

**Minutes of a Meeting held in Dundee Art Society, Roseangle Gallery, Dundee  
on 24 November 2016**

**German East Africa – WW1 by Gordon Shepherd (Rhodesians S.C.)**

**Welcome:** The president welcomed our speaker Gordon Shepherd and his wife Wilma, as well as the members to the meeting.

**Apologies for absence:** Alan Roy, George Soutar, Robert Duguid, Dennis Collins, Mark Lendon, David Millar

**Attendance:** 14 Members and 4 Visitors

**Minutes:** The minutes of the 10<sup>th</sup> November were approved by Colin Campbell and seconded by Harry Jackson.

**Business:**

**President:** Reminded members that there would be a stamp fair at Broughty Ferry on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November run by Chad Neighbor.

**Secretary:** Informed members that the recent visit to Aberdeen PS was attended by himself, Peter Dix and Doug Howkins and that they were very well received. They have also instituted a display structure similar to ours in terms of times for display and questions. Reminded members that the next meeting is the 1 sheet competition and to show their recent acquisitions. A judging seminar is being held in Hitchin.

**Treasurer:** Nothing to Report

**Packet Secy:** Packets 110 and 111 are now circulating, 4 packets are now in circulation.

**Librarian:** Displayed books published by East Africa Study Circle. Two new books have been donated to the society library and letters of thanks are to be sent to both parties by the Secretary.

**Publicity:** Reported that once again a photo of our meeting was in the Courier.

**Webmaster:** The number of books now available in the online library is over 400.

**ASPS Rep:** Nothing to report.

**Vote of Thanks:** The vote of thanks was given by Charles Lloyd who congratulated Gordon on a comprehensive and thoroughly entertaining display.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Morning Meeting – 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016 10am till Noon  
Evening Meeting – 8<sup>th</sup> December 2016  
1 Sheet Competition & Recent Acquisitions

**Display:**

Members were entertained by a display of German East Africa during World War I, sometimes known as the forgotten war, from Gordon Shepherd, a member of the Rhodesians Study Circle. Gordon provided a detailed history of the events which took place in several countries which became embroiled in the war in East Africa. One interesting fact which emerged was that the leader of the German forces, Von Lettow-Vorbeck, was unbeaten during any altercations which took place with the Allied forces.

Gordon displayed a series of postcards which effectively covered the entire conflict from 1914 right through to 1918. Indeed the German forces in German East Africa only surrendered 2 weeks after the armistice as they were unaware this had taken place.

Some other notable information provided was that:

Local tribes provided the portering and manpower during the war and approx. 100,000 porters died which amounted to 20% of their number.

The main transport in the area were 3 railway lines, Mombasa to Lake Victoria, which was called the 'Lunatic Express', the Northern Line running from Tanga to Mt. Kilimanjaro, and the Central Line running from Dar es Salaam to Lake Tanganyika. The war was also fought in the Indian Ocean where the German warship 'Konigsberg' inflicted substantial damage to allied shipping. The British warship HMS Pegasus was destroyed whilst in Zanzibar harbour. The Konigsberg relied on coal so was eventually disabled and scuttled when the British forces stopped the supply of coal ships.

The German navy also reigned supreme on Lake Tanganyika until Britain managed to transport 2 boats to the area. This was achieved by sending them by train to the Belgian Congo where they were then loaded onto carts and transported through the jungle. The Germans were taken totally by surprise and lost their naval superiority on the lake.