

Notes:

Unlike the Specialized pages, the Basic pages do not include spots for all major varieties. Typically, the Basic pages will include a single spot for each face value of each set, omitting additional sub-varieties of color, gum, perforation, etc. The Basic sets do not include some of the rarer, more specialized items. They also do not include spots for most plate flaws, overprint flaws, etc.

Vorläufer and mitläufer (forerunners) are not included. I anticipate providing a separate file for those in the future.

All watermarks are as viewed from the rear of the stamp.

On pages with stamp photos included, there may be some stamp photos missing due to my inability to find suitable images of those stamps.

At the end of each set is a blank page for each page style used in the set. If you would like additional pages that include custom boxes, text, etc., in a style that exactly matches the existing pages, or if you would like further customizations (odd-size stamp, additional boxes, etc.) to the existing pages, please send me a note through the "Contact Admin" form that's in the footer of every page on my website.

NOTE ON PRINTING: If, when printing, you have the option to print the pages actual size or shrink them to fit the paper, do not select shrink to fit! Doing so will shrink all content, including the stamp boxes, resulting in them being too small. The pages should print correctly at actual size, regardless of any warnings your printer might give.

Cheers,

PostmasterGS

v20250529

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

In 1869, German missionaries established the first German presence in the territory that would become German East Africa. In 1884, the Company for German Colonization was founded by German explorer Carl Peters, and immediately began establishing treaties with local chiefs in the coastal region.



Flag of the
German Colonial Office

Over the next decade, the newly-founded German East Africa Company would increase German influence in the area by opening customs houses and forming agreements with local chiefs and Sultans. In the last years of the 1880s, however, Arabs opposed to the increased European presence began raiding and killing German settlers. The German East Africa Company requested assistance from the Imperial government, which quickly came in the form of ships and men under the command of newly-appointed Imperial Commissioner Hauptmann Hermann von Wissmann. Within a year, the insurrection was crushed, and in 1891, Germany acquired sovereignty over the entire territory.

During the colonial period, Germany operated a total of 58 different post offices throughout the territory, second in number only to German Southwest Africa.

With the outbreak of World War I, German East Africa did not fall as the other German colonies did. German forces under General von Lettow-Vorbeck would embark on a lengthy campaign against British forces in the region, and would remain the only German foreign army in the field for the duration of the war. Lettow-Vorbeck's forces finally surrendered on 25 November 1918, a week after the armistice in Europe.



www.germanstamps.net

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

“PESA” Overprint Issues

1 July 1893



Medium Brown
2 Pesa on 3 Pfennig



(Bright) Opal Green
3 Pesa on 5 Pfennig



Bright Pink Red to Bright Lilac Red, Medium (Carmine) Red
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig



Violet Ultramarine
10 Pesa on 20 Pfennig



Medium Brown Reed to Bright Reddish Brown
25 Pesa on 50 Pfennig



German ships in Dar-es-Salaam harbor

www.germanstamps.net

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

“Deutsch-Ostafrika / Pesa” Overprint Issues

April 1896



Medium Brown to
(Dark) Brown Ochre
2 Pesa on 3 Pfennig



(Bright) Opal Green
3 Pesa on 5 Pfennig



Bright Lilac Red
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig



Violet Ultramarine
10 Pesa on 20 Pfennig



Bright Reddish Brown
25 Pesa on 50 Pfennig



Dar-es-Salaam post office, 1902-1914

www.germanstamps.net

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

Yacht Issues

1 January 1901



Dark Ochre Brown
2 Pesa



(Dark) Green
3 Pesa



Dark Carmine Red
5 Pesa



Violet Ultramarine
10 Pesa



Reddish Orange / Red Black
on Dull Yellowish Orange
15 Pesa



(Dark Reddish)
Carmine / Black
20 Pesa



Dark Brownish Lilac / Red
Black on Dull Brown Orange
25 Pesa



Dark Reddish Carmine /
Red Black on Dull Carmine
40 Pesa



Dark Lilac Red
1 Rupie



Dark Emerald Green
2 Rupien



Dark Red / Green Black
3 Rupien



Kaiser Wilhelm II's yacht,
SMY Hohenzollern II

www.germanstamps.net

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

Yacht Issues

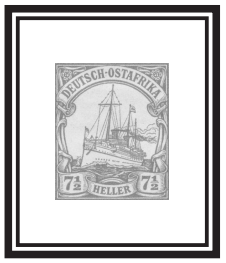
1 April 1905



Bright Ochre Brown
2 ½ Heller



Green to (Blackish)
Gray Green
4 Heller



Bright Red Carmine
7 ½ Heller



Medium Lilac Ultramarine
to Light Violet Ultramarine
15 Heller



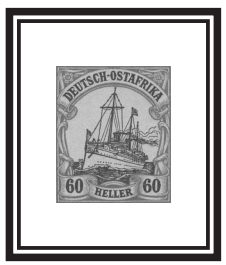
Dark Orange / Brown
Black on Light Yellow
20 Heller



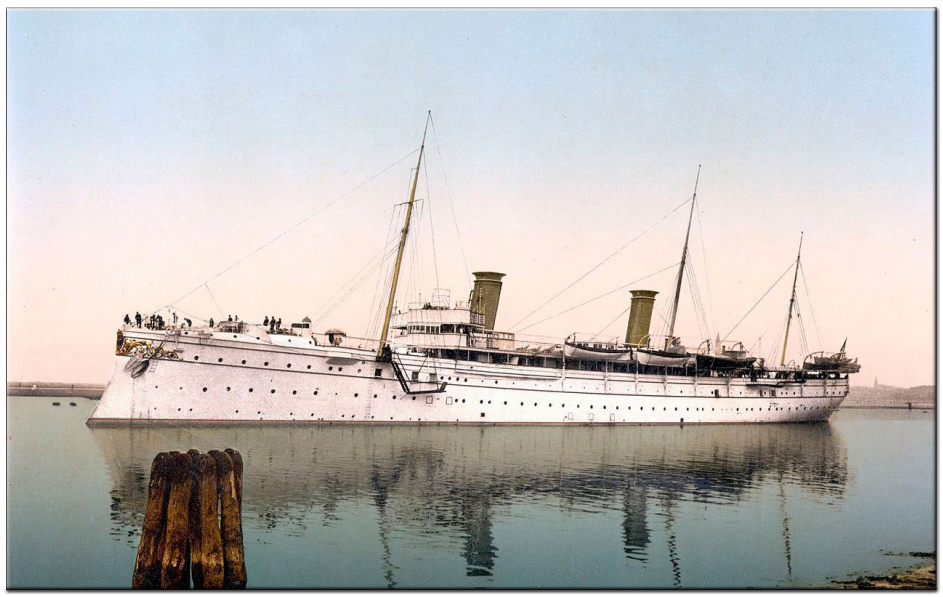
(Red) Carmine /
Brown Black
30 Heller



Medium Brown Violet / Black
45 Heller



Dark Reddish Carmine /
Brown Black on Dull
Carmine Red
60 Heller



Kaiser Wilhelm II's yacht, *SMY Hohenzollern II*

www.germanstamps.net

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

Yacht Issues



Watermark

1906



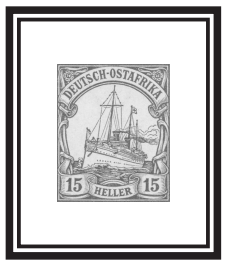
Bright to Dark
Ochre Brown
2 ½ Heller



Dark Green
4 Heller



Bright Carmine Red
to Dark Red Carmine
7 ½ Heller



Bright Violet Ultramarine
to (Bright) Lilac Ultramarine
15 Heller

1911



Dark (Reddish) Orange /
Yellow Black on Light Yellow
20 Heller

1909

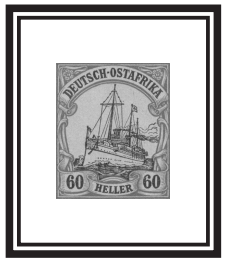


Dark Reddish Carmine /
(Brown) Black
30 Heller

1906

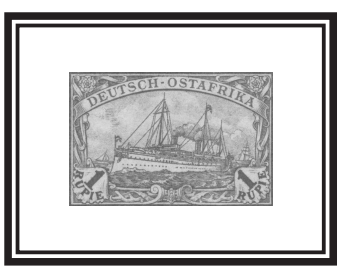


Medium Brown Violet / Black
45 Heller



Dark Reddish Carmine /
Black on Dull Rose Red
60 Heller

1915



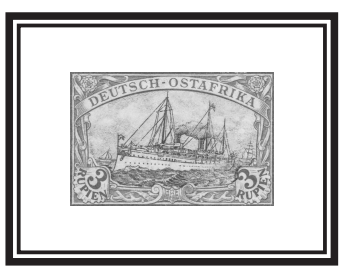
Dark Brownish Red to Dark
Carmine Red, Dark Red
1 Rupie

1920



Dark Emerald Green
2 Rupien

1908



Dark (Carmine) Red to Blackish Carmine
Red, Blackish Red Carmine / Green Black
3 Rupien

www.germanstamps.net

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

British Occupation of Mafia Island

“G. R. / MAFIA” Overprints

14 January 1915


Watermark

Black Overprint


ZANZIBAR
Bagamoyo
DARESSALAM
Kurasini
Kisserawe
Mohoro
MAFIA
Tschole
Kissi
Ssimba-Uranga
Saadani
Pangani
Mkwaja
Mgeta
Kwale
Kiomarngao
Mgeta
Mukondokwa
Mgeta
Mgeta
Mgeta

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

British Occupation of Mafia Island

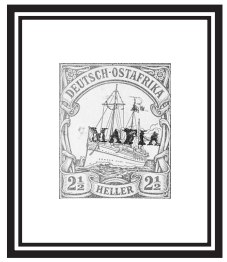
"G. R. / MAFIA" Overprints

14 January 1915

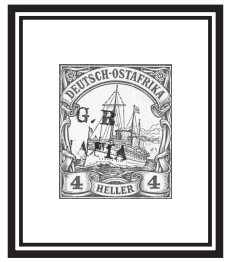

Watermark

Blackish-Violet Overprint

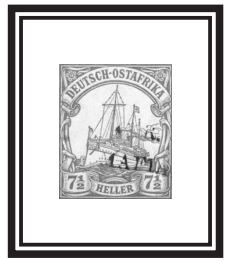




(Bright) Ochre Brown
2 ½ Heller



Dark Green
4 Heller



Bright Carmine Red
to Dark Red Carmine
7 ½ Heller



(Bright) Lilac Ultramarine
15 Heller



Dark (Reddish) Orange /
Yellow Black on Light Yellow
20 Heller



Dark Reddish Carmine /
(Brown) Black
30 Heller



Red Violet / Black
45 Heller



Dark Lilac Red
1 Rupie
No Watermark



Dark Emerald Green
2 Rupien
No Watermark



Dark (Carmine) Red / Green Black
3 Rupien

On 12 January 1915, British troops occupied Mafia Island for use as a base for the air and sea assault on the German cruiser *SMS Königsberg*, which had retreated to safety in the delta of the nearby Rufiji River. Upon occupying the island, the British used a handstamp to overprint German East Africa issues for use by British forces in the area. The first issues were overprinted "G. R. / MAFIA", and they can be found with black or blackish-violet ink.

www.germanstamps.net

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

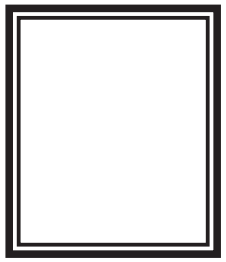
British Occupation of Mafia Island

"G. R. / POST / 6 CENTS / MAFIA" Overprints

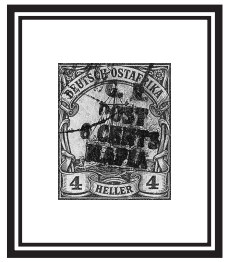
July 1915



Watermark



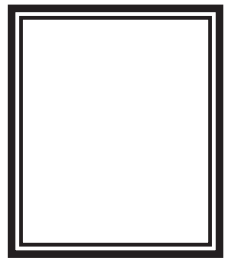
(Bright) Ochre Brown
6 Cents on 2 ½ Heller



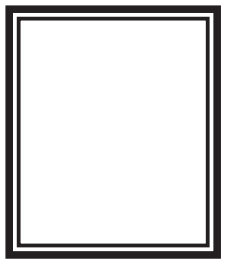
Dark Green
6 Cents on 4 Heller



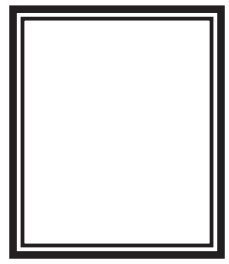
Bright Carmine Red
to Dark Red Carmine
6 Cents on 7 ½ Heller



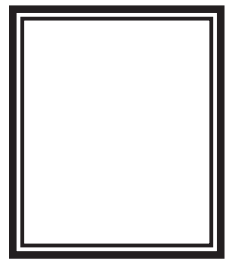
(Bright) Lilac Ultramarine
6 Cents on 15 Heller



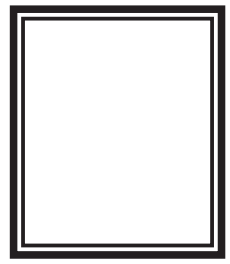
Dark (Reddish) Orange /
Yellow Black on Light Yellow
6 Cents on 20 Heller



Dark Reddish Carmine /
(Brown) Black
6 Cents on 30 Heller



Red Violet / Black
6 Cents on 45 Heller



(Bright) Opal Green
6 Cents on 5 Pesa
on 5 Pfennig
No Watermark



Dark Lilac Red
6 Cents on 1 Rupie
No Watermark



Dark Emerald Green
6 Cents on 2 Rupien
No Watermark



Dark (Carmine) Red / Green Black
6 Cents on 3 Rupien

On 12 January 1915, British troops occupied Mafia Island for use as a base for the air and sea assault on the German cruiser *SMS Königsberg*, which had retreated to safety in the delta of the nearby Rufiji River. Upon occupying the island, the British used a handstamp to overprint German East Africa issues for use by British forces in the area. The second issues feature a "G. R. / POST / 6 CENTS / MAFIA" overprint. A subtype exists with wide spacing between the "G." and "R.", but only a single set is known.

www.germanstamps.net

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

British Occupation of Mafia Island

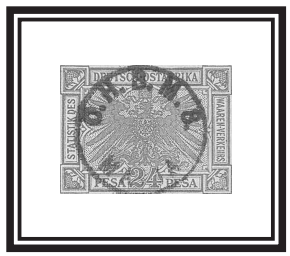
"O.H.B.M.S. / MAFIA" Overprints

1915

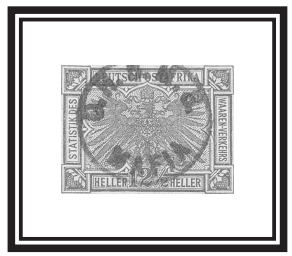


Watermark

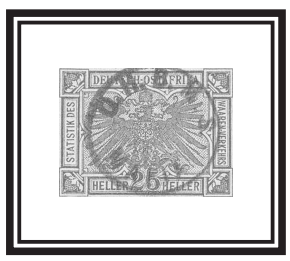
On Statistical Fee Revenue Stamps



Orange to Dull Brown
24 Pesa
No Watermark



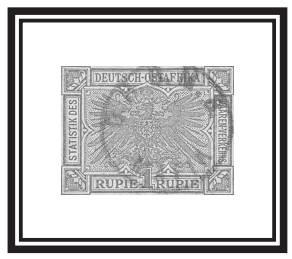
Dull Brown
12 ½ Heller



Dull Gray Green
25 Heller

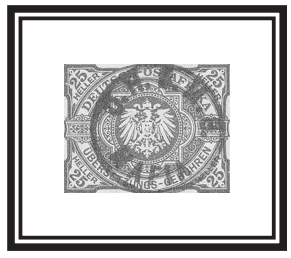


Turquoise Gray
50 Heller



Dark Lilac
1 Rupie

On Translation Fee Revenue Stamp



(Dark) Gray
25 Heller

On 12 January 1915, British troops occupied Mafia Island for use as a base for the air and sea assault on the German cruiser *SMS Königsberg*, which had retreated to safety in the delta of the nearby Rufiji River. Upon occupying the island, the British used a handstamp to overprint German East Africa issues for use by British forces in the area. The third issues are German East Africa fiscal stamps overprinted with a circular "O.H.B.M.S. / MAFIA", meaning "On His British Majesty's Service".

www.germanstamps.net

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

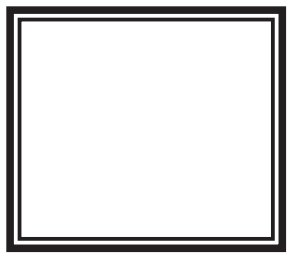
British Occupation of Mafia Island

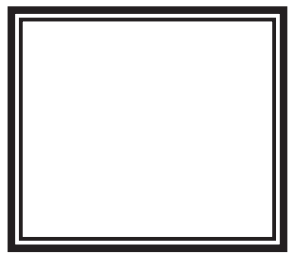
"O.H.B.M.S. / MAFIA" & "G. R. / POST / MAFIA" Overprints

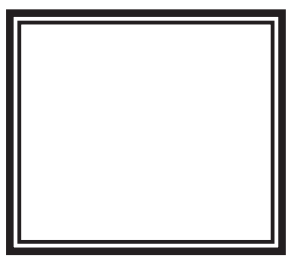
1915

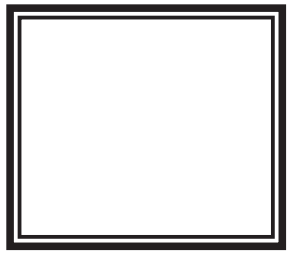

Watermark

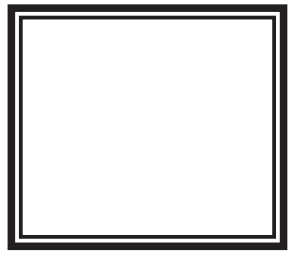
On Statistical Fee Revenue Stamps


Orange to Dull Brown
24 Pesa
No Watermark

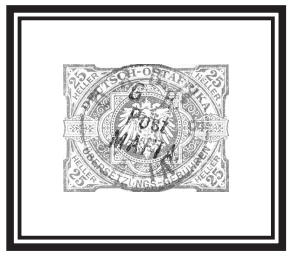

Dull Brown
12 ½ Heller


Dull Gray Green
25 Heller


Turquoise Gray
50 Heller


Dark Lilac
1 Rupie

On Translation Fee Revenue Stamp



(Dark) Gray
25 Heller

On 12 January 1915, British troops occupied Mafia Island for use as a base for the air and sea assault on the German cruiser *SMS Königsberg*, which had retreated to safety in the delta of the nearby Rufiji River. Upon occupying the island, the British used a handstamp to overprint German East Africa issues for use by British forces in the area. The fourth issues were the previous "O.H.B.M.S. / MAFIA" issues with an additional "G. R. / POST / MAFIA" overprint.

www.germanstamps.net

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

Portuguese Occupation of Kionga

29 May 1916



Blue-Black on Blue
½ Centavo on 100 Reis



Blue-Black on Blue
1 Centavo on 100 Reis



Blue-Black on Blue
2 ½ Centavos on 100 Reis

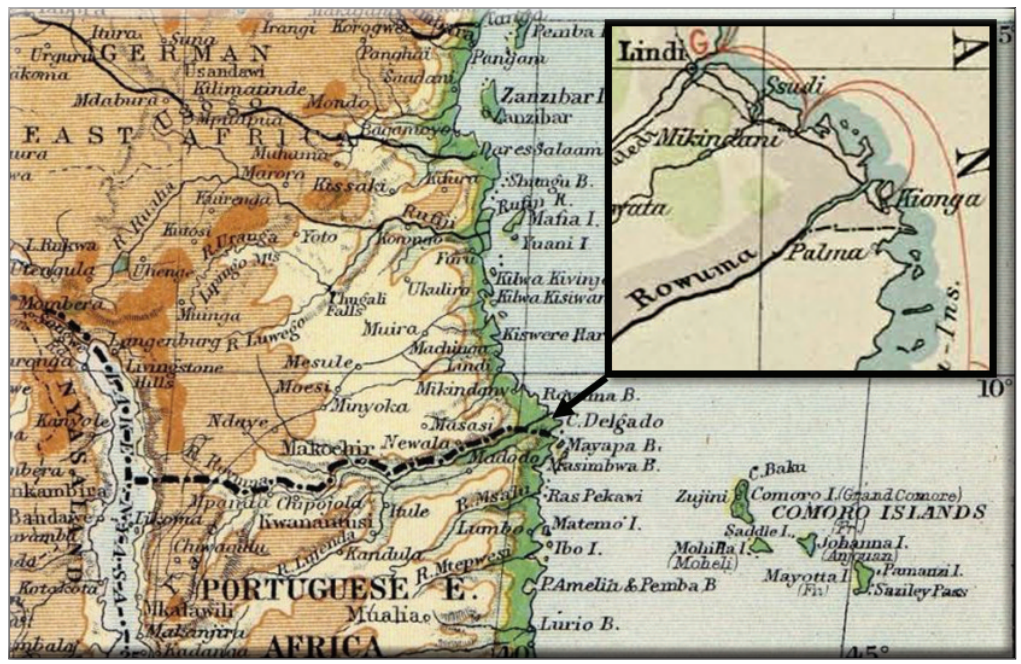


Blue-Black on Blue
5 Centavos on 100 Reis

In the late 19th century, the coastal area of Kionga was a consistent point of friction between German East Africa in the north and Portuguese East Africa in the south. Following numerous skirmishes over the territory, an arbitrator awarded the northern portion to German East Africa and the southern portion to Portuguese East Africa.

Upon Portugal's entry into WWI on the side of the Allies on 9 March 1916, Portuguese forces quickly set out to retake the entirety of Kionga. On 10 April 1916, they occupied the German portion of Kionga and implemented a civil administration over the area.

The Portuguese administration issued a single set of stamps consisting of four overprinted stamps of Lourenço Marques.


GERMAN
EAST AFRICA
PORTUGUESE E.
AFRICA
Lindi
Kionga
Ssudi
Mikindani
Rowuma
Palma
Zanzibar
Dar es Salaam
Mafia I.
Kilwa Kivinje
Kilwa Kisiwani
Kiswere Harbour
Lindi
Mikindani
Rowuma B.
C. Delgado
Mayapa B.
Masimbwa B.
Madoda
Newala
Masasi
Mesule
Muira
Machinga
Liwale
Ruaha R.
Ras Pekawi
Matemo I.
Ibo I.
Lumbo
Zujini
C. Baku
Comoro I. (Grand Comore)
COMORO ISLANDS
Saddle I.
Mohilla I. (Moheli)
Johanna I. (Anjouan)
Mayotta I. (Fr.)
Pamanzi I.
Sazilley Pass
P. Amelia & Pemba B.
Lurio B.
Mtarika
Mwembe
Kwanamuasi
Chipoiola
Mtipwili
Kandula
Mtarika
Mtua
Mtiwa
Mtiwa R.
Mtua R.
Mtipwili R.
Mtarika R.
Mtua R.
Mtiwa

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

Belgian Occupation of German East Africa

Belgian Congo Overprints

November 1916



Light Green / Black
5 Centimes



Carmine / Black
10 Centimes



Blue Green / Black
15 Centimes



Dark Blue / Black
25 Centimes



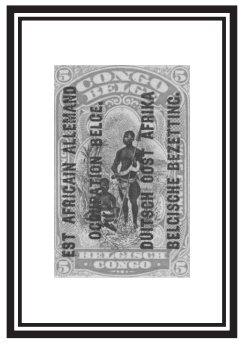
Dark Carmine / Black
40 Centimes



Lilac Brown / Black
50 Centimes



Olive / Black
1 Franc



Orange / Black
5 Francs

In April 1916, Belgian troops invaded German East Africa from the Belgian Congo. The Belgians issued several sets of stamps for use in the Belgian-occupied areas, including these overprints of Belgian Congo issues. The overprint is “EST AFRICAIN ALLEMAND / OCCUPATION BELGE / DUITSCH OOST AFRIKA / BELGISCHE BEZETTING.” (German East Africa / Belgian Occupation).

www.germanstamps.net

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

Belgian Occupation of German East Africa

"RUANDA." Overprints

RUANDA.

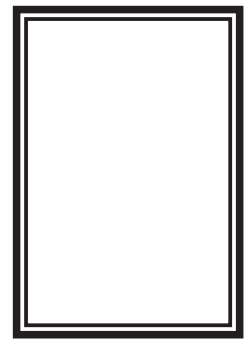
July 1916



Light Green / Black
5 Centimes



Carmine / Black
10 Centimes



Blue Green / Black
15 Centimes



Dark Blue / Black
25 Centimes



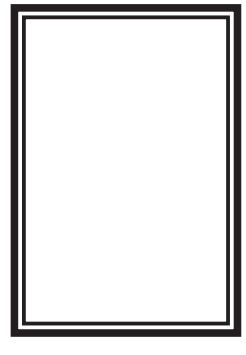
Dark Carmine / Black
40 Centimes



Lilac Brown / Black
50 Centimes



Olive / Black
1 Franc



Orange / Black
5 Francs

In April 1916, Belgian troops invaded German East Africa from the Belgian Congo. The first stamps designed for issue in the occupied Ruanda and Urundi territories were issues of Belgian Congo overprinted "RUANDA." or "URUNDI.". They were never issued, however.

www.germanstamps.net

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

Belgian Occupation of German East Africa

"URUNDI." Overprints

URUNDI.

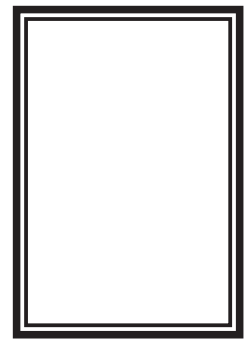
July 1916



Light Green / Black
5 Centimes



Carmine / Black
10 Centimes



Blue Green / Black
15 Centimes



Dark Blue / Black
25 Centimes



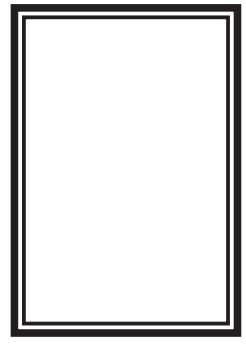
Dark Carmine / Black
40 Centimes



Lilac Brown / Black
50 Centimes



Olive / Black
1 Franc



Orange / Black
5 Francs

In April 1916, Belgian troops invaded German East Africa from the Belgian Congo. The first stamps designed for issue in the occupied Ruanda and Urundi territories were issues of Belgian Congo overprinted "RUANDA." or "URUNDI.". They were never issued, however.

www.germanstamps.net

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

Belgian Occupation of German East Africa

Belgian Congo “A.O.” Overprints

15 May 1918



Green / Ultramarine
5+10 Centimes



Pink / Ultramarine
10+15 Centimes



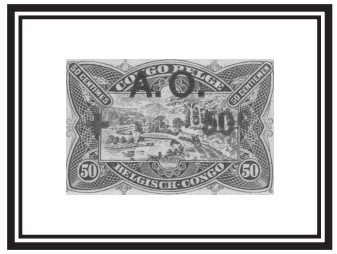
Blue Green / Ultramarine
15+20 Centimes



Dark Blue / Ultramarine
25+25 Centimes



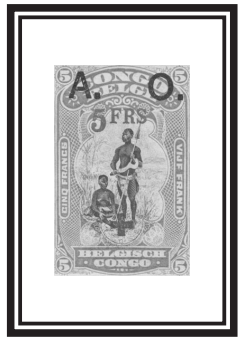
Dark Carmine / Ultramarine
40+40 Centimes



Brown Carmine / Ultramarine
50+50 Centimes



Olive Yellow / Ultramarine
1+1 Franc



Orange / Ultramarine
5+5 Francs



Green / Ultramarine
10+10 Francs

In April 1916, Belgian troops invaded German East Africa from the Belgian Congo. The Belgians issued several sets of stamps for use in the Belgian-occupied areas, including these overprints of Belgian Congo issues. The overprint is “A.O.”, an abbreviation for Afrique Oriental (East Africa).

www.germanstamps.net

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

Belgian Occupation of German East Africa

Surcharged Overprints

1 January 1922



Lilac Brown / Black
5 Centimes on 50 Centimes



Light Green / Black
10 Centimes on 5 Centimes



Dark Carmine / Black
25 Centimes on 40 Centimes



Carmine / Black
30 Centimes on 10 Centimes



Dark Blue / Black
50 Centimes on 25 Centimes

In April 1916, Belgian troops invaded German East Africa from the Belgian Congo. The Belgians issued several sets of stamps for use in the Belgian-occupied areas, including these surcharged overprints of Belgian Congo issues. The stamps are the November 1916 overprint issues with a surcharge added.

www.germanstamps.net

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika



www.germanstamps.net

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika



www.germanstamps.net

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika



www.germanstamps.net

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika



www.germanstamps.net

Photo copyrights/attributions/licenses:

p. 2 - public domain
p. 3 - public domain
p. 4 - Bundesarchiv, Bild 105-DOA6441 / CC-BY-SA 3.0; cropped and color converted
p. 5 - public domain
p. 6 - public domain
p. 8 - public domain
p. 9 - public domain
p. 13 - dcstamps.com

All flag art - https://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/index.html

Creative Commons License terms for above items —
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/deed.en
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/de/deed.en
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/deed.en

GermanStamps.net album pages – © GermanStamps.net.