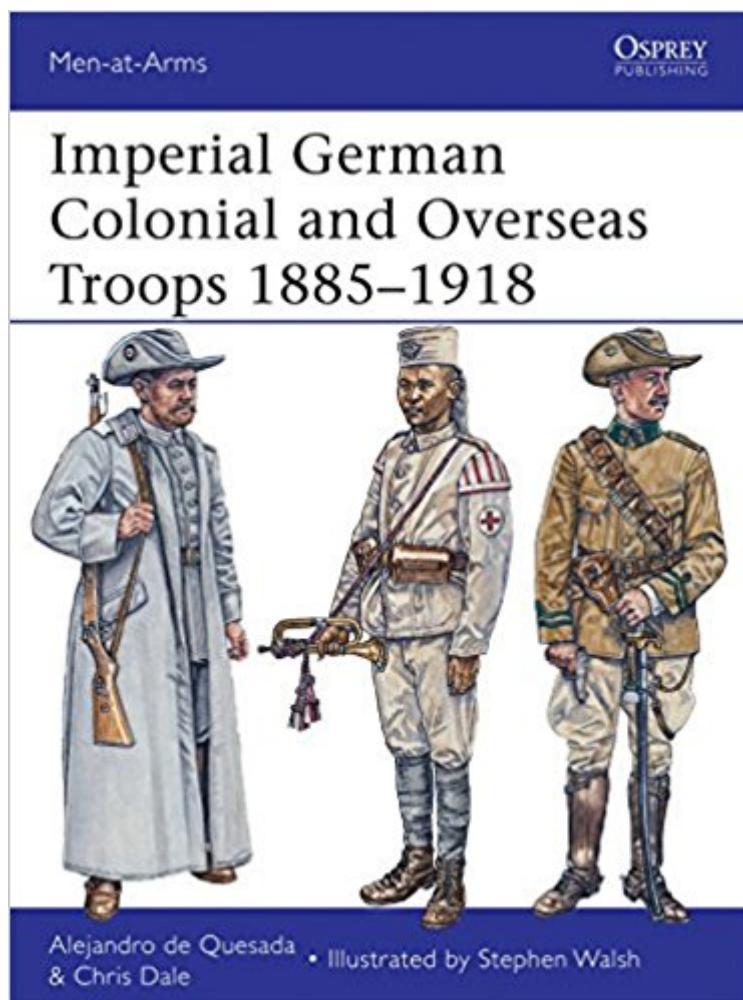


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# Imperial German Colonial And Overseas Troops 1885–1918 (Men-at-Arms)



## Synopsis

From the Boxer Rebellion to Tsingtao to German East Africa (Tanzania), and colonies across Africa and the central Pacific, the Kaiser's Second Reich created a worldwide empire, and then lost it. Following Prussia's victory over France in 1871 and German unification, the invigorated Second Reich sought international status alongside the older colonial powers - Britain, France, Spain and Russia. Actual overseas settlement was always sparse, counted in the low tens of thousands only, but by the mid-1880s German trading companies had established footholds in what became German East Africa (Tanzania), German South-West Africa (Namibia), and German West Africa (Cameroon, and Togo). To consolidate their position against native resistance, and to extend their frontiers, the German Imperial government soon took over these enclaves as colonies or 'protectorates'. In the 1890s it established a new branch of the armed forces, the Schutztruppe, composed largely of African askaris with German officers and NCOs, backed up by German artillery and machine guns. In parallel, the Imperial Navy raised marine battalions - eventually, three Seebataillone - to protect its overseas bases and to reinforce the colonies as needed. After German participation in putting down the Boxer Rebellion (1900) their primary responsibility was the German concession territory at Tsingtao in China, where Germany also raised a local East Asia Brigade; but the marines also served in the German Pacific possessions - Samoa, New Guinea, the Bismarck Archipelago, the Northern Solomon Islands, the Marshalls, Marianas and Carolines. Marine companies were also rotated through the African colonies at need. In addition to small-scale 'police' work, the brief German colonial period involved putting down rebellions in East Africa (1888-98) and Cameroon, and crushing - with great ruthlessness - the determined resistance of the Herero and Nama tribes in SW Africa (1890-1907), where there was a degree of German settlement. In World War I, Germany soon lost almost all her colonies to much stronger Allied forces. In China, Tsingtao was captured late in 1914 by a Japanese force with token British assistance. Resistance was minimal in the Pacific; and in 1915 the last defenders of German South-West Africa surrendered to South African forces. However, in East Africa the Schutztruppe, commanded by the very able Col (later MajGen) Paul von Lettow-Vorbeck, fought a skillful mobile war against much larger British and Empire forces, and were the very last German troops to surrender in November 1918. Meanwhile, the Navy's marine infantry branch had been enlarged, forming first one, then two Marine Divisions, which fought on the Western Front - including the Ypres and Somme sectors - throughout the war. Featuring specially drawn full-colour artwork, this book tells the story of Imperial Germany's colonial and overseas troops, who fought in a host of environments including China, Africa, and the Western Front of World War I.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

For any hobbyist seeking inspirations for collecting, building dioramas and making models.

Alejandro de Quesada is a Florida-based military history writer, an experienced researcher, and collector of militaria, photos, and documents. He runs an archive and historical consultancy for museums and films as a secondary business. Alejandro has written over 100 articles and over 25 books, including several for Osprey. Chris Dale is a professional musician and musical technician. He has had a lifelong interest in military history, and in his spare time researches the German colonies and their armed forces for his website [www.GermanColonialUniforms.co.uk](http://www.GermanColonialUniforms.co.uk).

The Rating System 0 to 5 with 0 the lowest score and 5 the highest and NA for not applicable:  
Books (nonfiction) Content 5 Coverage of topic 5 Adequacy of descriptions 5 Detail 4 Accuracy 4 References 3 Illustrations 5 Size 5 Detail 5 Captions 5 Sufficient Maps 2 Sufficient Drawings 3 Sufficient Photos 5 Product worth the price - Yes, 5. There is nothing to fault with the text which covers a significant era in colonial expansion and is an excellent introduction to the role played by the Germans. The campaigns are adequately summarized, and the only fault with the book is that there is not a single map. It is doubtful most readers will be knowledgeable in the location of places mentioned in German Togo, Cameron, Southwest Africa and East Africa and

some of the non-African locations. Since Osprey's editors overlooked a need for a decent map with blowups of the areas concerned, the reader should equip himself with one before reading through the text.

There are more comprehensive books about German colonial uniforms and troops out there but they are hard to find and prohibitively expensive. I am glad to have this addition to my WWI collection as I have a special interest in the colonial campaigns. As usual the illustrations in these osprey titles bring these minor theatres of WWI and the colonial wars to life. I wish the history which explains the campaigns were a little more detailed, but I understand the space constraints for this type of book.

This book meets the expectation of excellence that I have come expect from Osprey. It is concisely written. It tells the story of the leaders and ordinary soldiers both German and native of Germany's far flung Colonial Empire in an fascinating manner. The illustrations and the explanations of those illustrations are outstanding. Anyone who has an interest in late 19th century and early 20th century colonial empires in addition to the First World War will want to purchase this book.

This is a nice reference, and the kind of quality work I've come to expect from Osprey. It gives us an overview of the uniforms and insignia used, not only by the Germans deployed in the old empire, from Africa to Samoa and China, but also for the native troops employed by them. It also tells us of the campaigns to put down native rebellions. It finishes with the WWI taking of German colonies, and the colonial veterans associations after the First World War. Give it a look.

RECENT OSPREY ENTRY ON GERMAN COLONIAL OVERSEAS TROOPS IS ANOTHER GREAT ISSUE IN THE SERIES. WELL WRITTEN NARRATIVE BY THE AUTHOR COULD HAVE BENEFITED BY A COUPLE OF MAPS OF AFRICA, NEW GUINEA, AND THE GENERAL AREA OF THE SOUTH-PACIFIC. EASY TO READ AND ENJOYABLE. FILLS IN SOME GAPS IN THE HISTORY OF WORLD WAR 1 OUTSIDE THE EUROPEAN THEATER.

Outstanding short account. The first in english I've come accross on many of these troops. It is very hard to find anything in English on the Imperial German overseas pocessions and the soldiers who conquered and policed them.

It wasn't exactly what I was looking for but I learned so much on the German activities in the Pacific. Helped better my understanding for some research.

If you like osprey books you will like this. A good basic overview of Germany's colonial endeavors accompanied by quality plates of colonial troop uniforms.

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