



Boer War Association Queensland

Queensland Patron:

Major General Professor John Pearn, AO RFD (Retd)

1899



1902



Monumentally Speaking - Queensland Edition

Committee Newsletter - Volume 13, No. 1 - March 2020

Queensland Chairman's Report

Welcome to our first Queensland Newsletter, 2020. The 'Festive Season' has come and gone and the New Year has begun with a rush, as we are involved with more events than usual in the first half of the year. First of all, welcome to all new members and a hearty 'thank you' to all members who have stuck by us; your loyalty is most appreciated.

For the past two and a half years, we have evolved from the building of a memorial, to an Association committed to maintaining the memory and history of the Boer War; focus being descendants and supporters of the Boer War, to honour our 'Fathers of ANZACs'; thus ensuring their legacy lives on. To achieve this, we have involved the Scouts, Cadets and Schools. It is a long process, requiring intense dedication and belief in our objectives. This also requires commitment by descendants and supporters as well as a wide spectrum of involved organisations. The Scouts, LCCC (Logan City Community Cadets) and Corinda State High School, have already become intricately involved, along with organisations such as SAMVOA (South African Military Veterans Organisation of Australasia). Whilst this may seem comprehensive, our focus and objectives need to be spread further afield.

To date, we have had two very successful years. We have managed to plan, coordinate and conduct two very successful 'Boer War Day Commemoration Services' in ANZAC Square. The first, 2018, was held at the 'Shrine of Remembrance' and last year, 2019, at the 'Boer War Memorial' ('The Scout'). We have also managed to have two very successful Seminars. In 2018, the theme of the seminar, was 'The Good, The Bad and The Ugly', of the 2nd Anglo-Boer War. Last year's theme was 'Music, Poetry and Art' of the 2nd Anglo-Boer War. Comments received, suggest both seminars were well received.

However, to put things into perspective, and as mentioned in our last newsletter, attendance at last year's AGM, 2019, was very disappointing. The disappointing attendance figures were intensified by the fact that no nominations or even proxy forms were received. Those present re-elected the current Executive Committee, who have accepted and agreed to continue on for another year; Miles Farmer OAM was succeeded by Helen Underwood.

Unfortunately, this would seem to reflect a total lack of interest to ensure BWAQ's objectives and the legacy of the 'Fathers of ANZACs' lives on. Especially, when one considers the fact that most Australians, in particular the younger generation, know very little to nothing, about the 2nd Anglo-Boer War (*South African War*); or even the fact that the 2nd Anglo-Boer War was Australia's first major conflict. All the Australian Colonies were involved, followed by the Commonwealth of Australia, as the Boer War spanned Federation. Most don't even realise it was the largest BEF (British Expeditionary Force) deployed on overseas operations, to that date.

Australian Boer War veterans are affectionately termed 'Fathers of ANZACs', a term not lightly given; especially when considering that one in six Australian Boer War veterans, served in WWI. All senior Australian WWI officers, with the exception of General Sir John Monash GCMG KCB VD, were veterans of the Boer War.

Our Secretary, Pierre van Blommestein has given notice that this will be his last year and will not be available for nomination and re-election. I have also indicated that due to health issues and other commitments, this may have to be my last year in office. Our Treasurer, Jennie Jones is in a very similar position.

It is mandatory that the legacy of the 'Fathers of ANZACs' lives on. The **Boer War Day Commemoration Service** is one area that should not fade into oblivion. I, as Chairman, have been trying to establish possible sustainability. However, this is not guaranteed and would take a long time to establish.

In the meantime, we have been forging on...

Commemoration Service for the Battle of Onverwacht -

Our Treasurer, Jennie Jones and I attended this year's, 2020, Commemoration Service for the Battle of Onverwacht Hills, held on Thursday, 6th February. The service was conducted by the Sherwood/Indooroopilly RSL Sub-branch, at the 'Croll Memorial Precinct'. However, due to heavy rain it had to be held indoors this year. The service was a moving tribute to the 118th anniversary of the battle of the Onverwacht Hills, in which 11 Queenslanders were killed. LTCOL Miles Framer OAM (Retd.) delivered the address. As part of the service, a Corinda State High School student was presented with the Onverwacht Essay Medallion, by LTCOL Miles Framer OAM (Retd.). A new medallion was designed, minted and presented. A message from *Hoërskool Ermelo* (Ermelo High

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High School), South Africa, sister school to Corinda State High School, was read by a student from Corinda State High School.

160th Anniversary of the Establishment of the QDF -

On Sunday, 8th March, 2020, in commemoration of the 160th anniversary of the establishment of the QDF (Queensland Defence Force), I (*President/Chairman of BWAQ*) accompanied by our Patron MAJGEN Professor John Pearn AO, RFD (Retd.) will *'take the salute'* at the Boer War Memorial ('The Scout') at ANZAC Square. Just behind General Pearn and I, to our left and right, as supporting allies, will be:

- Shaun Winson, Chairman of SAMVOA QLD and NT, to represent South Africans who took part in the 2nd Anglo-Boer War,
- Clive Cooke, President of RVA to represent the many Rhodesians who took part in the 2nd Anglo-Boer War,
- Jennie Jones to represent the BSAP. The BSAP Regiment also played an important role in the 2nd Anglo-Boer War.

Prior to the Ceremonial Parade (*involving approximately 400 troops*) at Victoria Park, QMIHT (*Queensland Mounted Infantry Historic Troop*) will conduct a mounted ride of 100 horses, through the CBD, led by the CO of 2nd/ 14th LHR (QMI). The planned saluting points include Victoria Barracks, Old Government House (QUT) and ANZAC Square (Adelaide Street and Ann Street ends), returning to Victoria Park for the Ceremonial Parade. The Governor, His Excellency Paul de Jersey AC QC will deliver the address. I (*President/Chairman of BWAQ*) accompanied by our Patron MAJGEN Professor John Pearn AO, RFD (Retd.) will also be attending the Ceremonial Parade at Victoria Park.

Boer War Day Commemoration Service –

This year's Boer War Day Commemoration Service will be held on the Sunday, 31st May, 2020, at the Boer War Memorial (*affectionately known as the 'The Scout'*), Adelaide Street end of ANZAC Square. Planning is progressing steadily and according to expectations. The Service will be conducted in the morning with assembly at 9:30am to start at 10:00am sharp. We would love to see you there.

The BWAQ (Boer War Association Queensland) Committee:

- Mr Gordon Bold – Chairman.
- Rev Pierre van Blommestein – Secretary.
- Mrs Jennie Jones – Treasurer (Editor and Researcher).
- Ms Helen Underwood.



Gordon Bold
Chairman



Onverwacht

Memorial Service at Sherwood
Indooroopilly RSL Sub branch

ADDRESS BOER WAR DAY 6 FEB 2020

CROLL MEMORIAL PRECINCT

Thank you, President Glenn, for your introduction.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Boys and Girls, particularly those of you who are students of Corinda State High School

Good morning to you.

I am privileged to be speaking to you today as my interest in South Africa goes back a long way.

Books such as "The Covenant" by James Michener, and movies such as Rorke's Drift were enthralling.

My interest in the Anglo Boer War became more focused when in 1958 I became Adjutant of the Royal NSW Lancers at Lancer Barracks, Parramatta. I was soon told about how in 1899 a Squadron was returning from cavalry training on Salisbury Plains, England, and to a man disembarked at Cape Town and volunteered for active service. They were accepted and soon rode off to battle carrying their lances!

Later when I had left the ARA, I commanded the 2nd/14th Qld Mounted Infantry (QMI), an Army Reserve Regiment at Wacol. The QMI was the first Australian unit to volunteer and sail to South Africa where on 1st January 1900 they lost the first two Aussie soldiers killed in that war. This was at Sunnyside Kopje not far from Kimberley. Capt Chauvel was in that fight, and when he returned as a Lt Col towards the end of the war, he arranged for a cairn to be erected on the top of the Kopje and a marble memorial plaque affixed. A replica of that cairn can be seen at RHQ of the 2nd/14th Light Horse, QMI in Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera.

In later years I lived at Borden Street, Sherwood and my walks would often take me through St Matthew's Anglican Cemetery on Sherwood Road, Sherwood. Naturally I became interested in the Boer War Memorial near the entry gate, but I knew nothing about its history. The soldiers, Sgt Robert Berry and Cpl John MacFarlane, who were memorialised on it had been killed in a battle on the Onverwacht Hills, east of Ermelo in the Eastern Transvaal.

In late 1999 I went with a small party of members and ex members of the QMI to South Africa, and on 1st January 2000 we climbed the steep Kopje and placed a bronze plaque at the base of the Cairn. It was a memorable occasion.

While in South Africa we made enquiries about Onverwacht without any early success. Then serendipity came to our rescue and we were put in touch with a farmer who knew all about it. He was Japie Celliers, who with his wife Gretchen made us most welcome and arranged overnight accommodation. They took us out to the site of the battle which was on their farm and Japie explained it in great detail, as his grandfather had been in the Commando which ambushed our men. That is a story for another day.

Gretchen became very interested in the story, and over the next year arranged for the students of the Ermelo High School assisted by local farmers to create and erect a most imaginative memorial on the site where all those killed in the battle had been first buried.

The base of the memorial is formed by five fence posts laid flat, in the shape of the Castle of Good Hope, the emblem of the South African Defence Force and the shape of the South African War 1 Memorial at Delville Wood in France. The pillars, all different in height, again from fence posts, represent the numbers of soldiers of each unit killed in the battle who were buried there. The tallest one is for the Queenslanders. There is a separate column

Cont.

For Major Valentin, the British Commander who was killed.

It was in the battle there on 4th January 1902 that Sgt Berry and Cpl MacFarlane tried to save the horse drawn Pom-Pom Gun. They saved the gun but their horses were shot from under them and they were both killed. They numbered in the eleven who were killed that day, with another two who died of their wounds a few days later.

In further research, the son of David Priest of the 5th QIB gave me the sketch map and report of the battle he had scribbled. These became invaluable in subsequent research by historians and appear in many articles about Onverwacht.

In February 2002 my wife Mavis accompanied me as guests of the Celliers to attend the ceremony for the dedication of the newly built memorial. It was a memorable occasion and I was privileged to speak. Mavis also joined me in laying a wreath of dried Australian wildflowers which had been prepared by relatives of Robert Berry for this occasion. The Australian High Commissioner from Pretoria also attended.

After the ceremony I met with Koos Kruger, Principal of the Ermelo High School and a friendship developed. As I was leaving him on my last visit to South Africa he gave me a large package of biltong made from an antelope he had shot on the weekend. I knew that I would not be able to take it into Australia but he would not accept my refusal. When I got to Joburg Airport and turned my car in I told the young black South Africans who came to detail the car that they could have it - a sight to be held as those young chaps dived on it.

Our friendship led to a sister school relationship with his school and the Corinda State High School. Subsequently an Essay Competition was created, with a special medallion going to the winners. Sadly, circumstances in South Africa changed, particularly as the Ermelo High School wished to retain its white Afrikaans exclusivity. I understand that it has been facing many difficulties and contacts between the schools have lapsed.

The medallion designed and used for many years featured:

Commandant Opperman who was killed in the battle
Major Toll on the obverse, CO of the 5th QIB.
Hewas not killed and had a very successful career in
World War 1.

Our supply of these medallions has run out and it became appropriate to have a new design which features Sgt Berry on one side and Cpl MacFarlane on the obverse.

The first of these medallions will be awarded to a student of Corinda State High School.

The Subbranch intends to encourage other secondary schools in our area to participate, with a medallion available for each school's winner.

The Sherwood Indooroopilly RSL believes that the story of Australians part in the Anglo Boer War must never be forgotten, because those soldiers were

THE FATHERS OF THE ANZACS

Thank you.

I am privileged to introduce Tahani Anoozer, Corinda High School who will now present her Essay:

Australia's First Warriors - The Battle of Onverwacht and Australian Federation

Over to you Tahani

LTCOL Miles Farmer

Boer War Memorial Service - Sherwood Indooroopilly RSL 2020

Heavenly Father, during the Anglo-Boer War the last great battle took place in the beautiful Onverwacht Hills of the high-veldt in the Ermelo district of the Eastern Transvaal. Some of our local families are descendants of those who fought and died there. We remember all combatants Father and thank you for their courage and example of faithfulness to their cause.

We remember particularly those 13 soldiers of the Queensland Imperial Bushmen who were united in death with the 9 Boer Commando among others. The various State troops were the forerunners of the ANZACs and had formed some of the traditions which were expanded on in Gallipoli and other theatres of the Great War. Their sacrifice of life will not be forgotten as long as we are free to tell of their courage and vision of a free world. Bless the members of associations here today whose forebears served with the Squadrons and Regiments of the Royal Australian Armoured Corps, the 2/14 Light Horse Regiment, the Queensland Mounted Infantry, and the 5th Queensland Imperial Bushmen.

Eternal God, we give thanks for the peace and security that we enjoy. It comes at an enormous cost to family relationships paid by many generations of Australians in dozens of theatres of conflict. Father bring a speedy and lasting peace to those ongoing wars and conflicts in the world today. What we pray for ourselves we pray also for the people of South Africa. Bless them Father as they grow in freedom and endeavor to cast aside all malice and division caused by tribalism, greed and avarice.

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our defence forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day and strengthen them in their service, give them courage in the face of danger and discipline in the just use of force. May they do their tasks with firmness and compassion, encouraging the nationals among whom they serve to have a greater vision of a lasting peace with prosperity.

Father, we thank you for the enormous effort given by our Rural Fire Brigades, Defence forces, SES and other key organisations in the clean-up efforts or from the damage caused by bush fires and drought. We remember those who lost their lives in the line of duty leaving shattered families; those who lost their homes and livelihoods with huge stock losses. Grant us relief from fire, drought and further damaging weather systems so that our families, businesses, farming communities and wider society may return to a peaceful and prosperous life, and we will You the Glory.

Heavenly Father, at this time of growing high International tension caused by the Novo Coronavirus, may the true situation and risks become clearly apparent and appropriate prevention and remedies be found. May all families, villages, towns, cities, States and countries be

returned to peaceful and productive living with the free movement of its citizens. Help those who are grieving and those facing isolation, food shortages, poor medical services, fear and anxiety and the probable break down of societies.

We offer our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Benediction:

Be of good courage,
Stand firm for that which is right, good and just,
Follow the things that make for peace,
And the blessing of God the Father,
God the Son and God the Holy Spirit be

Private Edward Theodore Cronau



Private 'Teddy' Edward
Theodore Cronau

Private Edward Theodore Cronau, known as Teddy, was born on 28 February 1875 to Prussian emigrants from Ernsthausen, in the German state of Hessen-Nassau. Edward's parents, Ann (Annie) Elizabeth Banff & Johann (John) Jost Cronau, had sailed to Australia on the Beausite with their baby, Mary, arriving in 1863, aged 22 and 25.

Edward was a child of a typically large first generation Australian family. All Cronau families in Australia today are descended from this line. He was preceded in death by one sibling who was an unnamed male baby (b 1873) and his mother who died on the 2nd of October 1889. Edward was born and raised in Fernvale, 10km west of Lowood, in the Brisbane Valley, Queensland, his mother being the first burial recorded at the Fernvale Cemetery. Edward's father survived him by a couple of years before dying in a bush fire in January 1902.

Listed in The Queenslander newspaper of 20 January 1900 as number 108 of the 144 of the Second Queensland contingent, Edward was a single man described as being well known in Fernvale. His obituary remembered him as a "splendid all-round athlete" and a good footballer and cricketer, and a member of the Lowood Cricket Club.

Edward died of enteric fever (a form of Typhoid) at Bloemfontein in South Africa on the 2nd of April 1900 and his death was widely reported in newspapers throughout Australia, although his name was often misspelt to read 'Cronan' and case 'Cronin'.



Private 'Teddy' Edward
Theodore Cronau's grave

Edward was one of three young men from Fernvale to die in the Boer war and, along with Private W. Damrew (1st contingent) and Private W. Poole (4th contingent), was remembered, and a toast raised in their honour, at a welcome home for returning local soldiers on the 19th of June 1901 at the Fernvale

Oddfellow's Hall. A newspaper article from September 1900, noted that Privates Poole and Cronau were 'school mates' from Fernvale State School.

Edward was the 21st Australian to die in the service of his country. His name appears on a memorial in King George Square, Brisbane and on the National Memorial in Canberra where it had been misspelt for a century. Although there is a War Memorial in Edward's hometown of Fernvale, it does not include the Boer War, the Boer War soldiers being honoured by the Lowood Memorial.

On 5 October 1900, a couple of months after Teddy's death, one of his older brothers, policeman Charles Jacob Cronau (1871-1929) and his wife Margaret Mary Thomas (1879-1945) had their first son, Edward Reuben Cronau (1900-1968), known as Ted, who was named in memory of Edward. In subsequent generations, the name 'Edward' has been honoured within the family, being a common middle-name.

Written by: - Dr Deborah Ann Cronau. (Granddaughter of Charles Jacob Cronau who was an older brother of Private Cronau)

Private William Lilley

It is also interesting to note that Dr Deborah Ann Cronau's Mother's great-uncle, William Lilley, also served and died in the Boer War. Private William Lilley was killed in action at the Battle of Onverwacht 4th January 1902. He is listed in the Australian War Memorial - Roll of Honour:



Information provided by: - Dr Deborah Ann Cronau. & the Australian War Memorial

Service number	127
Rank	Private
Unit	5 th Queensland Imperial Bushmen
Service	Colonial Military Forces
Conflict/Operation	South Africa, 1899-1902 Boer War
Conflict/Eligibility Date	South Africa, 1899-1902 Boer War
Date of Death	04 January 1902
Place of Death	Onverwacht, South Africa
Cause of Death	Killed in action

VALE

It is with great sadness that we pass the news of the passing of **Colonel John Sutherland Haynes AM OAM (Ret'd)**. John died peacefully at the Prince of Wales' Hospital after a short illness. John is survived by his wife Gwen. The National Boer War Memorial Association Inc. (NBWMA) was formed in 2007 under the leadership of Colonel John Haynes AM OAM (Ret'd)

It is also with great sadness that we pass on news of the passing of **Major General Iain Geoffrey Spence, CSC, RFD**, who passed away on Friday, 28th February, 2020. Iain Spence also helped get the Monument built and was MC at the Boer War Memorial Inauguration in 2017.

The Funeral details for Major General Iain Geoffrey Spence, CSC, RFD, are as follows:

All Saints Anglican Church, 9-15 Cowper Street, Ainslie, ACT, on Wednesday, 11th March, 12.30 for 1300 start.

Both men were stalwarts of the NBWMA. R.I.P.

Siege of Mafeking

Gordon Bold

Shortly before the outbreak of the 2nd Anglo-Boer War in 1899, Lord Wolseley, Commander-in-Chief of the British Army, failed to persuade the British Government to send troops to the region. Therefore, the unexpectedly large force required for the initial phase of the 2nd Anglo-Boer War, depended purely on British Forces garrisoned in the Cape and Natal Colonies, plus the local regular, militia and volunteer units.

Colonel Robert Baden-Powell, accompanied by a handful of officers, raised two regiments of mounted rifles from Rhodesia, of which Lieutenant-Colonel Herbert Plumer (later Colonel Plumer) played a major role. The two regiments formed were:

The Southern Rhodesian Volunteers (SRV) formed in 1898; commanded by Major P.W. Forbes. The force was divided into the Eastern Division, based in Salisbury, and a Western Division based in Bulawayo. The SRV served in the Boer War and took part in the 'Relief of Mafeking'.

The Rhodesia Regiment (RR) was created in 1899; recruits were mainly from Matabeleland, with many also coming from the Southern Rhodesian Volunteers (SRV). The first commanding officer was Major (later Lieutenant-Colonel Herbert Charles Onslow Plumer); a veteran of the Second Matabele War, where he was in command of a Corps of Mounted Riflemen.

Colonel Baden-Powell, amassed stores and a garrison at Mafeking, with the intent on providing a mobile force on the frontier with the Boer Republics. Unfortunately, soon after war was declared, he and much of his intended mobile force were in Mafeking when it was surrounded by a Boer army, at times in excess of 8,000 men.

Colonel Baden-Powell was the garrison commander during the subsequent 'Siege of Mafeking', which extended over a period of 217 days, from the 13th October, 1899 to the 17th May, 1900. Although Baden-Powell could have destroyed his stores and had sufficient forces to break out, throughout much of the siege, he remained in the town to preserve the stash.

The siege of the small town received undue attention from both the Boers and International media because Lord Edward Cecil, the son of the British Prime Minister, was besieged in the town. It was Lord Cecil who set up the 'Mafeking Cadet Corps'; believed to be the inspiration behind Baden-Powell's 'Scouting Movement'.

The garrison held out until relieved, in part thanks to cunning deceptions, many devised by Baden-Powell such as, fake minefields, soldiers pretending to avoid non-existent barbed wire, while moving between fake trenches.

Field Marshal Herbert Charles Onslow Plumer, 1st Viscount Plumer, GCB, GCMG, GCVO, GBE (1857-1932), a senior British Army officer of the First World War, was instrumental in raising the Rhodesian Regiment, many of whom were from the Southern Rhodesian Volunteers. He was in fact the first/founding Commanding Officer of the Rhodesian Regiment as Major Herbert Plumer (later Lieutenant-Colonel Herbert Plumer)...

Lord Edward Herbert Gascoyne-Cecil KCMG DSO (1867-1918), known as Lord Edward Cecil, was a distinguished and highly decorated English soldier. He was the fourth son of Robert Gascoyne-Cecil, 3rd Marquis of Salisbury (Prime Minister of the UK) and was Colonel Baden-Powell's Chief Staff Officer...

Major General Sir Frederick Carrington, KCB, KCMG (1844-1913), was a British soldier and friend of Cecil John Rhodes. He was at one time the CO (Commanding Officer) of the Frontier Light Horse (FLH), Cape Mounted Rifles (CMR) and 2nd Mounted Infantry known as 'Carrington's Horse'. Following the outbreak of the 2nd Anglo-Boer War in October 1899, he was appointed on the staff of the South Africa Field Force on 28th February 1900, with the local rank of a lieutenant-general to be in command of the Rhodesian Field Force (RFF)...

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In one instance, noting that the Boers had not removed the rail line, Baden-Powell loaded an armoured locomotive with marksman and sent it down the rails into the heart of the Boer encampment and back again in a successful attack. Baden-Powell did much of the reconnaissance work himself.

Whilst most Australian contingents raised in 1899 were involved in the Bloemfontein actions, a number of them after arriving in Cape Town early April, were redirected north to Beira, Mozambique, to help secure Rhodesia and take part in the 'Relief of Mafeking' under the control of Lt Gen Sir Frederick Carrington.

Relief of Mafeking:

On 16th May, two columns of mounted infantry head towards Mafeking: One under the command of Colonel Bryan Mahon, consisting mainly of the:

Kimberley Light Horse (KLH), and
Imperial Light Horse (ILH).

The other column was the Rhodesian Field Force (RFF) under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Herbert Plumer, who was instrumental in raising a force of mounted infantry in Southern Rhodesia. His column included the:

Rhodesian Regiment the (RR),
Southern Rhodesian Volunteers (SVR),
British South Africa Police (BSAP),
Queensland Mounted Infantry (QMI),
NSW Imperial Bushmen, and a
Canadian Battery...

It is interesting to note that the QMI, NSW Lancers and the NSW Mounted Rifles, made up part of the column involved in the relief of Kimberley.

It is also interesting to note, that Major Walter David (Karri) Davies (1861–1926), one of the founders of the ILH, was in fact an Australian. He was a son of Mr. M. C. Davies, owner of the Jarrah and Karri timber mills of Western Australia. Around 1891, in his father's business interests, he left for South Africa during the Witwatersrand Gold Rush. During his 20 years' residence, he established the sale of Western Australian timber in Southern Africa. He took part in the Jameson Raid (1895-6), was captured by Kruger's forces and sentenced to two years imprisonment, but like the others of the raiding party, did not serve the full time.

Sir Bryan Thomas Mahon, KCB, KCVO, PC (Ire), DSO (1862-1930) was an Irish born general of the British Army and senator of the short-lived Senate of Southern Ireland...

Kimberley Regiment (KR), Cape Police (CP) and Diamond Field Horse (DFH) were amalgamated on October 10th 1899 to form Kimberley Mounted Corps (KMC), which was re-organized in March 1900, after the relief of Kimberley, and re-named Kimberley Light Horse (KLH)...

The Imperial Light Horse (ILH) was raised by the British in Johannesburg on 21st September 1899 for service in the 2nd Anglo-Boer War; founded by Col. Aubrey Woolls-Sampson, Maj. Walter Davies, Sir Percy Fitzpatrick and Capt. Charles Mullins. It then became the Light Horse Regiment (LHR); later known as the Johannesburg Light Horse Regiment (JLHR)...

The Rhodesia Regiment (RR), founded in 1899 was one of the oldest, in fact it was the third to be formed, and became the largest regiments in the Rhodesian Army. The Regiment served in the 2nd Anglo-Boer War and was disbanded in 1900, shortly after the relief of Mafeking. It was re-established for WWI and WWII. It later became the Royal Rhodesian Regiment (RRR) in 1947, the result of service rendered in WWII. King George VI became the regiment's first Colonel-in-Chief. When Rhodesia became a republic in 1970, the regiment's title reverted to Rhodesia Regiment (RR); Queen Elizabeth II resigned as Colonel-in-Chief. The Regiment ceased to exist after 1980, when Rhodesia became Zimbabwe.

The Southern Rhodesian Volunteers (SRV) formed in late 1898 making them the second oldest Rhodesian Unit, initially under the command of Major P.W. Forbes. The force was divided into the Eastern Division, based in Salisbury, and Western Division based in Bulawayo. The SRV did not take part in WWI and was disbanded in 1920...

British South Africa Police (BSAP) is reflected in the history and development of Southern Rhodesia. The BSAC (British South Africa Company) police force that accompanied and defended Cecil Rhodes' Pioneer Column into what became known as Southern Rhodesia in 1890 was BSAC's 'first line of defence'. It remained the sole line of defence for many years and is thus considered the oldest member of the Rhodesian Security Forces. The name for the BSAC Police Force, BSAP was created on 29th October, 1889, by Cecil Rhodes' British South Africa Company (BSAC). It was formed as a paramilitary force/regiment of mounted infantrymen and for most of its existence was the police force of Rhodesia...

In 1902 an amalgamation of Western Australian timber companies became the Millars' Karri and Jarrah Company...

Major Charles Herbert Mullins VC CMG (1869- 1916) was a South African recipient of the Victoria Cross (VC). He was one of the co-founders of the Imperial Light Horse (ILH) in Johannesburg. On the 21st October, 1899, at the Battle of Elandsplaagte, Captain Mullins of the ILH earned a VC and was wounded. He received the VC from King Edward during an investiture at Marlborough House 25th July 1901 and was later promoted to major...

At the outbreak of the 2nd Anglo-Boer War, he was one of the founders of the Imperial Light Horse (ILH) in Johannesburg. The ILH saw service at the Siege and Relief of Ladysmith. The ILH was then specially selected to join the Mafeking Relief Column under Colonel Bryan Mahon. Eight men under Major Karri Davies of the ILH were the first to enter Mafeking on the night of 16/17th May, 1900, to break the siege, followed by the joint relief columns the following morning.

In total, members of the ILH Regiment won four Victoria Crosses during 2nd Anglo-Boer War:

Battle of Elandsplaagte, 21st October 1899:

Captain Charles Herbert Mullins, a co-founder of the ILH; and

Captain Robert Johnston;

Battle of Wagon Hill, 6th January 1900:

Trooper Herman Albrecht;

Battle of Tyger Kloof Spruit near Bethlehem, 18th December 1901:

Surgeon Captain Thomas Joseph Crean.

The Siege of Mafeking is considered by many as the most famous British action in the 2nd Anglo-Boer War. The heroic defence under the leadership of Colonel Robert Baden-Powell, and its eventual relief, were morale-boosting events for the Imperial British forces. The Relief of Mafeking (the lifting of the siege) was a decisive victory for the British and a crushing defeat and devastating setback for the Boers. Colonel Robert Baden-Powell became a national hero, who later founded the 'Scouting Movement'.

The 'Siege of Kimberley' and 'Siege of Ladysmith', also played a very major part in the 2nd Anglo-Boer War...

Siege of Kimberley:

Colonel Baden-Powell, anticipating the inevitable onset of hostilities, encouraged all the women and children to leave the town. On 4th October, 1899, Major Scott-Turner was permitted to summon volunteers to join the town guard and raise the Diamond Fields Artillery (DFA).

Three days later, 7th October, 1899, the town was placed under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Kekewich of the 1st Battalion, Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire), and apparently secured against a possible *coup de main*, but not against a sustained siege.

Some civilians left Kimberley on a special train, escorted as far as Vryburg by an armoured train. On the return journey, the armoured train was captured between Kimberley and Mafeking at Kraaipan by Boers under the command of General de la Rey. The Battle of Kraaipan, 12th and 13th of October, 1899, is considered the first engagement of the 2nd Anglo-Boer War, which resulted in a Boer Victory.

Cont.

Colonel Kekewich's defence troops consisted of:

4 companies of the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment,
A few Royal Engineers,
6 RML 2.5 inch mountain guns and two machine guns.

Also at his disposal were:

120 men of the Cape Police,
2,000 irregular troops,
Kimberley Light Horse, and
Battery of obsolete seven-pounder guns and
Eight Maxim machine guns mounted on tailing
heaps around Kimberley.

Major Robert Johnston, VC (1872-1950), was an Irish rugby union player and soldier. During the Second Boer War, Johnston was awarded the Victoria Cross while serving with the Imperial Light Horse (ILH). In 1896 Johnston was a member of the British Lions squad for their tour to South Africa. He was part of strong Irish contingent, being one of nine Irishmen selected; one of the nine being Tom Crean. When the British Lions tour ended, Johnston, together with Tom Crean, decided to stay on in South Africa. He played rugby for Transvaal and captained them in the Currie Cup (one of the oldest rugby competitions, with the first games played in 1889). In 1899, at the start of the 2nd Anglo-Boer War, again with Crean, enlisted in the Imperial Light Horse (ILH) and while still a captain, won his VC and subsequently reached the rank of major. Johnston was already an experienced soldier, having previously served with the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers between. He was dangerously wounded during the Siege of Ladysmith. In 1911 Johnston returned to Ireland...

Major Dr. Thomas Joseph Crean, VC DSO (1873-1923) was an Irish rugby union player, British Army soldier and doctor. During the 2nd Anglo-Boer War, while serving with the Imperial Light Horse, he was awarded the Victoria Cross. When the British Isles tour ended, Crean decided to stay on in South Africa, working as a doctor in a hospital in Johannesburg and playing rugby for Johannesburg Wanderers. In 1899, at the start of the 2nd Anglo-Boer War he enlisted as a trooper in the Imperial Light Horse (ILH) and took part in both the Relief of Mafeking and the Relief of Ladysmith. In 1901, he became a Surgeon Captain and on 18th December, at the Battle of Tygerkloof, where he won his VC...

Major-General Robert George Kekewich, CB (1854-1914) was a Victorian era British Army officer, second son of Trehawke Kekewich, of Peamore House, near Exeter, Devon, brother of Sir Trehawke Herbert Kekewich, 1st Baronet...

A 'coup de main' is a swift military attack that relies on speed and surprise to accomplish its objectives in a single blow against the enemy...

Koos de la Rey - Jacobus Hercules de la Rey (1847-1914) was a South African military officer who served as a Boer general during the 2nd Anglo-Boer War. He was also very much involved in defeating the British at the Battle of Magersfontein, the 2nd of the three battles culminating into what became known as 'Black Week'...

On the 12th October, 1899, the Jacobsdal Commando severed the railway line at the bridge over the Modder River south of Kimberley and entrenched themselves in the hills at Spytfontein. The Boshof Commando severed the railway line north of the town at Riverton Road, shutting off Kimberley's primary water supply at Riverton on the Vaal River. The conflict at Kimberley started on 14th October, 1899. Thus, Kimberley became the second British stronghold to be besieged one day after Mafeking, followed by Ladysmith, two weeks later on the 28th October, 1899.

At this stage, the British had to change their military strategy, as public opinion demanded that the sieges of Kimberley, Ladysmith and Mafeking be relieved before the Boer capitals were assaulted.

The first attempted relief of Kimberley under Lord Methuen was stopped at the battles of Modder River and Magersfontein. The 124 day siege was finally relieved on 15th February, 1900, by a cavalry division under Lieutenant-General John French.

Siege of Ladysmith:

After the disastrous Battle of Ladysmith 28th to the 30th October, 1899, the Boers succeeded in entrapping General White in Ladysmith, with around 8,000 British regulars. By the 2nd November, 1899, the Boers had

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regulars. By the 2nd November, 1899, the Boers had Ladysmith totally besieged, which became known as the 'Siege of Ladysmith' which lasted 118 days.

What followed was what became known as 'Black Week', where the British troops suffered three devastating Battles from 10th to the 17th December, 1899, they being:

The Battle of Stormberg,
The Battle of Magersfontein and
The Battle of Colenso.

Leading up to the eventual Relief of Ladysmith, the following important battles took place:

The Battle of Colenso, 15th December, the third and final battle of what was known as 'Black Week' - a Boer Victory;

The Battle of Spion Kop 23rd and 24th February - another Boer Victory;

The Battle of Vaal Krantz 5th to the 7th February, 1900 - another Boer Victory;

The Battle of Tugela Heights, which was in fact a series of military actions from the 14th February to the 27th February, 1900 - a British Victory and the turning point for the eventual Relief of Ladysmith. Around the 17th February, 1900, the Boers abandoned their positions south and east of the Tugela River. Colenso was re-occupied. On the 28th February, 1900, the Boers moved their troops and withdrew to the Biggarsberg, north of Ladysmith, thus raising the 'Siege of Ladysmith'. British forces were instructed not to go in pursuit of the Boers.

The British forces relief column entered Ladysmith on the 28th February, 1900, led by the Commander of the Mounted Brigade, Lord Dundonald.

Field Marshal Paul Sanford Methuen, 3rd Baron Methuen, GCB, GCMG, GCVO, DL (1845-1932) was a British Army officer. He served in the 3rd Anglo-Ashanti War in 1873 and then in the expedition of Sir Charles Warren to Bechuanaland in the mid-1880s. He took a prominent role as General Officer Commanding the 1st Division in the 2nd Anglo-Boer War and suffered a serious defeat at the Battle of Magersfontein, resulting in the Highland Brigade taking heavy casualties. He was later captured by the Boers at Tweebosch. After the war he became General Officer Commanding-in-Chief in South Africa in 1908, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Natal in 1910 and then Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Malta in 1915...

Field Marshal John Denton Pinkstone French, 1st Earl of Ypres, KP, GCB, OM, GCVO, KCMG, ADC, PC (1852-1925). He embarked from Southampton for the 2nd Anglo-Boer War on 23rd September 1899. On the morning of his arrival, was ordered to investigate reports that the Boers had taken Elandslaagte, north-east of Ladysmith. On 21st October, French found the Boers present in strength, with two field guns. He telegraphed General White in Ladysmith for reinforcements, which arrived shortly by train...

Lieutenant General Douglas Mackinnon Baillie Hamilton Cochrane, 12th Earl of Dundonald, KCB, KCVO (1852-1935), despite his period of command having expired, landed at Cape Town after the Boers attacked Natal in 1899. Lord Dundonald, on arriving in South Africa, offered his services to Redvers Buller and was given command of the South Natal Field Force. With this force he was engaged at Colenso and in early 1900 took command of the 2nd Cavalry Brigade, with which he took part in the Tugela fighting and on 28th February entered Ladysmith. Later the same year, he commanded the combined 3rd Mounted and Natal Volunteer Brigades in the fighting on the Biggarsberg and at Laing's Nek and in the eastern Transvaal. When Buller resigned in October 1900 the brigade was broken up and Dundonald returned to England. For his services in the campaign he was mentioned in despatches six times and promoted to Lieutenant General (extracts from "British Commanders in the Transvaal War 1899-1900" published by W.D. & H.O. Wills Ltd)...

Everybody is a genius,

but if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree,

it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.

~ Albert Einstein



Onverwacht Memorial Service 6.2.2020



Our thanks for the photos from Mick O'M. Mike H. and Jennie

Legacies and Legends - 2nd Anglo Boer War Veterans

By Gordon Bold

Boers, Colonials and Brits - their Legacies and Legends:

As we Australians know, the 2nd Anglo-Boer War was the first commitment of troops by Australian Colonies to a foreign war and with the formation of the Commonwealth on 1st January, 1901; it became the Nation's first military involvement. Of the Australian Colonies, Queensland was the first to offer troops, closely followed in the same month, when Britain requested the participation of New South Wales and Victoria. The early volunteer contingents to the war were sent by the six Colonies. After Federation in 1901, saw the introduction of our first Commonwealth troops.

One in six Australian veterans of the 2nd Anglo-Boer War, served in WWI. All senior officers, with the exception of General Sir John Monash GCMG KCB VD, were veterans of the 2nd Anglo-Boer War, their legacy being the 'Fathers of ANZACs'.

Let us ponder a moment and contemplate a few things we took, and still take for granted in this world; such as:

The 'League of Nations' and 'United Nations' (UN);
The World's first and oldest independent air force (RAF);

The '*Two-minute silence*' or in some cases '*one-minute silence*' observed by the world on Armistice/Remembrance Day, the 11th November, also sometimes simply known as 'Poppy Day';
and

'Red Poppies' as the symbol of remembrance;

Many, Boers (Afrikaners), Colonials and British involved in the 2nd Anglo-Boer War, played an important part in the world with their own legacies and legends.

LN, RAF, UN and Jan Smuts:

One may be forgiven for wondering what the 'League of Nations (LN)', the 'United Nations' (UN) and the Royal Air Force (RAF) have to do with General Jan Smuts, a Boer General. Well, to quench one's bewilderment, let us take a quick peek at who General Jan Smuts was and his global influence...

General Jan Smuts:

Field Marshal Jan Christian Smuts PC, OM, CH, DTD, ED, KC, FRS (1870-1950), a Boer guerrilla leader, politician, South African and British Commonwealth statesman, military leader and philosopher. In 1886, at the age of 16 went to Victoria College, Stellenbosh University where he studied High Dutch, German and Ancient Greek as well as immersing himself in literature, the classics and Bible studies. On graduation from Victoria College, Smuts won the Ebdon scholarship for overseas study. He then attended the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom to read law at Christ's College. At Cambridge, he found time to study a diverse number of subjects in addition to law; he wrote a book entitled '*Walt Whitman: A Study in the Evolution of Personality*', which remained unpublished until 1973.



However, the thoughts behind this book laid the foundation for Smuts' later wide-ranging philosophy of holism.

Jan Smuts graduated in 1894 with a double first. The previous two years prior to graduation, he was the recipient of numerous academic prizes and accolades, including the coveted '*George Long prize in Roman Law and Jurisprudence*'. One of Smuts' tutors, Professor Maitland, a leading figure among English legal historians, described Smuts as the most brilliant student he had ever met. Lord Todd, the Master of Christ's College, said in 1970 that - "in 500 years of the College's history, of all its members, past and present, three had been truly outstanding: John Milton, Charles Darwin and Jan Smuts". In December 1894, Smuts passed the examinations for the Inns of Court, entering the Middle Temple. Christ's College offered him a fellowship in Law. However, he turned this down and by June 1895, had returned to the Cape Colony, determined he should make his future at home in Southern Africa.

Lawyer and Politician:

Smuts began to practise law in Cape Town. Finding little financial success in the law, he began to divert more and more of his time to politics and journalism, writing for the 'Cape Times'. Intrigued by the prospect of a united Southern Africa, Smuts became a member of 'Afrikaner Bond', not to be confused with the Broederbond.

By good fortune, Jan Smuts' father, Jacobus Smuts, knew the leader of the group, Jan Hofmeyr. Hofmeyr in turn recommended Jan Smuts to Cecil Rhodes, who owned the De Beers mining company. In 1895, Smuts became an advocate and supporter of Cecil John Rhodes.

In the summer of 1895-96, Rhodes launched the Jameson Raid. Smuts, an avid supporter of the Rhodes-Hofmeyr partnership, was very much disillusioned and outraged by the Jameson Raid. Jan Smuts felt betrayed by Cecil Rhodes, his friend and political ally, and thus promptly resigned from De Beers and temporarily left political life. He moved north to the South African Republic (Transvaal Republic) and became State Attorney in the capital of the South African Republic, Pretoria.

2nd Anglo-Boer War:

A few years later, on the 11th October 1899, the two Boer Republics declared war on the United Kingdom. Immediately, commandos, armed with German rifles and artillery, trained by the best European officers, marched into Natal and the Cape Colony. Jan Smuts, saw no service in the early stages of the war. His battlefield was Pretoria, where he served as President Paul Kruger's right-hand man. Jan Smuts was perfectly suited to the role, as he was multilingual, with a sound knowledge of law and politics. He wrote dispatches to generals, published propaganda, organised logistics and liaised with Transvaal diplomats in Europe. With the initial Boer successes of the war, Smuts received much of the credit.

However, after the defeats inflicted upon the Boer forces at Ladysmith, Mafeking, and Paardeberg, the British forces, considerably outnumbering the Boers, flooded across the Orange River into the two Boer Republics. The government of the Transvaal fled from Pretoria to convene in Machadodorp. Paul Kruger, President of the Transvaal Republic, left for Europe in exile.

With every Boer town in the hands of the British,

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President Kruger in exile in the Netherlands, and formal resistance at an end, the British extended an offer of peace to the Boers. Acting in the name of Kruger, Smuts rejected the terms, and urged the generals to fight on. He described a manner of guerrilla warfare to Louis Botha, which would be suited to the vast expanses of the southern African Veld. Generals Louis Botha, Barry Hertzog, Christiaan De Wet, and Koos de la Rey each commanded commando forces to raid the British positions across South Africa.

Guerrilla Campaign:

This second phase of the war, often referred to as the guerrilla campaign, saw General Jan Smuts, step away from his normal function to military operations. He initially served under General de la Rey, raiding British supply trains across the western Transvaal. General Smuts proved to be an excellent soldier, brave but intelligently so, and acutely aware of the limitations of their small force.

Whereas de la Rey and Smuts were wildly successful in their region, Botha and Hertzog (leading the two largest armies) found it difficult to replicate the tactics and success of their compatriots. Gradually, the British built a system of forts, concentration camps, and armed patrols, and cut the country up with great lines of barbed wire and trenches.

As it became harder to evade their armies, the Boers ran out of success. The Generals met in secret, and discussed peace. Generals Louis Botha and Jan Smuts decided that they had greatly underestimated the resolve of the British politicians, and sent a telegram to Kruger to ask for his advice. Without the full knowledge of the dire situation, President Kruger's response was; the Transvaal Republic Boers to fight on. The Orange Free State's two representatives, President Steyn and General de Wet, derided the suggestion of peace. In the end, they resolved to launch one last attack, and turn the conflict on its head. For this operation, they chose General Jan Smuts.

The Raid on the Cape:

The plan was for General Smuts to lead a commando into the Cape Colony, as stealthily as possible. From there, he would attempt to draw support from the Afrikaners of the Cape, and instigate a general rebellion against the British government in Cape Town. In the bitterly cold winter (June/July/August) of 1901, General Jan Smut's commandos invaded the Cape Colony. When General Smuts began his invasion of the Cape Colony, the journey to the border was, in itself, a major achievement. British troops had to be avoided in both the Transvaal and the Orange Free State. The drift, which General Smuts had planned to cross the Orange River, was guarded by a British column, which Lord Kitchener, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, South Africa, had set to chase a shadow.

The Afrikaner Bond (Afrikaans and Dutch for "Afrikaner Union"; South African Dutch: Afrikaner Bond) was founded as an anti-Imperialist political party in 19th century southern Africa around 1881. While its origins were largely in the Orange Free State, it came to have a significant presence across the region, and especially in the Cape Colony and the Transvaal...

The Afrikaner Broederbond which, while similarly named to the Afrikaner Bond, was not a political party but rather a secret cultural organisation/society formed in 1918...

Cecil John Rhodes was founder of the BSAC (British South Africa Company), Rhodesia, owner of De Beers and was the 7th Prime Minister of the Cape Colony - In office from 17th July 1890 to 12th January 1896...

The Jameson Raid was a botched BSAC operation often considered by many as the inciting factor of the 2nd Anglo-Boer War and the 2nd Matabele War...

Therefore, General Smuts' commandos crossed at Kiba Drift, unopposed. Lord Kitchener reacted swiftly and set up chase. A chase through the Cape Colony followed. General Smuts led them a merry dance, thus splitting the British forces as planned. General Smuts excelled at hit-and-run guerrilla warfare, and the unit evaded and harassed the British Army, forty times its size.

It is important to note, that according to official history concerning the 2nd Anglo-Boer War, in January 1902, General Smuts had about 13,000 men under his command in the Northern Cape. General Smuts and his men were still at large when the forces of the Boer Republics surrendered on 31st May 1902. In the book entitled 'Commando' by Deneys Reitz, who was part of General Smuts' commando, tells the story of their time in the Cape, in vivid detail.

At around 2 pm on 31st May 1902, a vote was called and 54 delegates voted "yes" to the terms of the treaty, but six voted "no". On the same day, the Boer leaders returned to Kitchener at Melrose House in Pretoria and the peace treaty was signed.

General Smith-Dorrien once made a rather snide remark concerning General Smuts' fitness for command. However, General Smuts' successes as a Boer guerrilla leader, military leader, philosopher, lawyer and politician as well as being a very prominent South African and British Commonwealth statesman, is proof enough to suggest General Smith-Dorrien's comments were either sour grapes or gross ignorance.

The Treaty of Vereeniging:

On 9th April 1902, with safe passage guaranteed by the British, the Boer leadership met at Klerksdorp, Transvaal. Present were; Marthinus Steyn (President of the Free State), Schalk Burger (Acting President of the Transvaal), with the Boer Generals; Louis Botha, Jan Smuts, Christiaan de Wet and Koos de la Rey, to discuss the progress of the war and whether negotiations should be opened with the British. On 15th May, the Boers elected 30 delegates and they met at Vereeniging. The debate was heated; split between the Transvaalers who wanted an end to the war, while the Free Staters wished to continue the war. Louis Botha appointed Jan Smuts to be the chief legal advisor to the Transvaal delegation. In this way, Smuts took a key role in debating the complex legal and semantic arguments. During the debates, Smuts used his knowledge of both military and legal aspects of government and of academia, to guide the delegation. His mastery of English, Afrikaans and of High Dutch allowed him to speak before others. No man dared, speak over the one who had so successfully attacked the Cape.

Smuts' dominance allowed the Transvaal delegation to win. Francis William Reitz, tabled a compromise, ending the war, allowing the two republics limited sovereignty, and calling for slimmed down delegations to meet in Pretoria to negotiate with the British. At Pretoria, the British deputation was led by Lord Kitchener and Lord Milner.

Deneys Reitz (1882—1944), son of Francis William Reitz, was a Boer soldier who fought in the 2nd Anglo-Boer War for the South African Republic against the British Empire and was part of Jan Smuts' Commando in the Cape Colony. He is also the world renowned author of the book entitled 'Commando'...

Francis William Reitz, Jr. (1844-1934) was a lawyer, politician, statesman, publicist, and poet who was a member of parliament of the Cape Colony, Chief Justice and fifth State President of the Orange Free State, State Secretary of the South African Republic at the time of the 2nd Anglo-Boer War, and the first president of the Senate of the Union of South Africa. He was the father of Deneys Reitz...

Smuts and Kitchener had mutual professional respect, and talked alone, avoiding the interjection of administrators, such as Lord Milner

Moreover, both Kitchener and Smuts had seen the futility of the war, which had descended into little more than mutual slaughter. Bilaterally, Smuts and Kitchener negotiated a settlement that suited the Free State representative, De Wet. Hence, on 31st May 1902, the Treaty of Vereeniging, a document that was mostly written by Jan Smuts and Lord Kitchener on their own, was signed by representatives of the United Kingdom, the Orange Free State and the South African Republic.

Legacies:

During WWI, the British campaign in German East Africa was going badly. The German East Africa Schutztruppe, under the command of Paul von Lettow-Vorbeck, had seized the Taveta Gap and repulsed the British Expeditionary Force B. The 'East African Campaign' for the British went from bad to worse. It was decided that one of the more competent commanders in the British Army, Lieutenant-General Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien, would take command in East Africa. However, he caught pneumonia and was declared unfit. At this point, 1916, General Jan Smuts, a Boer General, was chosen to replace him. To put things into perspective, one needs to recognise the fact, that General Smith-Dorrien was one of only a handful of British soldiers with the relevant experience at the time. Thus to add to the Legacy of General Jan Smuts...

General Jan Smuts was given the task of defeating Lettow-Vorbeck. General Smuts had a large army for the area made up of South Africans (*English and Afrikaans speaking*), British, Rhodesians, Indian and African troops. There was a Belgian force and a larger but ineffective group of Portuguese military units based in Mozambique. A large Carrier Corps composed of African porters under British command, carried supplies into the interior. Despite the Allied nature of the effort, it was a South African operation of the British Empire.

The Germans nearly always retreated from the British troops under the command of General Jan Smuts. By September 1916, the German Central Railway from the coast at Dar es Salaam to Ujiji was fully under British control. With Lettow-Vorbeck confined to the southern part of German East Africa, Smuts began to withdraw the South African, Rhodesian and Indian troops and replace them with Askari of the King's African Rifles (KAR), which by November 1918 had 35,424 men. By the start of 1917, more than half the British Army in the theatre was composed of Africans. General Smuts left the area in January 1917, to join the Imperial War Cabinet in London.

Major-General Arthur Hoskins (KAR), formerly the commander of the 1st East Africa Division, took over command of the campaign.

Boer is actually a Dutch/Afrikaans word which translates to 'farmer'. However, in this case it generally refers to an Afrikaner, an Afrikaans speaking South African...

Lieutenant-General Sir Jacob Louis van Deventer KCB CMG DTD, commanded a Union Defence Forces formation in the: South West Africa Campaign (1914-1915); German East Africa Campaign (1916-1918); commanded a South African Overseas Expeditionary Force mounted brigade, then a division; and finally (1917-1918) all the British imperial forces in the region (though, allegedly, he could hardly speak English). He was knighted twice for his services... Edgar Algernon Robert Gascoyne-Cecil, 1st Viscount Cecil of Chelwood CH PC QC (1864-1958), co-founder of the League of Nations was an older brother of Lord Edward Herbert Gascoyne-Cecil KCMG DSO (1867-1918) of Siegfried fame and founder of the Mafeking Cadets...

However, after four months spending time reorganising the lines and messing around with communication, he was replaced by South African Major-General Jacob van Deventer, also a Boer Veteran of the 2nd Anglo Boer War. Lettow-Vorbeck eventually surrendered on 25th November 1918.

From 1917 to 1919, General Jan Smuts, became a member of the British Imperial War Cabinet and later the Prime Minister of the Union of South Africa, from 3rd September 1919 to 30th June 1924 and again from 5th September 1939 to 4th June 1948.

In 1919, the two principal drafters and architects of the covenant of the League of Nations were the British politician Lord Robert Cecil and the South African statesman General Jan Smuts.

In 1941, he became Field Marshal in the British Army and once again served in the Imperial War Cabinet under Winston Churchill. Jan Smuts was the only man to sign the peace treaties at the end of both wars (WWI and WWII).

Smuts wrote the first draft of the preamble to the United Nations Charter, and was the only person to sign the charters of both the League of Nations and the United Nations (UN). He sought to redefine the relationship between the United Kingdom and her Colonies, helping to establish the British Commonwealth, as it was known at the time.

League of Nations:

The League of Nations, an international organisation founded as a result of the Treaty of Versailles in 1919-1920, convened and met for the first time in London.

Whilst it is true, the 'Fourteen Points' speech of President Woodrow Wilson, part of a presentation given in January 1918, where he envisioned an organisation that was charged with resolving conflicts, before they exploded into bloodshed and warfare. Wilson took his debate to the American people. However, Congress rejected the idea.

The idea actually originated in the minds of several statesmen, including President Woodrow Wilson of the United States and General Jan Smuts of South Africa. General Smuts gave substance to the aspirations in a paper later published as; The League of Nations. Lord Cecil, British Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and the South African statesman General Jan Smuts, Prime Minister of the Union of South Africa, were the two principal drafters and architects of the covenant of what became known as the League of Nations. Ironically, the League of Nations was the forerunner to the United Nations (UN).

Royal Air Force (RAF):

The Royal Air Force (RAF) was founded on 1st April 1918, towards the end of the First World War by merging the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) and the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS). By August 1917, Jan Smuts, a member of Prime Minister Lloyd George's War Cabinet, submitted what is known as the 'Smuts Report'. The 'Smuts Report' detailed the plans for a separate arm of service, an air service; independent of the services of the Navy and Army. The 'Smuts Report', thus became the 'Instrument' by which the Royal Air Force (RAF) was formed. General Jan Smuts is therefore accredited as being the founder of the RAF, the first and oldest independent air force in the world.

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On 1st February 1920, the South African Air Force (SAAF) was established; General Jan Smuts was then Prime Minister of the Union of South Africa. The SAAF was the first Air Force of the Commonwealth and the second oldest independent air force in the world. Following the establishment of the SAAF, other Commonwealth countries followed in establishing their own independent air force:

- The Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) was formed 31st March 1921, a year after the SAAF was founded, making the RAAF the second air force of the Commonwealth and the third oldest independent air force in the world;
- The Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF/ARC) was formed 1st April 1924, some years after Australia;
- The Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) was formed 1st April 1937 as an independent service.
- The Indian Air Force was established on 8th October 1932 in British India as an auxiliary Air Force of the Royal Air Force.

United Nations (UN):

One of Jan Smuts' last acts as the Prime Minister for South Africa, was the establishment of the United Nations (UN). In fact, he wrote the original opening lines of the Preamble to the United Nations Charter as...

"The High Contracting Parties, determined to prevent a recurrence of the fratricidal strife which twice in our generation has brought untold sorrow and loss upon mankind..."

Not only did Smuts do the first draft of the Preamble to the United Nations Charter, he also played a key role in putting together the United Nations Charter itself. Field Marshal Smuts presided over the first meeting of Commission II, General Assembly of the United Nations on 30th May 1945, held at the San Francisco Opera House.

Jan Smuts was also present at the historic signing ceremony of the United Nations Charter, 26th June 1945, signing the Charter on behalf of South Africa. Subsequent to these historic meetings and ceremonies in San Francisco, the Charter and United Nations as we know it, came into full existence on the 24th October 1945.

Legend:

1940 - A rather bold plan was proposed, emphasising Field Marshal Jan Smuts' importance to the Imperial War effort. The proposal, by Sir John Colville, Churchill's private secretary, was to appoint General Smuts as Prime Minister of the UK, should Churchill die or otherwise become incapacitated during the war. Apparently, Queen Mary and King George VI supported the idea.

Jan Smuts was truly one of South Africa's most philanthropic leaders, years ahead of his time, only to have his legacy tarnished by successive political posturing after his death, five years later, in 1950, which sadly even continues to this day...

However, history is the ultimate decider and Jan Smuts' track record of achievements, confirms the simple fact; he remains one of the greatest men the country has ever produced.

The day I, the author was born, Jan Smuts was buried. My father a staunch supporter of Jan Smuts watched his funeral cortege from the window of the 'Moedersbond Maternity Hospital' in Pretoria, South Africa, where I was born.

Edgar Algernon Robert Gascoyne-Cecil, 1st Viscount Cecil of Chelwood, CH, PC, QC (1864-1958), was a British lawyer, politician and diplomat. He was one of the architects of the League of Nations and a defender of it, whose service to the organisation saw him, awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1937...

BESL - Smuts, Haig and Lukin:

South Africa can be considered ground zero for the formation of 'British Empire Services League' (BESL) which includes many of the world's most prestigious veteran's organisations and charities, including the likes of the 'Royal British Legion' (RBL), the 'South African Legion' and the 'Royal Canadian Legion' (RCL). However, to further put things into perspective, we need to take a brief look at three gentlemen, all veterans of the 2nd Anglo-Boer War:

Field Marshal Jan Christian Smuts PC, OM, CH, DTD, ED, KC, FRS – born in the Cape Colony, an Afrikaans/Dutch speaking South African Gentleman, was a Boer General during the 2nd Anglo-Boer War - his legacies and legend are already covered in some detail within this manuscript.

Major General Sir Henry Timson Lukin KCB CMG DSO – born in England and emigrated to South Africa.

Field Marshal Douglas Haig, 1st Earl Haig, KT, GCB, OM, GCVO, KCIE – born in Scotland was a British officer who served under Major-General French, as Assistant Adjutant General (i.e. chief staff officer) of French's brigade-sized force.

Realising the serious plight in which men found themselves, the three prominent soldiers mentioned above founded the British Empire Service League (BESL) at an inaugural meeting held in the City Hall, Cape Town on 21st February 1921...

General Lukin:

Major General Sir Henry Timson Lukin KCB CMG DSO (1860-1925) was a South African military commander. He fought in the Anglo-Zulu War (1879), Basuto Gun War, Bechuanaland Campaign (1897) and was very much involved in the Colonial Forces during the 2nd Anglo-Boer War.



'Harry' Henry Lukin was the only son of barrister-at-law Robert Henry Lukin of the Inner Temple. Despite a family military tradition, he did not enter Sandhurst. Instead, in January 1879, 'Harry' Lukin sailed for Durban in South Africa and was commissioned as lieutenant into the 77th Regiment of Bengough's Horse at the start of the Anglo-Zulu War (1879). He was seriously wounded at Ulundi in 1879.

On 23rd March 1881, he transferred to the Cape Mounted Rifles (CMR) and participated in Basuto Gun War (1880-1881). In 1893, he attended the gunnery and signal course at Woolwich and Shoeburyness in Britain and in 1894 was promoted to Captain. He participated in the Bechuanaland Campaign (1897).

At the start of the 2nd Anglo-Boer War, 1899, he deployed with the Colonial Division in the Cape Colony and Orange Free State. On 13th October 1900, he was appointed as Commanding Officer of the CMR (Cape Mounted Rifles) with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. On the 1st June 1901, Lieutenant-Colonel Henry (Harry) Lukin was made Second-in-Command of Colonel H. Scobell's Column. A couple of days later, 8th June 1901, he was mentioned by Lord Kitchener for gallantry concerning the attack on Commandant Lötter's laager in the Cape Colony, and duly received the Distinguished Service Order (DSO).

On 26th June 1902, in recognition of services during the 2nd Anglo-Boer War, he was appointed a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG) in the South African Honours list published.

He remained in South Africa and from 1904, served as Commanding Officer (CO) of the Cape Colonial Forces (CCF) with the rank of Colonel. In 1910, he was the escort commander for the first opening of Parliament, of the newly formed Union of South Africa. The following year he became Commander of the South African detachment, to attend the coronation of King George V.

On 1st July 1912, Lukin was appointed as Inspector-General of the Permanent Forces of the Union Defence Force (UDF) with the rank of Brigadier-General. In 1914, at the start of WWI Brigadier General Lukin became commander of A-force and commanded the SAMR (South African Mounted Rifles) Brigade, in the German South West Africa Campaign (1914-15) for the invasion and occupation of German South-West Africa. In July 1915, he was appointed as Commander of the demobilising force in German South-West Africa (South West Africa, today known as Namibia). On 11th August 1915, he became General Officer Commanding of the 1st South African Infantry Brigade. In September 1915, Brigadier-General Lukin and the 1st South African Infantry Brigade sailed for Britain as part of the South African Overseas Expeditionary Force (SAOEF) and then on to Egypt. On 6th to 9th February 1916, Brigadier-General Lukin was the acting commander of the Western Frontier Force, in Egypt. On the 26th February 1916, he commenced operations against the Senussi Uprising.

In April 1916, he sailed for Marseilles and on 14th July 1916, the Battle of Delville Wood commenced...

On 30th November 1916, Major-General Lukin was appointed as General Officer Commanding of the 9th Scottish Division. In 1917, he was appointed as a Knight Commander of the Order of Bath (KCB) and awarded the Order of the Nile, 3rd Class by the Sultan of Egypt. In March 1918, he was appointed as General Officer Commanding of the 64th Division, Eastern Command in Britain, before his retirement later that year.

On returning to the Cape after the War, in 1921, General Lukin retired on pension and was elected the first President of the BESL (British Empire Service League) in South Africa. In July 1921, he was appointed as deputy chair of the Delville Wood Memorial Committee. In 1924, he became a member of the Defence Council of South Africa and on the 28th October 1924, he was appointed as President of a Defence Commission of Enquiry.

Legend:

The Battle of Delville Wood was the most costly battle fought by the UDF (Union Defence Force). The captured area formed a salient, which could be fired on by German artillery from three sides. The 1st South African Brigade held on repelling assault after assault under constant bombardment. The South Africans suffered losses of 80% and yet still held Delville Wood against all odds. When the 1st South African Infantry Brigade were finally relieved, Colonel Frank Thackeray marched out of the wood, leading 2 wounded officers and 140 other ranks, the last remnant of the 1st South African Infantry Brigade. Apparently, Piper Sandy Grieve of the Black Watch, played the South Africans out, himself wounded through the cheeks.

Major-General Sir Henry Jenner 'Harry' Scobell, KCVO, CB (2 January 1859 – 1 February 1912) was a British military leader who served as the last officer in command of Cape Colony before the formation of the Union of South Africa. General French appointed Scobell to command a column of cavalry, which included detachments from the 9th Lancers and the Cape Mounted Rifles (CMR)...

On that same day, after the remnants of the 1st South African Infantry Brigade were piped out of Delville Wood, 5 officers and some 750 men, most walking wounded, paraded before their commander Brigadier-General Lukin. It is said Brigadier-General Lukin removed his cap and apparently wept unashamedly as his troops, or what was left of them, marched past proudly with 'eyes-right'. His troops had heroically held their position and carried out their mission at all costs. This feat has been described as "...*the bloodiest battle of the hell of 1916...*" by Sir Basil Henry Liddell Hart, an English soldier, military historian and military theorist...

Field Marshal Haig:

Field Marshal Douglas Haig, 1st Earl Haig, KT, GCB, OM, GCVO, KCIE (1861-1928) was a senior officer of the British Army. He was born in Edinburgh on 19th June 1861, educated at Clifton College in 1875 and entered Brasenose College, Oxford University, five years later. Here he led an active sporting and social life but unfortunately left without a degree. In 1884, he attended the Royal Military College at Sandhurst. Then in 1885, Douglas Haig was commissioned into the 7th Queen's Hussars. His regiment was sent to India and after three years, was promoted to the rank of Captain and sent to the headquarters of the Bombay Army at Maharashtra. In 1896, he secured entry to the Camberley Staff College. In 1898, Captain Haig received his first experience of warfare when he took part in the Battle of Omdurman, where he served under General Sir Herbert Kitchener (later Lord Kitchener).

Captain Haig returned to Britain to Aldershot, where he was promoted to major. His commander was Major-General John French. In June 1899, General French and Major Haig, as French's 'Staff Officer' embarked for South Africa to serve in the 2nd Anglo-Boer War. French and Haig escaped under fire on the last train out of Ladysmith, when the Boers besieged Ladysmith, just prior to the tracks being destroyed. December 1899 saw a month of disasters, for nearly all British units. However, an exception to this was when French's cavalry, aided by Haig held a numerically superior Boer force at bay.

Between Field Marshal Frederick Roberts' appointment as Commander-in-Chief, on 17th December 1899 (following the defeats of 'Black Week'), General French was the only senior British commander to conduct active operations. Although General Schoeman's force had grown in size, General French and Haig may not have succeeded in capturing Colesberg, they did however, prevent a Boer invasion of the Cape and pinned down Boer forces that may have been elsewhere.

In 1900, Haig was placed in charge of a cavalry division that had to deal with the Boers who resorted to guerrilla warfare. He was also directed to capture leading Boer opponents, such as the elusive General Jan Smuts. Interestingly, Major Haig privately criticised Lord Roberts for losses to men (*typhoid*) and horses (*exhaustion and lack of feeding*) labelling him as a, "silly old man".

Lord Kitchener had been impressed with Haig and in 1903, post the 2nd Anglo-Boer War, when he became commander-in-chief in India, appointed Haig as his Inspector-General of cavalry. When Haig became Major-General, he was the youngest officer of that rank in the British Army. Haig became responsible for training the Indian Cavalry. On 11th July 1905, Haig married Dorothy Maud Vivian, daughter of Hussey Crespigny Vivian,

Cont.

3rd Baron Vivian, in the private chapel at Buckingham Palace.

Haig left for France on 15th August. Haig commanded his forces at Mons and was praised for his Ypres campaign in 1914. Later in the same year, Haig was promoted to full General and was given command of the recently enlarged BEF, under the supreme command of General John French. During WWI, he commanded the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) on the Western Front, from late 1915, until the end of the war. He was commander during the Battle of the Somme, the Battle of Arras, the Third Battle of Ypres, the German Spring Offensive, and the Hundred Days Offensive.

Field Marshal Douglas Haig, General Jan Smuts and General Henry Lukin, as founders of the 'British Empire Services League' (BESL) have left the world with a 'legacy' many of us take for granted...

Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League (RCEL):

On 21st February 1921, in Cape Town, the 'British Empire Services League' (BESL) was founded by Field Marshal Haig, General Jan Smuts and General Henry Lukin, to merge and link various ex-service organisations throughout the Commonwealth. The BESL later became known as the 'Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League'

RCEL). Following the inaugural meeting -

At the 1921 Empire Conference (28th February to March 4th) in Cape Town, the South African Legion was formed known initially known as British Empire Services League, South Africa (BESL, South Africa), by merging; the 'Returned Soldiers and Sailors Association' and the 'Comrades of the Great War'. It later became known as the 'South African Legion' or simply 'The Legion'.

After returning from the South African BESL conference, Field Marshal Haig was instrumental in the formation of the 'British Legion', on the 15th May 1921, later known as the Royal British Legion (RBL), by uniting four national organisations of ex-Servicemen that had established themselves after WWI; the 'Comrades of the Great War', the 'National Association of Discharged Sailors and Soldiers', the 'National Federation of Discharged and Demobilized Sailors and Soldiers' and the 'Officers' Association'. Field Marshal Douglas Haig, 1st Earl Haig, KT, GCB, OM, GCVO, KCIE, served as the President of The Royal British Legion until his death.

On 25th November 1925, the Canadian Legion was formed. Canada had something like 15 different organisations serving ex-servicemen and women. Field Marshal Haig visited Canada in 1925 and urged the various organisations to merge. Thus, the 'Canadian Legion' was founded in Winnipeg, Manitoba, as the 'Canadian Legion of the British Empire Services League'.

His Royal Highness, Duke of York, Prince Andrew is the current Patron/Grand President of the 'Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League' (RCEL).

South African Legion:

The South African branch was titled 'British Empire Service League (South Africa)' but in April 1941, in deference to the pro-war and anti-war factions in the country, the name was changed to the 'South African Legion' of the BESL. In 1952 it was again altered, this time to the South African Legion of the British (Royal) Commonwealth Ex-Service League (RCEL).

The Returned and Services League, Australia (RSL), is an affiliate of the RCEL...
Cont.

Today it is simply known as the South African Legion, but still works very closely with the RCEL, concerning veterans.

The February 1921 meeting in Cape Town, South Africa, can be considered the epicentre that brought all Commonwealth/Empire Veteran organisations under a singular umbrella; the original 'glue'. Associated organisations today are:

Memorable Order of Tin Hats (South Africa),
Returned & Services League of Australia,
Royal New Zealand Returned and Services Association,
The Royal British Legion,
The Royal Canadian Legion, and
South African Legion.

'Minute or Two of Silence', Delville Wood Memorial and Sir Percy:

Many people do not know that the 'moment of silence' (usually 1 or 2 minutes) and its association to Armistice/Remembrance Day (11th of November – sometimes known as 'Poppy Day' or Remembrance Sunday), has a South African origin. It is one of our greatest gifts to humankind, yet most South Africans and most others around the world are completely oblivious of its origins.

The first recorded instance of an official 'moment of silence' dedicated to a person's death, took place in Portugal on February 13th, 1912. In the same year, it is believed; parts of the United States kept a 'ceremonial silence' to honour the dead of the 'Titanic'.

Australia claims the 'moment of silence' on Remembrance Day as their idea, introduced by Edward George Honey; the Australian Government officially accredits Edward Honey as being the originator of the tradition. On 8th May 1919, Honey who was working in London at the time, apparently wrote a letter to the London Evening News, under the pen name 'Warren Foster', suggesting an appropriate commemoration for the first anniversary of the Armistice, which signalled the end of World War I. However, what is not known is whether Edward Honey or the Australian Government for that matter, were aware of the practice that started in Cape Town on 14th May 1918, nearly a year earlier. In truth, I believe they very possibly did...

The world famous 'Comrades Marathon', inspired by the 'Comrades of the Great War', an ultramarathon of approximately 89 km (55 miles), run annually in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa between the cities of Durban and Pietermaritzburg. It is the world's largest and oldest ultramarathon race. The race was the inspiration of WWI veteran Vic Clapham (8th South African Infantry), who had endured a 2,700-kilometre route march through sweltering German East Africa, during The East African Campaign. He wanted the 'Comrades Marathon' memorial to be a unique test of physical endurance to 'celebrate mankind's spirit over adversity'...

Edward George Honey (1885-1922) was an Australian journalist who suggested the idea of a period of silence in a letter to a London newspaper in May 1919...

To be continued...

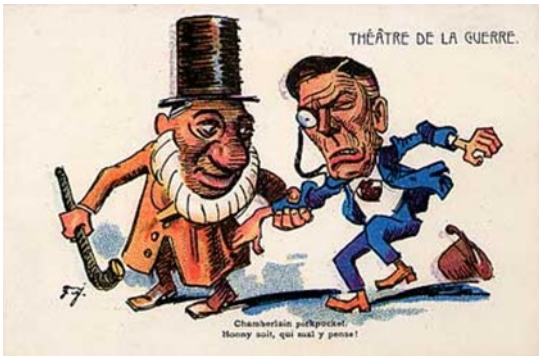
*"a diamond is a chunk
of coal that did well
under pressure"*
~ Henry Kissinger

European Attitudes to the War - The Postcards.

The European press was hostile to the British war against the Boers. It felt Britain started the war to get the gold in the Transvaal. In the days before telephones, radio etc., the postcard was by far the most common way of communicating between people. Hundreds of pictorial cards from the Boer War were published in Britain, Canada, France, Germany, and Russia, and all took sides. Continental European cards generally ridiculed British efforts for launching this unpopular war and praised Boer leaders and accomplishments.

Anti British Cards

The following two postcards created in France found their way all over the world. Many of these cards are still prized and widely circulated by Collectors to this day.



Above left - British Colonial Secretary Chamberlain is pictured as a "Pickpocket" after the gold in Paul Kruger's pocket, however; Kruger has caught him and is about to give him a drubbing, drawing attention to the early Boer victories. The writer has turned the British Royal Family motto "Evil to him who thinks evil" on its head.

Above right - "Stop, Stop, you idiot" shouts Victoria to Chamberlain. "Can't you see you're taking us into one devil of a mess?"

Promotional Cards.

European companies made sets of Boer War cards with which they promoted their products as well as the cause of the Boers. The Liebig Company, the maker of a meat extract in Germany whose products had previously been used by the American Military 38 years previously during their 4 year Civil War of 1861-1865, issued a set of lyrical views of life in the Transvaal before the war began.

European companies made sets of Boer War cards that promoted the cause of the Boers as well as their products.



Depiction of supposed idyllic life style on a Boer Farm.



Accentuation that President Paul Kruger of the Transvaal lived in a modest dwelling.

Pro Boer Post Cards.

A card produced in the Russia of Tsar Nicholas II (right), warning the British that Boer families, including the women, would be armed to defend their homeland, and make a British victory hard to contemplate.



Left. A German card of stating "We are the Transvaal Boers. We live and die for our country," was not so far-fetched, given many 12 and 13 year old boys fought in the trenches with their relatives.



Right. A (not so) risqué "French postcard" produced in Paris to take advantage of events in South Africa during the Anglo-Boer War. Simply captioned "Transvaal" it is hard to say which side of the conflict this comely young lady was supposed to appeal to - in all likelihood both.

See over

Invitation

The BWAQ (Boer War Association Queensland) cordially invite you to attend the...

'Boer War Day Commemoration Service'

Sunday, 31st May, 2020 at 10:00am



Boer War Memorial 'The Scout'

ANZAC Square, Ann Street end

Note: - There will be renditions prior 10:00am, delivered by: 'Corinda State High School Symphonic Band' & 'Piper Joe'

All Welcome

BOER WAR in Memory MEDALLION

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2. Direct Deposit: -
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BSB: 182 512 Acct No: 9627 59965
Please ensure your name is on the deposit and send me an email with your name, address and details of the purchase.
Major Frank Woodhams OAM ED (Retd)
Reserve Forces Day Council Inc.
3/800 Military Road, Mosman NSW 2088

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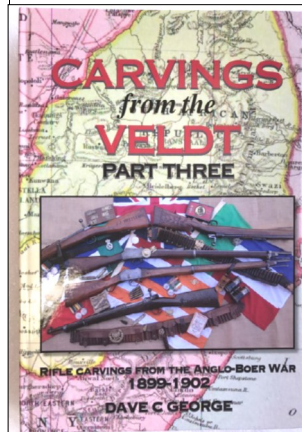
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Continued from page 15 -



And finally -

The Queen's Chocolate Gift Box, which Queen Victoria gave to all her soldiers in South Africa for Christmas 1900, was mocked by the Europeans.

"Victoria's Chocolate: Infallible for curing wounds" drew attention to the horrendous casualties suffered by British soldiers in the opening months of the war.

FOUND

A Brooch

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

Please contact address below