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THE FRANCO-PRUSSIAN WAR IN HELIGOLAND.

Ever since the scramble for Atriboria had started, the German Empire and its Chancellor Bismarck had been reluctant to join the other Great Powers in the race to acquire colonial territory. However, with Great Britain, France, the Boers and even little Belgium already more or less firmly established, the German government finally yielded to public demand and started showing interest in the southernmost island of the continent. An expedition was sent and a base camp established in the northwest corner. The island was named "Heligoland".



Heligoland is situated well beneath the equatorial belt of Atriboria and enjoys a much milder (more or less Mediterranean) climate than most of the Dark Continent. Apart from the mountains in the south eastern region, low hills and plains with deciduous trees and some palm trees dominate the countryside. The Germans were mainly attracted by the fertile soil, ideal for planting crops and raising cattle (though there is some unconfirmed talk about gold and diamonds...). They soon started to build their first settlement near their initial point of debarkation and named it "*Kaisersheim*" in honour of their emperor.

Little by little German settlers started to arrive in the colony and Kaisersheim grew into a neat little town of white buildings, complete with a harbour, a small fortress and with farms dotting the countryside. Even Bismarck was getting used to the idea of the *Second Fatherland*... Meanwhile, things were not going very well in Atriboria for Germany's European neighbour France.



The bulk of the French invading force consisted of hardened FFL-troops with some Fusiliers Marins & regular colonial line infantry.



The French native contingent was an all-female affair: a division of the dreaded Dahomey Amazon Askari!

Until recently, most of the French efforts in Atriboria were concentrated in the "Boven-Nijl" (the Upper-Nile) region near the border of Igdi and they had little to show for except blood and sand, so the French government decided also to have a go at Heligoland before the Germans grew too strong in the area. An expeditionary force under *Général de Division* Edouard Monamour ("*Eddy pour les femmes et euh... amazones...* ") was therefore sent *en route* to invade the southernmost part of the island.



The D.A.K. disembarked in Kaisersheim under the protection of the colonial battleship "Friedrich der Grosse".



General Wilhelm ("Willie") Ohnewürstchen (right, with distinctive moustache) and his secretary Major Richard Grosslaweitt.

The Germans protested vividly against what they called "*the frog's aggression*", but the French forces outnumbered the newly raised (and untried) German Schutztruppe by ten to one, so little could be done for the moment... Bismarck did not hesitate very long and General Wilhelm Ohnewürstchen was promptly placed in command of a number of regular German units that were immediately dispatched to Kaisersheim. This force was named "*das Deutsche Atriboria Korps*" (or in short: D.A.K.). The stage was set...



D.A.K. Jägers (in front) and line infantry arriving in Kaisersheim.



Askari from the newly raised Schutztruppe.



German settlers also took up arms in defence of their colony, enlisting in both infantry and mounted volunteer units.