

The British Armed Forces during the World Wars



All the pictures are from the Imperial War Museums Collections.

‘IWM supports and encourages research into our collections and they are open to the public’.

Share and Reuse

Many items are available to be shared and re-used under the terms of the IWM Non- Commercial License.

The photographs used in this exhibition are ‘share and reuse’ items.

Imperial War Museums

IWM London

“Our London museum tells the stories of people’s experiences of modern war from WW1 to conflicts today.”

Free admission

IWM London
Lambeth Road
London SE1 6HZ

10am - 6pm every day

IWM North

“Visit our iconic museum in Manchester and explore how war affects people’s lives.”

Free admission

IWM North
The Quays
Trafford Wharf Road
Manchester M17 1TZ

10am - 5pm every day

IWM Duxford

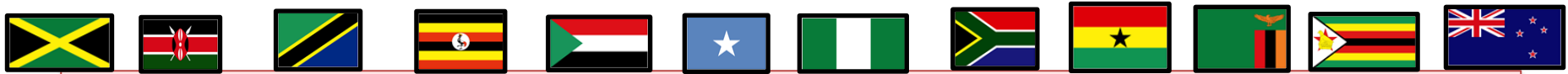
“Visit this historic airfield and museum of aviation history and discover the stories of people who lived and worked at RAF Duxford.”

See website for ticket prices

IWM Duxford
Cambridgeshire CB22 4QR

10am - 6pm every day

- The slides will show soldiers from different countries which fought for or with the British armed forces. A slide will indicate which country is next.
- Where there are slides from both World Wars WWI slides will show first.
- The presentation is set as manual so you change each slide with the click of the mouse. This is to make sure that you have had the time you need to look at each image and read any text at your own speed.



Some of the Countries who fought for or with the British Armed Forces in both World Wars



- Australia
- Canada
- Ceylon (Sri Lanka)
- Czechoslovakia (Czech Rep/Slovakia)
- Ethiopia
- Guyana
- Indian Subcontinent (Pakistan/Bangladesh/Nepal)
- Iraq
- Jamaica
- Kenya
- Malaysia and Singapore
- New Zealand
- Nigeria
- Persia (Iran)
- Poland
- Sudan
- Trinidad
- Northern Rhodesia (Zambia)
- South Africa
- Southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe)

British Colonial Regiments

– see regiments of the Indian Sub-Continent below.

- **Aden** Protectorate Levies - **Yemen**
- **Barbados** Regiment
- **Bermuda** Militia Artillery
- **Bermuda** Militia Infantry
- **Bermuda** Volunteer Rifle Corps
- British Colonial Auxiliary Forces - **All**
- **Caribbean** Regiment
- **Colombo** Town Guard – **Sri Lanka**
- **Ghana** Regiment
- The **Halifax** Rifles (RCAC) - **Canada**
- **Halifax** Volunteer Battalion **Canada**
- The **Hastings** and Prince Edward Regiment **Canada**
- **Hong Kong Chinese** Regiment
- **Iraq** Levies- Iraqi Turkmen, Kurds and Assyrians
- **Kenya** Regiment - The Kenya Regiment included British Regiments, King's African Rifles, Kenya Police and Kenya Police Reserve, and the Royal Air Force
- King's **African** Rifles - Nyasaland, Kenya, Uganda and British Somaliland.
- The King's Own **Malta** Regiment
- Les Voltigeurs de **Québec**
- **New South Wales** Marine Corps - **Australia**
- **Natal** Carbineers - **South Africa**
- **Natal** Native Contingent - **South Africa**
- **Nigeria** Regiment
- **Northern Rhodesia** Regiment - **Zambia**
- The **Ontario** Regiment (RCAC) - **Canada**
- The Princess Louise Fusiliers - **Canada**
- The Queen's Own Rifles of - **Canada**
- Royal Ranger Regiment - **Malaysia**
- **Rhodesia** Regiment - **Zimbabwe**
- **Rhodesian African** Rifles - **Zimbabwe**
- Royal **Gibraltar** Regiment
- Royal **Hong Kong** Regiment
- Royal **Malay** Regiment
- Royal **Montserrat** Defence Force - **Caribbean**
- Royal **Newfoundland** Regiment - **Canada**
- Royal **West African** Frontier Force
- **Saint Kitts and Nevis** Defence Force - **Caribbean**
- **Somaliland** Camel Corps - **Somalia**
- **Somaliland** Scouts
- **Southern Nigeria** Regiment
- Straits Settlements Volunteer Force - **Singapore**
- **Sudan** Defence Force
- The Royal **Bermuda** Regiment
- Royal **West African** Frontier Force
- **Transjordan** Frontier Force - **Jordan**
- Trucial **Oman** Scouts - **Oman**
- Victoria Rifles (Nova Scotia) - **Canada**
- **West India** Regiment
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:British_colonial_regiments

Indian Regiments of the British Army

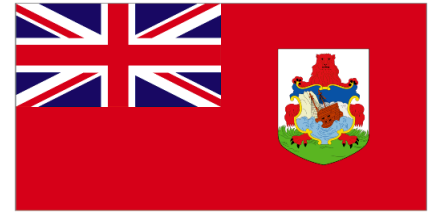
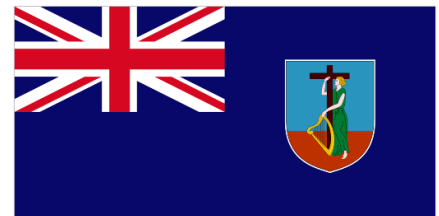
- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 • 102nd Prince of Wales's Own Grenadiers • 103rd Mahratta Light Infantry • 104th Wellesley's Rifles • 105th Mahratta Light Infantry • 107th Pioneers • 108th Infantry • 109th Infantry • 10th Jats • 110th Mahratta Light Infantry • 112th Infantry • 113th Infantry • 114th Mahrattas • 116th Mahrattas • 117th Mahrattas • 119th Infantry (The Mooltan Regiment) • 120th Rajputana Infantry • 121st Pioneers • 122nd Rajputana Infantry • 124th Duchess of Connaught's Own Baluchistan Infantry • 126th Baluchistan Infantry • 127th Baluch Light Infantry • 128th Pioneers • 129th Duke of Connaught's Own Baluchis • 12th Pioneers • 130th Baluchis • 13th Rajputs (The Shekhawati Regiment) • 14th King George's Own Ferozepore Sikhs • 15th Ludhiana Sikhs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15th Punjab Regiment • 16th Rajputs (The Lucknow Regiment) • 17th Infantry (The Loyal Regiment) • 18th Infantry • 19th Hyderabad Regiment • 1st (Halifax-Dartmouth) Field Artillery Regiment • 2 • 21st Kohat Mountain Battery (Frontier Force) • 21st Punjabis • 22nd Derajat Mountain Battery (Frontier Force) • 22nd Punjabis • 23rd Peshawar Mountain Battery (Frontier Force) • 23rd Sikh Pioneers • 24th Hazara Mountain Battery (Frontier Force) • 24th Punjabis • 25th Mountain Battery • 25th Punjabis • 26th Jacob's Mountain Battery • 26th Punjabis • 27th Punjabis • 28th Punjabis • 29th Punjabis | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 • 30th Punjabis • 31st Punjabis • 33rd Indian Mountain Regiment, Royal Indian Artillery • 33rd Punjabis • 34th Royal Sikh Pioneers • 35th Sikhs • 36th Sikhs • 37th Dogras • 38th Dogras • 39th Garhwal Rifles • 4 • 40th Pathans • 40th Regiment of Foot • 41st Dogras • 42nd Deoli Regiment • 44th Merwara Infantry • 45th Rattray's Sikhs • 46th Punjabis • 47th Sikhs • 48th Pioneers • 49th Garhwal Rifles • 4th Bombay Grenadiers • 4th Prince Albert Victor's Rajputs • 4th Punjab Infantry Regiment |
|--|--|---|

Indian Regiments of the British Army – cont.

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| • 5 | • 6th Jat Light Infantry | • 88th Carnatic Infantry |
| | • 6th Rajputana Rifles | • 89th Punjabis |
| • 51st Sikhs (Frontier Force) | • 7 | • 8th Canadian Hussars (Princess Louise's) |
| • 52nd Sikhs (Frontier Force) | | • 8th Rajputs |
| • 53rd Sikhs (Frontier Force) | • 71st Coorg Rifles | • 9 |
| • 54th Sikhs (Frontier Force) | • 72nd Punjabis | |
| • 55th Coke's Rifles (Frontier Force) | • 73rd Carnatic Infantry | • 90th Punjabis |
| • 56th Punjabi Rifles (Frontier Force) | • 74th Punjabis | • 91st Punjabis (Light Infantry) |
| • 58th Vaughan's Rifles (Frontier Force) | • 75th Carnatic Infantry | • 92nd Punjabis |
| • 59th Regiment of Bengal Native Infantry | • 76th Punjabis | • 93rd Burma Infantry |
| • 59th Scinde Rifles (Frontier Force) | • 77th Moplah Rifles | • 94th Russell's Infantry |
| • 5th Light Infantry | • 78th Moplah Rifles | • 95th Russell's Infantry |
| • 5th Mahratta Light Infantry | • 79th Carnatic Infantry | • 96th Berar Infantry |
| | • 7th (Duke of Connaught's Own) Rajputs | • 97th Deccan Infantry |
| • 6 | • 8 | • 98th Infantry |
| | | • 99th Deccan Infantry |
| • 61st Pioneers | • 80th Carnatic Infantry | • 9th Bhopal Infantry |
| • 62nd Punjabis | • 80th Regiment of Light-Armed Foot | • 9th Jat Regiment |
| • 63rd Palamcottah Light Infantry | • 81st Pioneers | |
| • 64th Pioneers | • 82nd Punjabis | |
| • 65th Carnatic Infantry | • 83rd Wallajahbad Light Infantry | |
| • 66th Punjabis | • 84th Punjabis | |
| • 67th Punjabis | • 86th Carnatic Infantry | |
| • 69th Punjabis | • 87th Punjabis | |

Caribbean

Jamaica, Trinidad, Montserrat, Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, St Kitts and Nevis,



THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME, JULY-NOVEMBER 1916



Troops of the
West Indies
Regiment in
camp on the
Albert -
Amiens road,
September
1916.

MINISTRY OF
INFORMATION FIRST
WORLD WAR OFFICIAL
COLLECTION
Brooks, Ernest
(Lieutenant)
(Photographer)

1st Battalion, Caribbean Regiment preparing to return from Egypt to the West Indies in 1945: A 2 inch mortar team ready for action.



Members of a Trinidad unit of the South Caribbean Force being trained in jungle fighting.



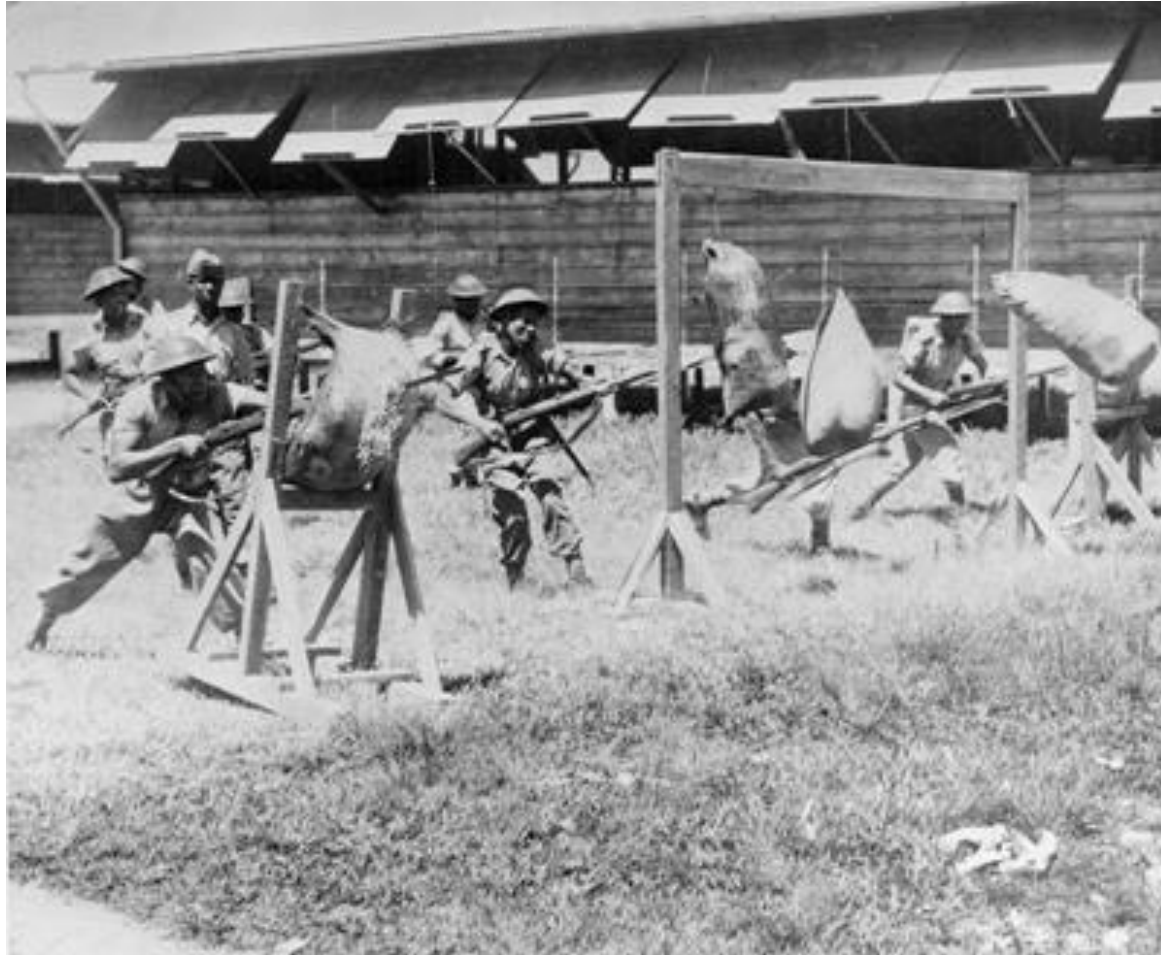
The platoon advancing from an area enveloped in a smoke screen.

The first contingent of the South Caribbean Force to leave the West Indies for service overseas.



A Caribbean soldier, holding his baby, says goodbye to his wife, in the town of Arima, Trinidad.

Trinidad units of the South Caribbean Force undergoing bayonet practice at a training camp.



Men of the South Caribbean Force, part of the local defence volunteer forces set up to protect harbours and installations in the West Indies, advance on the 'enemy' during an exercise in Trinidad.



THE TRINIDAD ROYAL NAVAL VOLUNTEER RESERVE (TRNVR), SEPTEMBER 1944
Naval Police of the Trinidad Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve who guarded the gates of the naval base and other shore establishments at Trinidad.



WEST INDIANS IN BRITAIN DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR



Flight Sergeant James Hyde, a fighter pilot serving with No 132 Squadron, Royal Air Force, pictured by a Supermarine Spitfire with 'Dingo', the squadron commander's pet dog, at Detling, Kent, England. Hyde, from San Juan, Trinidad, arrived in Britain more than two years previously to commence his training.



WEST INDIANS IN BRITAIN DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR

West Indian troops in Britain: Two members of the Royal Engineers, Sapper Sinclair (left) and Sapper Dunn, both from Jamaica, pictured with a Bren gun, at Clitheroe, Lancashire.

WAR OFFICE SECOND WORLD WAR OFFICIAL
COLLECTION

THE AUXILIARY TERRITORIAL SERVICE IN JAMAICA, 1944

Jamaica's first ATS unit at drill.

WWII



THE AUXILIARY TERRITORIAL SERVICE IN JAMAICA, 1944

Women of Jamaica's first ATS unit arriving at their headquarters in an Army lorry.



NORTH CARIBBEAN ARMED FORCES DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR



The Governor, Sir Arthur Richards, takes the salute as the Jamaica Infantry Volunteers march past at Kingston, Jamaica.

Shoulder Belt & Pouch, Bandsman: Jamaica Regiment (West India Regt)



The West India Regiment was formed in 1795 and dressed until 1859 as British infantry. The French Zouave style uniform was adopted following the Crimean War and remained unchanged until 1926, but still worn as a parade dress.

Physical description
Belt and pouch: shoulder belt of white plastic with a gilt brass open buckle; a musician's pouch is attached via gilt fittings.

WEST INDIANS IN BRITAIN DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR



West Indian Labour Force in Britain: A group of West Indian technicians seen working on the engine of a tank in a transport repair shop.

They are, from left to right, Tom Martin from Portland, Jamaica, Fred Thomas, Ben Anderson and Arthur Jones, all from Kingston, Jamaica and Tom Prescodd from Trinidad.

WEST INDIANS IN BRITAIN DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR



West Indians in the Royal Air Force: The Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Right Hon Oliver Stanley, seen chatting with three volunteers (Left to right: AC W P Ince of British Guiana, AC E Johnson of Jamaica and AC S E Johnson of Jamaica) during a passing out parade of West Indians at a Royal Air Force station in Yorkshire, 6 September 1944.

AIR MINISTRY SECOND WORLD WAR OFFICIAL COLLECTION
Air Force official photographer 1944-09-06

WEST INDIANS IN BRITAIN DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR



West Indian Labour Force in Britain: Alvin Christie (aged 30) from Jamaica at work in the machine shop of a tank factory in the North of England, 1941. Liverpool



THE AUXILIARY FIRE SERVICE IN LONDON, 1941

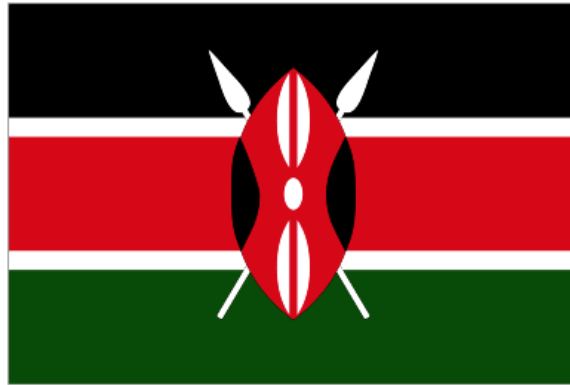
Group photograph of men serving with the Auxiliary Fire Service in London. Second from right, in the back row, is Fernando Henriques from Jamaica, who later won a scholarship to Oxford University, gained a PhD and went on to lecture in social anthropology.

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION
SECOND WORLD WAR OFFICIAL
COLLECTION

Two bomber aircrew, Sergeant J Dickinson from Canada and Sergeant F Gilkes from Trinidad wait to board their aircraft for a raid on 30 July 1943.



North and East Africa



Forces of the British Middle East Command, included units from:

- **Britain;**
- **The colonies of British East Africa;**
- **British Somaliland;**
- **British West Africa;**
- **the Indian Empire;**
- **Northern Rhodesia;**
- **Nyasaland;**
- **Mandatory Palestine;**
- **South Africa;**
- **Southern Rhodesia;**
- **Sudan;**
- **Ethiopian irregulars; and**
- **the Free French and Belgian troops of the Force Publique.**

THE CAMPAIGN IN GERMAN EAST AFRICA, 1914-1918



The period from September 1916 to November 1917 saw the occupation of much of German East Africa, mainly by the King's African Rifles and West African units. Here a unit of the KAR advance along the Rufiji river. After much elaborate manoeuvring, the German forces were gradually pushed southward but were never decisively beaten in battle.

THE CAMPAIGN IN GERMAN EAST AFRICA, 1914-1918



Men of the 1/4th King's African Rifles at Njombe, German East Africa. Formed at the beginning of the century from tribesmen in British East Africa (now Kenya) and Uganda, the KAR bore the brunt of most of the fighting during the campaign.

KNOX GORE W SAUNDERS (LT COL) COLLECTION

ARTILLERY SHOOT - NAIIVASHA, KENYA, C. 4 MAY 1944

Loading a 25 pounder.



MINISTRY OF INFORMATION SECOND WORLD WAR OFFICIAL COLLECTION

PRITAM SINGH - ONE OF KENYA'S SPECIALIST INDIAN REPAIR WORKERS, KENYA, C. 28 SEPTEMBER 1942



Pritam Singh, a young Sikh volunteer, who has distinguished himself in the highly skilled technical work of motor repairing and engineering. Since being taken on by a Kenya local transport company, he has been up-graded and is regarded as one of the most valuable craftsmen in his mobile repair group. He is only one of a highly expert band of Kenya Indian craftsmen who are doing a grand job, regardless of caste, with East African mobile repair unit.

EAST AFRICA PIONEERS BACK HOME AFTER MIDDLE EAST SERVICE, C. 6 APRIL 1943



"MINISTRY OF INFORMATION SECOND WORLD WAR OFFICIAL COLLECTION"

Men of the African Auxiliary Pioneer Corps arriving home on leave after service in the Middle East were met by six chiefs from Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika. Picture shows:- Mr A J Cox, Resident of Buganda, hearing from Goswa Kasaja of Bugwere Eastern Province, Uganda, one of the Pioneers - how Allied pilots shot down enemy planes.

SUDAN DEFENCE FORCE



Many recruits from all parts of the Sudan are being trained under the supervision of British officers and NCOs.

This image shows the recruits with rifles on tripods learning the use of rifles.

Made by: No 1 Army Film & Photographic Unit

THE BRITISH ARMY IN NORTH AFRICA 1940-43



A 3.7 inch Howitzer
during gun practice
on the range at
Shendi, Sudan, June
1942.

WAR OFFICE SECOND WORLD WAR
OFFICIAL COLLECTION

THE SUDAN AUXILLIARY FORCE



Pictures of
His Imperial
Majesty the
Emperor of
Ethiopia with
his two sons,
the Duke of
Harrar and
H.H. Asfou
Wasson Alga
Warash

Taken 08/11/40

H.R.H THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER TOURS THE SUDAN, ADEN AND SOMALILAND



H.R.H inspects a
guard of Honour of
the Somaliland
Camel Corps at
Hargeisa.

From WAR OFFICE SECOND WORLD
WAR OFFICIAL COLLECTION

H.R.H THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER TOURS THE SUDAN, ADEN AND SOMALILAND

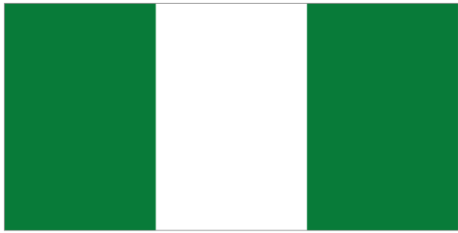


H.R.H is here seen chatting with the Head Man of Hargeisa.

WAR OFFICE SECOND WORLD WAR
OFFICIAL COLLECTION

Made by: Neill R (Sgt)

Southern and West Africa



THE CAMPAIGN IN EAST AFRICA 1914-1918

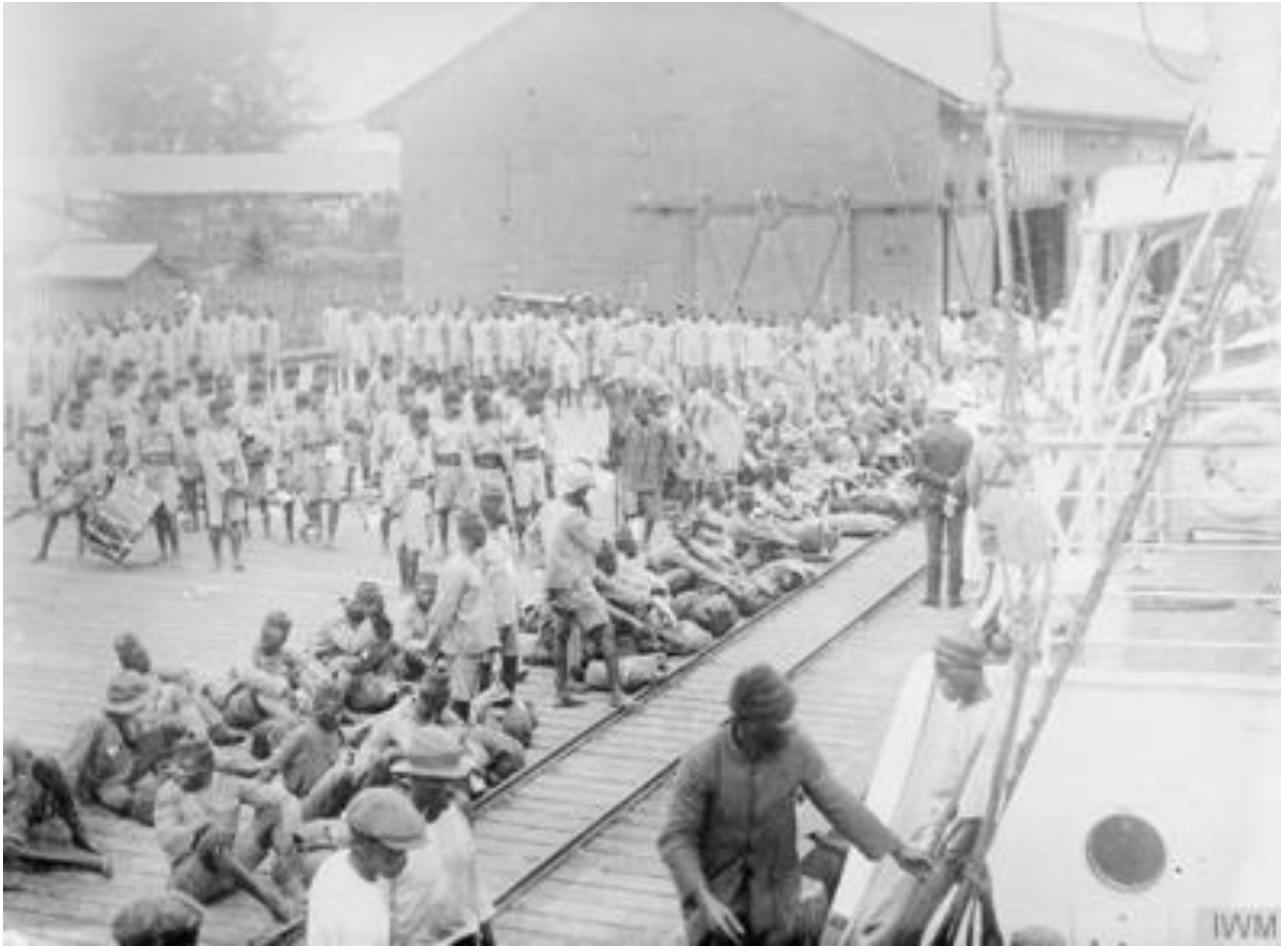
WWI



His Excellency the Governor General of Nigeria, Sir Frederick Lugard, addressing a draft of the Nigeria Regiment on board the troopship HMT HYMETTUS prior to the vessels' departure for East Africa.

"COLONIAL OFFICE COLLECTION"

THE CAMPAIGN IN EAST AFRICA 1914-1918



His Excellency the Governor General of Nigeria, Sir Frederick Lugard, inspecting wounded soldiers of the Nigeria Regiment at Lagos on their return from East Africa.

THE CAMPAIGN IN EAST AFRICA 1914-1918



Nigerian
Overseas
Expeditionary
Force
welcomed
home to Lagos
on their
return from
East Africa.

THE CAMPAIGN IN GERMAN EAST AFRICA DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR



1st Battalion, The Nigeria Regiment entrain at Kaduna for Lagos, and proceed to Duala in the German Cameroons.

This battalion was armed with the long Lee Enfield rifle and short bayonet. Sleeping blankets and rain capes are carried rolled on the back.

Government agents buying food at Fort Roseberry (Mansa) for troops operating on the northern border of Northern Rhodesia (Zambia).



First World War

COLONIAL OFFICE COLLECTION

THE DEFENCE OF THE DOMINIONS AND COLONIES, 1939-1945



The Acting Governor of the Gold Coast in British West Africa, Sir George London, inspecting members of the Accra Home Guard, 11 June 1942.

THE WEST AFRICAN FRONTIER FORCE IN EAST AFRICA, 1941



Men of the Kenyan Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve man a Lewis gun on board the minesweeper HMS ONYX, while on a local river patrol, October 1942.

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION SECOND
WORLD WAR OFFICIAL COLLECTION

THE WEST AFRICAN FRONTIER FORCE IN EAST AFRICA, 1941



Men of the West African Frontier Force (WAFF) remove monumental stones placed by the Italians to mark the boundary of their new empire on the Kenya - Italian Somaliland border.

ROYAL AIR FORCE, THE RHODESIAN AIR TRAINING GROUP IN SOUTHERN RHODESIA, (ZIMBABWE) , 1941-1945.



An instructor, Corporal W Gilligan from Dublin, gives pupils a practical lecture on the .303 Vickers K-type gas-operated machine gun at No. 24 Bombing, Gunnery and Navigation School, Moffat.

Royal Air Force official photographer Adams, J H

BOSTON MARKET: THE COUNTRY MARKET AND MAY FAIR, BOSTON, LINCOLNSHIRE, ENGLAND, UK, 1945



Two South African soldiers try their luck at a shooting game at the May Fair, Boston, Lincolnshire. Various items of Utility crockery can be seen on a table behind the counter, awarded as prizes if the target is hit.



**COMMONWEALTH JOINT
AIR TRAINING PLAN, NO
23 AIR SCHOOL AT
WATERKLOOF, PRETORIA,
SOUTH AFRICA, JANUARY
1943**

An Askari native guards an aircraft with an assegai.

An African soldier or 'Askari' on guard duty at No. 23 Air School at Waterkloof, Pretoria, South Africa, January 1943.

Part of "MINISTRY OF INFORMATION SECOND
WORLD WAR COLOUR TRANSPARENCY
COLLECTION

NO 23 AIR SCHOOL AT WATERKLOOF, PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA, JANUARY 1943



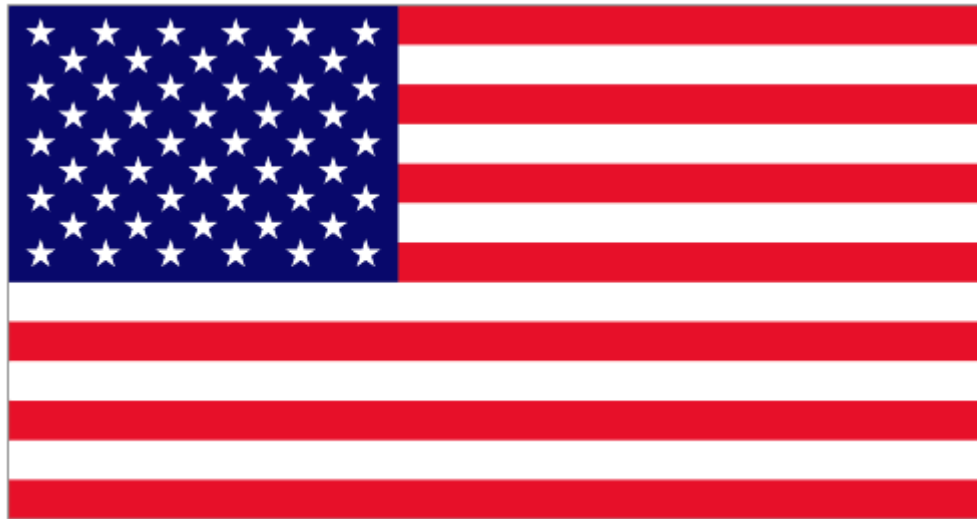
Training air machine gunners at No 23 Air School.

Pupils waiting to take a turn in the power turret rig.

The target is a motorized rail buggy which orbited the track at around 40 mph.

The Askari native orderlies replenished the ammunition and collected the cases from fired rounds.

African American Contribution



THE US ARMY IN BRITAIN, 1917-1918



American troops at the foot of the statue of Alfred the Great in 1918, Winchester.

IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM
PHOTOGRAPH ARCHIVE
COLLECTION
Nicholls, Horace
(Photographer)

THE GERMAN SPRING OFFENSIVE, MARCH-JULY 1918



American
soldiers, cooks
of the hospital
train No. 54, at
Horreville, 27
April 1918

THE US ARMY ON THE WESTERN FRONT, 1917-1918



American soldiers of the 508th Company, US Engineers at Menil-la-Tour, 14 March 1918.

AMERICAN FIRST
WORLD WAR OFFICIAL
EXCHANGE COLLECTION
US official photographer

THE US ARMY IN BRITAIN, 1917-1918



An American soldier.

IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM PHOTOGRAPH
ARCHIVE COLLECTION
Nicholls, Horace (Photographer)
First World War

AMERICAN HOSPITAL IN ENGLAND, 1943



American soldiers, board ambulance cars as they leave the American Hospital in England to rejoin their units and return to the fighting.

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION SECOND
WORLD WAR OFFICIAL COLLECTION
Ministry of Information Photo Division
Photographer

AMERICANS IN BRITAIN, 1942 – 1945



GIs in Britain: Two soldiers working on the railways.

WAR OFFICE SECOND WORLD WAR
OFFICIAL COLLECTION
War Office official photographer
O'Brien (Lt)

AMERICANS IN BRITAIN, 1942 – 1945



GIs in Britain: American soldier in Britain, Elco Bolton from Florida, being given directions by a British police officer, 30 June 1942.

AMERICAN (US) EMBASSY SECOND WORLD WAR PHOTOGRAPH LIBRARY: CLASSIFIED PRINT COLLECTION

Press Agency photographer
Associated Press photographer

AMERICANS IN BRITAIN, 1942 – 1945



American GIs in Britain: United States troops take part in a huge parade of US troops and material during the "Salute the Soldier" campaign, 30 March 1944. The troops are seen marching past Nelson's Column in Trafalgar Square, London.

AMERICAN (US) EMBASSY SECOND WORLD WAR
PHOTOGRAPH LIBRARY: CLASSIFIED PRINT
COLLECTION

United States Army Signal Corps photographer

US SENATORS VISIT BRITAIN. 31 JULY 1943, GREENOCK.



US SENATORS VISIT
BRITAIN. 31 JULY
1943, GREENOCK. A
PARTY OF AMERICAN
SENATORS VISITING
BRITAIN MET MEN
OF THE US FORCES
NEWLY ARRIVED
FROM HOME.

Senator Russell, of
Georgia, talking to
an American soldier
from Georgia.

ADMIRALTY OFFICIAL
COLLECTION
Beadell, S J (Lt)

THE END