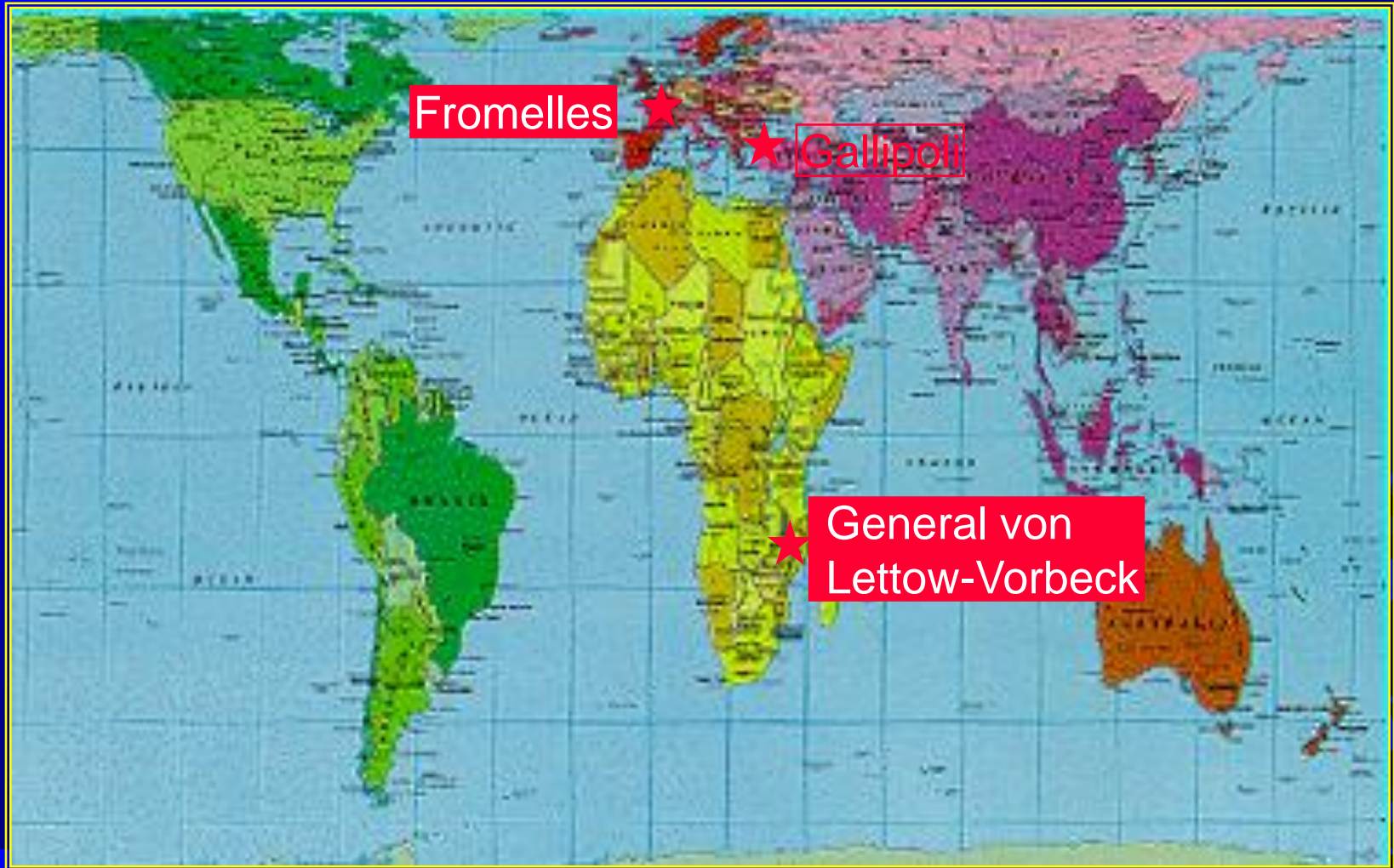


***Lettow-Vorbeck:***  
***German Campaigns in Africa - WWI***

**Clive Baker & Bryn Parry**  
*Southampton Solent University*

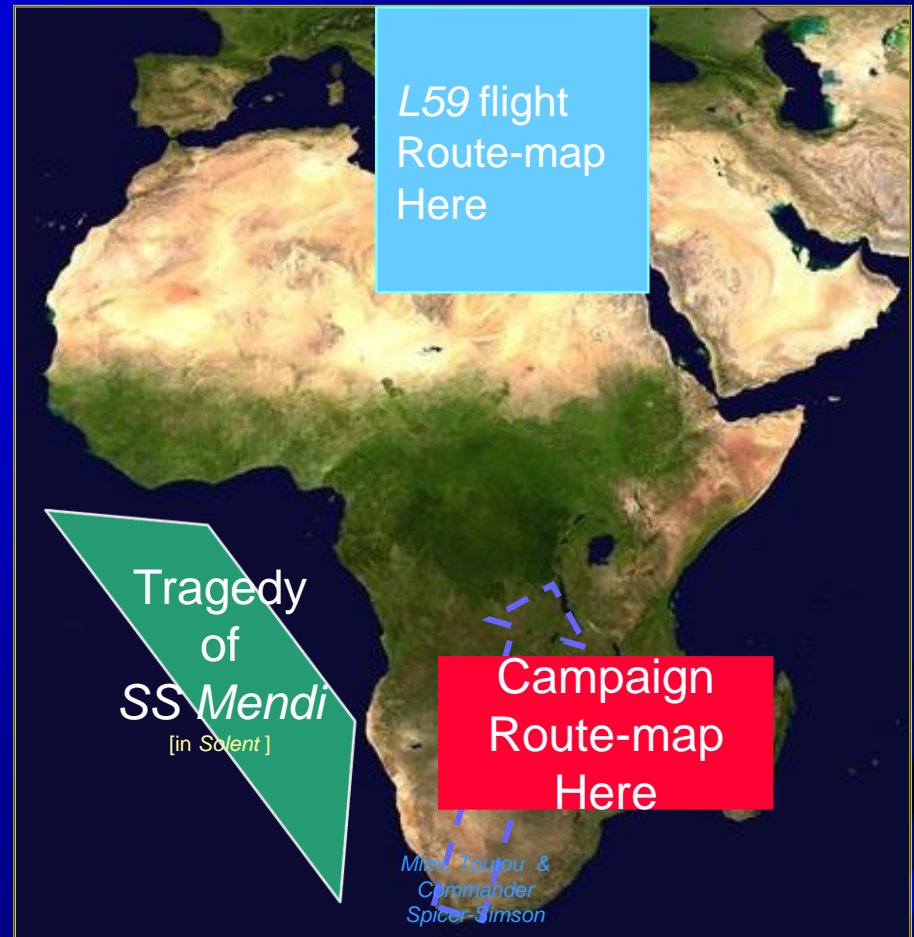


# Truly A Global War



The ill-fated *SS Mendi* troopship [lost in 1917; second-worst loss of South Africans, in *WWI*] demonstrated how global *WWI* was:

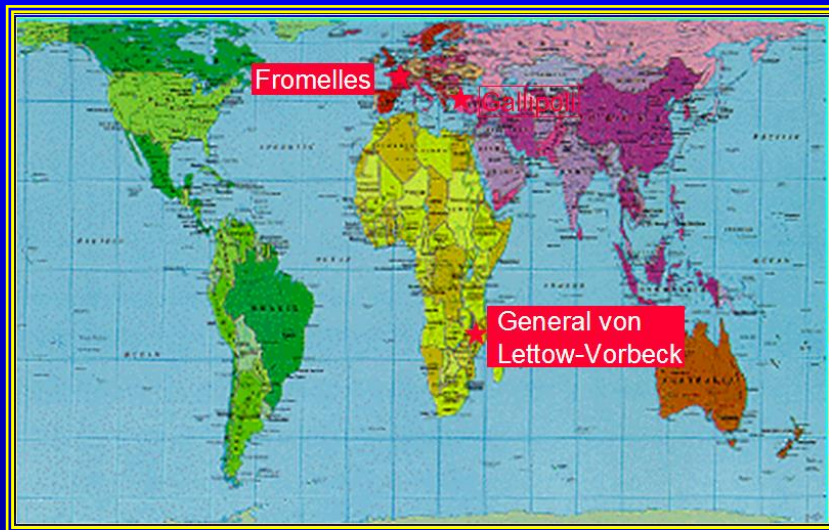
# Truly A Global War



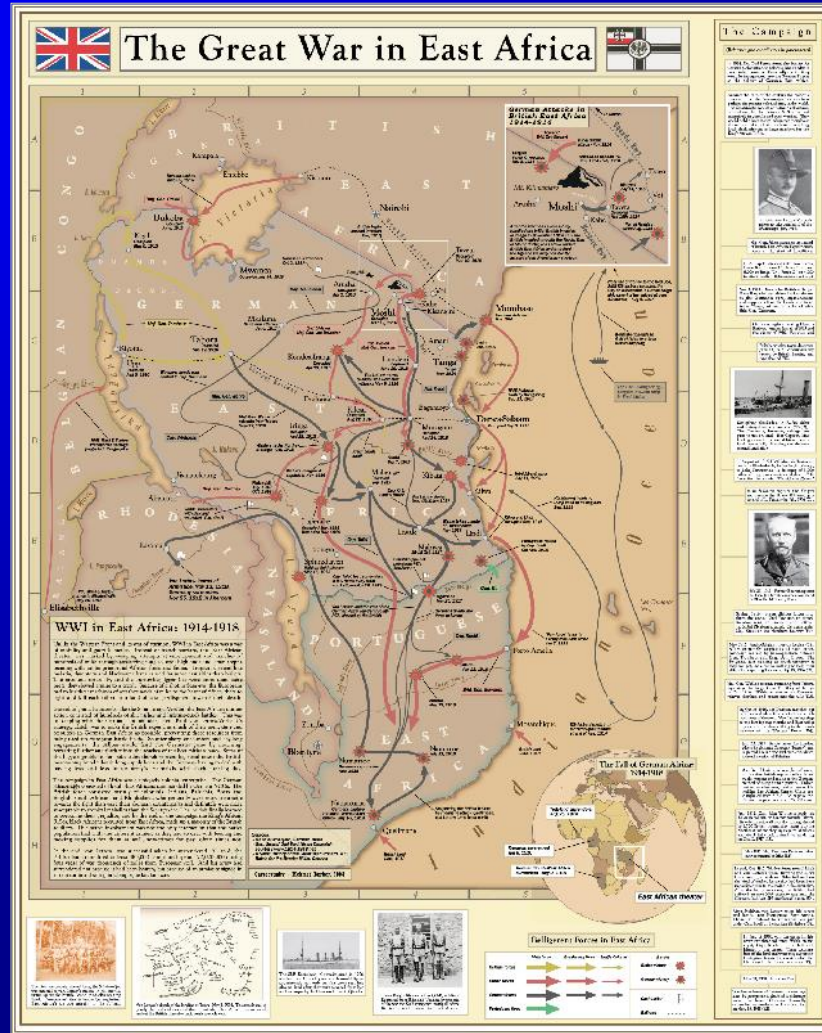
Source::

Wikipedia

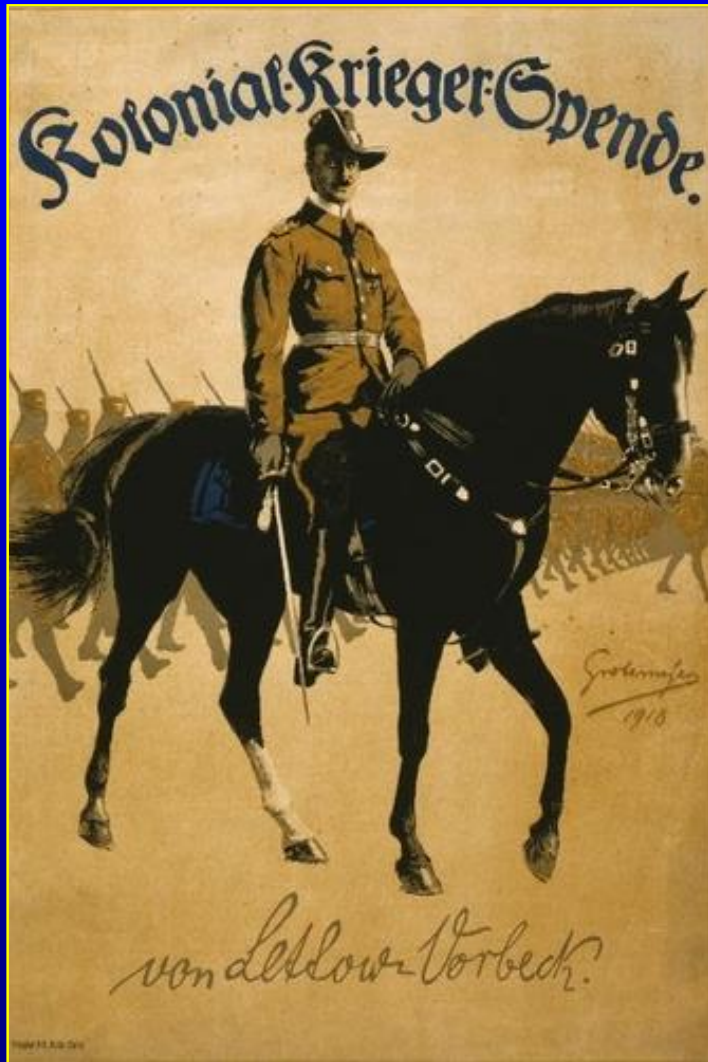
# Truly A Global War



# German Campaigns in East Africa - WWI



# General von Lettow-Vorbeck



[Pre WWI] the future *General Paul von Lettow-Vorbeck* learns his fighting skills in colonial wars, including the *Boxer Rebellion* and the alleged genocide of the *Herero* – the latter is the 'hidden' story as to why the most recent "The Prisoner" TV series has such 'interesting' locations

[Although not the senior officer and against direct diplomatic orders] *Colonel Paul von Lettow-Vorbeck*, Germany, oversees an undefeated guerrilla campaign in *German East Africa*; drawing the [overwhelming] British and Indian invading forces deeper inland, before harrying them [with a force that varies between 3,000-12,000 men] and leading raids into the British colonies of Kenya and Rhodesia [so as to occupy a much larger force of *Allied* troops and ships] as well as Portuguese colonies – learning of the *Armistice*, some weeks after hostilities ended in Europe, whilst in the midst of a series of raids on forts in Rhodesia [uniquely, his troops will parade through Berlin still armed]

*Lettow-Vorbeck* trades territory for time and sees his role as tying up allied forces; that should be elsewhere, e.g. *Dardanelles* and France - *Lettow-Vorbeck* frustrated and saw-off several *Allied* commanders, becoming the only German commander to take British territory

Receiving no supplies, after 1916, *Lettow-Vorbeck* sows crops where he plans to be and manufactures shoes, uniforms and medicine from alternative sources – he is unaware that Germany builds the world's largest airship [L59 *Zeppelin*] and tries to fly it four times further than any airship has flown, as a one-way supply mission

Amongst the *Allied* soldiers killed is the 65-year old *Captain Frederick Selous DSO* [one of the templates for *Allan Quatermain*, who led *Teddy Roosevelt's 1909 safari*]; *Lettow-Vorbeck* sent his condolences - *Selous* is commemorated by the *Selous Game Reserve* [now a *WHS*] and at *Winsford Walled Garden*, Devon, laid out for his sister [Maria Medley]

The overall legacy of this campaign, for Africa, is not a proud one.

[After WWI] Following the failure of the [right-wing] *Kapp Putsch*, Germany, *General Paul von Lettow-Vorbeck* is credited with being coerced into resigning from the army; previously, he had overseen *Freikorps* troops that had helped to crush the *Spartacist* uprising, Hamburg and survived an assassination attempt – an approach [later] from Hitler will receive a 'rude response'

