

# Boekbesprekings / Book Reviews

**BASLER AFRIKA BIBLIOGRAPHIEN: Mitteilungen 7/8. Reprint 'Kriegsnachrichten,' Tsumeb, Südwestafrika, 1915.** Afrika-Verlag Der Kreis, Schwäbisch Gmünd, 1973, pp 100.

The publishers of this Reprint deserve congratulation. With patience and no little effort they have brought together all fifteen issues of the virtually unknown **Kriegsnachrichten** published by Rudolf Kindt at Tsumeb between 15 May and 3 July 1915. At that time the German forces were isolated in the northern areas of the territory, and nearing the end of their resistance. Information on their activities has always been scarce and the availability of the **Kriegsnachrichten** will be a boon to researchers.

Rudolf Kindt originally published the newspaper **Südwest** in Windhoek. After Windhoek was occupied by the South African forces Kindt determined to publish a newsheet in Tsumeb. His prime intention was to keep the German troops informed of events in Europe. Information was received, sometimes garbled or incomplete, by means of a wireless station erected at Tsumeb. Printing was done on the mission printing press.

Length varied from four to eight pages, 15.5 by 23 cms in size. The lithographic reprint has been reduced to the A5 format, but remains easily readable.

Information from overseas, not always clear, had to be interpreted as best possible. Since there was no method of checking reports save the unreliable one of interrogating prisoners of war, inaccuracies resulted. The overseas columns are thereof of solely academic interest. Far more value attaches to the local columns, comprising battle reports, casualty lists and items of general interest. It would be most unwise to accept any of the factual reporting as it stands, but cross-reference to South African documentation may enable its accuracy to be evaluated. Our knowledge of specific encounters is likely to benefit.

The publication is competently edited with four annotated introductory articles. Martin Vogt relates how the originals were discovered, and Dr Curt Schmidt, one-time **Landgerichtsdirektor** at Mainz, wrote an excellent

short commentary before his death which is reproduced in its entirety. Information is also provided about the layout, printing and publishing of the originals and on the technique of the reprint.

With the **Kriegsnachrichten** a valuable addition to source material on the German South West Africa campaign has been made available. The reprint comes at an opportune moment as there are indications that research in South Africa on the campaign is increasing, and it must not be overlooked.

— R. J. Bouch

**HANNES OBERHOLZER: Pioneers of early aviation in South Africa.** Bloemfontein, pp 116, met illustrasies. Reeks: Memoirs van die Nasionale Museum, nr. 7. Wie die moeite neem om, aan die hand van die outeur se verwysings (pp 114-115), die redelik volledige lys van vakliteratuur oor die ontwikkeling van die siviele en militêre lugvaart in ons land na te gaan, kom tot die gevolgtrekking dat dit hoofsaaklik uit 'n aantal artikels bestaan. In boekvorm het, gedurende die afgelope tien jaar, veral genl-maj K. R. van der Spuy en mnr A. Blake, onderskeidelik in **Chasing the wind (1966)** en **Vlieghelde van Su'd-Afrika (1966)**, hulle beywer om groter werkstukke aan te pak. Dieselfde geld vir die onderhawige outeur wat in 1969, in die vorm van 'n aantal radio-praatjies, sy aandag op lugvaart-staatmakers toegespits het. Aan **Militaria (1973)** het die eer te beurt geval om die tweede deel van mnr Oberholzer se huidige publikasie, t.w. die gedeelte oor John Weston (pp 60-112), aan belangstellendes te mag voorlê.

Hierdie deel, waaraan daar nou geen verdere aandag gewy word nie, is nie alleen 'n uitstekende voorbeeld van die geslaagde biografie nie, maar gelyktydig ook 'n belangrike aanvulling van 'n bestaande leemte tov ons kennis oor Weston, sy optrede en sy verdienstes. Dalk kom daar later nog meer gewens aan die lig oor sy optrede in Britse militêre diens gedurende die twee wêreldoorloë. Ek wil ten slotte die skrywer, mbt hierdie gedeelte, komplimenteer ivm sy noukeurige navorsing en sy keuse uit die beskik-