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“Tafungu Safari”



A Short History of the Kings African Rifles

A Tribute to African Soldiers

Recognising the loyal service to the British Crown of black soldiers from West, East and Central Africa led by British and Colonial Officers



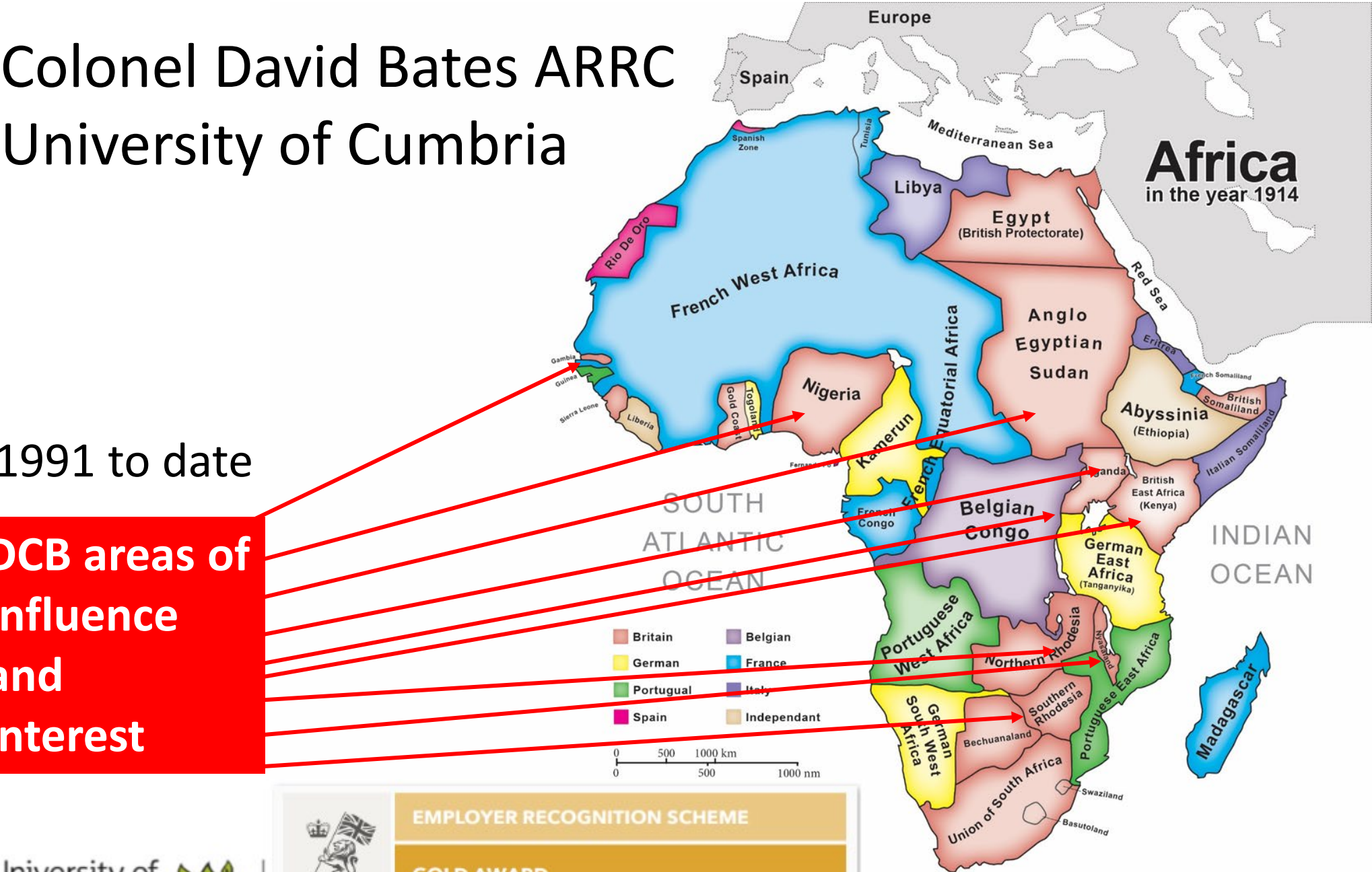
“Those who have drunk from the waters of Africa will have it running through their veins for the rest of their life”.

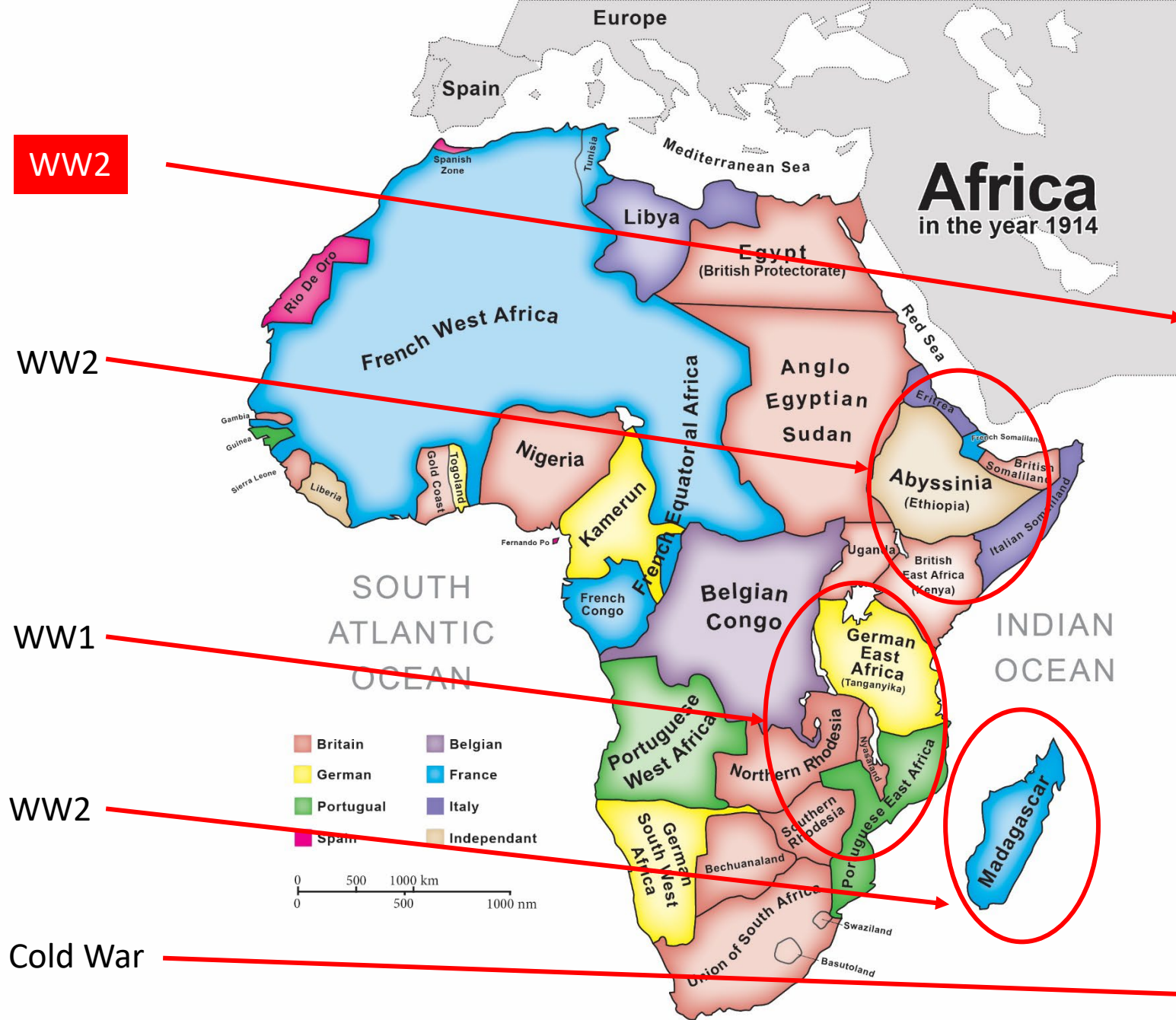
Major-General Patrick Stone CB CBE, former Patron KAR and EAF Association

Colonel David Bates ARRC University of Cumbria

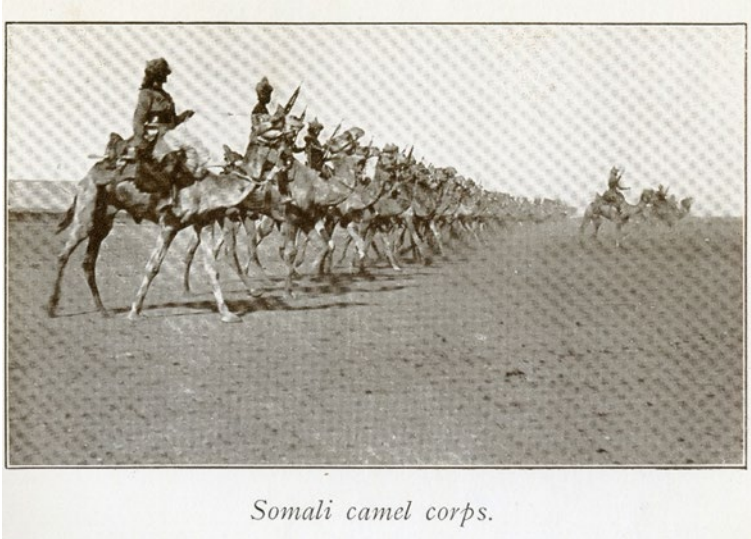
1991 to date

DCB areas of
Influence
and
interest

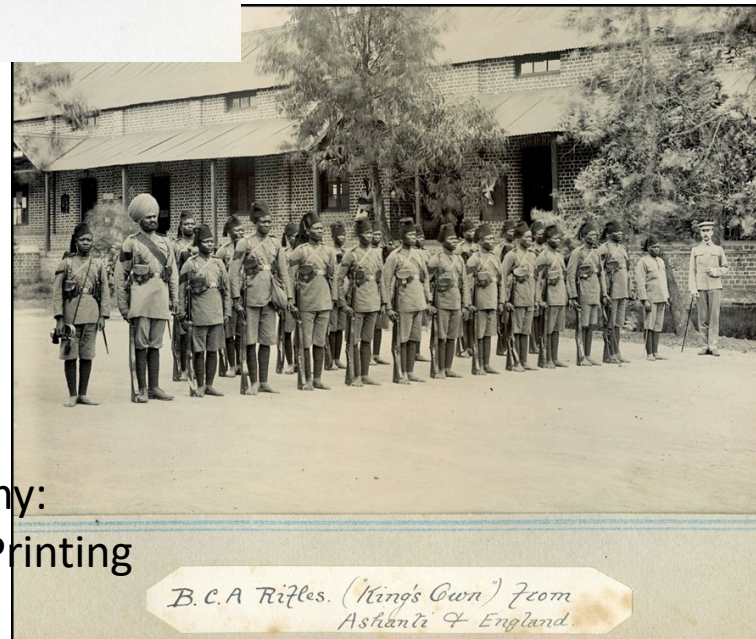




The Beginning



Somali camel corps.



*B.C.A Rifles. (King's Own) from
Ashanti & England.*

Njoloma J (1991), *The Malawi Army:
A Hundred Years Today*. Blantyre Printing
and Publishing Company.



Pub 1904

.... The Father of the KAR?



Captain Fredrick Lugard (Later Lord Lugard)



BHC Residence in Kaduna

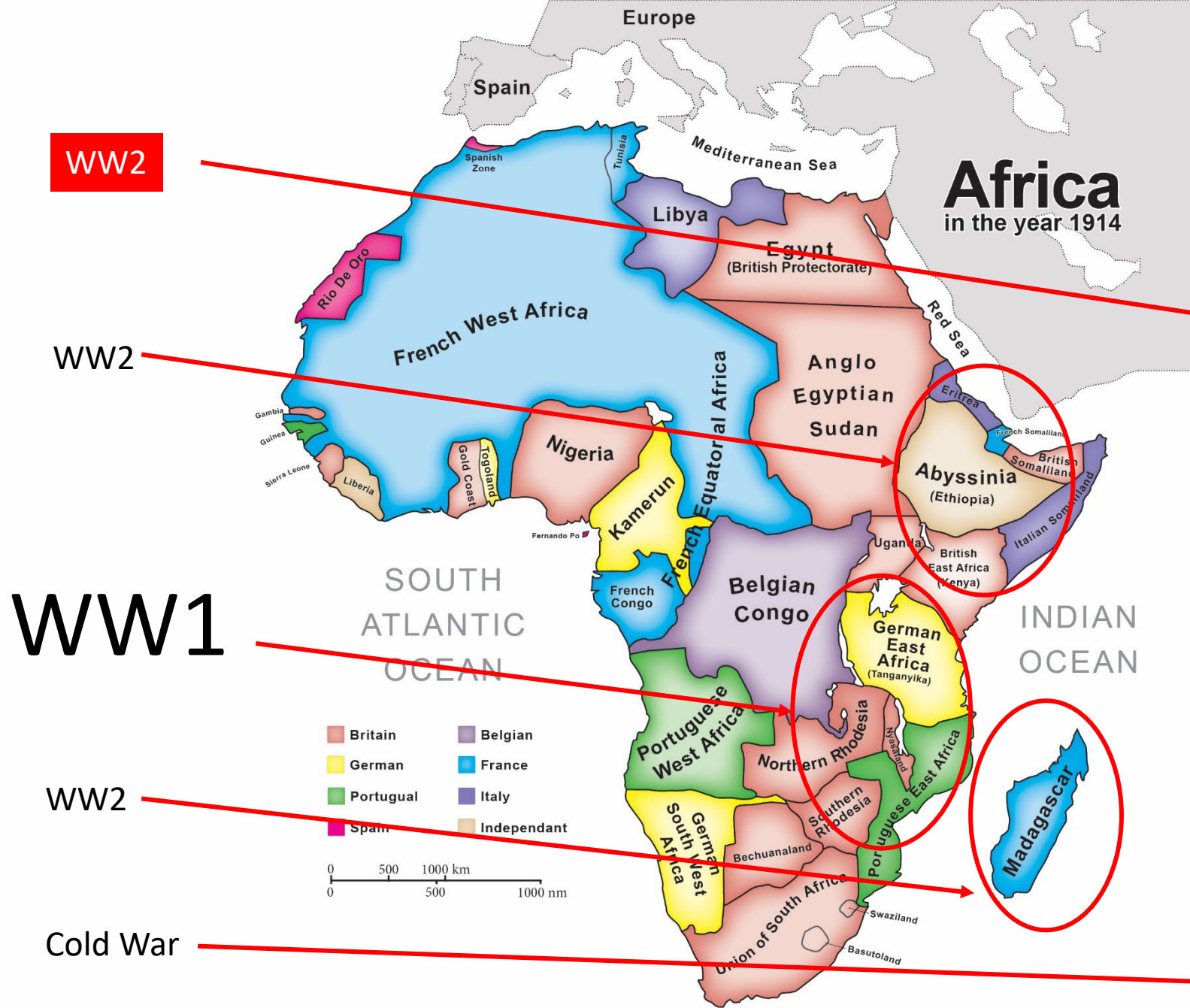


Njoloma J (1991), *The Malawi Army: A Hundred Years Today*. Blantyre Printing and Publishing Company.

Evolution to the KAR

- 150 troops were posted in from India as a core capability
- British Central African Rifles is formed under command of Captain Maguire and quells the unrest throughout the protectorate
- 1898 a second battalion was formed and the regiment is renamed the Central African Rifles
- 1899 renamed the Central African Regiment and expanded further to serve outside of the Protectorate in West as well as East Africa.
- 1902 British Forces in East and Central Africa were amalgamated to become the Kings African Rifles under Command of Brigadier General William Manning
- The two CAR battalions became the 1st and 2nd Battalions, KAR





Defending the Empire in the Great War: The East African Campaign 1914 - 1918

General von Lettow-Vorbeck



1st shot near Lome in Togoland
7 Aug 1914

Last shot was at Chambezi near
Kasama in Northern Rhodesia
13 Nov 1918 (2 days after
the last shot at Mons)

Lettow - Vorbeck signed the surrender
on 16 Nov 1918 then marched with his
troops 100 miles N to Abercorn where
he surrendered to Brigadier General Edwards
commanding the KAR



1 KAR on the march



Heavy reliance on portage although
mechanisation was beginning to appear
as were aircraft



Medal Group of Lance Corporal Sowera DCM and Bar 2/2 KAR



Dances: Ngoma (Zulu Western Malawi)
and Beni Military and Yao Eastern Malawi)



After the Battle



RHINO LINK
Vol. II No: 30 April 2019

*The Journal and family history of
The King's African Rifles
& East African Forces Association*

CEREMONY AT CHAMBESHI MEMORIAL
Marking the Centenary of the Cease Fire and Laying Down of
German Arms at the end of the Great War in Africa.



Hans Caspar Graf zu Rantzau and Brigadier David Williams
REPRESENTING THE ASKARI FROM BOTH SIDES

NYASALAND | KENYA | UGANDA | TANGANYIKA | NORTHERN RHODESIA | SOMALILAND



*To the memory of 1467 men of Northern Rhodesia
who served in the British Army as carriers in the Great War
and were killed in action
or died of wounds or sickness
and in especial remembrance
of 433 who fell in Northern Rhodesia*

Here on the 25th November 1918 the German forces in East Africa surrendered

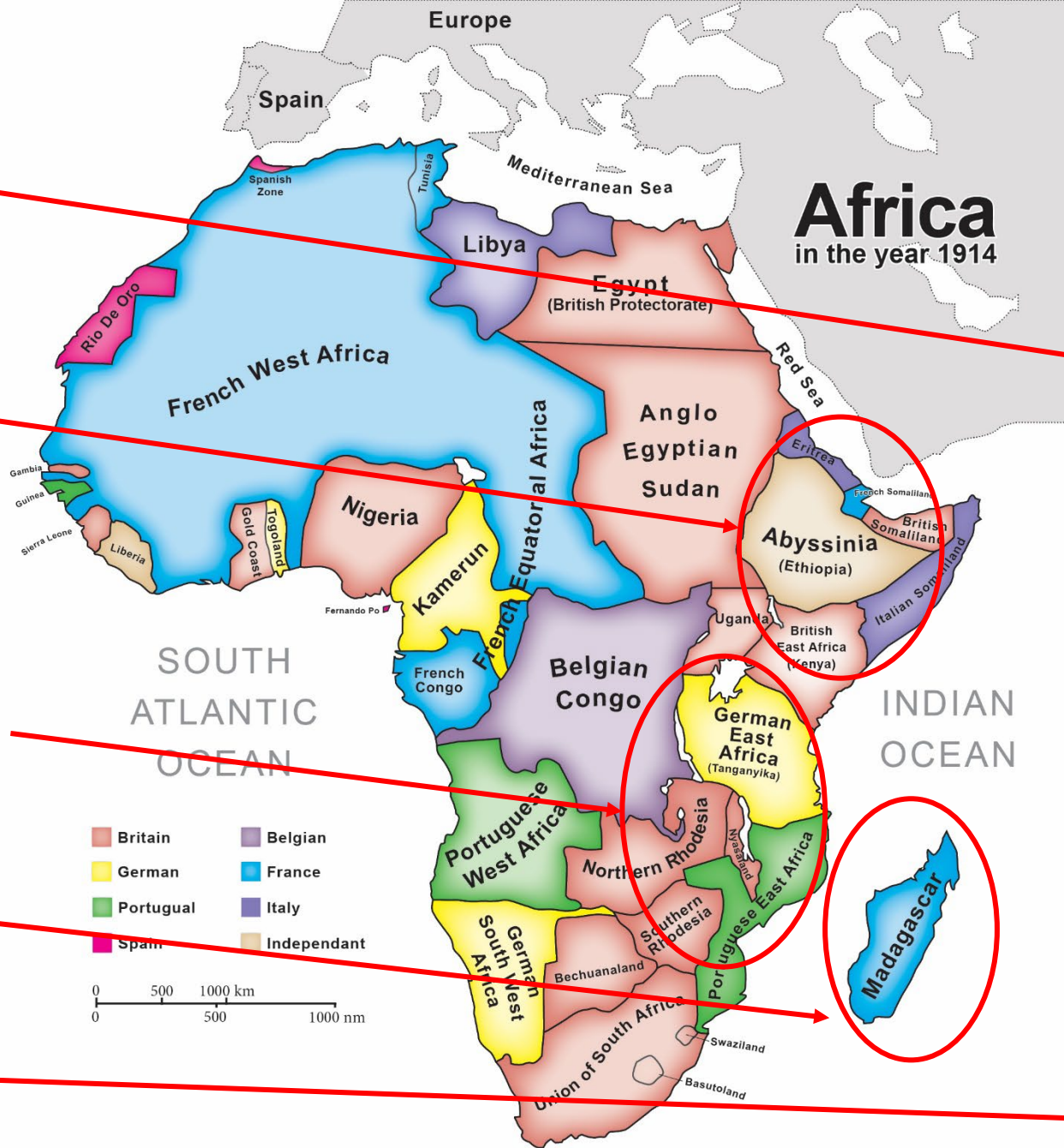
WW2

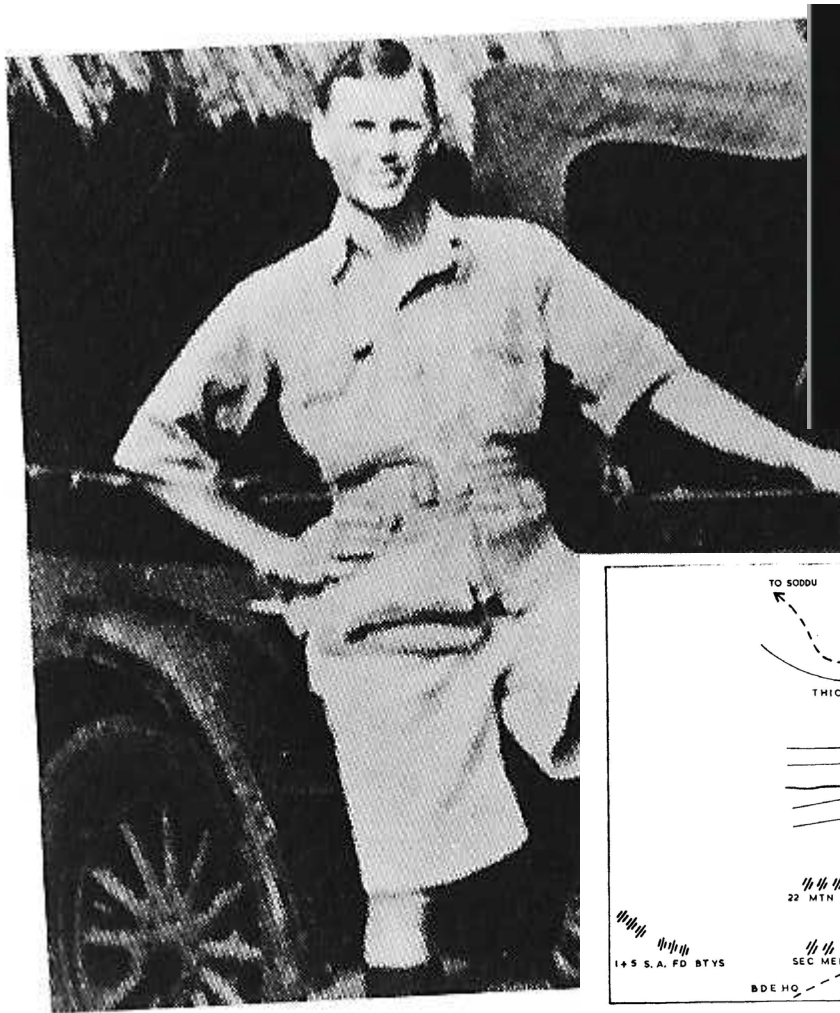
WW2

WW1

WW2

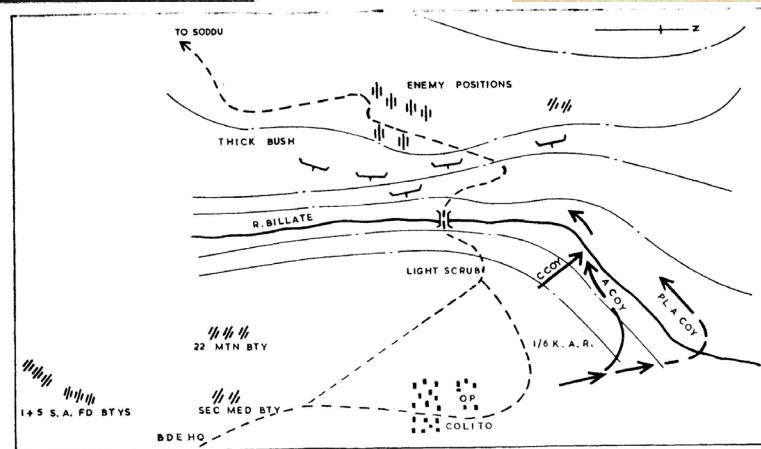
Cold War



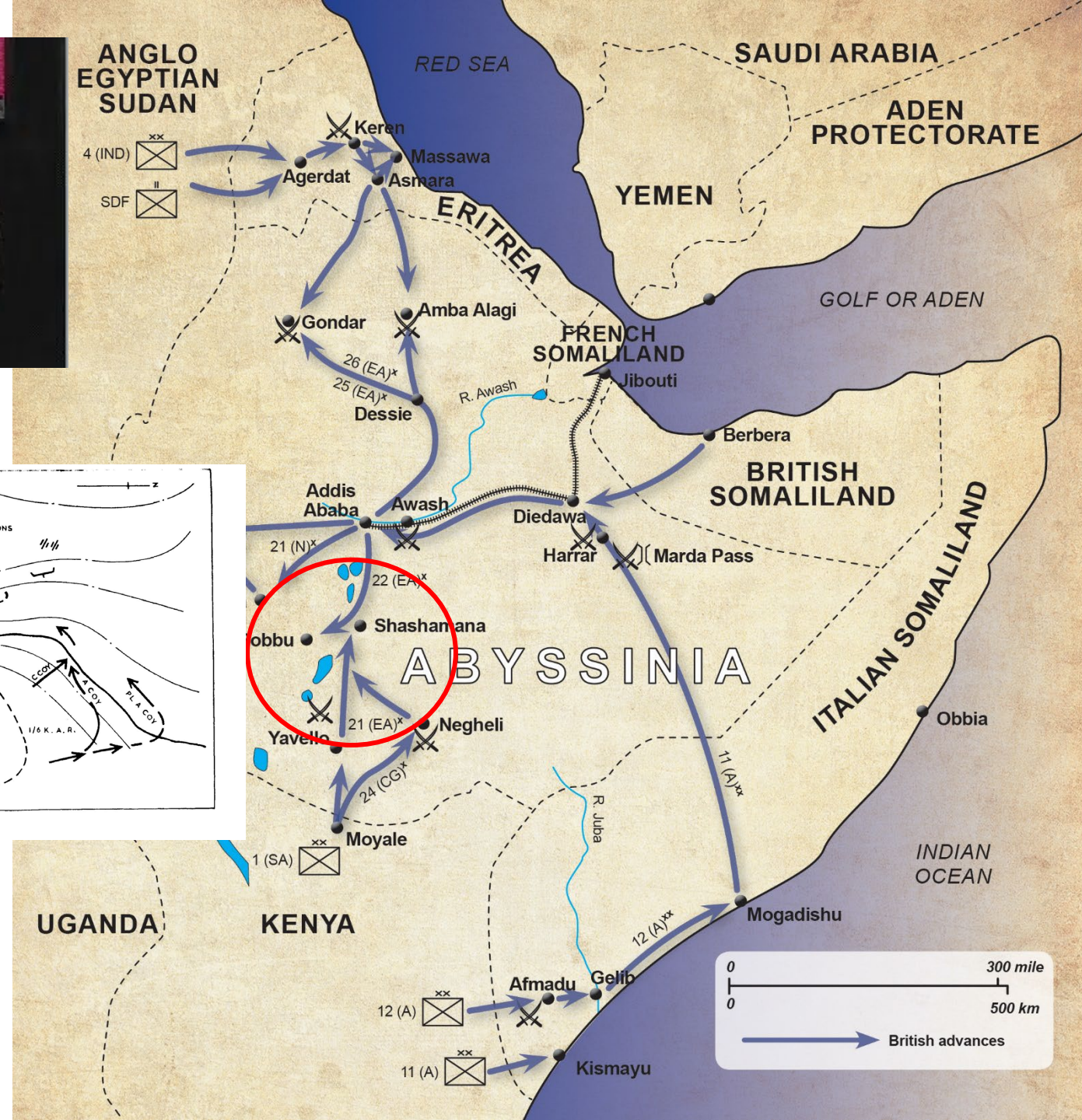


ANGLO
EGYPTIAN
SUDAN

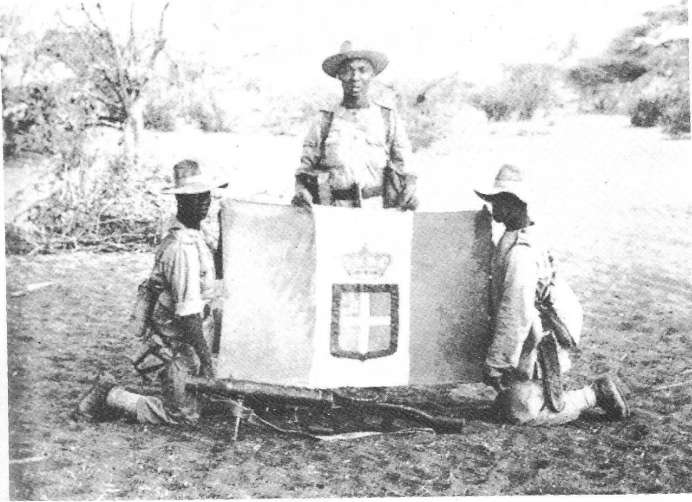
4 (IND) 
SDF 



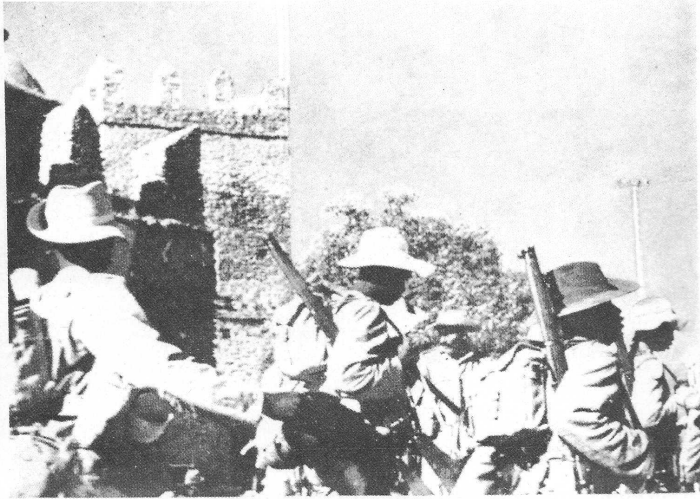
35. Action at Colito, 19th May, 1941



Photograph courtesy
of IWM

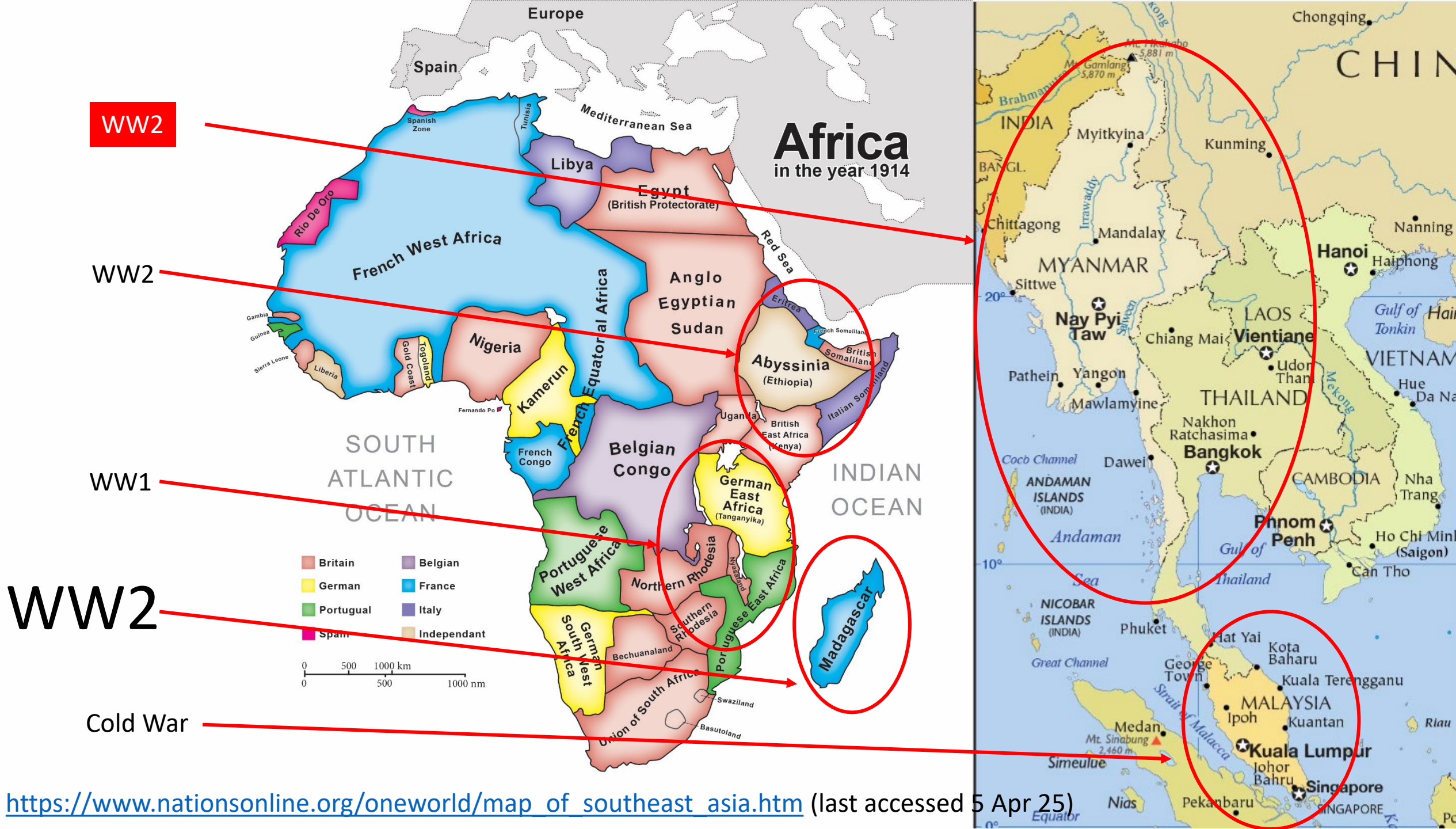


Nyasa (Malawian) soldiers holding an Italian flag captured in Ethiopia, 1940.



The KAR entering the city of Gondar in Ethiopia.





The Key to the Safety of the Indian Ocean (FM Jan Smuts)

Madagascar and Mauritius



Diego Suarez War Cemetery, Madagascar (CWGC)



Operation IRONCLAD 5 May – 6 Nov 42



1st Joint Forces op in WW2
17 KAR were remembered as 2 CAR in
Mauritius
The Mauritian Regiment were sent to
Madagascar for toughening up!



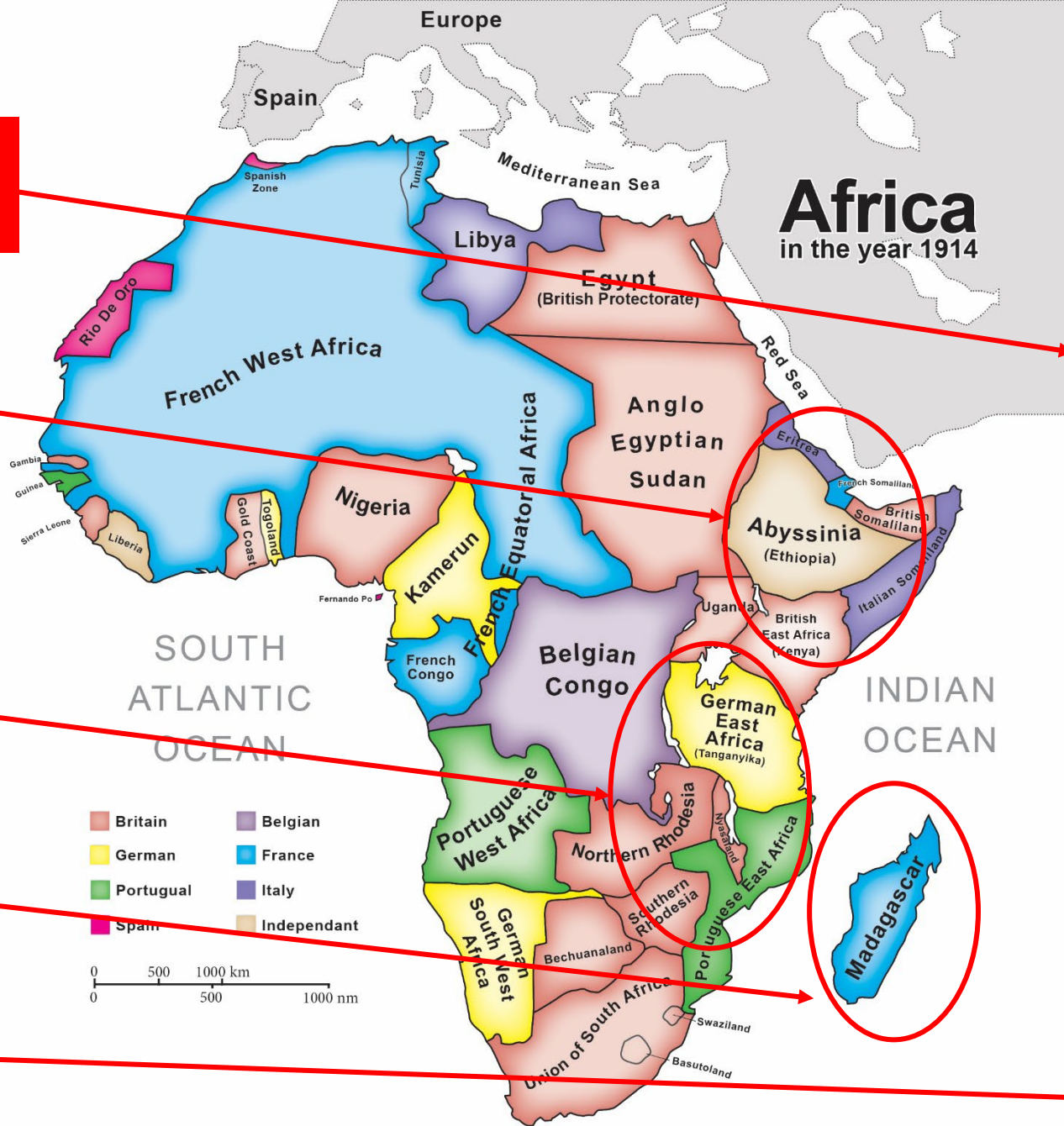
WW2

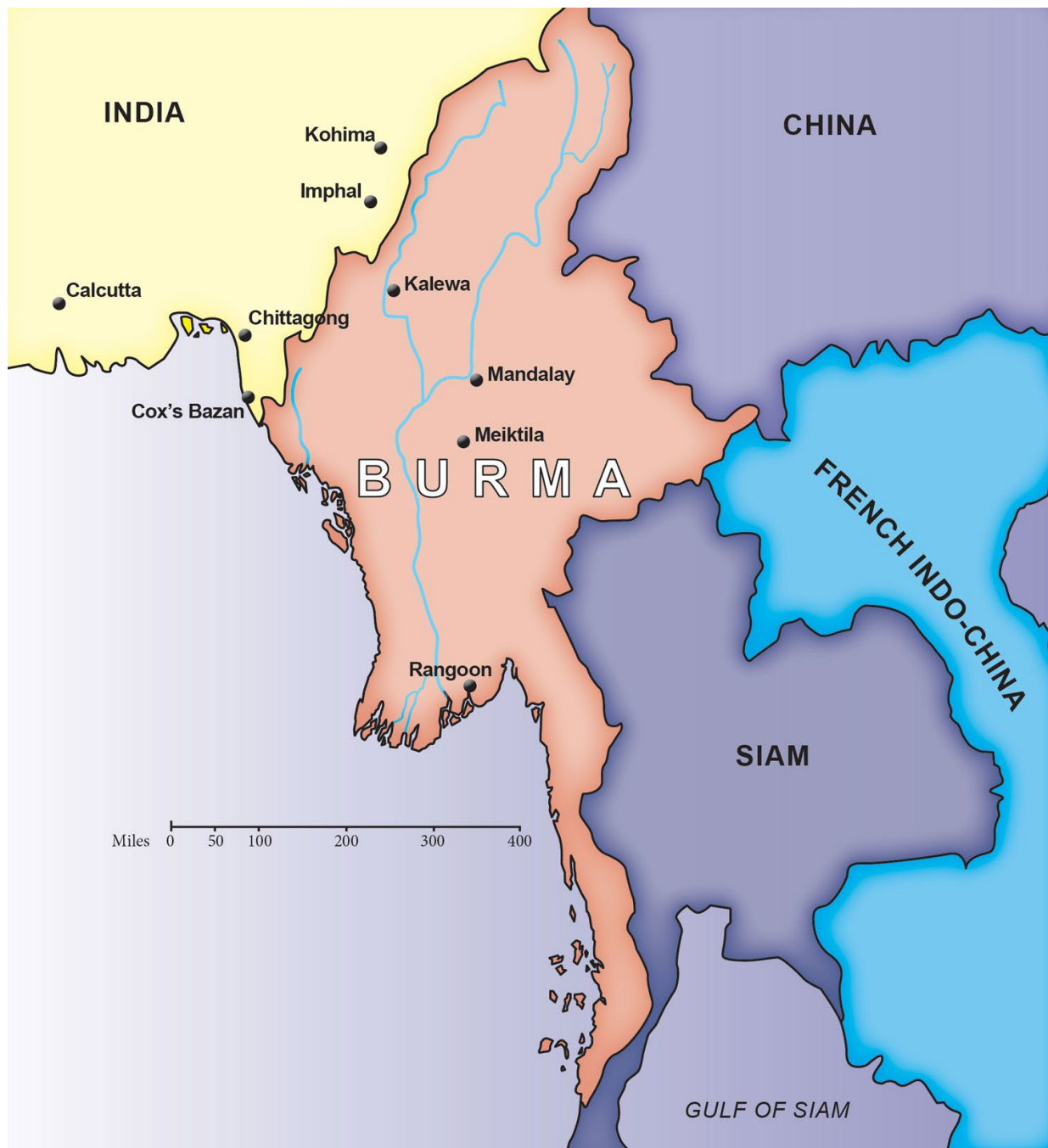
WW2

WW1

WW2

Cold War





4 African Divisions in Burma – 1944/45



11 (EA) Div



81 (WA) Div



82 (WA) Div



28 (EA) Brigade



22 (EA) Brigade



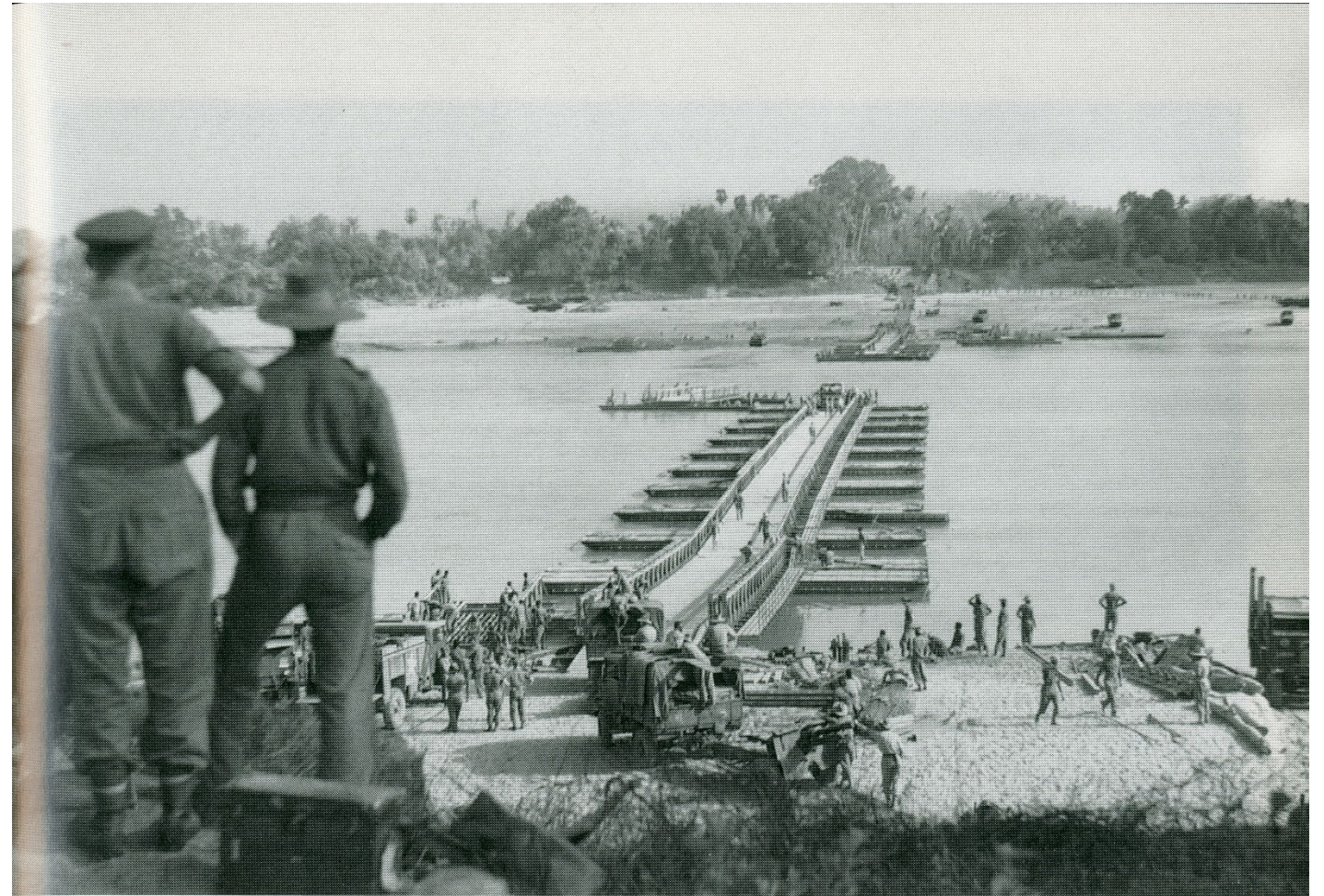
3 (Nigeria) Brigade in Chindits



Private Ephraim Taombe MM
Kabaw Valley Burma 13 Sep 1945



MORTAR TEAM IN BURMESE JUNGLE
1939-45 WAR



At 1,154 feet the bridge across the Chindwin at Kalewa was the longest floating bridge in the world



***“I had asked for the impossible
and had got it!”***

General Slim reflecting on the risk he had taken to fight through the height of the monsoon in the Kabaw Valley both to achieve surprise and maintain momentum.

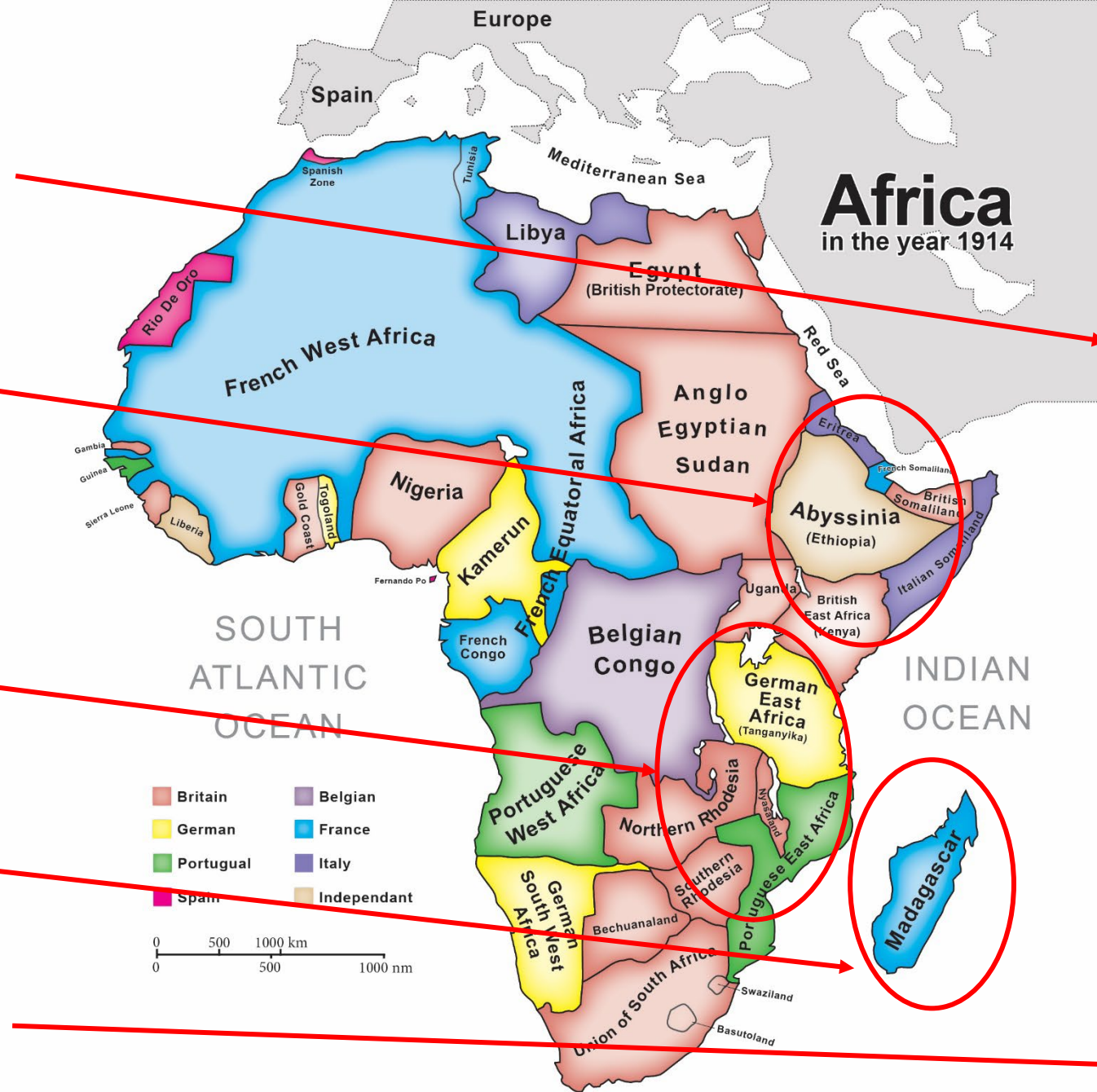
WW2

WW2

WW1

WW2

Cold
War



Back to Far East from 1952 to 1958 for Malayan Emergency



Military Medals in 1st Bn Rhodesian African Rifles

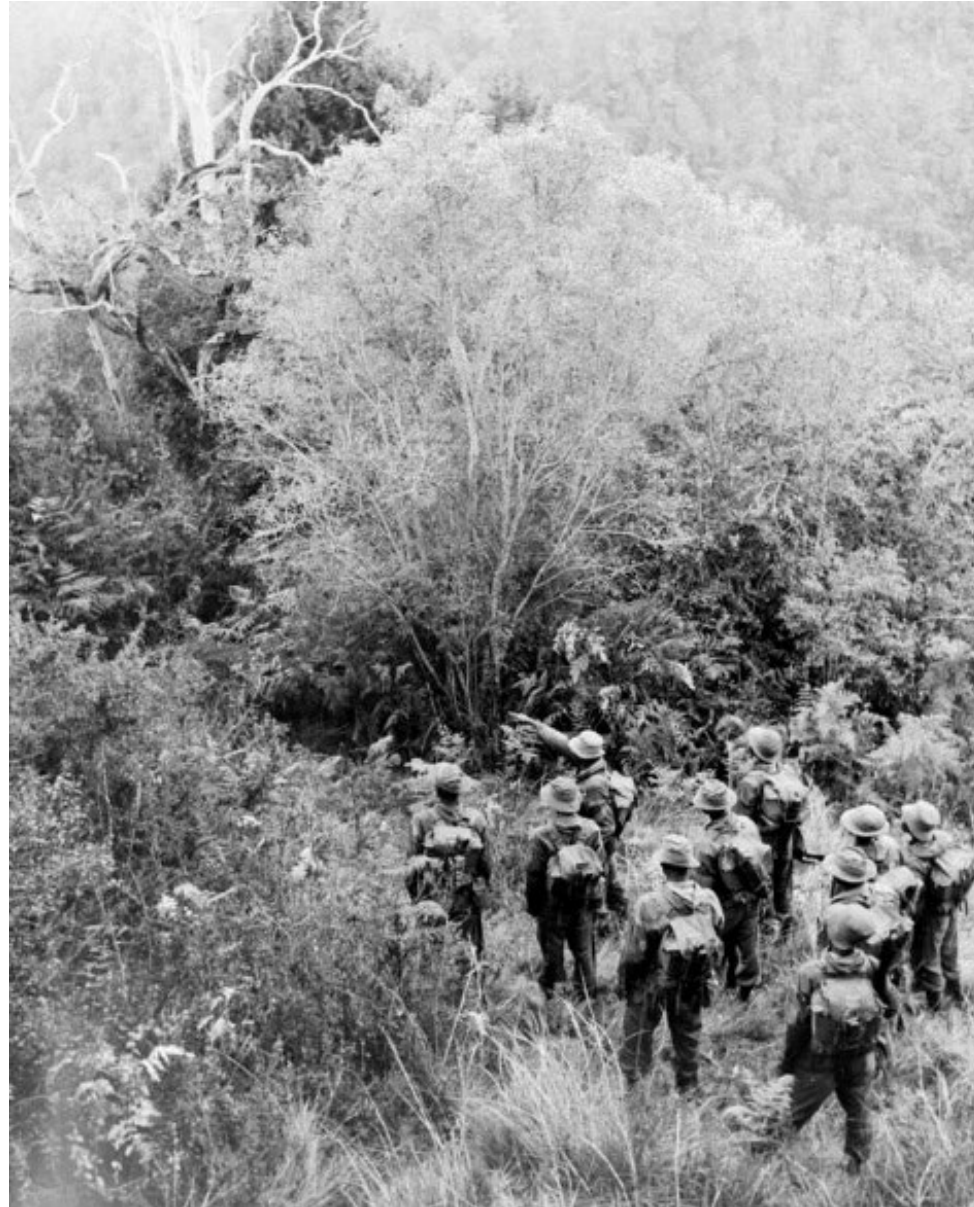


Diversi Genere Fide Pares

Different in Race; Equal in Fidelity

The motto of the Northern Rhodesia Regiment

Kenya Emergency 1952 to 1960





*“Carrying a proud military
legacy on in to Nationhood.”*

Legacy



Zambia Regt on UN Peace-Support Operations in Sudan – May 2011

Welfare Support from the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League



Zikomo kwambiri kwa inu pa nchito yanu yodzipeleka
kuthandiza dziko la Great Britain



Memorial Gates on Constitution Hill – Inaugurated by HM The Queen in 2002



Memorial Boards at Sandhurst



KAR Veterans for Kenya Visit Sandhurst in November 2015



African and Caribbean War Memorial in Brixton – unveiled in 2016



KAR Askari Statue at National Memorial Arboretum – Dedicated on 20th June 2018





TRIBUTES:

- "There is no form of warfare that requires so much inherent pluck in the individual as bush fighting". (Combatant report)
- "They do not know

what fear means; they have won the war for us in East Africa" (British officer's tribute to his askari)

- "The Nigerian Brigade, had by universal acclaim, made for themselves

a reputation in East Africa second to none". (Stobart papers)

- "British soldiers who fought alongside the KAR were unanimous in describing almost all their battalions as

'rippers' who were 'fit to fight alongside or against any troops in the world'. (W Lloyd Jones)

- The Gold Coast Regiment, of whose behaviour one signals officer wrote: "it is

impossible to speak too highly: they fight like heroes – and there are no better comrades in a scrap". (Liddle Collection)

WINNER OF THE 1998 WHITBREAD
FIRST NOVEL AWARD

THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND GILES FODEN

'AUDACIOUS, SHREWD AND
SPIRITED.' WILLIAM BOYD



<https://www.kingsafricanriflesassociation.co.uk/the-history-of-the-kar/>



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