

LEARNING THROUGH THE ARTS

In The Line of Duty: Askaris of The British Empire



A touring photo exhibition documenting the many
contributions and sacrifices made by African soldiers
during the Great War (1914-1918)



In The Line of Duty: Askaris of The British Empire

A touring photo exhibition visiting Luton Centre Library, The Radlett Library, The Reel Cinema and Stevenage Museum.

Much of what we learn about the First World War revolves around British Soldiers, and their hardships on the Western Front. However, there were other battlefields, and a wide range of people involved in the global supremacy between the major European nations.

The exhibition illustrates individual stories of men from the King African Rifles who fought alongside the British troops at the Western Front and other parts of the British Empire. Some of them served as Soldiers, Porters and Carriers.

In some cases, due to limited photography available, we have included photographs of French and German 'Askaris' soldiers to help illustrate different aspects of the African involvement.

'Askaris' are locally recruited soldiers employed by the British and other European nations, during the period of the colonial empires in Africa

As we celebrate Black History Month and commemorate the centenary of The Great War (1914 -1918), we remember the sacrifices, heritage and contributions of the 2 million Africans affected by The Great War.



Recruitment, Call to Arms and Separation



© IWM (PST 12329)

A sample of a WWI recruitment poster, featuring Alfred Leete's portrait of Lord Kitchener and an image of mother and child.



Das Bundesarchiv (Bild 146-1982-170-03A)

A new recruit says goodbye to his family. 1903/1918 ca.

Photo: Walther Dobbertin



© IWM (Q 15597)

A bugler of the 3rd Battalion Nigeria Regiment sounds the Hause Farewell.



© IWM (Q 17049)

His Excellency the Governor General of Nigeria, Sir Frederick Lugard, addressing a draft of the Nigeria Regiment on board the HMT HYMETTUS.



© IWM (Q15592)

German East African campaign. Men of the 3rd Nigerian Battalion felt the cold when nearing Cape town on board the MENDI. November 1916.



The Road to War



© IWM (Q 17054)

Nigerian Overseas Expeditionary Force on return from East Africa. Lagos.



© IWM (Q45771)

Following mobilisation, 1st Battalion The Nigeria Regiment entrain at Kaduna for Lagos



© IWM (Q 78086)

Senegalese troops entraining at the station at Frejus (Var) for the front, 20 June 1916.



© IWM (Q 17055)

Draft of Nigerian Regiment from Lokoja en route to embark for East Africa.



© IWM (Q 70084)

Senegalese troops of the French Army on the march after disembarkation in southern France. Saint Raphael, 1916.



© IWM (Q 45775)

1st Battalion, Nigeria Regiment marching in enemy country in the German Cameroons, August 1916.

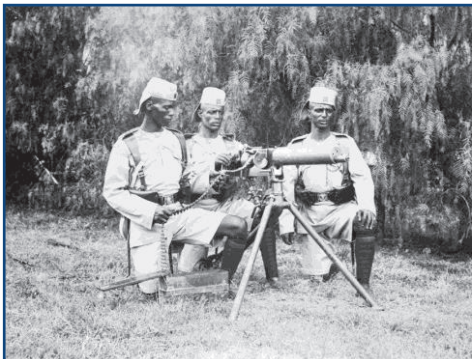


Shooting Practice and Soldiers in Combat



© Alamy (B5MRRM)

German East Africa.
Askari soldiers practice
shooting. 1914-1918 ca.



© IWM (Q 52538)

King's African Rifles with
Maxim gun.



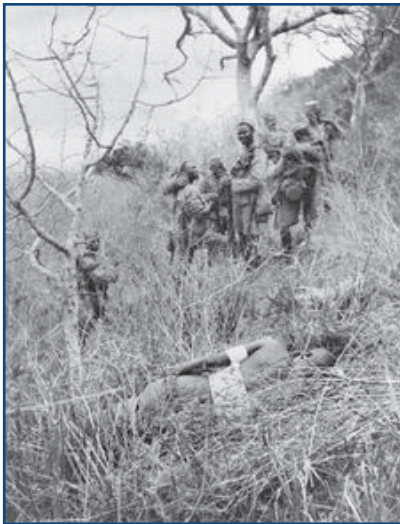
© IWM (Q 34470)

Men of the 1/4th King's
African Rifles at Njombe,
German East Africa.



© IWM (Q 53431)

Senegalese Tirailleurs (French colonial infantry) serving with the French Army at Dunkirk, November 1914.



© IWM (Q 67818)

Men of the 4th Battalion, King's African Rifles watch over a wounded German Askari soldier after a patrol fight in the bush.

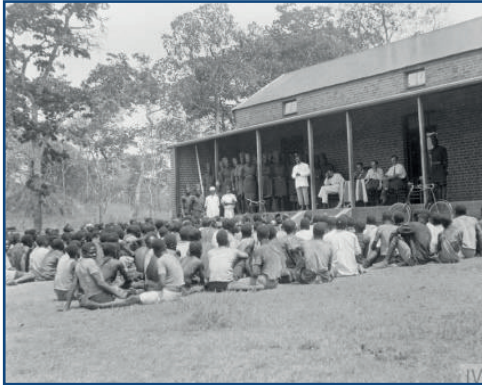


© IWM (Q 45752)

Stretchers bearers of the 3rd Battalion, King's African Rifles, Longido, September 1915



Porters, Carriers and Men Digging Trenches



© IWM (Q I7075)

Paramount Chief Musokantanda of the Balundam and Bakaonde, accompanied by his Kalalantanda, Mukumbi.



© IWM (Q I7071)

Group of war carriers taken at Fort Jameson.



© IWM (Q I5625)

German East African Campaign. Kavirondo (BEA) porters of the 2nd Road Corps. Chikukwe Swamp, January 1918.



© IWM (Q 34466)

Native women constructing a road in the Tanganyika district.



© IWM (Q 15528)

German East African Campaign.
No. 10 Workshop Unit
moving forward on Line of
Communication



© IWM (Q 4881)

Troops of South African Native
Labour Corps digging sand in a
camp at Dannes, March 1917.



© IWM (Q 4880)

Troops of the South African Native Labour corps round a brazier at their camp. Dannes, March 1917



© IWM (Q 4878)

Two soldiers of the South African Native Labour corps greasing their feet. Dannes, March 1917.



© IWM (Q 4877)

Soldiers of the South African Native Labour Corps waiting their turn to have a bath.



Victory Parade, Celebration and Honours



© Alamy (B2JM6X)

Deutsch-Ostafrika
Schutztruppe, Askaris.
1906/1919 ca.

Photo: Walther Dobbertin



© IWM (Q 2386)

Soldiers of the South African
Native Labour Corps seen doing
a 'war dance' during a sports day
at Dannes, 1917.



© IWM (Q 2382)

Two soldiers of the South
African Native Labour Corps
seen during a 'war dance' and
sports day.



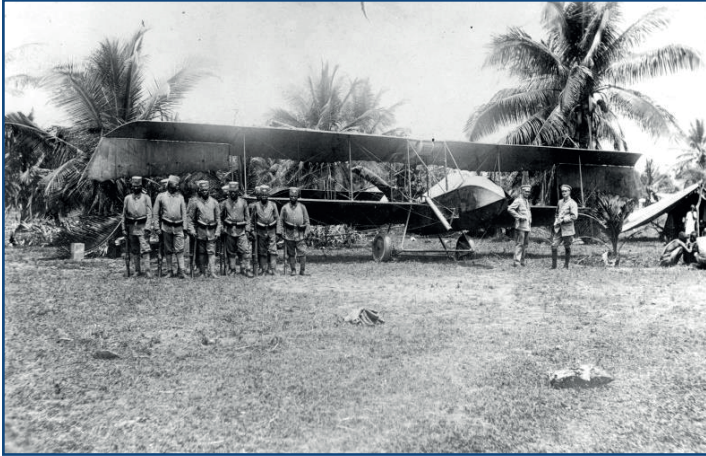
© Alamy (ACWY17)

WWI Company of Askari Riflemen fighting for the Germans are led by their small band in German East Africa.



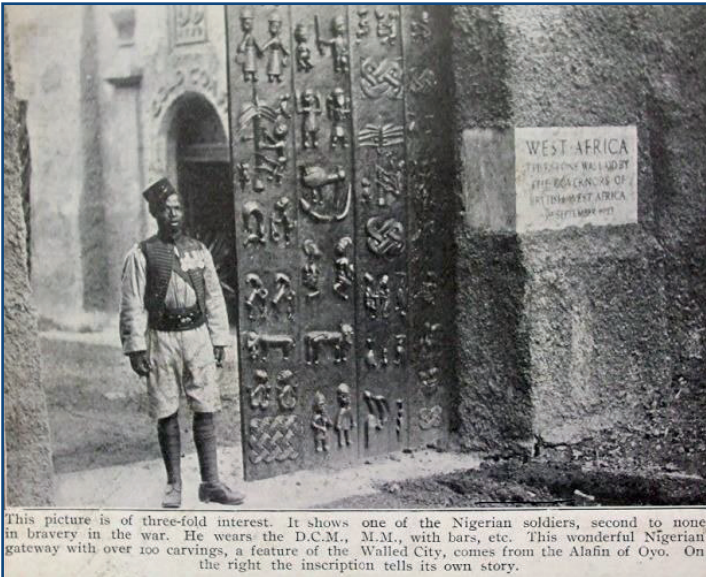
© Alamy (B5MRRD)

Askaris on machine gun in German East Africa, now Tanzania



© Alamy (B5MRTX)

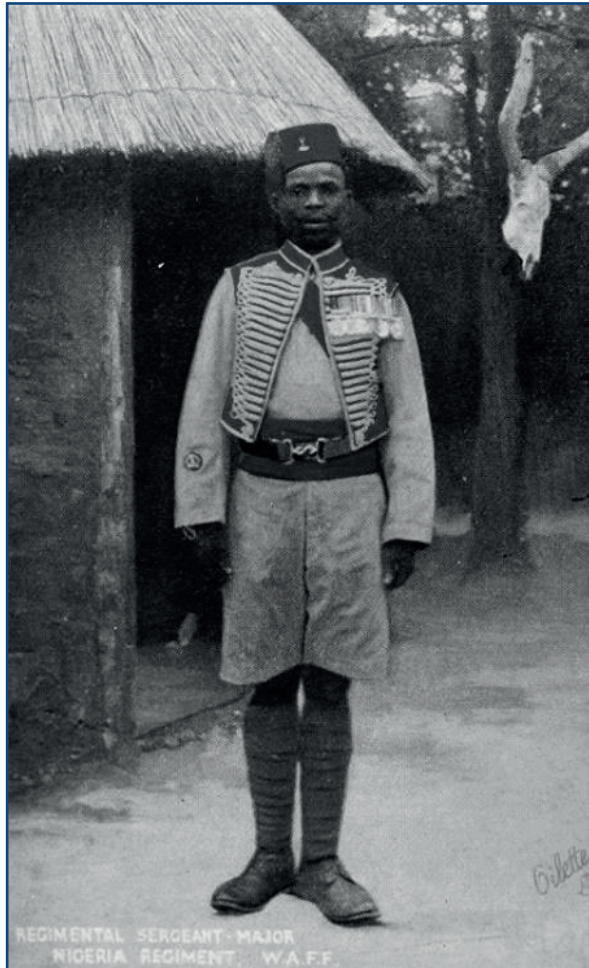
Askaris stand by an aeroplane in German East Africa, now Tanzania



This picture is of three-fold interest. It shows one of the Nigerian soldiers, second to none in bravery in the war. He wears the D.C.M., M.M., with bars, etc. This wonderful Nigerian gateway with over 100 carvings, a feature of the Walled City, comes from the Alafin of Oyo. On the right the inscription tells its own story.

Sergeant-Major Belo Akure with his military medal.

Brent Museum and Archives.



Belo Akure. He wears the D.C.M, M.M with bars at the Empire Exhibitions in Wembley. 1924.

Brent Museum and Archives.



© IWM (Q 17124)

Women grain sellers at Fort Rosebery (Mansa) with food for troops operating on the border of Northern Rhodesia (Zambia).



© IWM (Q 4885)

Members of the Military Police of the South African Native Labour Corps camp at Dannes, March 1917.

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His Excellency the Governor General of Nigeria, Sir Frederick Lugard, inspecting wounded soldiers of the Nigeria Regiment.



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