

**PAUL von LETTOW-VORBECK:  
The Events and Times that Molded the Man**

This is a seven frame display exhibit depicting the life of the German General, Paul von Lettow-Vorbeck. His life is detailed through a series of thematic vignettes referencing the times, events and places that molded the man into a celebrated soldier, German colonialist, national hero, anti-Nazi activist, author and politician. The exhibit is divided into four chapters spanning his birth in 1870 to his death in 1964:

**Chapter 1: 1870-1900, The Training of a Soldier**

Birth in Saarlouis; Military Training; Early Military Experience - The Boxer Rebellion in China.

**Chapter 2: 1901-1914, The Molding of a Commander**

The Hottentot and Herero Rebellions - German Southwest Africa; Befriending of Jan Smuts; Command Assignments in Germany; Command in German Kamerun; German East Africa Command.

**Chapter 3: 1915-1917, Vorbeck's Role in WW I - The German East Africa Front**

Relevance of GEA; First Victory - the Battle of Taveta; Battle of Kilimanjaro; Battle of Jassin; Attacks on the British Railway; Salvage of the Königsberg; Coastal Watch; Resourcefulness; Importance of GEA Railways; Battles with Jan Smuts; Receiving the Pour le Mérite; Airship L-59; Evading the British and Allies; Flight to Portuguese East Africa and Rhodesia.

**Chapter 4: 1918-1964, Armistice and Return to Germany**

Armistice; Return to Germany; New Adventures - Lettow Friekorps; Politics and Activism; German Inflation and Financial Ruin; Anti-Nazi Activist; Memorials; The Final Years; Epilog.



*The British expected Paul von Lettow-Vorbeck and his small colonial force of Germans and East Africans to be little more than a temporary nuisance. They could not have been more wrong.*



*v. Lettow Vorbeck.*

Every attempt has been made, through extensive research, to accurately depict the times, places and events influencing Vorbeck's life. Materials used for the exhibit include, wherever possible, period items representing postal history or other philatelic items, post cards, photographs or images and other ephemera appropriate to the story. The materials chosen thematically relate to an event, time or place which influenced his life and, in some cases, there is a direct relation of items to Vorbeck, such as the autograph above. Important items are designated with **gray matting** and **bold font**. Certified items are designated ©.

Clipping from *Prussian Jungle Tactics* by Barry Taylor. *Military History*, Vol. 8, No.2, p. 8, August 1991.