

Cutting Off Germany's Long-Range Hearing

[Akwasi Sarpong]

Togo was one of four German territories in Africa during World War One. The colony was surrounded by Allied enemies. To the west were the British and to the east and the north were the French.

Kamina Wireless Station was the epicentre of Germany's communications – cutting edge technology in rural West Africa.

[Professor Goeh-Akue, subtitles]

From Kamina, you could hear signals from Nauen near Berlin, and communicate with the boats that pass in the Indian Ocean and could communicate with Asia, so the centre was strategically more important to the Germans than Lome, the capital city.

[Akwasi Sarpong]

Though the site wasn't finished before war was declared it was essential that it should become operational. Over 200 messages were sent and received from Kamina in the alarming first weeks of World War One.

[Images courtesy of Colonial Picture Archive and Frankfurt University]