



English Edition

# Official Gazette

of the  
**Protectorate of South West Africa**  
in Military Occupation of the Union Forces

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Windhuk, 13th August, 1915

No. 1

The following Proclamations, issued as indicated, are re-published for general information:

No. 1] [28th April, 1915.

**Proclamation issued at Aus by Major General, the Hon. J. C. Smuts, K. C., General Officer Commanding, Southern Forces, dated 28th April 1915.**

WHEREAS the Defence Forces of the Union of South Africa are now in occupation of the Southern portion of German South West Africa up to the latitude of GIBEON, and it is considered necessary to control all access to or egress from such territory:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, the undersigned, Major General, the Honourable Jan Christian Smuts, K. C., General Officer Commanding the Southern Forces, Union Defence Forces, do hereby proclaim and make known that no person or persons other than members of the Union Defence Forces in uniform will be permitted to enter or leave that territory, and that no livestock or other movable property shall be moved across the border into the portion of South Africa without in either case the written authority of one of the duly authorised officers referred to hereunder.

Any person contravening the provisions of this proclamation shall be guilty of an offence, and liable on conviction to a term of imprisonment not exceeding one year, or to a fine not exceeding One hundred pounds sterling (£ 100), or to both such punishment and imprisonment.

The officers hereby authorised to issue permits are the Provost Marshals and Lootmasters appointed to said territory or their representatives.

2] [12th May, 1915.

**Proclamation issued at Windhuk by General the Hon. Louis Botha, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, the Forces of the Union of South Africa, dated 12th May, 1915.**

WHEREAS the forces of the Union of South Africa under my command have conquered and now occupy the greater portion of the developed part of the territory known as German South West Africa, in-

cluding the capital, principal towns, both seaports and all railways except one light line to the North from Onguati, of the said territory, and, whereas for the further successful prosecution of the campaign against the armed forces of the enemy remaining in the field it is necessary to take such measures as will expedite the defeat of the said forces of the enemy and as will tend to the pacification of and maintenance of order in the portion of German South West Africa above mentioned as conquered and occupied by the forces under my command, I hereby proclaim that Martial Law, as such law is understood and administered in British Territory, shall be established in the conquered and occupied territory aforesaid and as described in the schedule attached to this Proclamation, from the 12th May 1915, being the date of the occupation of Windhuk by the forces under my command, and until such date as may be decided by competent authority.

The Civil and Military authorities of German South West Africa, despite the virtual loss of all that territory, have elected to continue a struggle, of which humanly speaking the end is plain, involving as it does the defeat of the German Forces remaining in the field.

While it is possible fully to appreciate the spirit which prompts such resistance, it must be realised that the decision will entail much misery and distress to the civil population.

The consequences of their decision have no doubt received full consideration by those who have resolved upon their line of action.

It is not the desire of the Union Government to add to the distress of the civil population, and all individuals who remain within the limits of the territory described in the attached schedule and comply strictly with the regulations which will from time to time be published under Martial Law, may confidently rely upon the best protection which the Officers and Troops under my command can afford them.

It is accordingly the intention if possible to allow the civilian inhabitants to remain in their houses and attend to their business.

If, however, the presence of the civil population at any time proves to be an advantage to the enemy

NOW, THEREFORE, I do hereby declare, proclaim, and make known that the importation of goods resaid shall be permitted subject to the following conditions, viz:

1. Subject to the provisions of paragraph (2) of this proclamation, customs duties shall be paid on all goods imported into the said territory. Those duties shall, for the present, and until further provision is made, be in accordance with and subject to the tariff fixed in respect of the Union of South Africa, and set out in Union Act No. 26 of 1914, as amended by Act No. 22 of 1915, and the Customs Laws and Regulations in force in the Union of South Africa shall, until further provision is made, mutatis mutandis, have force and effect throughout and in respect of the said territory.
2. Goods which are grown, produced, or manufactured in the Union of South Africa, shall, when imported into the said territory, be free of Customs duty.
3. In the case of goods imported through the Union of South Africa into the said territory, Customs duties, as aforesaid, shall be paid to the Collectors of Customs in the Union.
4. Goods shall be imported by sea into the said territory only through the Ports of Walvis Bay and Luderitzbucht, and by land into the said territory only by rail.
5. Goods imported from or through the Union of South Africa shall be accompanied by a copy of Export Form No. 41 as set out in the Schedule to the Union regulations published under Union Government Notice No. 1094 of 1913, and such copy shall be handed by the importer, in the case of goods brought by sea, to the officer of customs at the Port of Entry, and in the case of goods brought by rail, to the Station Master at the place of destination.

No. 7]

[16th July, 1915:

**Proclamation issued by General Botha, at Windhuk, on 16 July, 1915.**

WHEREAS since the occupation of the territory known as German South West Africa by the Forces of the Union of South Africa, the Notes of the German Reichskassen or of the Berlin Reichsbank have not been accepted or recognised in any way by the Union Government, and whereas it is considered necessary to define and prescribe conditions under which such Notes may now be accepted in Government Offices in the Protectorate of South West Africa in Military occupation of the said Forces:

NOW, THEREFORE, I do hereby declare, proclaim, and make known:

a) that the said Notes may, until further notice, be accepted in Government Offices in the said Protectorate at a rate of discount which will approximate as nearly as may be to the rate current from time to time in neutral countries, and

b) that the said rate shall, until varied by the authority of the Military Governor of the said Protectorate, be fixed at **twentyfive per cent.**

No. 8]

[18th July, 1915:

**Proclamation issued by General Botha, at Swakopmund, on 18th July, 1915.**

WHEREAS it has come to my notice that since the occupation by the Union Forces of the territory known as German South West Africa certain persons have attempted to obtain concessions of mineral, trading, or other rights from the coloured and native inhabitants of the said territory; and, whereas it is contrary to the welfare and interests of such inhabitants that concessions of this character should be validated or recognised in any way;

NOW THEREFORE, I do hereby declare, proclaim, and make known that any steps to obtain such concessions which may have been taken by any person since the outbreak of hostilities between Great Britain and Germany, or which may hereafter be taken, shall be and are hereby declared to be invalid, and that there shall be no recourse in law for the recovery of any money or other valuable consideration which shall or may have been paid, granted, or promised by or on behalf of any such person, to or for the use, advantage, or benefit of any coloured or native inhabitant in respect of any such concession.

Any infringement of the provisions of this Proclamation shall be punishable by a fine not exceeding One thousand pounds sterling (£ 1,000) or by imprisonment not exceeding five years with or without hard labour, or to both such fine and imprisonment.

No. 9]

[18th July, 1915:

**Proclamation issued by General Botha, at Swakopmund, on 18th July, 1915.**

WHEREAS there is reason to believe that in the Protectorate of South West Africa in the military occupation of the Union Forces, prospecting and digging for diamonds has been and is being carried on in contravention of General Orders issued by the Minister of Defence; and whereas, there is reason to believe that trading and dealing in such diamonds is being carried on in the said Protectorate;

NOW, THEREFORE, I do hereby declare, proclaim, and make known that from and after the date of this Proclamation, any person found in the said Protectorate

1. in possession of any rough or uncut diamond which has not been registered with the Provost Marshal or other officer for the time being appointed to register diamonds,
2. searching, prospecting, digging, or mining for diamonds,
3. trading in, buying, selling, or dealing in any way in rough or uncut diamonds,

shall be guilty of an offence, and shall be subject, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding One thousand pounds sterling (£ 1000) or to imprisonment with or without hard labour for a period not exceeding five years, or to both such fine and imprisonment, and any Court pronouncing sentence for any infringement of the provisions of this Proclamation may further order that any diamonds, in respect of which conviction is made, shall be forfeited to the Crown.

AND, I do further declare, proclaim, and make known that on and after the date of this Proclamation, the registration of rough or uncut diamonds in the said Protectorate shall cease, except in cases where it can be shown to the satisfaction of the