

From the colony: departure of the expeditionary force John of Dar es Salaam

Deutsch-Ostafrika Zeitung, Vol. VII, No. 42, October 21, 1905

introduction

Here follows the report on the embarkation of the Johannes expeditionary force from Dar-es-Salaam on 16. October 1905 and the parade held before the departure for Governor Gustav Adolf Graf von Götzen.

The Expeditionary Force was deployed as part of the German forces fighting during the Maji-Maji Rebellion of 1905-06.

The text comes from the website Maji Maji Bibliography Project (Inka Chall), which was created on the occasion of the centenary of the Anniversary of this event in what was then German East Africa, now Tanzania. The website reproduces 67 contemporary documents from newspapers, reports, etc., unfortunately without the original illustrations and maps; a comprehensive index of people is also part of the website.

Reports Report on the activities of Major Johannes's detachment from November 18, 1905 to March 10, 1906, description, hvad der videre skete med Expedition Corps.

I am not aware of any illustrations from the parade itself, but the footage here is an attempt to illustrate the event.

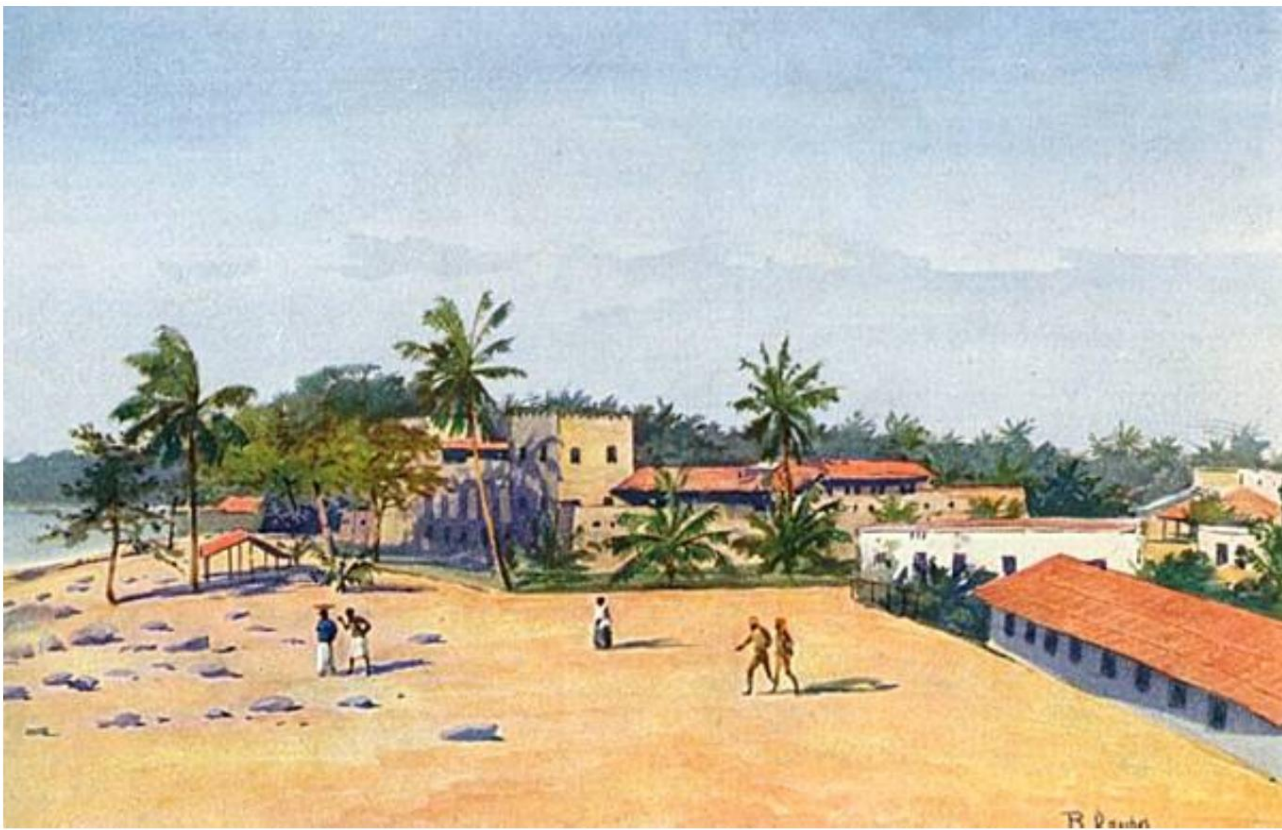
Departure of the John of Dar es Salaam Expeditionary Force

On October 16th the expeditionary corps under the command of Major Johannes and destined for Ssongea was embarked.

They had understood how to assemble the troops for the expeditionary corps, to train them and to prepare them for war with almost admirable speed. The expeditionary corps will consist of the 8th and 13th companies of 150 men each, the forward detachment of 100 men and 73 armed with breech-loading irregulars who had previously been trained in shooting in Dar es Salaam.

The final formation of the expeditionary corps has meanwhile taken place in Kilwa, where the detachments of Marwitz and Lincke, reinforced by ten Askaris transferred from Dar es Salaam, have been brought together to form the 13th Company.

The expeditionary corps began its advance westwards on October 20th and was divided into three columns for this purpose, which first advanced concentrically from Kilwa, Kiswere and Lindi towards Liwale, and from there marched together towards Ssongea.



Kilwa Kiwindje, after a painting by R. Duschek.

From a German postcard circa 1911.

See the postscript for details.

The Kilwa detachment, which includes the staff of the expeditionary corps with 1 machine gun, is formed by 50 Askari of the 8th company under the command of Oberleutnant Freiherr von Wangenheim, a 30-man marine infantry detachment with machine guns under Captain von Wangenheim. Schlichting, as well as the 100-strong stage detachment under Lieutenant Frank with 25 irregulars.

The Kiswere detachment consists of the remaining two platoons (100 men) of the 8th company under Hauptmann v. glue.

The entire 13th Company (150 Askari, 1 machine gun, with 25 irregulars marches from Lindi to Liwale via Ilulu, an insurgent headquarters.

Stage stations, whose heliographic connection is aimed at if possible, are initially planned in Mawudji, the place of residence of the rebel leader Ali Galinga, in Muira, Bembetu and on the Mbarangandu river. Arbitration occupied. In Kilwa, the starting point of the stage, a depot is set up, the management of which is assigned to the purser aspirant Schepler.

In addition to the troops intended for the Johannes Expeditionary Corps, two other detachments with special assignments were transferred to Kilwa at the same time.

The first of these stands under Oberleutnant v. Grawert, is 1 officer, 1 doctor, 1 corporal, 50 askaris, 1 machine gun, 25 irregulars and 200 ruga-ruga strong, she is intended to reinforce the garrison in the Matumbi Mountains. The second department, led by Oberleutnant Schulz, is to take over the protection of the railway study commission with 1 non-commissioned officer and 40 Askari, which intends to complete the preparatory work for the southern railway to Nyassa by April of next year.

On the day of their embarkation, the governor had assembled these detachments at 800 meters on the Bismarckplatz in order to say goodbye to them personally. Considering the military conditions in our protectorate, it was a very sizeable force, which to the sound of fiery,

home marches through the street "Unter den Akazien" through Bismarckstrasse and along the Wilhelmsufer to the Paradeplatz.

Arrived on this, the detachments lined up one behind the other in the following order: 8th company, detachment of the

Lieutenant von Grawert and railway command, stage detachment, auxiliary warriors with the front to the east.



From a parade in German East Africa on January 27, 1912 1). [__](#)
From Colonial Image Archive (University of Frankfurt am Main).

At 8 o'clock sharp the governor appeared, accompanied by his adjutant. After receiving the message from Major Johannes, while the music was pounding and the detachments presented, he paced the front of the latter, and then addressed the troops in Kiswahili as follows (in German translation) 2) :

—

"Soldier!

I lined you up because I want to see you one more time before you go to war. You have heard that in Kilwa and in other districts the Vashenzi are at war, that they murder men, women and children, that they make trade and farming impossible.

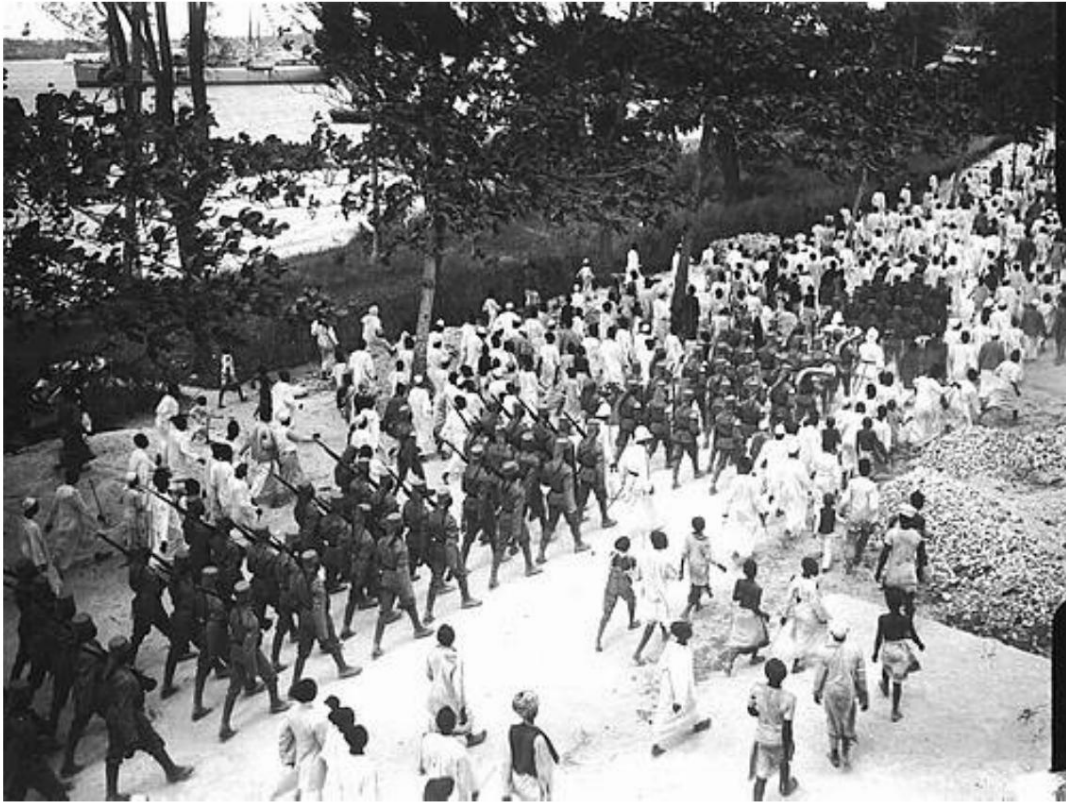
But we are here to keep the country in peace. Therefore, I want those wrongdoers to be punished.

When you are at war, follow your leaders and do your job well like brave soldiers. But my wish is that each of you return healthy.

Lebt wohl Askari!" [Blessed Soldier!]

The farewell greeting "*kwa heri*" was loudly returned to the governor. After he had said goodbye to the officers and non-commissioned officers, the departments formed up to march past in section columns. Even if some of the young warriors were not quite clear about the connection that must exist according to regulations between the rhythm of the music and the right and left foot, they did

departments still made a very good impression thanks to their fresh attitude and new equipment.



From a parade in German East Africa 3). [___](#)
From Colonial Image Archive (University of Frankfurt am Main).

Immediately after the march past, the embarkation of the teams took place, which took place promptly without any incident with the help of boats from the warships and at 1015 am. was finished. Some tender farewell scenes could be observed here. The two cruisers "BUSSARD" and "SEEADLER" 4) then went 1030 a.m. to Kilwa, while the government steamer "Kaiser Wilhelm", where Major Johannes was on board, did not follow until 0500 pm.

The disembarkation in Kilwa went just as smoothly as the embarkation in Dar es Salaam. Lieutenant von Grawert's detachment began the march from Kilwa via Matandu, Mnyambondo and Mtumbei on the afternoon of October 18, while the three columns of the expeditionary force, as already mentioned, advanced on Liwale on October 20.

The distribution of Europeans among the individual departments is as follows:

- 1st **Staff:** Major Johannes, Lieutenant v. Lindeiner, Medical Officer Dr. Engeland, Feuerwerker Ringk.
2. **8th company:** Captain v. Kleist, First Lieutenant Freiherr v. Wangenheim, Lieutenant Linke, Sergeant Heindl, NCOs Plock and Hansemann, Medical NCO Jenischewski.
3. **13th company:** Lieutenant v. d Marwitz, Lieutenant Hudemann, Lieutenant Sibberns, Sergeant Demmel, Deputy Sergeant Krella, NCOs Koch and Tost, Medical NCO Teschner.
- 4th **Stage:** First Lieutenant Frank, purser aspirant Schepler, Sergeant Standan, non-commissioned officers Stadler and Barth.
- 5th **detachment for the protection of the railway preparatory work:** Lieutenant Schulz, non-commissioned officer frill.
- 6th **department Matumbiberge:** First Lieutenant von Grawert, Lieutenant von Dobbeler, intern Dr. Fabry, Sergeant Frederick.

Addendum - The postcard from Kilwa Kiwindje

The reverse of the postcard contains the following translated description, based on information provided by Hauptmann zD (zu Disposition) A. Fonck 5), who served 15 years in the Schutztruppe in German East Africa. The motif is a reproduction of a painting by R. Duschek.

The motif

“The day's service is over for the colored Sudanese company. The parade ground lies deserted in the midday sun. One hears children loudly offering fish, which they carry in low baskets on their heads. Attracted by the shouts of "Samaki" (Swahili for fish), some of the unmarried soldiers immediately leave the barracks, low-rise buildings with red corrugated iron roofs.

Most Sudanese Askari soldiers brought their wives and children along with their other belongings from Egypt. In the kitchen area behind the barracks, the soldiers' wives and servants now prepare meals of rice and corn. Each soldier has his own boy, a private servant who works without pay (au pair). From time to time the servant receives some of his master's discarded clothes, but he rarely sees any cash.

In the small garden at the end of the barracks is the hospital, an older, white Arab house that was filled with feverish malaria patients both during and after the rainy season earlier this year.

To the right of the barracks are the windows of the White Mosque from which Hassan bin Omar unexpectedly opened fire on the barracks early one morning in 1894. The stars twinkled faintly in the cloudless sky that early morning as the muezzin called the faithful to prayer in his slow and monotonous voice.

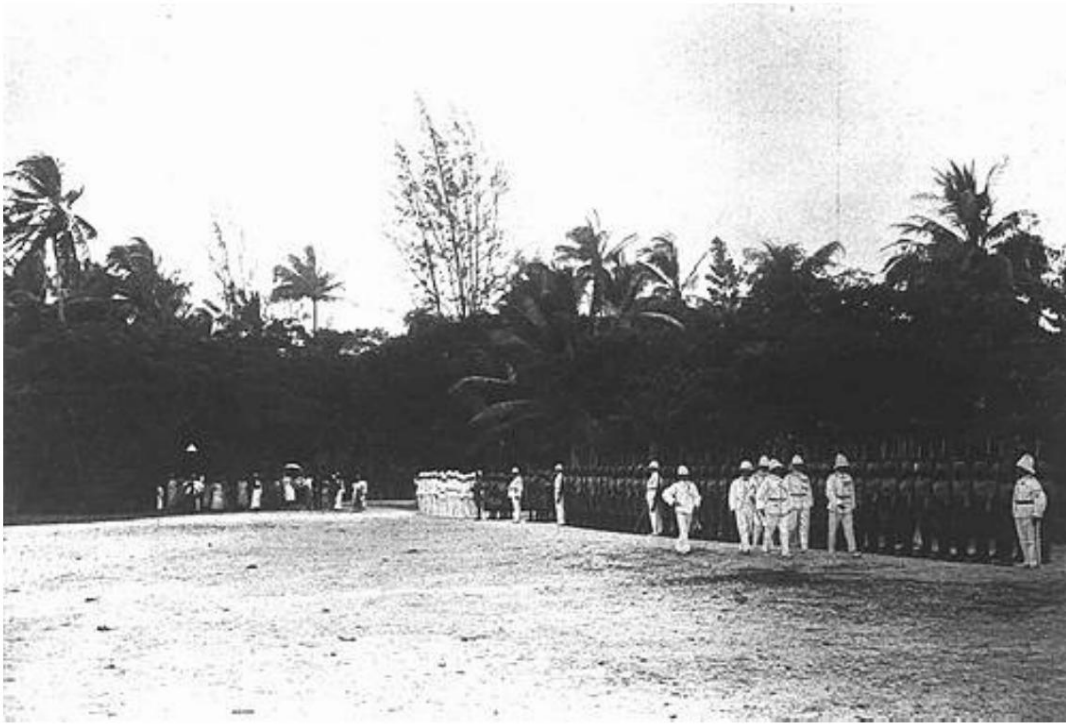
However, the strength of the fort and the bravery of the soldiers caused the attack to fail.

About the action of Hassan bin Omar

A description of the events that, to my knowledge, took place on September 7, 1894 can be found in the official press of Prussia, Latest Communications, Berlin, Tuesday, November 6, 1894 (Berlin State Library), which is reproduced in part from a report by the District Administrator Freiherr von Eberstein .

About the postcard

The postcard is a reproduction of one of 24 illustrations by R. Duschek that were published in the book The natural beauty of German tropics - The population and development, by Captain A. Fonck, Graphische Kunstanstalt Schneider & Co., Altenburg, 1911.



From German East Africa - A parade in Dar-es-Salaam. by Hauptmannon Colonial Image Archive (University of Frankfurt am Main).

In a copy for sale at Antiquariat Breuer, item 822, the following illustrations from the book are mentioned: Dar es Salaam, Kilwa Kiwindje, Kilwa Kisiwani, Zanzibar, Alt-Langenburg station on North Nyassa Lake, Mpapua station, Agogo landscape, Maasai Kraal, Gurui Mountain, Uhehe Scenery, Wahehe Village and Raid Battle.

The picture is a reproduction of the Illustrated Newspaper, 20 November 1902, and the archive records state that it is Landeshauptmann Adolf Graf von Götzen who inspects the parade.

The governor is believed to be the second person in white uniform counted from the right in the group of officers.

From March 12, 1901 to April 15, 1906, von Götzen was governor of German East Africa [6](#). —

Per Finsted

To note:

- 1) The photo was taken by a person named Hebebrand, but further details are not available.
- 2) The original source of the speech in "Kiswahili" (Swahili) is omitted here.
- 3) There is no other information about the photograph other than that it can probably be dated between 1907 and 1914. The warship in the background cannot currently be identified.
The Askaris, unlike the soldiers mentioned in this report, appear to be able to tell the difference between the right foot and the left foot.
- 4) Images of SMS BUSSARD and her sister ship SMS SEEADLER are reproduced in SMS Bussard (German protected areas). See also SMS Bussard (1890) and SMS Seeadler (1892) (Wikipedia).
- 5) 5) For Captain August Fonck see Fonck, August (Deutsches Colonial-Lexikon, 1920).
- 6) German East Africa - German colony from 1885 to 1919 (German protectorates).