

Provisional Findaid 2/078

A.0151

**Von Alten
1904-1911**

**Compiled by Werner Hillebrecht
2003**

National Archives of Namibia
Findaid 2/078: A0151 Von Alten
Compiled by Werner Hillebrecht
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Private Accession A.0151 Von Alten

Introduction

This accession was received in 1961 from an unnamed member of the family von Alten. It consists of manuscript material from Victor von Alten and Rudolf Graf von Hardenberg covering their involvement in the Namibian War between 1904-1905, and some fragmentary other related material.

All material except item #15 (English) and #19 (Afrikaans) is in German language.

Biographical note:

Leutnant Victor von Alten (*26.4.1877, +10.01.1926) served as a Schutztruppe officer in the Namibian war, 1904-1905.

Rudolf Graf von Hardenberg (*21.11.1876) served as a Schutztruppe officer in the Namibian war, 1904-1905.

Preservation note:

46 nitrocellulose negatives, mostly of very poor quality (out of focus, over-exposed, etc), were destroyed for safety reasons in May 2003. Contact prints of 32 negatives, and secondary negatives as well as show prints of the better quality images were produced.

The manuscripts consist of extremely brittle paper. Digitisation and/or transcription of the of this material should be considered to safeguard it from further handling. Photocopying of the manuscripts is strictly prohibited.

Contents

Leutnant Victor von Alten's letter copy book

#1 26.7.04-18.8.04 (copy book 22x14 cm, p.1-42; rest up to p.100 unused)

Graf Rudolf von Hardenberg's diaries / letter copies / manuscripts

- #2 6.6.04-Aug.04 (copy book 28x11 cm + the same in loose pages)
 #3 23.8.04-6.11.04 (copy book 28x11 cm + the same in loose pages)
 #4 13.10.04-Nov.04 (loose pages, fragment numbered 18-50)
 #5 Nov.04-7.3.05 (copy book 22x14 cm + parts of this in loose pages)
 #6 16.3.05-23.6.05 (copy book 22x14 cm + parts of this in loose pages)
 #7 Handwritten copy of some of the above texts, in ink, marked "Rudi"
 #8 Letter fragment from unknown writer (Hardenberg?) (first pages missing), with a postscript "Paris 3.II.06"
 #9 Manuscript "Wie ich zur Schutztruppe gekommen bin", dated 28.2.06, by Hardenberg
 #10 Manuscript "Gedanken über den Hottentottenfeldzug 1904/05" by Hardenberg, dated Kalkfontein 24.5.05
 #11 Diary from the return journey, 9.7.05 ff.; notes on visits in Germany after return; and autobiographical notes

Unknown writer (handwriting matches neither Alten nor Hardenberg):

#12 undated-29.12.04 (loose pages, fragment paginated 10-18+21)

Convolute

#13 Convolute of military notes, orders, telegrams, etc. (12 items). Signatories and recipients include Major Meister, Oberst Deimling, General v.Trotha, Grüner, v.Alten

Books

- #14 Deutscher Kolonialatlas mit illustriertem Jahrbuch. Vol.[15] (1911)
 #15 John Singleton: The battle-fields of Natal re-visited (Durban s.d.) Ex libris Graf Rudolf v. Hardenberg.

#16 Ephemera – Stored in PO/A.0151

List of Passengers, RMS "Kildonan Castle", from Cape Town 5.9.1906 to England
 Passenger ticket for Leutnant von Alten
 Postcard (unmailed): "Gertrud Woermann" fertig zur Abfahrt nach Südwestafrika
 Mailed envelope from Graf Kuno Hardenberg to Graf Rudolf Hardenberg

Map – Stored in PO/A.151

#17 Wegekarte östl. von Gibeon 1:800 000 (hand-drawn map)

#18 Photos - Stored in PO/A.151

4 positive prints 6x9 cm, apparently taken in Germany. One of them a group photo of 22 identified German military officers
 8 photo prints were taken earlier into the photo collection (Nos. 6270, 6373, 6374). The originals 6270, 6373, 6374 were retrieved from the "Photo Originals" collection and re-contextualised. The originals 6874, 6875, 6876, 6877, 6878 could currently not be located.
 Contact prints of 32 negatives, and secondary negatives as well as show prints of the better quality images were produced.

#19 “Byvoegsel”

Manuscript Afrikaans translation of sections of the letters of v.Alten and Hardenberg (translator unknown)