



National Boer War Memorial Association

National Patron:

Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin AC
Chief of the Defence Force

Queensland Patron: Major General Professor John Pearn, AO, RFD (Retd)

1899



1902

Monumentally Speaking - Queensland Edition

Committee Newsletter - Volume 11, No. 3



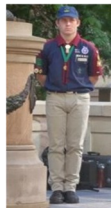
Queensland Chairman's Report



Welcome to our third Queensland Newsletter of 2018. Since our last newsletter, a lot has happened; such as the planning and co-ordination of the 'Boer War Day Commemoration Service - 2018'. As mentioned in our last Newsletter, the planned renovations and refurbishment works of ANZAC Square, in the vicinity of, and including the Boer War Memorial, by the BCC (Brisbane City Council), very much influenced our planning and co-ordination process. This meant we had to re-plan the 'Boer War Commemoration Service'. Therefore, the 'Boer War Day Commemoration Service' of 2018, was held at the 'Shrine of Remembrance' and 'Eternal Flame', Ann Street end of ANZAC Square, on Sunday, 27th May at 10:00 hours.

The 'Boer War Day Commemoration Service' turned out to be a big and extremely successful event, especially if one considers all the positive and complimentary comments made. For example, one particular person, said; *"I would like to commend and congratulate you and those responsible, for one of the best Commemorative Services I have ever attended."* Comments like this mean a lot, especially when considering our objective: to ensure the legacy of the Boer War and the 'Fathers of the ANZACs' remain with us.

In keeping with tradition, the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (QMI) provided the Catafalque Party. They conducted their duties extremely well, especially when considering they had to Present Arms three times during the service: Last Post, National Anthem and Sunset (The Retreat).



Our 'Order of Service' was slightly different to the norm, hence the RSM Ceremonial-Army (Army HQ Canberra) perused our 'Order of Service' and provided much appreciated advice and recommendations.

The Scouts also took part in the service, made up of Venturer and Rover Scouts.



The Scouts were assigned flag duties, four flags in all, which needed to be lowered to half-mast, prior to the service. After the service, they needed to be raised again to full-mast. Venturer Scouts also helped to hand out Programmes. Of the 150 programmes printed, less than 10 remain. The bugle calls, 'Last Post' and 'Rouse', were superbly provided by bugler, Ray Koenig. His rendition of 'Sunset', which immediately followed the last Hymn 'O God, Our Help in Ages Past', was magnificent and very moving.

Cont.



'Piper Joe' (Joe McGhee), provided pipe music before the service, whilst warming his pipes up. The Scouts lowered the flags to half-mast, to the sound of 'Going Home', played by 'Piper Joe'; a piper's tribute to the fallen.

The address by our Queensland Patron MAJGEN John Pearn AO, GCStJ, RFD, added a special touch to the service.



Corinda State High School and Aspley State High School played important roles in the service. The Corinda State High School Symphonic Band,



provided music before, during and after the service. Their performance can only be described as outstanding. The Corinda State High School Senior Vocal Ensemble's rendition of Psalm 23, 'The Lord is my Shepherd', was extremely well received.



Aspley State High School's Cultural Captain, Bruno Oliveira, read Banjo Patterson's 'Last Parade' superbly. Rachel Augustine, Captain of Aspley State High School, led the singing of the National Anthem; accompanied by



Corinda State High School Symphonic Band and the Corinda State High School Senior Vocal Ensemble; it too, left a lasting impression.



Corinda State High School's sister school, is 'Ermelo High School' *Hoërskool Ermelo* in South Africa. This is quite significant, as The 'Battle of Onverwacht' (onverwacht meaning 'unexpected' - phonetically pronounced 'on-fir-vacht'), 4th January, 1902, was the last great clash of the war between the Boer and British forces. This occurred in the Eastern Transvaal Highveld, on the farm known as 'Onverwacht', within close vicinity to Ermelo.

Members of the 5th Queensland Imperial Bushmen (QIB) were involved, thirteen of whom paid the ultimate sacrifice. In 1962, the graves were exhumed and the British soldiers were reburied in the Ermelo cemetery. LTCOL Miles Farmer, OAM, (Retd), laid a hat in their memory.



Photos submitted by M. Hayes, S. Johns, D. Jones, J. Jones, M. O'Mallon

CAPT Bill Cross, OAM (Retd), was our esteemed master of ceremonies. The prayers were given by Fr. Geoff Reeder. LTCOL Ron McElwaine, OAM, RFD,



ED (Retd), National Committee Vice President (NBWMA), former NBWMA (QLD) Chairman National Vice President, read the messages from our Governor General, His Excellency, General Sir Peter



Cosgrove, AK, MC, and our National Patron, Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin, AC, Chief of the Defence Force.



NBWM Project Manager (Boer War Memorial Canberra) Steve Bain gave an update on the Boer War Memorial site.



The Key Address was delivered by MAJGEN Professor John Pearn, AO, GCStJ, RFD, (Retd), Patron NBWMA (QLD).



Wreaths were laid by our Queensland Patron and I, the Queensland Chairman, followed by our much esteemed distinguished guests and others:

2nd/14th LHR (QMI);

- Councillor for Central Ward Brisbane City Council;
- National Committee Vice President (NBWMA);
- NBWM Project Manager (Boer War Memorial Canberra);
- State President of the RSL (Queensland) and Deputy National President of the RSL;
- President of SED (South Eastern District) RSL;
- Deputy-President BND (Brisbane North District) RSL;
- Sherwood-Indooroopilly RSL Sub-branch;
- President of 'The Victoria League for Commonwealth Friendship';
- Chairman SAMVOA (South African Military Veterans Organisation of Australasia);
- Former Assistant Commissioner of the BSAP (British South Africa Police) and Patron of the RVA (Rhodesian Veterans Association);
- President of the RVA (Rhodesian Veterans Association);
- Chief Commissioner of Scouts Queensland;
- Former Commanding Officer of 2nd/14th Queensland Mounted Infantry (QMI) (1973-1976);
- Corinda State High School; and
- Aspley State High School.



The Band, Scouts, Singers, Piper, Bugler, Speakers and our much Esteemed and Honoured Distinguished Guests, all helped to make the service meaningful and memorable.

The committee worked hard in the planning, preparation and the co-ordination of the event. My sincere thanks extend to their splendid effort; they have excelled beyond the call of duty.

Also, a special thank you to our Queensland Patron, MAJGEN Prof. John Pearn, AO, GCStJ, RFD (Retd), for his support and involvement. Not forgetting, CAPT Bill Cross, OAM (Retd) and LTCOL Ron McElwaine, OAM, RFD, ED (Retd), for their support and involvement leading up to the event and their much appreciated participation on the day.

The hurdle may be set high. However, I believe the positive comments have helped set our focus in concrete and made them all more worthwhile. The legacy and sacrifices, made by our descendants, need to be remembered and remain with us forever.

Their ideal is our legacy - Their sacrifice our inspiration: -
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,
we will remember them. - 'Lest we Forget'.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

Due to the cessation of the NBWMA in July 2018, a Queensland AGM concerning NBWMA (Queensland) and the continuation of an organisation for descendants and supporters will be held on the **4th August at 1:00 pm** at the Sherwood-Indooroopilly RSL Sub-branch. The agenda:

- * Introduction/Establishment of a new incorporated organisation to continue operating known as the Boer War Association Queensland (BWAQ); and
- * Appointment of office bearers and committee members - volunteers are most welcome.

All members are urged to attend this inaugural meeting of the new association, so that the new direction and structure can be confirmed by the membership. Afternoon tea will be served after the meeting. \$2.00 donation towards the tea will be appreciated.

Seminar:

This year's seminar, originally scheduled for Saturday 22nd September has been re-scheduled for **Sunday, 23rd September between 1.00 and 5.00 pm, at the Sherwood-Indooroopilly RSL Sub-Branch.** The theme decided on for this year's seminar is: - **"The Good, The Bad and The Ugly"** of the Boer War.

We are still sourcing speakers. If anyone is interested in talking on one or more of the three categories suggested, please get in touch with the committee.

Our planned schedule for the rest of the year is as follows:

- A.G.M. Saturday, 4th August at Sherwood-Indooroopilly RSL Sub-branch at 1.00 p.m.
- Committee Meeting - Thursday, 16th August at Sherwood-Indooroopilly RSL Sub-branch.
- Seminar - Sunday, 23rd September Sherwood-Indooroopilly RSL Sub-branch at 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm, including refreshments. \$2.00 coin donation would be appreciated.
- Committee Meeting - October/November (date yet to be determined).



Gordon Bold
Queensland Chairman

Daniël Johannes Stephanus 'Danie' Theron Hero of the Anglo Boer War

Gordon Bold

Cont. Part 3

Guerrilla Warfare: *Cont:*

The British military had to change its strategy for the war as public opinion demanded that the sieges of Kimberley, Ladysmith and Mafeking be relieved before the Boer capitals were assaulted. This led to a new phase where British troop numbers were greatly increased under the command of Lord Roberts who had taken over command of the British forces relieving Sir Redvers Buller. The British then launched another offensive in 1900 to relieve the sieges, this time achieving success:

- Kimberley was besieged for 124 days and was finally relieved on 15th February, 1900 by a cavalry division under Lieutenant-General John French.
- Ladysmith was besieged for 118 days and was relieved on the 28th February, 1900.
- Mafeking was besieged for 217 days. The relief of Mafeking on the 17th May, 1900, while of little military significance, was a morale boost for the struggling British.

After Natal and the Cape Colony were secure, the British were able to invade the Transvaal, and the republic's capital, Pretoria, was ultimately captured in June 1900. Bloemfontein, the capital of the Orange Free-state Republic was captured in March 1900.

The Boers were not yet defeated and this inevitably led to another phase of the war. Lord Kitchener replaced Lord Roberts and he resorted to a '*scorched-earth*' policy and introduced the highly controversial concentration camps. In this final phase of the war, 75,000 Boers carried out asymmetric warfare against the 450,000-strong British Imperial forces for two years after the British had captured the capital cities of the two Boer republics. During these conflicts the word '*Commando*' entered English, retaining its general Afrikaans meaning of a '*militia unit of skirmishers*'.

British imperialism, Boer armies/commandos and Heroes:

The Jameson Raid alienated many Cape Afrikaners from the British and united the Boers of the Transvaal Republic (South African Republic) behind President Paul Kruger and his government. It also had the effect of drawing the two Boer Republics together in opposition to perceived British imperialism. In 1897, a military pact was concluded between the two Boer republics.

President Paul Kruger of the Transvaal Republic proceeded to re-equip the Transvaal army and imported the latest German Mauser Model 1895 rifles (known as the Boer Model), considered the best rifle of the day. At the time Boers (Farmers) could also purchase the Mauser Model 1895 known in Dutch/Afrikaans as the '*Plezier (Plesier) Mauser*' (*Pleasure Mauser*), as it was a perfect hunting rifle. President Steyn of the Orange Freestate also acquired the 'Boer Model' Mauser for his army. Paul Kruger also procured the best modern European artillery. By October 1899 the Transvaal State Artillery had somewhere around 73 odd guns, of which 59 were new.

Cont.

His new arsenal included some rather impressive weapons, superior to what the British had at the time:

- 4 French 155-mm Creusot fortress guns (known as '*Long Tom*'), emplaced in forts around Pretoria, the capital city of the Transvaal Republic. They were successfully deployed as field guns and siege guns at Vaal Krantz, Ladysmith, Mafeking, Kimberley and Bergendal. During the early stages of the war, these guns gave the Boers an advantage as they had longer range than any British guns deployed in South Africa at the time.
- 25 German 37mm Maxim-Nordenfeldt guns also known as the pom-pom, were used by the Boers against the British. It fired a one pound shell accurately over a distance of 3,000 yards. The barrel was water cooled and the shells were belted from a 25 round fabric belt. Initially the British had nothing to compare. However, the British later adopted their own version of the gun which was designed by the Vickers Company.

President Steyn of the Orange Freestate had also a rearmament drive but not to the same extent as the Transvaal. The Transvaal army had been transformed; equipped with modern rifles and artillery and could mobilise within two weeks.

The Boers had many Heroes; many of their Generals were considered folk heroes from both the first and second Anglo-Boer Wars. Of the second Anglo-Boer War, one will find heroes like, to name a few:

- **Jan Smuts** OM, CH, ED, PC, KC, FRS was a prominent South African and British Commonwealth statesman, military leader and philosopher. He was a Boer General and led Boer Commando in the Second Anglo-Boer War for the Transvaal. During the war, he demonstrated a talent for guerrilla warfare; his most famous raid taking him far into the Cape Colony. As well as being one of the Boers' best soldiers, Smuts was one of their negotiators who signed the Vereeniging peace treaty in 1902. During the First World War, he led the armies of South Africa against Germany, capturing German South-West Africa and commanding the British Army in East Africa.

From 1917 to 1919, he was also one of the members of the British Imperial War Cabinet and he was instrumental in the founding of what became the Royal Air Force (RAF), followed closely by the South African Air Force (SAAF). He advocated a powerful League of Nations, forerunner of the United Nations, and he may justly be called one of the principal progenitors of the League of Nations; he and Lord Robert Cecil were the two principal drafters and architects of the covenant of the League of Nations. He was also part of the Conference at which the Charter of the United Nations was drafted.

His major post-war achievement was drafting the Covenant of the United Nations, helping ensure that unlike the League of Nations, the new body had real power. He was involved in writing the original opening lines of the Preamble, "*The High Contracting Parties, determined to prevent a recurrence of*

To be Cont..

of the fratricidal strife which twice in our generation has brought untold sorrow and loss upon mankind..." which would have been similar to the opening lines of the Covenant of the League of Nations. He became a field marshal in the British Army in 1941, and served in the Imperial War Cabinet under Winston Churchill. His influence was such that there was a plan, hatched in 1940, that if Churchill died, Smuts would succeed him as Prime Minister. He was the only man to sign both peace treaties ending the First and Second World Wars. In addition to holding various cabinet posts, he served as prime minister of the Union of South Africa from 1919 until 1924 and from 1939 until 1948.

- **Louis Botha** a Boer General and Boer war hero of the Second Anglo-Boer War, was the General who captured Winston Churchill. After the fall of Pretoria in June 1900, Commandant-General Botha led a concentrated guerrilla campaign against the British together with Generals Koos de la Rey and Christiaan de Wet. The success of his measures was seen in the steady resistance offered by the Boers to the very close of the three-year war. He would eventually fight to have South Africa become a British Dominion, and became the first Prime Minister of the Union of South Africa.
- **Koos de la Rey**, a Boer general during the Second Anglo-Boer War is widely regarded as being one of the strongest military leaders during that conflict.
- **Christiaan de Wet**, a Boer General mentioned in Kipling's poem *Ubique*, was a close personal friend of Helene Kröller-Müller who commissioned a statue of him in the *Hoge Veluwe National Park* in the Netherlands.
- **James Barry Munnik Hertzog** KC was a Lawyer and Boer General. Throughout his life he encouraged the development of Afrikaner culture, determined to protect the Afrikaners from British influence. He is the only South African (Union of South Africa) Prime Minister to have served three British Monarchs (George V, Edward VIII, and George VI).
- **Piet Cronjé** was a general of the South African Republic's military forces during the Anglo-Boer wars of 1880-1881 and 1899-1902. He made his reputation in the First Boer War, besieging the British garrison at Potchefstroom. He was in command of the force that rounded up Jameson at Doornkop at the conclusion of the Jameson Raid on the 2nd of January, 1896, which is traditionally seen as a precursor to the Second Boer War. Commandant-General Piet Cronjé, however, was defeated at the Battle of Paardeberg where he surrendered with 4,150 of his commandos on 27 February 1900. He and his wife were imprisoned as prisoners of war on St. Helena Island where he remained until the conclusion of peace negotiations in 1902. Boer morale sank after his defeat, with the capital of the Orange Free State, Bloemfontein, being taken without a shot being fired.

References: -

Upon the death of General Piet Joubert, Sir George White, the defender of Ladysmith, summed up General Joubert's character when he called him, "a soldier and a gentleman, and a brave and honourable opponent..." The Battle of Lombard's Kop and the Battle of Nicholson's Nek were two British defeats around Ladysmith that came to be known as 'Mournful Monday', or the Battle of Ladysmith. The Battle of Nicholson's Nek was the biggest surrender of British troops since the Napoleonic Wars ...

Cont.

References Cont: -

Transvaal Republic also known as the South African Republic (Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek) led by President Paul Kruger (Stephanus Johannes Paulus "Paul" Kruger) and the Orange Free State (Oranje-Vrijstaat, Oranje-Vrystaat) led by President Martinus Theunis Steyn...

The RAF is the oldest independent air force in the world, formed towards the end of the WWI on the 1st of April, 1918...

The SAAF was established on the 1st of February, 1920, is in fact the second oldest air force in the world. The Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) was formed on the 31st of March, 1921, a little over a year after the SAAF...

Edgar Algernon Robert Gascoyne-Cecil, 1st Viscount Cecil of Chelwood CH PC QC...

Ubique is Latin for "everywhere", and is the motto of: Royal Regiment of Artillery of the British Army; Corps of Royal Engineers of the British Army; Royal Canadian Artillery of the Canadian Army; Royal Australian Artillery of the Australian Army; Royal Australian Engineers of the Australian Army; Canadian Military Engineers of the Canadian Army; South African Artillery; Royal New Zealand Artillery and Royal New Zealand Engineers...

A Heemraad is the equivalent of an Alderman in local government, being a member of both the local legislative council, whilst also having a representational roles for their own area...

Danie Theron:

Daniël Johannes Stephanus 'Danie' Theron was born in Tulbagh, in the British Cape Colony on the 9th of May, 1872. He was the ninth of fifteen children of Anna Helena Margaretha (née Krige) and Willem Wouter Theron.



Danie Theron Huis (House),
Kerkstraat 21 (Church Street), Tulbagh.

At the age of 10, he moved to Bethlehem in the Orange Free State to be brought up by his older brother. He began his career as a school teacher. Read (studied) law and served as a lawyer, passing his Bar Exams in 1897 with the highest possible marks. In that same year he opened his own Law firm in Krugersdorp.



The Theron family were Huguenots and trace their roots back to France. *Jacques Therond (Jacques Theron)* came from Nimes, Languedoc, in 1688, on the 'Oosterland' and settled in the *Klein-Drakenstein* area. He was a Heemraad and owner of the farm Languedoc. He married *Marie Jean des Prez (Maria Joanna du Preez)*, daughter of the Huguenot, *Hercule des Pres (Hercules du Preez)*.

des Pres (Hercules du Preez).

Danie Theron fell in love with Hannie Neethling from Eikenhof; known as the young man who had fallen in love with *Hannie Neethling*. He and Hannie were duly engaged, but tragically both Hannie and her sister died after contracting pneumonia.



Hannie Neethling

Hannie and her sister were buried in the family cemetery at Eikenhof. During the Second Anglo-Boer War he was frequently in the area of Eikenhof.



Danie Theron

Danie regularly visited Hannie's grave; it was during one of these visits that they fought a group of English soldiers close to the Neethling homestead.

Cont.

Danie Theron: Cont.

In 1899, in the lead up to the Anglo Boer War, Danie Theron was found guilty of assaulting the editor of the Star newspaper, a Mr W. F. Moneypenney, in response to a derogatory editorial about, "*The Ignorant Dutch*". The Star newspaper editor at the time had only been in the Transvaal for less than two months. Danie Theron naturally confronted him over his prejudice. The incident ended up as an assault charge against Danie Theron in court. Danie Theron pleaded 'extreme provocation', found guilty as charged and fined £20. His supporters in the courtroom, immediately paid Danie's fine.

Prior to the Second Anglo-Boer War, Danie Theron, a member of a Commando, saw action in the 1894 Malaboch War. His bravery in battle won him citizenship in the Transvaal Republic. Danie Theron infiltrated the 'Rand Club' to gather information about the Reformers and the planned Jameson Raid, which occurred in 1895 and is often considered the forerunner to the Second Anglo-Boer War (*also known as the Boer War or South African War*). He was a true patriot - believing in the just and divine right of the Boer to stand against British interference:

*"Our strength lies in the justice of our cause
and in our trust in help from above."*

His forte was scouting and reconnaissance and he trained many Boer Commando Scouts in the skills of reconnaissance until 1899. He was often referred to as a *Scorpion*.

Malebogo (KgalusiSeketaMasiloRatshatshaMalaboch) was chief of the Bahananwa chieftdom, a tribe/clan originally of the Tswana peoples. They originated from the Bahurutse tribe of the Tswana nation. A split in the tribe occurred and Chief Lebogo led the Bahananwa to the Blouberg, close to the Soutpansberg Range. Malebogo became chief in 1880...

The Rand Club is the oldest private members' club in Johannesburg, South Africa, founded in October 1887; only a year after Johannesburg itself was formed. Cecil John Rhodes was instrumental in deciding the location of Rand Club...

WRK - Cycle Despatch Rider Corps:

Prior to the outbreak of the Second Anglo-Boer War, Danie Theron developed the idea of using bicycles for despatch and reconnaissance work in the military. He and a friend, J. P. 'Koos' Jooste (a cycling champion), asked the Transvaal government if they could raise a cycling corps. Commandant-General Piet Joubert challenged Danie Theron's theory.



Danie

Bicycles had first been used by the US army in the Spanish War, 1898, when a hundred black cyclists under the command of Lieutenant James Moss were rushed in to help with riot control in Havana, Cuba. They were laughed at and scorned, but the amusement and chuckles soon died away when they proved effective. Rioting mobs were dispersed with ease by soldiers who moved in quickly and used their bicycles as barricades. Despite this success the American Army still hesitated to accept the bicycle as a machine of war.

For several years before the Second Anglo-Boer War, the bicycle had been used in South Africa for para-military purposes and occasionally unofficially for military purposes. Even Britain, Australia and New Zealand were operating bicycle corps for despatch purposes. However, Danie Theron's idea went further, much further in fact; a real test

Cont.

Cont.

of effectiveness in war was during this war (Second Anglo-Boer War).

Danie Theron's opinion was that using bicycles for despatch riding and reconnaissance would save horses for use in combat. In order to gain the necessary permission, Theron and Jooste had to convince the highly sceptical burghers (citizens) that bicycles were as good, if not better, than horses. To prove his point, as to the effectiveness of bicycles for despatch riders, was to have a 75 kilometre race from Pretoria to the Crocodile River. Koos Jooste, on a bicycle, beat an experienced horse rider; thus proving Danie Theron's idea was sound. This achievement convinced Commandant-General Piet Joubert, President Stein of the Orange Freestate and President Kruger of the Transvaal. Permission was subsequently granted for Danie Theron to form his **WRK** - 'WielrijdersRapportgangersKorps' (Cycle Despatch Rider Corps).

Soon Captain Danie Theron had recruited 108 men, divided into 7 sections, each led by a Lieutenant who reported directly to Danie Theron. Every man was equipped with a bicycle, a revolver, binoculars and a rifle or in some cases a carbine.

On the 9th of September, 1899, the various sections were dispatched to different districts; Waterberg, Soutspansberg, Lichtenburg, Wakkerstroom, Vryheid, Zeerust and Bloemfontein, to perform their special tasks.

Initially many of the burghers (citizens) laughed at the **WRK** - 'Wielrijders Rapportgangers Korps' (Cycle Despatch Rider Corps) - on their bicycles. However, they soon grew to admire their bravery and recognise the success of their exploits.



WRK - 'Wielrijders Rapportgangers Korps'
(Cycle Despatch Rider Corps)

Before the actual outbreak of hostilities, the WRK cyclists were used for a number of tasks: patrolling the Swaziland border, 'spying', carrying despatches and functioning as a link between Commandos. Captain Theron's men were not stopped by rivers, bad weather, impassable roads, or enemy patrols. At the Battle of Talana, also known as the Battle of Glencoe, 20th October, 1899, the first major clash of the Second Boer War, Captain Danie Theron's men were responsible for most of the 246 British captured.

By Christmas 1899, Captain Danie Theron's WRK were experiencing poor deliveries of supplies at their outposts on the Tugela. On the 24th December, Theron complained to the Supplies Commission that they were severely neglected. He explained that his corps was always in the vanguard, far from any railway line where supplies were unloaded, and that his wagons regularly returned with the message that there were no vegetables since everything had been carted off to the Boer laagers surrounding Ladysmith. His complaint was that his corps did both despatch riding and reconnaissance work, and that they were also called upon to fight the enemy. He wanted better sustenance than dried bread, meat and rice for his men. The result of his forceful request earned Theron the nickname of "Kaptein Dik-eet" (Captain Gorge-yourself) because he catered so well for his troops.

To be continued in the next issue

'Little-known' facts of the Anglo-Boer Wars

Gordon Bold

Most people know of the 'Boer War' also known as the 'South African War', however not many people, realise there were officially two Boer Wars. There was the **First Anglo-Boer War** (1st Boer War - 1880-1881) and then there was the **Second Anglo-Boer War** (2nd Boer War 1899-1902).

The **1st Anglo-Boer War** was fought between the British and the Boers of the Transvaal Republic (*South African Republic*), which included the following sieges and major battles:

Battles of Bronkhorstspuit - was the first major clash of the 1st Anglo-Boer War, fought between a British army column and Boer commandos; a British defeat.

Siege of Rustenburg - a British-controlled city, inside the Transvaal Republic, was besieged by the Boers and captured after three months; another British defeat.

Siege of Marabastad - a siege on Fort Marabastad carried out by the Boers, on 11th January, 1881, and ending with British surrender on 2nd April, 1881; another British defeat.

Siege of Lydenburg-Lydenburg, controlled by the full force of the 94th Regiment, was besieged by the Boers, between January and March 1881. Despite fierce British resistance, the town fell to the Boers, after 84 days; yet another British defeat.

Battle of Laing's Nek - a major battle fought at Laing's Nek during the 1st Anglo-Boer War on 28th January, 1881. This too was yet another British defeat.

Battle of Schuinshoogte, also known as Battle of Ingogo - fought north of Newcastle, Natal, on 8th February, 1881. General Sir George Pomeroy Colley's communications with Newcastle were under constant harassment by mounted Boer patrols under Commander J D Weilbach; another British defeat.

Battle of Majuba Hill - on 27th February, 1881, the Battle of Majuba Hill was the final and decisive battle of the First Boer War. The British column included the 58th Regiment, 92nd Gordon Highlanders and a small naval brigade from HMS Dido. The Boer commandos, delivered a resounding defeat on the British Forces. As the British were fleeing the hill, many were picked off by the superior rifles and marksmen of the Boers. Several wounded soldiers soon found themselves surrounded by Boer soldiers and gave their accounts of what they saw; many Boers were young farm boys armed with rifles. This revelation proved to be a major blow to British prestige and Britain's negotiating position. Professionally trained soldiers to have been defeated by young farm boys, led by a smattering of older Boer soldiers, was a humiliation hard to swallow.

The **1st Anglo-Boer War** ended in a humiliating British defeat; no campaign medals were issued for this campaign.

The **2nd Anglo-Boer War** was a different story. It was a long protracted struggle with a disastrous beginning for the British; with an eventual defeat of the Boers, who put up a brave fight to the end. Both sides received campaign medals.

The '*Medalje voor de Anglo-Boere Oorlog*' is a military campaign medal, introduced on the 21st December, 1920 as a retrospective award for Boer veteran officers and men who fought in the 2nd Boer War (obverse, Transvaal Republic and reverse Orange Free State).

The British received one or two medals, depending on length of service. The QSAM (*Queen's South Africa Medal*) was issued to all British forces who served in South Africa from the 11th October, 1899 to the end of the war on the 31st May, 1902.



'Medaljevoor de Anglo-Boere



QSAM KSAM

Cont.

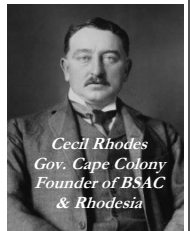
Two Differing Narratives of the 2nd Boer War:

First of all: - To many Afrikaans speaking white people (*commonly referred to as Boers, the Afrikaans/Dutch word for farmer*), their description of what in South Africa is called 'The 2nd Anglo-Boer War' is one of a struggle against British greed for gold in the South African Republic (*Transvaal Republic*) and colonial expansion through the conquest of independent nations; incited by the BSAC (British South Africa Company). The Boers boldly defended their independence against a British Imperialist invasion. This included the potential of having to endure the indignity of a systematic eradication of the Boer nation and culture, by what many regard a punitive genocide system of British '*Concentration Camps*'. Many women and children, both black and white, died in their tens of thousands in these '*Concentration Camps*'. The indignity and outrage of which, to this day, for many Afrikaners, is still hard to forget, as most, if not all families were affected.

Secondly: - To many British, the story is somewhat different. The British perspective of 'The South African War' was a struggle of British migrant miners fighting against oppression and for citizen rights in The South African Republic (*Transvaal Republic*). Brave pockets of British garrison troops in border towns, in both the Cape and Natal British Colonies, had to protect the borders from an invasion by the Boers. Besieging of British garrison towns/cities (Ladysmith, Kimberley and Mafeking), by the Boer's declaration of war on the British, subjected British women and children to starvation and indiscriminate shelling by surrounding Boer guns. This led to an outrage in the UK and a 'call to arms' of the biggest expeditionary force of the time to 'get their towns/cities back' and save the civilians.

Hostilities - Boer and British - prior 11th October, 1899:

The Jameson Raid (1885), by BASC militia, alienated many Cape Afrikaners from the British, and united the Transvaal Boers behind President Kruger and his government. It also had the effect of drawing the two Boer Republics; *Zuid Afrikaanse Republiek* (South African Republic or more commonly known as the *Transvaal Republic* - led by President *Stephanus Johannes Paulus 'Paul' Kruger*) and the *Oranje Vrystaat* (*Orange Free State* - led by President *Martinus Theunis Steyn*), together in opposition to British imperialism.



It is often considered by many, depending on one's origins and background; the 2nd Anglo-Boer War actually began prior 1899 and that the Jameson Raid 1895/6 was a major *inciting catalyst*. However, according to most British Historians, it began in 1899, when Paul Kruger declared War on the British on 11th October, 1899, with a Boer offensive into the British Natal and Cape Colony.

Ian Knight, for example, has authored a book entitled - '*The Boer Wars (2): 1898-1902*'. As we know, the Jameson Raid 1895/6 hostilities between the British and the Boers began before the declaration of war.

Uitlanders:

Under a law passed in 1890, Uitlanders, expatriate migrant workers, the vast majority of whom were British, were allowed naturalisation and thus the right to vote.

However, the pre-requisite for naturalisation was a 'naturalisation fee' plus a minimum of 14 years' residence.



These restrictions became a focus of the Uitlander protest.

Cont

Uitlanders: Cont.

In 1892 the lawyer, Charles Leonard, organized the 'National Union', which held meetings and circulated petitions demanding that Uitlanders be given the right to vote. From then on, tensions mounted steadily, aggravated by the Jameson Raid of 1895/6 and by open British support for the Uitlanders. War finally erupted in 1899, in part due to the offer made by Transvaal president Paul Kruger to reduce the Uitlander residency requirement for political rights from 14 to 7 years. The British rejected this offer as insufficient.

After the Jameson Raid, Chamberlain wanted to win back some of the respect he had lost because of the raid's failure. It has often been said, "*The Jameson Raid was the real declaration of war in the great Anglo-Boer conflict.*" Whilst war wouldn't be declared for another four years; the Jameson Raid laid the foundations for hostilities and conflict that were to come.

The death of Tom Edgar, an Uitlander working in the Transvaal, in 1898, signalled another definite lurch towards war. Edgar was shot by ZARPS after a drunken brawl; allegedly in cold blood, as portrayed at the time. However, evidence suggests that he attacked a policeman at the time of death. This resulted in some five thousand Uitlanders demonstrating, in an effort to assert their rights as expatriate British subjects. With their leaders arrested, the Uitlanders launched another demonstration. This time, a Boer mob attacked them, and the ZARPS stood by. This proved to be exactly the excuse Milner, the British high commissioner at the Cape, wanted. In the subsequent Bloemfontein conference, he outlined three demands: immediate enfranchisement of the Uitlanders; the use of English in the Volksraad (parliament); and the approval of the British parliament before the passing of any new laws..."

British Mobilisation:

Hostilities escalated, and as we know in 1899, when the British government decided to impose its suzerainty over the South African Republic (Transvaal), it had only about ten thousand troops in the Cape and Natal. These troops were made up of British regular troops from the UK, as well as regular troops and volunteer militia from the British Cape Colony, British Natal Colony and the British South Africa Colonies of Bechuanaland and Rhodesia. Many of these units were mobilised before the outbreak of war and were involved in cross border hostilities.

Other than the British troops garrisoned in the Cape Colony, the Cape Colony's military forces, called the Cape Colonial Forces (CCF), comprised of a small Permanent Force (Regular Force) and a part time Volunteer Force (CVF). Mafeking and Kimberley in the Cape Colony were large British garrisons. Kimberley is right on the border with the Boer Republic of the Orange Free State and thus a strategic location. Mafeking was situated on the railway line from Bulawayo (Rhodesia) to the Cape, and almost on the Transvaal border, thus it too, was a strategic British location. With war imminent, the CCF were mobilised around August/September 1899, some being sent to patrol various border locations, and others to Mafeking and Kimberley. Listed are a few of the more well-known units of the CCF:

- * Cape Mounted Riflemen (CMR)
- * Cape Mounted Police (CMP)
- * Cape Town Highlanders (CTH)
- * Cape Town Irish Volunteer Rifles (CTIR)
- * Cape Town Volunteer Engineers
- * Cape Garrison Artillery
- * Kimberley Volunteers
- * Uitenhage Volunteer Rifles (UVR)
- * Volunteer Medical (*later Cape Medical Corps*)

Cont

- * Grahamstown Volunteers
- * Kaffrarian Rifles (KR)
- * Frontier Light Horse (FLH)
- * Queenstown Volunteers
- * Mataiele District Volunteers
- * Marshall's Horse
- * Brabant's Horse
- * Western Rifles
- * *Plus - several small units in country towns.*

The Natal Colony had the para-military Natal Police (NP) and a Volunteer Force (Natal Volunteer Militia (NM). Ladysmith was a large British garrison in Natal, not that far from the Orange Free State border. General White, became commander of the forces in Natal in September 1899. General White had been advised to deploy his force far back, well clear of the area of northern Natal known as the "Natal Triangle", a wedge of land lying between the two Boer republics. Instead, White deployed his forces around the garrison town of Ladysmith, with a detachment even further forward at Dundee, towards the 'Natal Triangle'. White mobilised his troops in September 1899. Most of the Natal Volunteers were mobilised on the 29th September, 1899. Soon after the declaration of war, the Boers besieged Ladysmith. Listed are a few of the more well-known units of the natal Volunteers:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| * Natal Field Artillery | * Natal Royal Rifles |
| * Border Mounted Rifles (BMR) | * Natal Bridge Guards |
| * Natal Carbineers (NC) | * Natal Volunteer Medical Corps |
| * Natal Mounted Rifles (NMR) | * Natal Police |
| * Umvoti Mounted Rifles (UMR) | * Natal Volunteer Veterinary Corps |
| * Natal Naval Volunteers | * <i>Plus - several other smaller units.</i> |
| * Durban Light Infantry (DLI) | |

The first Rhodesian force was created on 29th October, 1889; a British South Africa Company (BSAC) para-military Police Force later known as the BSAP. In July 1899, Colonel Baden-Powell was commissioned by the British to raise two regiments in anticipation of war breaking out in South Africa.



RR (Rhodesian Regiment)

Recruiting for the Rhodesia Regiment (RR) and the Rhodesian Volunteers (SRV) commenced in August 1899. Lieutenant-Colonel Plumer was put in command. The RR and SRV regiments were posted to Tuli near the South African border, augmented with the BSAP already stationed there.

"*It'll be over by Christmas*", was the phrase on everyone's lips, as British Imperial and Colonial troops were mobilised for the Anglo-Boer War, officially declared on 11th October, 1899. As we know, this was further from the truth than one would hope. Soon after the declaration of war, Mafeking, Kimberley and Ladysmith were besieged by the Boers. General White defended Ladysmith, Colonel Robert Kekewich defended Kimberley and Colonel Baden-Powell defended Mafeking.

References:

The British South Africa Company (BSAC) founded by Cecil Rhodes. The company received a Royal Charter in 1889 modelled on that of the British East India Company.

Ian Knight is a writer and historian who is internationally regarded as a leading authority on the nineteenth-century history of the Zulu kingdom, and in particular the Anglo-Zulu War of 1879. He is also well versed on the Boer Wars authored and co-authored books on the Boer Wars.

Uitlander - meaning foreigner, literally an 'outlander', the name given to expatriate migrant workers during the Witwatersrand Gold Rush in the Transvaal Republic following the discovery of gold in 1886. The limited rights granted this group in the independent Boer Republics was one of the contributing factors behind the Second Boer War.

Continued in next issue

Sir Neville Reginald Howse

Australian's First Victoria Cross winner

Lieutenant Neville Howse rescued a wounded bugler on 24th July 1900 at Stinkhoutboom, a farm four kilometres north-west of Vrededorp, in the Orange Free State. His actions led to him being the first Australian to be awarded a VC.

In the Australian War Memorial, there is a painting by Sir William Dargie, of Howse carrying a bugler on his back.



Lieutenant Neville Howse

Bugler Charles Russell was serving with the 1st Royal Welsh Fusiliers when he was wounded in action. *"We were after a convoy at the time, and the Boers were in a mealie patch. We got close up to them, and it was hand-to-hand fighting.*

Major Doughty was wounded in the knee. I assisted him. We were under a cross-fire, but managed to get him in a mud kraal. I came out, but could not see any of our fellows. As I turned around to come back, the Boers got me through the right hip and left groin. I crawled behind the kraal.



Lieutenant Howse came out under a heavy fire, and picked me up, carried me on his shoulder to the mud hut. But for him, I should undoubtedly have died."

Lieutenant Howse, on seeing the wounded bugler, mounted a horse and galloped under very heavy fire. The Boer Mausers soon found their target and the brave doctor's horse dropped dead under him. Undaunted, Howse grabbed his medical bag and ran forward on foot. On reaching the Bugler, he dressed his wound, and disregarding his own safety, Howse heaved the bugler Russell onto his shoulder and carried him back to safety, still under a hail of bullets.

Shoe-smith Paul Mullampy, serving with the New South Wales Mounted Rifles, gives another account of the action. *"It was at Kopje Siding, when a horseman was galloping towards a stone wall under heavy fire and about 100 yards from his destination, the rider was struck on the abdomen with a shell which opened the whole of the stomach. Dr. Howse rushed out, and picked the injured soldier up, put the intestines back into the body and carried him beyond the wall where he quickly performed an operation, which resulted in the wounded man's complete recovery."*

Mr Mullampy said the deed was indeed gloriously valiant and it was marvellous how the Doctor did not meet his death with such heavy firing in operation.

It was for this great act of heroism that Dr. Howse received the coveted Victoria Cross, which was gazetted on 4th June, 1901 - the first ever awarded to someone in an Australian unit, and the only one ever awarded to an Australian medical officer. Howse was promoted to Captain on 15th October, 1900. Howse returned to Australia on 8th January, 1901. His award was presented to him in a ceremony by the Chief Justice of New South Wales, Sir Frederick Darley.

On Sir Neville Howse's death in 1930, Mr Charles Russell of Eastleigh, England, wrote that he was the one that Neville Howse had saved.



Cont.

Sir Neville Reginald Howse VC, KCB, KCMG, KStJ, MP



Born in Stogursey, Somerset, England, on 26th October, 1863, Neville Howse was educated at Fullard House School, Taunton. He studied medicine and surgery at the London Hospital, passing his Residential Surgical Certificate on 17th April, 1884, and becoming a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons (MRCS) in 1886. In 1887 he became a Licentiate of the Royal College of Practitioners (LCRP).

Neville Howse emigrated to Australia in 1889 to become a country doctor at the Manning River Hospital in Taree, New South Wales, but returned to England in 1896 for professional development. He worked at London Hospital while studying to become a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons (FRCS), to which he was admitted in 1897. He returned to Taree again in 1898, then moved to Orange, New South Wales, in 1899.

In January 1900, he was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the New South Wales Army Medical Corps, and sailed for South Africa attached to a mounted infantry brigade under Brigadier-General C P Ridley.

Howse returned to South Africa as a Major with the Australian Army Medical Corps (AAMC) in command of the Bearer Company, arriving at Durban, Natal on 17th March 1902. Following service in Natal, Orange River Colony and Western Transvaal (attached to Colonel A. W. Thornycroft's Mounted Infantry Column), at the conclusion of the war he became seriously ill.

He was invalided to Britain on 6th July 1902, with the remainder of the AAMC contingent departing for Australia on 8th July, 1902. Howse eventually returned to Australia on 7th November 1902.

After being mentioned in dispatches, he returned to his practice in Orange. He was mayor of the town when World War I broke out in 1914, and immediately volunteered for active service. Major Howse accomplished many achievements throughout the rest of his life.

Neville Howse was an Englishman who expressed the nascent Australian nationalism vigorously and directly. He was a pragmatist who could foresee ahead; a surgeon who had a flair for soldiering; an organiser who had deep insight into the essential relationship between the medical service and the force it served, and who had the courage and persistence to establish policies not always understood by combatant officers. His confidence, good humour and diplomacy were matched by his shrewd appreciation of character. If his ambition carried him far, it was motivated by his recognition of human need in war and peace, and sustained by confidence in his own capacity to help. In the words of another great D.G.M.S. (Director General Medical Services), Colonel R. M. Downes, his successes *'made him one of the outstanding Australians of the Great War ... one of the most remarkable and self-sacrificing medical administrators any military force has ever known'*.

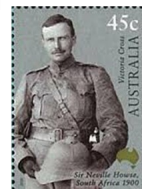
For his work, Howse was appointed a Companion of the Bath (CB) in July 1915. On 11th September 1915, Howse became acting DDMS (Deputy Director of Medical Services) of ANZAC.

On 1st January, 1917, Howse was promoted to Major General and appointed a Knight Companion of the Bath (KCB).

Howse was gazetted a Knight of St John of Jerusalem (KStJ) on 3rd June, 1919 and Knight Commander of St Michael and St George (KCMG) on 9th June.

A postage stamp commemorating Howse was issued by Australia Post in 2000.

Major General Howse (doctor, surgeon, politician) died on 19th September 1930, in London, U.K.



Refs: wikipedia.org/wiki and www.vconline.org.uk Jennie Jones

WREATH LAYING : 27th May, 2018



First Annual General Meeting

of the new **Boer War Association Queensland Inc.**
on **Saturday, 4th August at 1.00 pm**
at Sherwood-Indooroopilly RSL Sub-branch
Closure of the National BWMA and set-up of the new
Queensland Incorporated organisation.
We are looking for volunteers to help on the
Committee

Please attend this inaugural meeting of BWA Qld Inc,
so that the new direction and structure can be con-
firmed by the membership. Your input is valuable.

All welcome

Afternoon tea will be served after the meeting.
\$2.00 donation towards the tea will be appreciated.

CARVINGS from the VELDT - Part Three *Rifle carvings from the Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902*

The book contains all new material - another 346 pages (A4 size) in full **glossy colour** featuring 338 more rifles, carbines and handguns - all with the names or initials of Boers and soldiers (mostly Australians and New Zealanders). Also a selection of swords, bayonets, bandoliers, ammo, medals and a large selection of unit badges worn by both sides - British, Colonial and Boers.

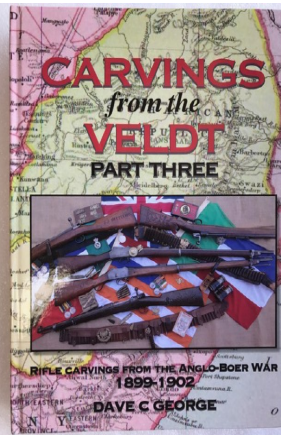
This book is available in both **Hard cover** and **Soft-Card cover**.

Prices: Hard Cover = **\$89.00**
Soft Card Cover = **\$69.00**

Plus postage: 1 book = \$13.00,
2 books = \$17.00 (overseas to be advised).

Email: david.george7@bigpond.com
Phone: 02 6676 4320 (9.00 am to 5.00 pm)

When you order, please advise your **Postal address** and if you require author to sign your copy? **Payment:** Bank deposit, **paypal** + 3.4% **paypal fee** - OR - money order or cheque (for paypal please use my email address).
www.boerwarriflecarvings.net



QLD Boer War Association Committee is selling signed copies of Dave's books

Part One = \$65.00
Part Two = \$45.00
Part Three = \$89.00 (Hard cover) and \$69.00 (Soft cover)

We can order the books for you, and there will be no postage to pay.



" HISTORY LIVES AGAIN."
The magnificent work of sculptor
Louis Laumen:

"Horse and Rider" ~
replica of one of the four
presented to the Nation at the
Dedication Service in Canberra,
31st May, 2017 of the
National Boer War Memorial ~
has "come home"

to Diane Melloy (grand-daughter) and
Valma Lock, daughter of
Corporal Joseph Lock, 5th QIB.

Our Louis Laumen's 'MODEL HORSE' brings
good interest for all sections of our Boer War followers ...
and a continuing reminder of the dedicated commitment
to assist by our Australian Volunteers in Australia's
Second Boer War.

YES - "WE SHALL REMEMBER"

The First Australian VC clarification

A lady arranging a Boer War Memorial presentation at the Northern Beaches Probud, asked LTCOL Tony Larnach-Jones (Retd) who was the first VC in Australia? Tony's research confirms that it was presented to a British soldier, Private Frederick Whirlpool VC, who won it in India.

He emigrated to Australia after discharge, where, in 1861 his VC was presented to him making it the first one (presented) in Australia.

However, Capt Neville Howse's Boer War VC (NSW Army Medical Corps July 1900) was the first awarded to a soldier serving in an Australian (NSW) unit.

(see page 8 for a précised history)

FOUND

A Brooch

was found at
the Flame of
Remembrance
on **27th May,**
2018.

Please contact
Jennie on
0409 274 991

Quality Australian-made NBWMA Tie
is available for sale

Save postage by buying from the
Treasurer, **Boer War Association
Queensland Inc.**
(address below)

\$28.00 each (Save \$3.00 postage)

Boer War Memorial Prints
\$10.00 each

Santa Claus has the right idea. Visit
people only once a year. ~ Victor Borge

The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending; and to have the two as close together as possible

~ George Burns

Only Irish coffee provides in a single glass all four essential food groups: alcohol, caffeine, sugar and fat.

~ Alex Levine

By all means, marry. If you get a good wife, you'll become happy; if you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher.

~ Socrates