

The Race To Kamina Wireless Station

[Akwasì Sarpong]

Kamina quickly became the primary target of the Allied attack composed mainly of West African troops.

[Professor Goeh-Akue, subtitles]

The Germans didn't have an army in Togo. To defend themselves they had to mobilise local police composed of about five hundred Togolese the majority of whom were mercenaries from neighbouring countries, commanded by a few German soldiers.

[Akwasì Sarpong]

But these forces were not enough, drastic action was needed.

Outnumbered the Germans had no option. Kamina had to be burnt to the ground.

[Dr Abraham Esau, Physicist at Kamina in 1914, translation]

In the short time of just five hours everything which had been built with much effort over several years lay in ruins. The turbines were destroyed along with the electrical machines and the boiler house.

[Akwasì Sarpong]

The destruction of the Kamina Wireless Station led to the immediate surrender of the Germans in Togo and the first Allied victory of World War One.

[Images courtesy of Colonial Picture Archive and Frankfurt University]