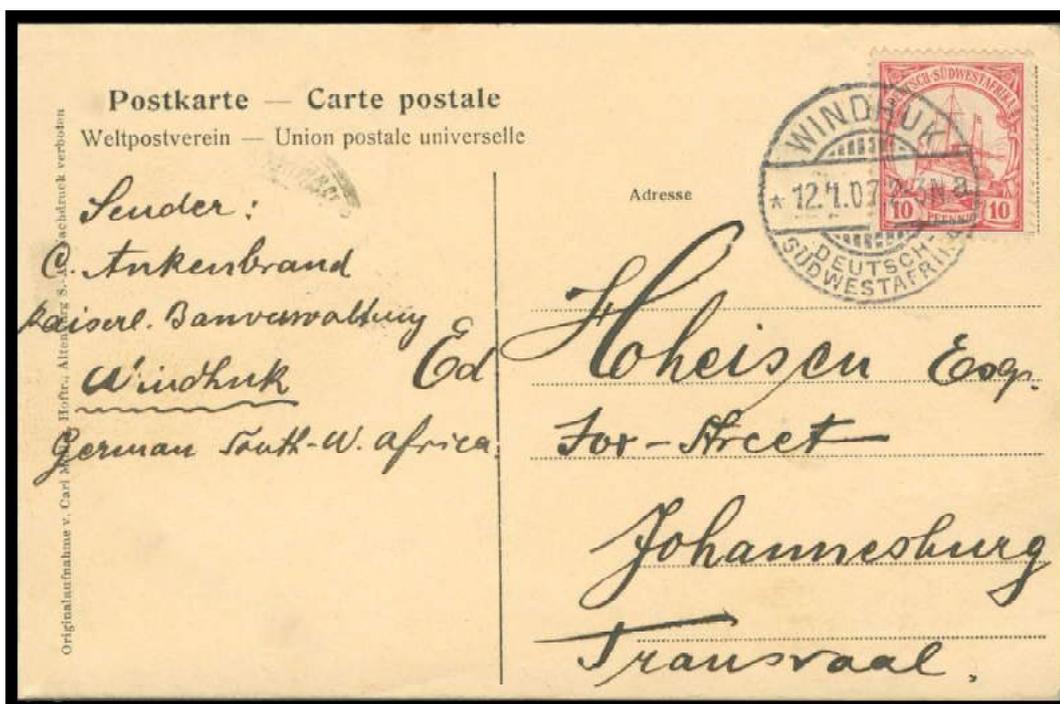


Robert Hill

**1988. First Day Maximum Card. SWAKOPMUND '1988 01 07'
Celebrating the 'Centenary of Postal Services'.**

Circa 1890, this remarkable photo shows a man who is clearly not being paid enough! What is also interesting is the route shown on the stamp from Otjimbingue to Walvis Bay. As the crow flies, the distance between the town and port is about 140 miles (225 km).

The Post Genocide Years

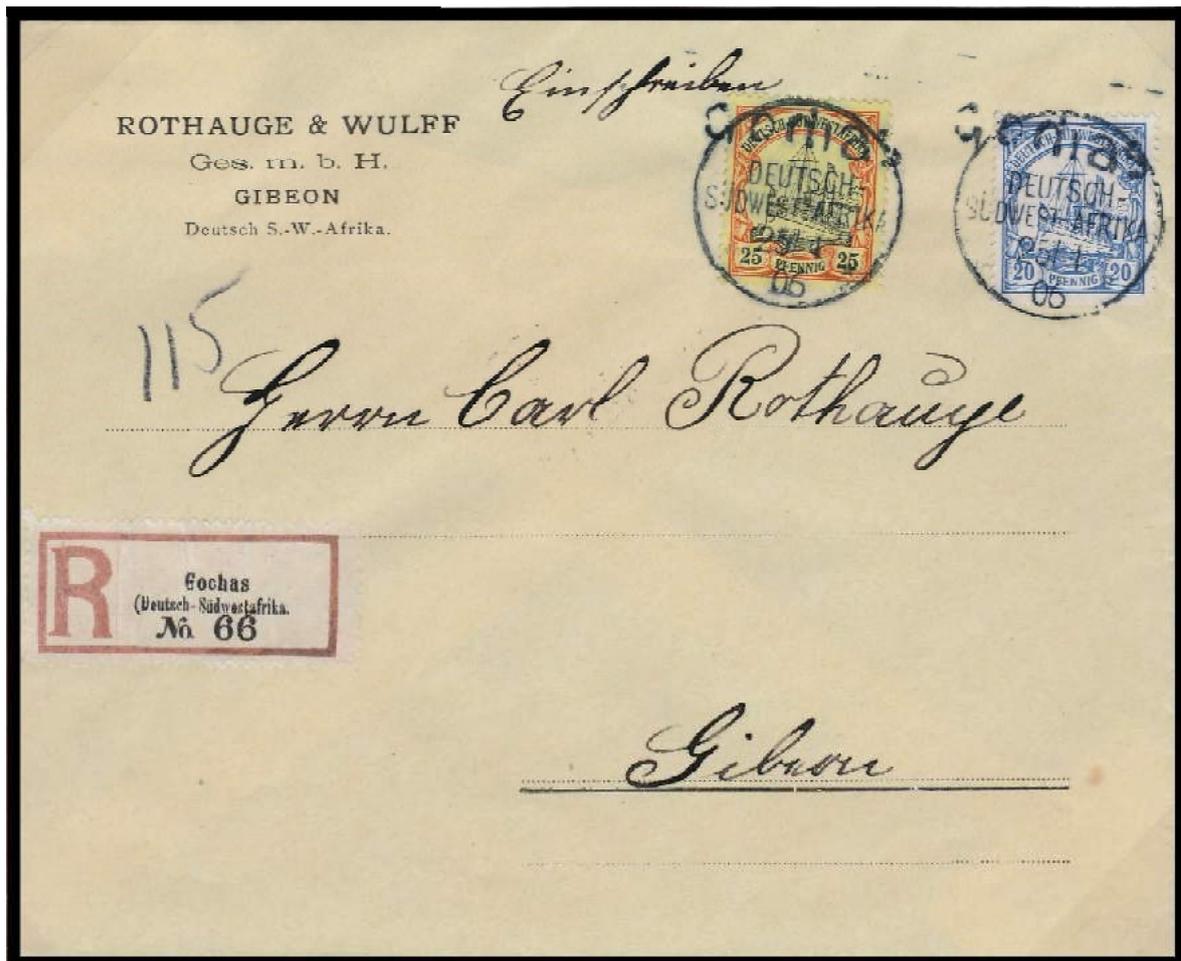


1907. Postcard from WINDHUK '12 7 07' to TRANSVAAL.
 The 10 Pfg 'overseas' rate is correctly paid with a single GSWA 10 Pfg adhesive.
 The town's first two datestamps used the Afrikaans name 'WINDHOEK' from March 1892.
 This was changed to the presumably more Germanic-sounding 'WINDHUK' on 16 5 03'.

The postcard below has been sent from Germany to GSWA, the only example of incoming mail imperial in this display. The reason for its inclusion is its superb Okahandja receiving datestamp.



1908. Postcard from BADEN-BADEN, GERMANY '17 8 08' to OKAHANDJA '14 9 08'.
 Received in Okahandja with its fourth datestamp used from 15.3.1904 to 3.5. 1915.

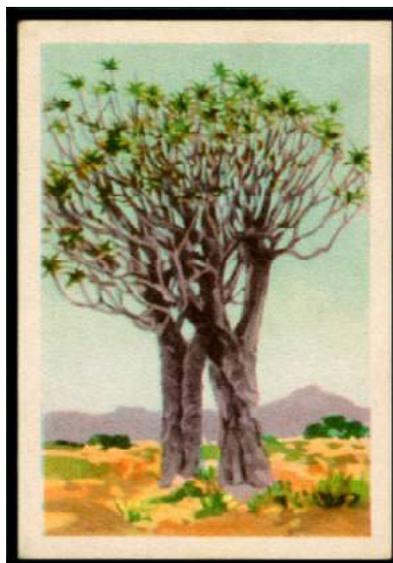


Tony Howgrave-Graham

**1906. Registered Letter from GOCHAS '25 1 06' to GIBEON.
Late use of Provisional datestamp with Wanderstempel Type V.
Putzel states it was "used from 13.12.1905 to 27. 1. 1906".
The Gochas town name was inserted with a canceller made from wood.**

Tony-Howgrave Graham advises: *"This Gochas cover is interesting because Gochas town name used in conjunction with the Wanderstempel is the only known example of a woodblock handstamp used in GSWA. It is almost certainly related to the postal sergeant having got to SWA via the Boxer rebellion in China (1899 - 1901) where such woodblock handstamps were used by the German forces there."*

Gochas (Nama. Roaring lions) lies south of Windhoek in central Great Namaqualand. One of the most stunning plants in this area is the kokerboom (Afr. Quiver tree), Aloe Dichotoma. It gets its name from the San's use of its stems to make quivers for their poisoned arrows. The tree is the most striking and distinctive plant of the western semi-deserts of southern Africa, extending from the Cape's Hantam across the Orange River into Great Namaqualand.

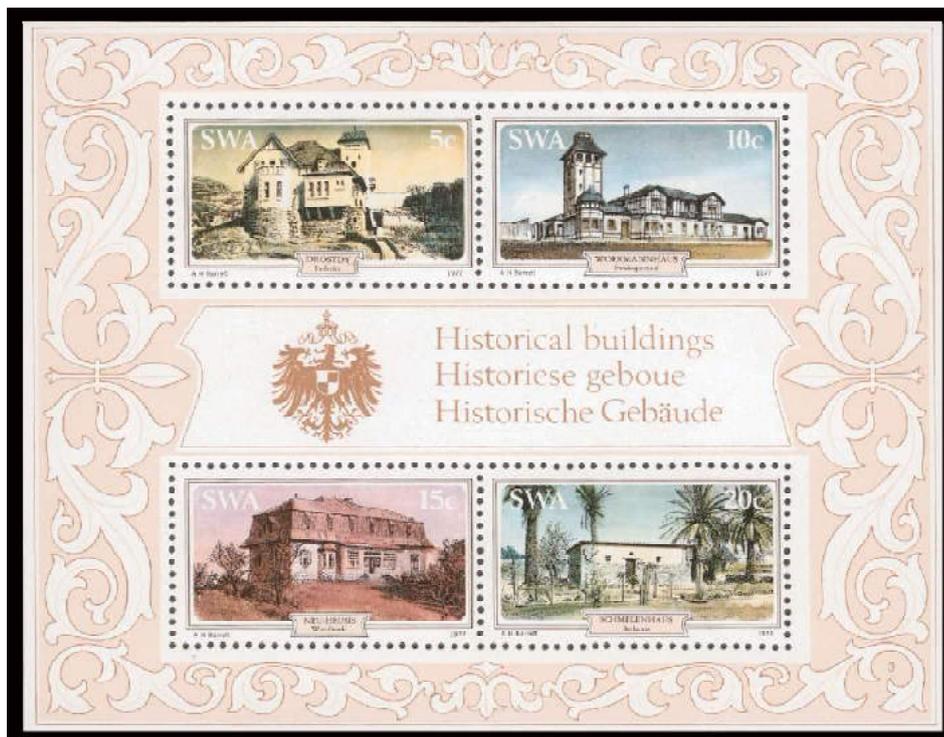


**Circa 1930.
South African Succulents.
Card No. 31.
Issued by the Westminster Tobacco
Co. (C. T. & L.) Ltd,
Lower Collingwood Road
Observatory, C.P.
(For an album, send 6d to PO Box 78,
Cape Town).**



1908. Cover from OTJIHAWERA '13 2 08' to GERMANY '21 3 08'.
The 10 Pfg 'overseas' rate is correctly paid with a single GSWA 10 Pfg adhesive.
 The Otjihawera Post Office opened in November 1907 and closed in May 1915.

With the dispossession of the Herero and Nama and the German 'peace' that followed there came a period of growing prosperity for the victors, the colonists. This was expressed in a mini-boom in the building of German-style houses, some of which are celebrated on four SWA miniature sheets.



1977. Miniature Sheet. 'Historic Houses'.
 5c. Drotty (Luderitz); 10c. Woermanhaus (Swakopmund);
 15c. Neu-Heusis (Windhoek); 20c Schmelenhaus (Bethanie).

Originally intended as a Field Postcard offering free postage to serving German troops, the item below has had 'Feldpostkarte' crossed out by hand. A 5 pfennig stamp has been dutifully attached to pay the civilian postcard rate to Germany. The stamp has been cancelled with an illegible datestamp. The name of the addressee has been removed. Is this an example of mail whose stamp was cancelled with a dumb datestamp intended to be used in conjunction with a town name handstamp which was not applied?



This light green Field Postcard appears to be uncommon. Few, if any, examples of it are shown in Putzel's book.

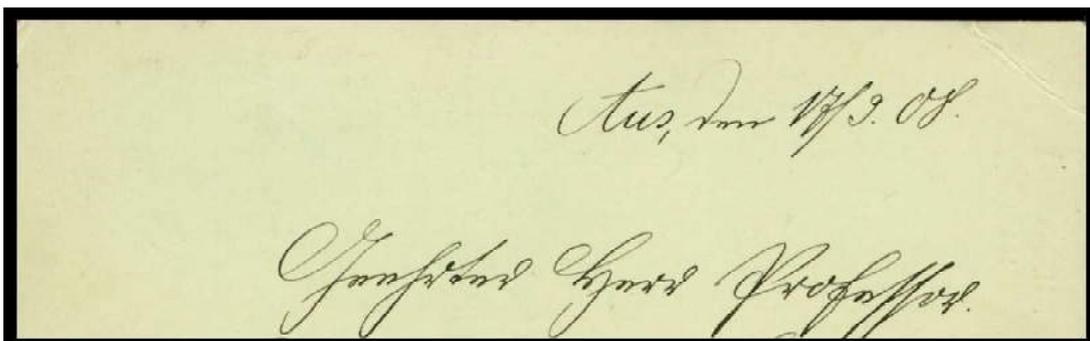


The Wanderstempel datestamp used in Aus (left) is Type 1, made from the original Otyimbigue canceller. Putzel states "it was used in Aus from 25 October to 21 December 1906" ie. it was discontinued before use of the datestamp shown below which is dated '19 08'. Could the canceller be the new incoming Aus datestamp (right)?

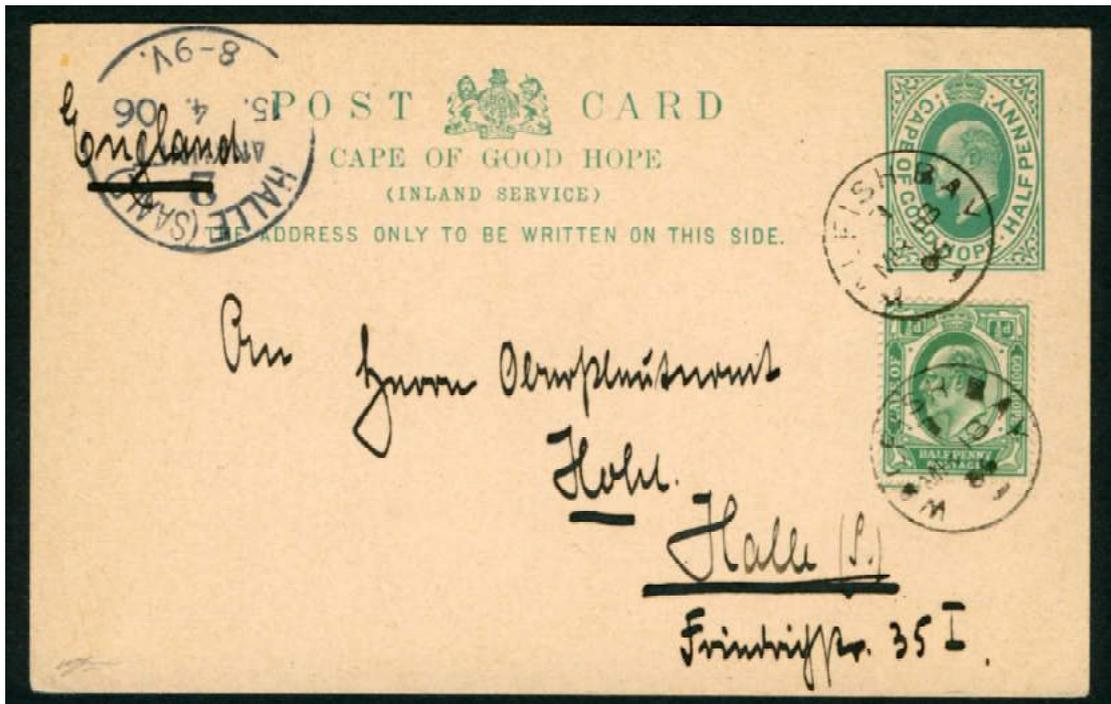


1908. Postcard. AUS (top) '19 08' to WEIMAR, GERMANY. '18 10 08'. 'Feldpostkarte deleted' and a 5 Pfg 'Yacht' stamp affixed to pay the postcard rate. With no discernible name, the canceller appears typical of a DUMB datestamp.

Below: Postcard headed Aus '17 9 08' (?)



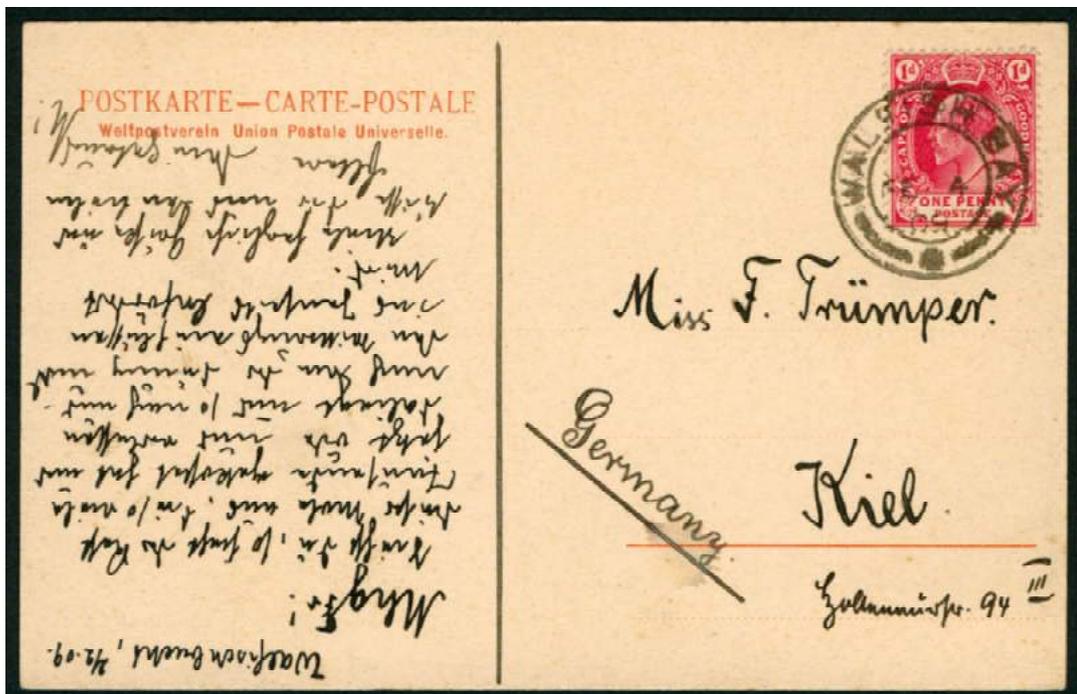
German Mail using Walvis Bay



Robert Hill

1906. Postcard. WALFISH BAY 'MR 18 06' to GERMANY '15 4 06'.

The Single Circle Walfish Bay Cancellor is a variety of the original datestamp supplied in 1885. The Time Code letter 'E' (above 'MR 18') is reversed and the Month is before the Day.



Robert Hill

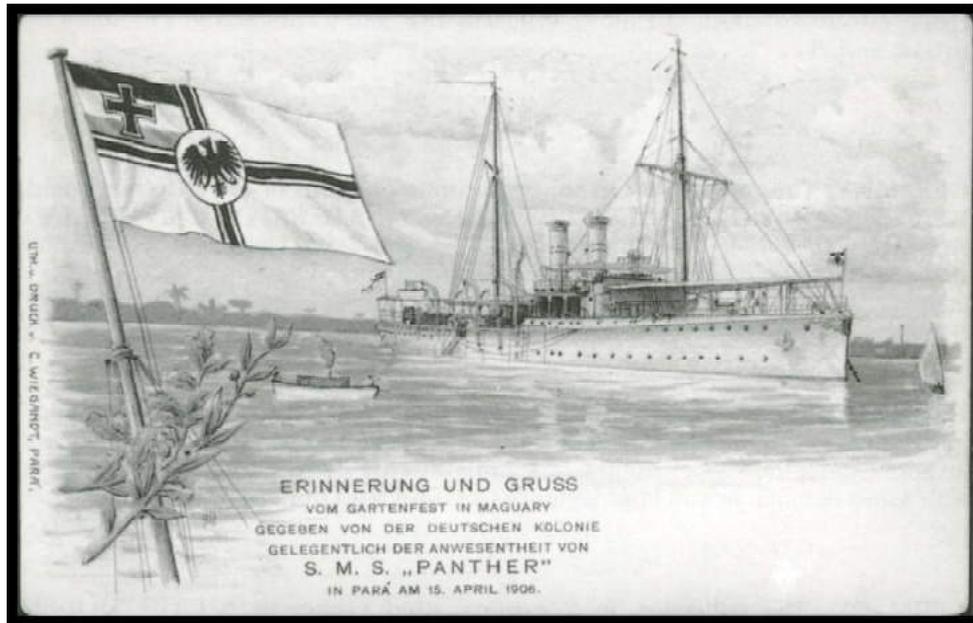
1909. Postcard. WALFISH BAY 'FE 4 09' to GERMANY. (No Time Code Letter).

This Walfish Bay Barred Double Circle datestamp is from the Cape Colony issue of 1900 - 1902.

The above Barred Double Circle Walfish Bay Cancellor was supplied when the Single Circle datestamp (top) was lost in a fire that destroyed the Walfish Bay Post Office in the early hours of 23rd June 1909. The long-serving Walfish Bay Single Circle datestamp (top) and BONC 300 were lost. This forced the Walfish Bay postmaster to manually cancel all mail from 23rd June to 5th July. See the following postcard to SMS Panther in Swakopmund, manuscript dated 'Walfish Bay 26/6/09'.

The Gunboat SMS Panther Visits GSWA

Few ships have a better claim to being a classic gunboat than the German Imperial Navy's SMS Panther. Launched in 1901 for colonial service she enforced German diplomacy through naval power, "housecleaning" Haitian rebels in the Caribbean, bombarding Fort San Carlos in the Naval Blockade of Venezuela with Great Britain and Italy and illegally kidnapping a German citizen in Brazil. In 1911 she gained notoriety for her part in the 'Agadir Crisis' in Morocco where she applied pressure on France in order to extract equatorial African territorial concessions, an incident that contributed to the international tensions that led to World War 1.



Robert Hill

1906. Postcard. SMS Panther "Memories and greetings from the garden festival in Maguary"
This commemorates the visit by SMS Panther to the German community in Para, Brazil.



Robert Hill

1909. Postcard. WALFISH BAY '28 6 09' to SWAKOPMUND. (S'MUND')
The COGH 1d Letter Card has been cancelled by hand (Manuscript).

The postcards on this and the preceding page not only show the "gunboat diplomacy" of the European powers in action and the postal use of Walfish Bay by Germans, one possibly a naval spy, but more importantly for postal history, they highlight and complete the circle of events surrounding the destruction by fire of the small and remote post office in Walfish Bay.

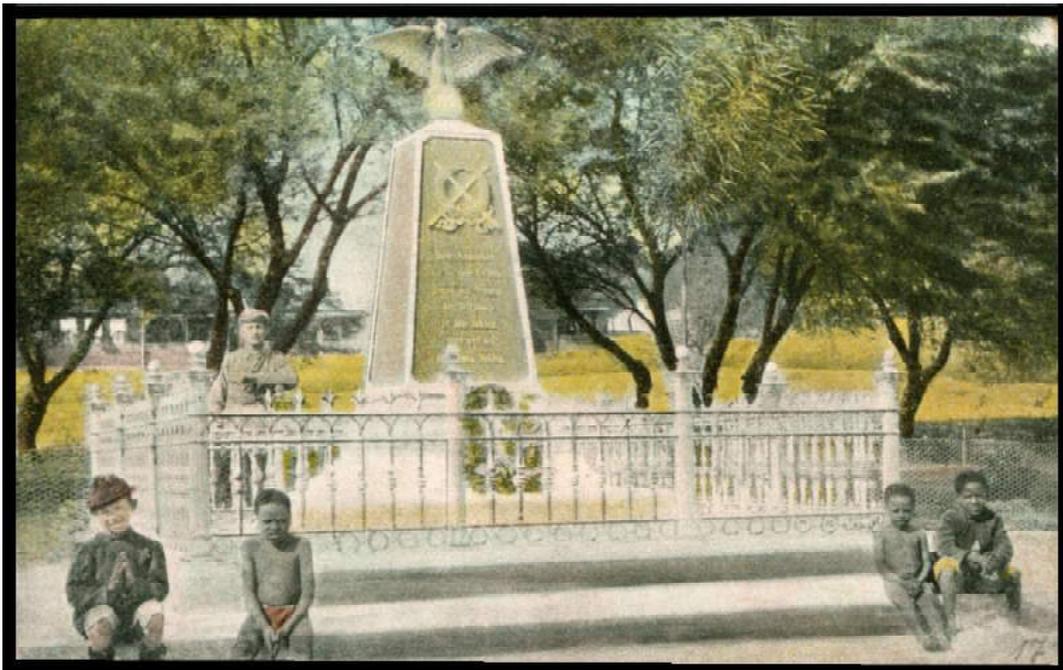
A War Memorial, Culture, Sex and Urchins



**Circa 1908. Unused Postcard. 'Sunday Concert in Tropical Garden, Windhuk'.
F. Nink Photograph, Windhuk. (Card No. 29).**

With the war won, a memorial is built to the German dead in the Tropical Garden.

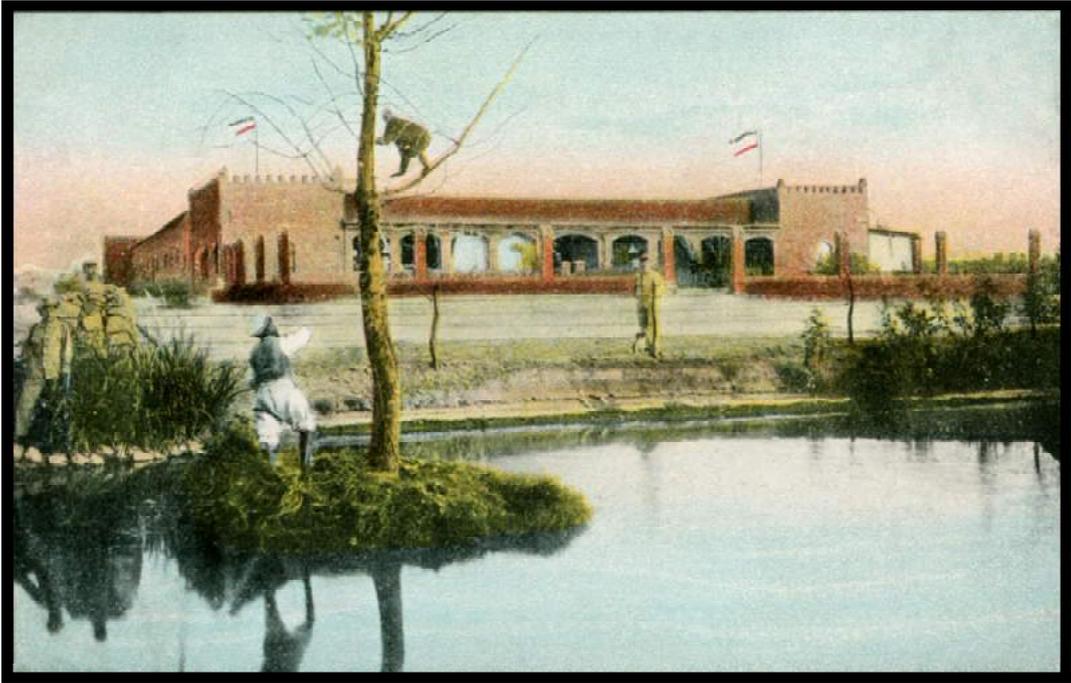
Sunday is a day for God and Cultural entertainment at the Kriegerdenkmal (Ger. War Memorial). Above, a mother and a child walk towards a military band playing beneath thorn trees in the Tropical Garden. While African women were routinely sexually exploited, whipped, and raped by the Schutztruppe and male settlers, German women were idealised as a civilising source and symbol of racial purity. Below, at the War Memorial a well-dressed German boy wearing a Bavarian trilby (and lederhosen?) sits alongside an grim semi-naked black boy. In these early street urchins, possibly war orphans, we see the devastating effect that German colonisation has had on the well-ordered tribal lives of young black people.



**Circa 1910. Unused Postcard. 'War Memorial, Windhuk, DSWA'.
Franz Spenker, Hamburg 19. (Card 7043).**

The colonial status quo, (backed by the army) - the ruling class master with the dispossessed.

The Colonial Garrison of GSWA



**Circa 1910. Unused Postcard. 'West Station, Omaruru, DSWA'.
Franz Spenker, Hamburg 19. (Card 7035).**

The design of this low, verandahed fort with crenellated corner towers is typical of many in GSWA.

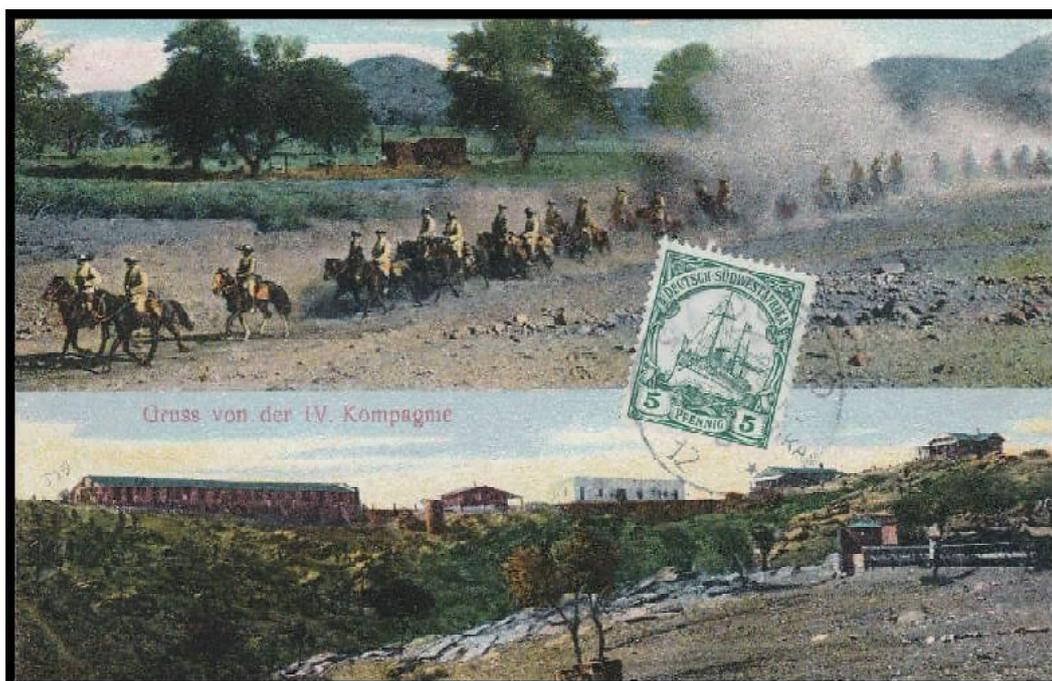
These two postcards show three bare-footed black boys with the German troops. In the group bottom left, two barefoot boys are wearing what appear to be German military caps. As all the German soldiers are wearing their caps or hats, it can be assumed that these have been given to the boys. This suggests that the German soldiers have some humanity. However, these children are most likely 'adopted' orphans of the genocide kept by the soldiers as mascots and or servants. There are South African precedents for such behaviour. As the Cape Dutch expanded into the southern African interior they waged a bitter genocidal war against the San, sparing only their children for servitude and or slavery.



**Circa 1910 Unused Postcard. 'Party in the Auas Mountains, DSWA'.
Franz Spenker, Hamburg 19. (Card 7050).**

With the war won, German troops are photographed unarmed on the highest mountain in central Namibia.

Maintaining Pax Germanica



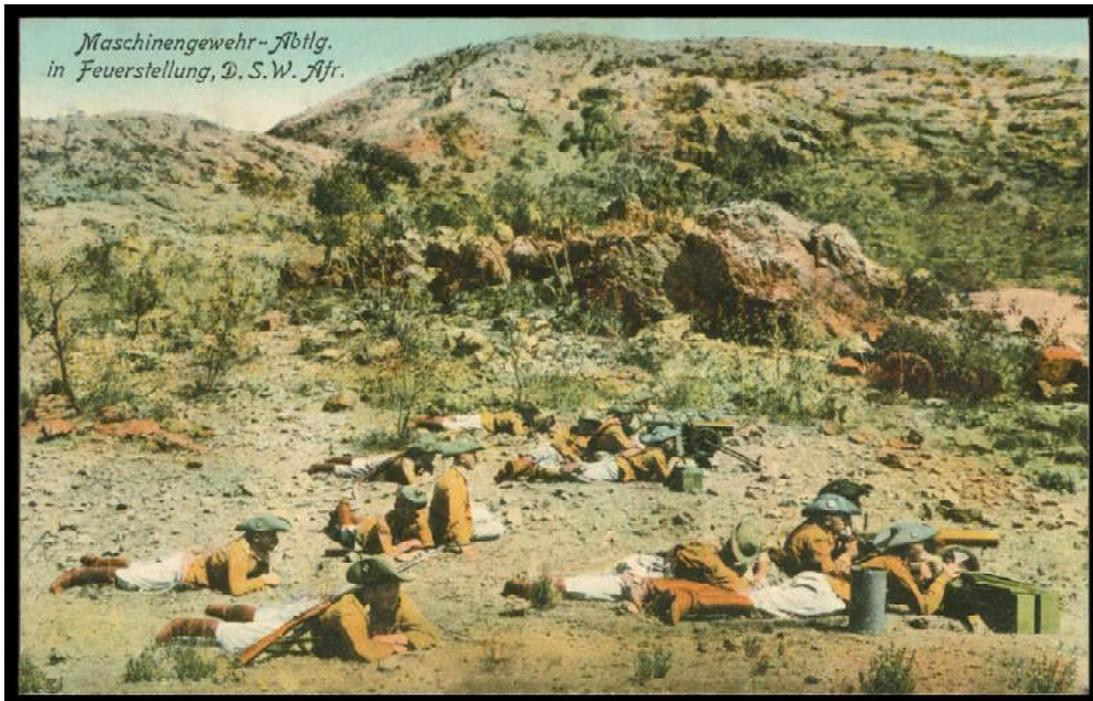
Tony Howgrave-Graham

1912. Postcard. OUTJO '11 6 12' to GERMANY. 'Greetings from the IV Company'.
The buildings are the fortified camp of the Schutztruppe, presumably in OUTJO.

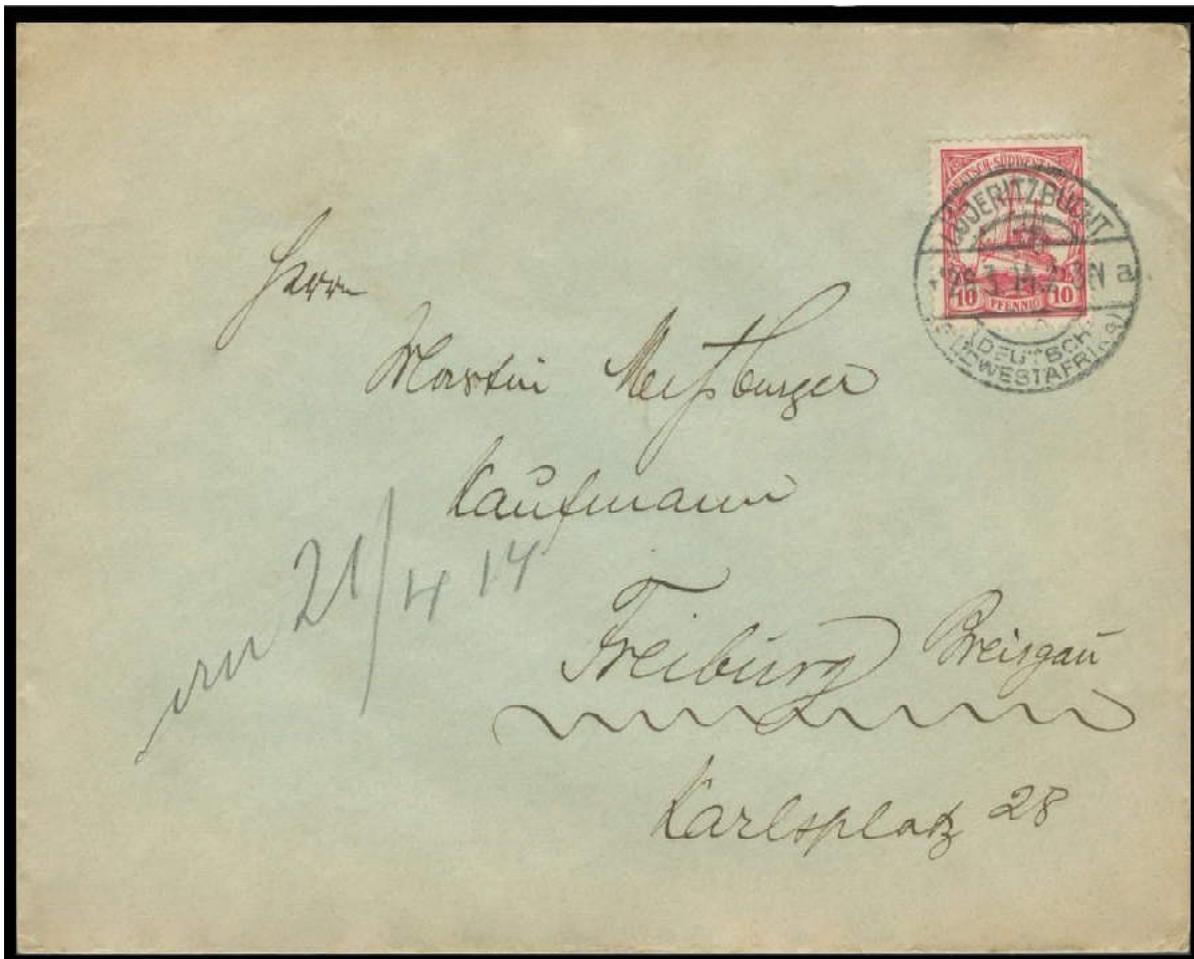


1913. Real Photo
Postcard from
WINDHUK '1 8 13' to
Usakos.
Posted with a 5 Pfg
stamp (Postcard Rate).

This soldier is possibly an officer, judging by the 'scrambled egg' on the epaulettes of his 'stepping out' uniform which appears to be khaki but not corduroy. He is wearing a cap, not a Südwest hat which is for wearing in the field rather than around Windhuk.



1913. Postcard 'Machine gun Section in Firing Position'. (2. F. Nink, Photograph, Windhoek.)
 Posted from OKAWAYO '23 11 13' cancelled KARIBIB '6 12 13' to KEETMANSHOOP.



1914. Cover from LUDERITZBUCHT '28 3 14' to GERMANY.
 The 10 Pfg 'overseas' rate is correctly paid with a single GSWA 10 Pfg adhesive.

Mail from the Burghers of GSWA



1914. Postcard from WINDHUK '18 7 14' to OKAHANDJA.
The 5 Pfg domestic rate is correctly paid with a single GSWA 5 Pfg adhesive.



1914. Postal Stationery 5 Pfg Postcard. WALDAU '19 8 14' to OKAHANDJA.

Putzel states " Office opened from 1.3.1903 and destroyed on 15.1.1904".

"The (first) datestamp was lost when the PO was plundered by Hereros"

When the PO reopened on 16.2.1905, it was supplied with its second datestamp above.

The example shown is a variety with oblique missing between Day / Month.

End of Part 1

Coming Soon: Part 2

SA's GSWA Campaign and the Period of 'Forerunner' Stamps: 1914 - 1923



1915. Punch. "A Clean Sweep.
The victorious General Botha sweeps the Kaiser out of SWA.

Would You Drink From This Mug?



Circa 2015. General Lothar von Trotha
Commander Schutztruppe Troop Mug
#9573. £8.58 Amazon.

To comment on this display, please [CLICK HERE](#).



The End

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13/07/2021

If you have questions and want to contact the Club, please contact:

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