

MONUMENTALLY SPEAKING

National Boer War Memorial Association Newsletter for NSW, SA and ACT



NUMBER 24 – FEBRUARY 2015

NATIONAL BOER WAR MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

National Patron:

Chief of the Defence Force, Air Chief Marshall Mark Binskin AC

NSW Committee of NBWMA Inc

Chairman: David Deasey

NSW Chairman's Message

The National Boer War Memorial Association theme for 2015 is *Fathers of Anzac*. Many of the soldiers from the Boer War backed up again in World War I. Three Boer War veterans of the AIF went on to receive the Victoria Cross in World War I.

A hidden Boer War element in World War I was those veterans who, too old to take part in active service, were key elements in training AIF recruits or in guarding vital assets. About 30% of the AIF senior commanders, Colonel and above, had served in the Boer War including such illustrious figures as William Throsby Bridges, Harry Chauvel, H E 'Pompey' Elliott

and T W Glasgow. In this newsletter we look at the Boer War experiences of Alfred Shout VC, Hedley Kirkpatrick and Victor Newland amongst others. Throughout this year we will follow up with Boer War stories of other World War I veterans.

The Boer War was also a period which forced changes in technologies and strategies. This issue looks at a piece important in the evolution of artillery.

On another front we look at a humanitarian response by Australians to the effects of the war in South Africa. That is those nurses and school teachers who were involved in the concentration camps and then in rebuilding South Africa.

David Deasey

DIARY NOTE – NEXT BOER WAR DAY IS SUNDAY 31 MAY 2015

Monumentally Speaking is an occasional newsletter of the National Boer War Memorial Association
Correspondence and donations to Building 96, Victoria Barracks, Paddington, NSW 2021.

In this issue

NSW Chairman's Message	1
Toronto memorial	2
Envelope Launch	2
Book a Speaker	3
NSW Committee	3
National and State Contacts	3
ACT Committee	3
Tilpa memorial	4
More Piano Music	5
<i>South Australian contributions</i>	
Early memorial	6
Adelaide Boer War Day	6
SA Committee	6
Howitzer	7
Leslie McMaugh	7
Alfred Shout	8
Women Teachers	9
Reserve Forces Day Council	10
How Many Fought? (Part 4)	11
Commemorative Envelopes	12

A Horseman of Memorial's design

Order from Brian Walters at
brian.walters@bwm.org.au

or by mail:

NSW Boer War Memorial Association Inc
 Building 96 Victoria Barracks
 Paddington NSW 2021

LAPEL BADGE

From NSW



Launch of Commemorative Envelopes

On Thursday 30th October 2014 seventy four Descendants and Supporters attended the official launch of our commemorative envelope at the Museum, Victoria Barracks, Sydney.

The envelope, featuring the first trooper and horse of the proposed memorial, was introduced by Mrs Vashti Farrar Waterhouse, the well known author of "Walers go to War". The launch was followed by light refreshments, the drawing of our raffle and lucky door prizes. Everyone present had a most enjoyable afternoon and sales of both the envelope and the book went very well. The launch commemorates the pouring of the first bronze sections of the first horseman. As we reach other milestones we hope to launch



Bernadette (right) with Vashti Farrar Waterhouse further commemorative envelopes. The second horseman is currently in developmental stage.

Bernadette Mottram

and the raffle winners were

1st String of pearls	Mrs M. Keneally
2nd R.M. Williams voucher	Mrs M. Schmidt
3rd Memorial ice bucket	Mr P. Paton
4th Wedgewood napkin rings	Mrs R. Heather
5th Royal Albert Floral mugs	Mr D. Dufall
6th Royal Albert napkin rings	Mr N. Hawkins
7th Royal Albert tea strainer	Col. J. Haynes
8th Book & Mother-of-Pearl pen	Dr J. Roche OAM
9th Coasters and Plate	Mr J. Bourne

Envelopes can still be ordered
 – see page 12

**PLEASE MARK THIS
 DATE IN YOUR DIARY
 NEXT BOER WAR DAY IS
 SUNDAY 31 MAY 2015**

From other lands

This is the impressively detailed Boer War memorial in Toronto, Canada



bwm.org.au/fund

Book a Speaker for Your Association

An invitation from David Deasey, Chairman, NSW Committee of NBWMA

Don't hesitate to contact me to arrange a speaker for your association. Our lively presentations are about 40 minutes allowing time after for questions, but are often adapted for both shorter and longer periods to meet your needs, lunchtime or a conference.

The story of Australia's contribution to the Boer War is little known. Our presenters are delighted

to put our first war as a nation into context. 23,000 Australian soldiers and nurses served, 1,000 did not return. We are remembering them.

Regardless of the duration of the presentation requested, our speakers need a working computer, video projector and screen for supporting visuals, and for larger groups, a microphone.



To arrange for a speaker contact David Deasey 0409 585 877 david.deasey@bwm.org.au

NSW SCHEDULE OF PRESENTATIONS

5 Feb	10:30/12:30	SAG Kent Street Richmond Villa	Society of Aust Genealogists	David Deasey
25 Mar	10:30/12:30	West Wyalong	Wyalong Family History Society	David Deasey & Paul Lenehan
12 May	11:00	Roseville Golf Club	Lindfield East Probus	David Deasey
22 May	10:00	Turrumurra Bowling Club	Barra Brui Probus	David Deasey

NSW Committee of NBWM Assn Inc

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or write to **The Chairman, NSW Committee, National Boer War Memorial Association Inc. Building 96, Victoria Barracks, Paddington, NSW 2021.**

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CENTENARY OF ANZAC SYDNEY ANZAC DAY MARCH 2015

The Sydney ANZAC Day March next year will be the centenary of ANZAC. We would like to encourage all descendants to march under the Boer War Banner on this occasion and if possible wear their ancestor's medals on their right breast. The descendant group usually starts from the corner of Castlereagh and King Streets. Look for the Boer War Banner. Further information on the Boer War Website bwm.org.au as it comes to hand.

This badge worn by Commonwealth Horse units was an early version of the Australian Army badge



Boer War Memorial – Tilpa NSW

Boer War Memorials crop up in unexpected places. In the small township of Tilpa, in far western New South Wales, a small memorial recording four names of Boer War



soldiers is to be found. One is H H 'Breaker' Morant who was apparently known in the district. The three others are Victor Marra Newland, Alfred Allott Kirkpatrick and Hedley John Kirkpatrick.

Victor Newland was a trooper with the 2nd South Australian Mounted Rifles. He was already serving with the Mounted Rifles in Adelaide when war broke out. Promoted to Lance Corporal, he received a Mention in Dispatches (MID) and was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM). His father was connected with Marra and Warlo stations on the Darling and Victor was born on Marra

Station. He was educated at St Peter's College, Adelaide – a school which provided many distinguished Boer War soldiers. After the war he settled in East Africa being involved in organising safaris for such luminaries as 'Teddy' Roosevelt in association with Frederick Selous. He served in the Kings African Rifles in World War 1 reaching the rank of Major and receiving an MC, OBE and two Mentions in Dispatches. He returned to Adelaide in 1919 and later went into politics.

The remaining two names are of the Kirkpatrick Brothers, Alfred Allott and Hedley John, sons of Alfred Kirkpatrick, the storekeeper at Mount Murchison station. Hedley, a serving volunteer in the Australian Horse at the outbreak of war, went to South



Africa with the squadron sent by that regiment; whilst there he was promoted to Corporal. He was then commissioned as a Lieutenant into the British Army's prestigious 6th Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers) in July 1900 before being invalided home with illness in April 1901. He returned to South Africa, joining the South African Constabulary (SAC) and rising after World War 1 to the rank of Deputy Commissioner. He served in the South African army in East Africa, ironically under the command of a former enemy Jan Christian Smuts, reaching the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He returned to Australia to live in 1935.

His brother Alfred, not to be confused with the South Australian politician of the same name and initials, is unknown to us. So where did he serve? He appears to have served in World War 1, but Boer War?

We would dearly love our readers or family members to contact us with his story so that we can record him for posterity. As well, any local residents or historians are invited to tell us the background story to the building of this memorial.

David Deasey

From NSW

Quality Australian-made NBWMA tie in the colours of the Queen's South Africa medal ribbon on a navy background



\$28 inc. postage

Original 1900 collection of Boer War photographs. NSW recruits train and leave for service in South Africa. In this full A4 sized publication photos are reprinted in black and white as crystal clear as the glass plates, long exposures and huge lenses made possible then.

\$20 inc. postage

Order tie and book from Paul Lenehan 02 9427 3781
paul.lenehan@bwm.org.au
 Or by mail: 6 Angus Ave,
 Lane Cove, NSW 2066.

The New South Wales Contingents for South Africa

BEING a Pictorial Record of the organisation of the Colonies' Forces for active service, and the scenes of unparalleled enthusiasm marking their departure for the front.

FROM BLOCKS KINDLY LENT BY
 "THE SYDNEY MAIL" AND "THE AUSTRALIAN FIELD,"
 AND FROM NEW MATTER.

PUBLISHED BY
 THE NEW SOUTH WALES BOOKSTALL CO.,
 SOLE PROPRIETOR,
 R. G. ROWLANDSON, Sydney.

1900.

PRINTED BY JOHN SAKSIS, 224 George Street, Sydney.

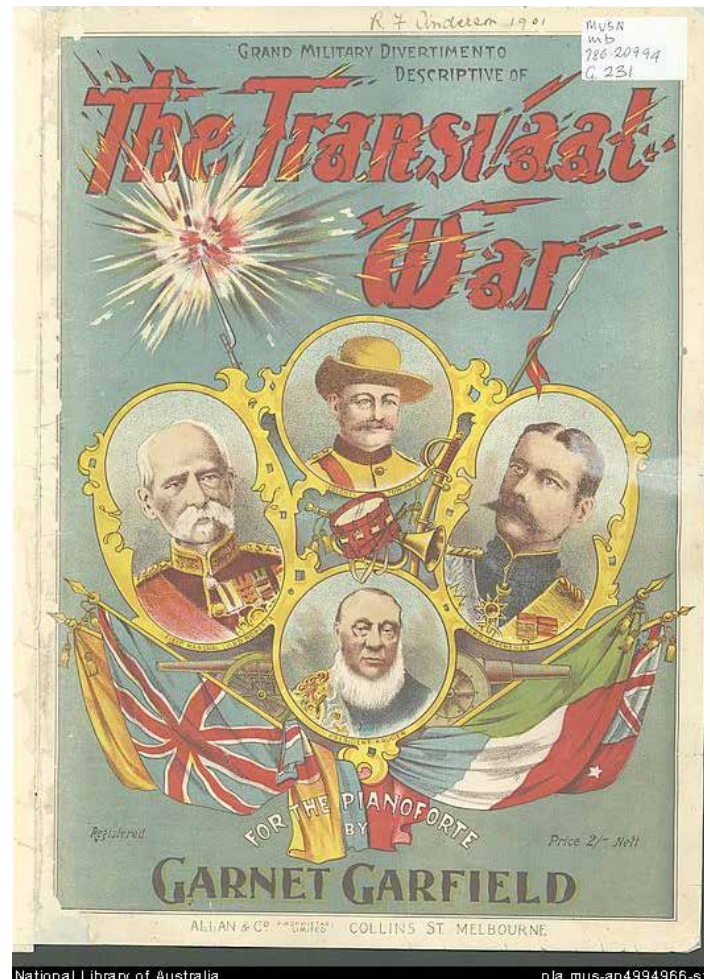
More piano music from Christina Whitely

In this issue we feature two of the more colourful posters in Christina's article, *Australian Piano Music Commemorating the Boer War*.

The varied portraits clearly show the carefully groomed hair, the preponderance of moustaches and heavy uniforms of the time.

Each publication carried a generous collection of new tunes and well known patriotic songs with marches and waltzes being the most prominent.

While marches as a genre are no longer popular, many of the tunes are still recognisable today.



The tunes

The sections in Landon Roberts' battle piece are as follows: British Retire from Dundee, At Ladysmith (sunrise), General Sir George White orders a sortie against besieging Boers, Cavalry Trumpet, Cavalry Advance, Naval Brigade, Song "Sons of the Sea", British Surprised by Boers, The Attack, Creusot Guns, British 12 pounders, Stampede of Mules, British Disaster, Rejoicing of Boers (Boers' National Melody), Boer Artillery Shell Ladysmith, Long Tom, Anxiety of Besieged, Prayer, Band of General Buller's Relief Forces in Distance, Entry into Ladysmith, Grand March, British patriotic song "Rule Britannia", British National Anthem "God Save the Queen". Other British patriotic songs included are "When Johnny Comes Marching Home Again" and "Red White and Blue".

The sections of the battle piece by Garnet Garfield are: War Declared, Excitement of the British Public, Departure of Colonial Troops for the Transvaal, Troops in the Distance, Troops Passing, Trumpets, At Port Melbourne, Farewell, God Be With You, All on Board, Call, Whistle of the Troop Ship, Last Bell, Departure of the Troop Ship, She's Off, "A Life on the Ocean Wave", Storm Effects, Dawn on the Veldt, Bugle Call (prayer), Boers' Camp (prayer), Distant Guns, Guns-Guns-Guns, Prayer Interrupted, Shells, British Artillery Open Fire on Boer Position, Alarm and Consternation, Answering Call, Advance of Troops, Gordon Highlanders and Pipers "Cock o' North", Colonial Troops in the Front, "The Green Grass Grew All Round", Victorian Troop Song, The Din of War, Naval Guns, Retreat of Boers, After the Battle, Trumpets, Triumphal March and British patriotic song to end "Rule Britannia."

PLEASE MARK THIS DATE IN YOUR DIARY - NEXT BOER WAR DAY IS SUNDAY 31 MAY 2015

From our South Australian contributors

Is this the first Boer War monument in South Australia?

This attractive monument stands ten feet tall and is to be found tucked away amongst the roses and greenery at the Williamstown Soldiers Memorial Hall on the corner of Queen Street and Memorial Drive, Williamstown near Gawler.

It commemorates Private William Edwin Smith of the 1st South Australian Mounted Rifles, Regimental Number 118, who was killed in action on 18 February 1900 at Arundel. Private Smith was the second of our men to be killed, the first being Lieutenant John William Powell formerly of Mount Gambier. Both soldiers were interred in the cemetery at Colesberg, South Africa.

Private Smith, a young Salvation Army Officer, enlisted at Peterborough in the Mid-North although he had

previously lived at Williamstown. The only photograph we have of Private Smith shows him in his Salvation Army uniform. This does beg the question whether other Salvationists went to South Africa. Did they enlist as ordinary soldiers or did they go as the relief organisation that we fondly associate with later wars? Or both?

The good people of Williamstown were quickly fund-raising and employed the services of Monumental Mason G.E. Morgan to erect a suitable memorial. Funds were raised by public subscription and on Monday 30 July 1900 the monument to Private Smith was draped with a Union Jack and unveiled by Mrs Warren.

The inscription on the lower part of the monument was added after the war.

*Photograph by Julie Burridge,
research by June Haggett,
story by Monty Smith.*



South Australian Committee and contact

It is disappointing to report that the NBWM(SA) Committee went into recess on 30 November 2014. In the meanwhile, and until other arrangements can be made, Mrs Monty Smith will be the SA Liaison. She may be contacted by telephone on 08 8662 4085 or send an email to

montavon@reachnet.com.au

Adelaide Boer War Day

Our annual service will be held at 11am on Sunday 31 May 2015 at the Boer War monument on the corner of North Terrace and King William Street in the city. Our theme this year is *Fathers of Anzac*.

Following the official tributes Boer War Descendants and Friends will have an opportunity to lay their own

personal tributes. All former and present servicemen and women are invited to wear their service medals. Descendants are invited to wear their ancestor's medals on the right chest.

All registered Descendants and Friends will receive official invitations. The service is open to the public and children are also welcome to attend. Enquiries to: 08 8662 4085.



The Boer War Honour Board of
St Peter's College Adelaide

The 9.45 inch Howitzer and the Boer War

Only very rarely in the years leading up to the Boer War did the British win the intelligence battle with the Boer Republics. One example of where they did concerns one of the largest guns used in the war. The Skoda Arms works which was then in Austria had produced a huge 24cm howitzer. The design had not then been taken into service by any country and the works had four early production models in store.

The British Foreign Office was alerted to the fact that a German agent was negotiating their purchase on behalf of a third party - the Transvaal. Britain bought the four guns in February 1900 and designated the gun Ordnance BL 9.45 inch Howitzer Mk I. A fearsome weapon in British service, they threw a 280 pound shell six plus kilometres.

Two of the guns were sent to South Africa for use against the forts at Pretoria. They sat the war out in a defensive position protecting an urban area. Late in the war a small Boer commando turned up to raid the town. The local commander was about to dispatch the local District Mounted Troops to deal with this threat when he was stopped by the artillery commander who had no intention of passing up this opportunity. A 280 pound shell was duly fired landing within 500 metres of the Boers. The Boers left the area hurriedly; it was the only shell fired by these guns in anger.

Later the four guns were used to equip the British Third Siege Company RA. In service their inherent problems were discovered but they served as



517px Skoda 24cm Mortar M 1898
Picture: Imperial War Museum

the design basis of the famed 9.2 inch howitzer of World War 1 used by Australian Siege Batteries.

David Deasey



Leslie Macquarie McMaugh

Another soldier who has come to light as this newsletter was being compiled is Leslie Macquarie McMaugh. Here is yet another case of one who went to war unofficially and his record of service is typical of those not in official contingents. His birth was registered at Port Macquarie in 1876, although at the time of the Boer War he was in the Macleay River area. Ironically, whilst he has not previously been identified as an Australian in any of

the national databases, he was well and truly recorded by family and by the Macleay River Historical Society, in the excellent publication on Boer War soldiers in the Macleay district, by Philip Lee entitled Letters from South Africa, The Macleay Valley and the South African (Boer) War 1899-1902. This was published in 2013. The people of the Macleay Valley can be proud of this work.

His brother, Athelstan (Athol), is well documented having served as a regular soldier in 'A' Field Battery during the Boer War. He sailed for South Africa as part of the Imperial Draft Contingent (5th NSW Reinforcements on 17 March 1901.

Leslie chose to take himself to South Africa. Whether he was unable to enlist here or was impatient to join is not clear. He served first as Trooper No. 1056, 1st Battalion Imperial Light Horse. From there he had service as Ranger No. 361 of the Cattle Rangers Corps. Moving on, he then served in the Rand Rifles which seems to have teamed up with his job as a member

of the Johannesburg Fire Brigade. Finally he saw 10 months service with the Transvaal Mounted Police.

In World War 1, by then 37 years of age and a grazier, he enlisted as Trooper No. 1288 as part of the 9th Reinforcements for the 1st Australian Light Horse Regiment. Later he was transferred to the 1st Light Horse Machine Gun Squadron of the Australian Mounted Division. He received a gunshot wound to the thigh in action in the Beersheba area (3 November 1917). He was not part of the charge. After recuperation he embarked for Australia on the SS Somali, 26 December 1918. He died in 1957.

This find demonstrates the importance of the excellent work by family and the local historical society have had in preserving his memory for posterity. It is a service that all communities and historical societies can perform.

David Deasey

Alfred Shout

First Boer War Soldier to win a VC in the AIF

One of the Australian Victoria Cross recipients at Gallipoli was Captain Alfred John Shout. Shout was an officer in F company of the 1st Battalion AIF.

Alfred Shout was born in Wellington New Zealand in 1881. After being educated privately until 1891 Alfred went to school in Newman, a tiny settlement north of Masterton, New Zealand.

At the time of the Boer War Shout, with his half brother Bill, was anxious to join up. Contrary to some sources they did not serve with a New Zealand contingent. Almost certainly, at the age



Shout rear right at Mena Camp Cairo

of 18 he would have been regarded as far too young and inexperienced for the early New Zealand contingents. Alfred and Bill paid their own way to South Africa, where Alfred joined the Border Horse Regiment, enlisting 17 February 1900. This was a mounted rifle regiment formed for operations in the Eastern Cape. The medal roll for the Border Horse shows that he was eligible for the Queen's South Africa medal (QSA) with clasps for Wepener and Wittebergen (both in the Orange Free State), Cape Colony and Transvaal. It appears that the Wepener clasp may be missing from his medal group in the Australian War Memorial. It is said that the unit operated out of Mafeking under the command of Robert Baden Powell. This was clearly after the siege was concluded. Accounts show that he

was wounded on active service on possibly two occasions.

By January 1901 Shout was a Lance Corporal. The Border Horse was part of the force sent to stop Christian de Wet from invading Cape Colony. On 29 January 1901, the Border Horse under Colonel Crewe (a force of 700) went searching for de Wet. They met de Wet in the vicinity of Thabaksberg in the Winburg district. De Wet had a force of several thousand in the area and it was soon clear that Crewe's force was in severe trouble. It managed to extricate itself at a cost of 10 casualties. It is possible that Shout was one of the wounded at this point, as it was here that he was Mentioned in Dispatches (MID) and promoted to Sergeant. (Army Orders 23 Feb 1901). The citation said that he had assisted greatly in maintaining the position of his men and had shown great courage in going out under heavy fire to rescue a wounded soldier of 17 Battery, Royal Field Artillery. Records show him as discharged from the Border Horse 23 May 1901 on completion of service.

It is clear, however that he continued his service at least into 1902 if not up to the end of the war. His King's South Africa Medal (KSA) was a renamed medal, (a returned medal reused) to No.359 A.J. Shout, South African Mounted Irregular Force. SAMIF whilst having its own soldiers, was also a "Catch All" medal roll for those colonials missed off other units' rolls.

On his World War I enlistment papers he states very clearly that he only ever served with the Border Horse. The Border Horse QSA roll contains the notation 'Stellenbosch District Mounted Troops.' It seems likely that whilst recovering from wounds he was assigned as cadre to support local district defence units, his unit however quite happily discharged him leaving the necessity to give him his KSA on an SAMIF roll.

After the war he stayed on in South Africa as a carpenter and joiner, as well as continuing his military



Captain Alfred John Shout as a newly commissioned officer, 29th Infantry, 1914

service as a Sergeant in the Prince Alfred Cape Field Artillery, a militia or part-time unit.

After marrying an Australian girl, Rose Alice Howe, he migrated to Australia with his family in 1907 and was employed as a carpenter and joiner at Resch's brewery, Sydney. He was then resident in Darlington, a suburb now largely disappeared as part of the grounds of Sydney University.

He trained as a member of the 29th Battalion, Australian Rifles (a militia unit) whose successor, 4/3 Battalion Royal New South Wales Regiment, still exists today. He was also an enthusiastic member of a rifle club. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the 29th on 16 June 1914. At the outbreak of war he was granted the commission in F Company, 1st Battalion AIF. This unit's



Shout's Boer War Galilean Type Binoculars

traditions are today maintained by the 1/19th Battalion RNSWR.

Awarded a VC during the battle of Lone Pine in August 1915, he was badly wounded in an explosion shortly afterwards. Shout died of his wounds at sea. He was also awarded the Military Cross (MC) and was Mentioned in Dispatches (MID) during the Gallipoli campaign.

David Deasey

Women Teachers

The war's effects across the Transvaal and the Orange Free State were obviously considerable. The scorched earth policies pursued to deprive the Boer forces of their logistical base not only led to the destruction of infrastructure but also to the establishment of concentration camps to contain the displaced civilians. The failure of these to provide acceptable conditions led to urgent remedial efforts in late 1901 and early 1902. Australian nurses such as Janet (Jessie) Toshack (see bwm.org.au/site/Janet_Toshack.asp) and Miriam Pickburn were sent to staff the camps to improve medical facilities as well as military medical officers such as Captain Alfred Hobart Sturdee (father of a future Chief of the General Staff, Vernon Sturdee) (Camp Irene near Pretoria).

In addition, across the Empire it was decided that 400 women schoolteachers would be sent to staff the camps. This would provide schooling for Boer children who had been without education for over two years. Some had never been in a school situation either due to age or because of remoteness they had only been educated in the family setting. Australia's share of this commitment was 40 schoolteachers drawn from New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia; the two other states being considered too remote to organise in the time. The contingent began to be rolled out across the Empire from January 1902. For whatever reason it took Australia until July to get organised. New Zealand's 20 woman contingent for example travelled with the 10th New Zealand Mounted Rifles contingent. Whilst the assembly point was Melbourne, then the nation's capital, the coordinator of the group was provided by the New South Wales Department of Education. This was Mr Walter Bethel, described as



Some of the Women Teachers, the Bethels and administrators gathered in Melbourne prior to departure

confidential clerk of the Education Department, Sydney, with his wife who acted essentially as chaperone or 'house parent' for the group. One of the teachers wrote of Mrs Bethal:

"I blessed her every day throughout the voyage. Many teachers never left their berths, while others had but a few days of good health. It was here that the good fortune of having Mrs and Mr Bethel with us was fully realised. Mrs Bethel acted the part of a loving sister, and spared neither time nor herself in waiting upon those who needed it until, so close was her attention to the hospital, that she collapsed utterly the last few days. Mr Bethel was the right man in the right place, and to him we went, not as to a man in authority, but as to one in

whom we felt confident we could place our trust and the teachers took the opportunity of presenting Mr Bethel with a beautifully inscribed artistic address. To Mrs Bethel was given a very handsome silver-backed brush and comb, upon our arrival in Capetown." The Bethels went with the group

into the Transvaal even visiting the concentration camps where the women would be working.

The Australians departed 25 July 1902 on the SS Medic. They were on a twelve month contract at 100 pounds per annum. For some this was more than they were earning but others lost up to 18 pounds per annum

by taking this job, it was not about financial gain. Unusually, several of the Australian teachers were married women.

The war was over but with destroyed infrastructure the camps were still open by the time the group arrived. As camps closed down the teachers were redeployed to help rebuild the shattered Transvaal education system.

Ten of the New South Wales teachers worked in state schools including Miss Kennedy and Miss Gayfor, teachers from the Enmore Public School, while five were described as 'teachers of high attainment and long experience outside Department'. Emily Kennedy had a university degree and Isabel Whitton was also highly qualified, employed at Sydney Presbyterian Ladies' College, she had previously been Principal of St Warburgh's College for young ladies in Goulburn.

Six South Australian teachers went: Kassie G. Wylie, Margaret M. McInnes, Eva E. Benson, Frances A. Williams, Marie T. J. Liebing and Mrs. Lucy Maria Frick, the wife of the headmaster of the Beachport school.

Ida May Robertson from New South Wales, a solicitor's daughter, is a poignant example of these women. Her brother, Trooper Thomas Cunningham Robertson, a serving volunteer, had deployed with D squadron 1st New South Wales Mounted Rifles and was killed at the Renoster Kop 21 November 1900. Yet she saw her role clearly as assisting in the rebuilding of South Africa.



Women Teachers - from page 9

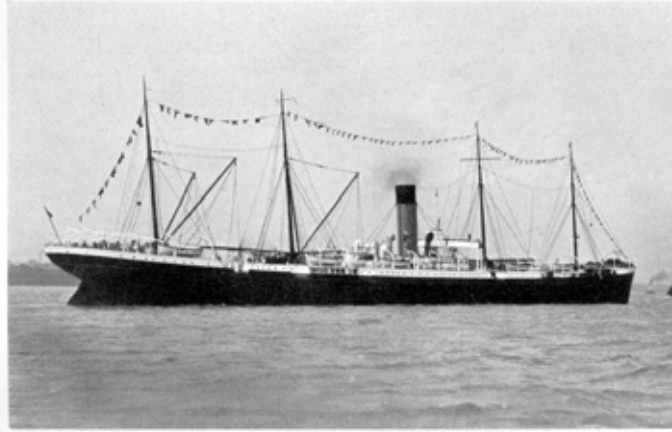
According to her referee it was this that had 'turned her mind to this work ...she is ambitious to do her small part in helping the Motherland'. In the end, due to illness, one of the women teachers dropped out and only 39 sailed from Australia. However Sara E. Drysdale of Perth (W.A.) sailed from Halifax with a Canadian contingent on 12 April 1902 aboard the SS Corinthian. The circumstances around her selection or even who she was remain unclear.

The various state governments took different approaches to recruitment. NSW and Victoria promised the women that their jobs would be there for them if they returned at the end of the contract. The South Australian position was much more ambiguous.

"Should any of these teachers return to South Australia they will not necessarily secure reappointments but if vacancies occur their applications

will receive consideration". So said The Inspector-General of Schools in South Australia, Mr J L W Stanton. Clearly these women risked a lot in going out to South Africa.

We know very little about what happened to these women. Some of the Queenslanders wrote letters which were published in newspapers



*Medic, 1899, sister to Afric and Persic
Pioneer of the 'Colonial' Service of the White Star line*

so we have glimpses up to 1904 but then Australia forgot about them. Some stayed in South Africa, others married soldiers from around the Empire and resettled whilst some must have returned home.

Papers at the time reported that Australians were favoured by the Transvaal authorities as being much more able to stand up to the rigors of a bush school than many women from the rest of the Empire and that many were offered extensions on their contracts. Although this is also true of other women from around the Empire.

We encourage anyone with knowledge of these women, especially descendants, to let us know what happened to them. A letter home by one of the women detailed that one of their number had died from enteric, however we have no name; there were of course deaths from this disease from other Empire contingents.

Just as we rightly regard the later battalions of the Australian Commonwealth Horse as veterans; these women should be remembered for their humanitarian contributions to the rebuilding of South Africa.

David Deasey

Reserve Forces Day Council

The support the RFDC has given fundraising for the National Boer War Memorial has been invaluable, as has the side-effect of spreading the message about it.

The RFDC has now moved on towards doing similar work for

the centenary of the First World War. The Reserve Forces Day focus in 2015 will commemorate the centenary of ANZAC. In particular it will commemorate the 8709 Australians, 2779 New Zealanders and 130842 from all combatants who did not return. As we know, nearly 30% of

early enlistments were by Boer War veteran soldiers and nurses.

The RFDC will continue to make their Descendants and Supporters medallions, and the War Bars for descendants of multi-war enlistees available, and pass the proceeds to the National Boer War Memorial project.



RFD Medallions and War Bar clasps are still available

for Boer War veterans who also served in WWI and WWII
These bars may only be worn with the Boer War Descendant's Medallion

Applications to:

rfd.org.au/documents/BWM_Medallions/Claspapp.pdf
or telephone 0403 160 750

Non-descendants "IN MEMORY" Medallions may be worn by all supporters of the National Boer War Memorial project to any Boer War related event.



For more information and order forms

Reserve Forces Day website:
www.rfd.org.au/BWM_Fundraise

How many Australians ACTUALLY fought in South Africa 1899-1902?

Part Four – The Irregular Units

In previous issues we have looked at who went as part of the Official Australian contingents. There were however many Australian men and women who were part of what are called South African Irregular units. Many were in South Africa working when war broke out.

Walter Karri Davies was a timber merchant from Western Australia running the South African operation of his family's timber company. Involved with the Jameson Raid, he went on to be one of the founders of the Imperial Light Horse and commanded it for a time. He has the distinction of being given permission to reject the award of the Companion of the Bath (CB) after it had been gazetted as he said he did not wish to profit from the war.

John Collison Close had come to South Africa as a teenager looking for adventure. He served in the Matabele war then, after service in the Boer War, he went on to be part of Mawson's 1912 Polar expedition.

Many went from Australia with the zeal of patriotism. Some had not been selected for positions in official contingents, others had served

in official contingents and took advantage of 'Indulgence Passages' subsidised and refundable fares, offered by Britain to encourage experienced soldiers to return to the war. Two of the most famous



Major Walter Karri-Davies

examples of this were Harold Edward 'Pompey' Elliott (later Major General) bwm.org.au/site/Harold_Elliott.asp and Leighton Seymour Bracegirdle (later Rear Admiral RAN) bwm.org.au/site/Leighton_Bracegirdle.asp Agnes McCready, a matron from Bowral, New South Wales, and a daughter of the former Moderator of the NSW Presbyterian General Assembly, travelled to South Africa in 1899 and was probably the first nursing sister from Australia to arrive in theatre. Perhaps ironically she was

sponsored by Cardinal Moran, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Sydney and wrote (in addition to nursing) as a war correspondent under the pen name of 'Arrah Luen' especially for the Catholic Weekly.

So how many of these soldiers went? The estimate (and it can only be an estimate) is approximately 7000, but each week we usually find a soldier or a nurse who has never before been identified as Australian, serving in the war. Take for example Thomas Leslie Turner, born in the Cobar district, who enlisted in the New South Wales Citizens Bushmen at the age of 15 by putting his age up. He was dragged out by his mother. He then stowed away on a boat to South Africa where he enlisted in the 2nd Scottish Horse regiment. He only came to light while this article was being written as a result of research into Cobar's Boer War history. He was interviewed by journalists late in his life (1946) about his experiences as a fireman for Ben Chifley on the railways.

There were over 400 South African regiments that Australians were involved in. Some were tiny 'Dads Army' groups, others had highly specialised war fighting roles such as the Railway Pioneer Regiments, whilst many were crack mounted rifle regiments such as the Imperial Light Horse (ILH). This unit is still on the order of battle for the South African Army today.

David Deasey



National Boer War Memorial Commemorative Ice Bucket

The main side shows a picture of the memorial design

whilst the reverse shows the Queen's and King's South African medals. The beige background represents the South African Veldt, the date shows Boer War 1899 – 1902. The bucket is in the form of a

side drum approximately 170mm high with a diameter of 170mm (6½ inches).

The cost is \$145 including postage and packing. Please make your cheque or money order payable to: William Molloy and send to:

Colonel William Molloy RFD ED KLJ
2 Karen Rd
St Ives, NSW 2015.

william.molloy@bwm.org.au



Order Commemorative Envelopes

To commemorate the construction of the statue of the first horseman the NSW Committee recently issued commemorative envelopes (see article on page 2). They feature a bronzed figure of the clay model of the horseman and a commemorative stamp – Victoria Barracks Boer War 1899-1902 (the pictures show prototypes only).



The envelopes are available in the following forms:

- Envelope with two Australia/Israel joint issue sixty cent Lighthorse stamps and commemorative Victoria Barracks stamp plus Australian Mint 50 cent Boer War coin \$20.00 (limited to 50 sets).
- Envelope with two Australia/Israel joint issue sixty cent Lighthorse stamps and commemorative Victoria Barracks stamp \$5.00.



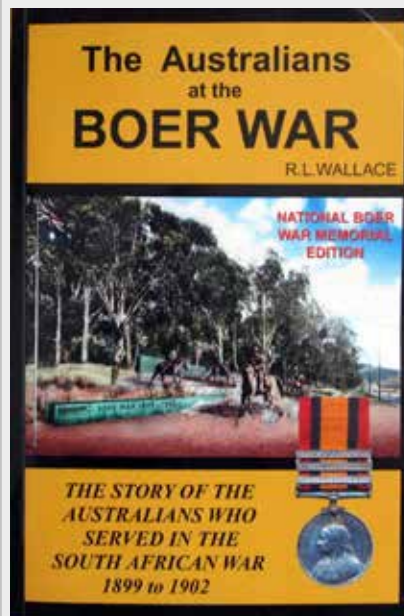
- Envelopes with only the Horseman figure \$2.50 each or 10 for \$20.00.

Orders please to

Major Bernadette Mottram
NBWMA
Building 96 Victoria Barracks
Paddington NSW 2021

Reprint of original and available NOW

The Australians at the Boer War by R L Wallace

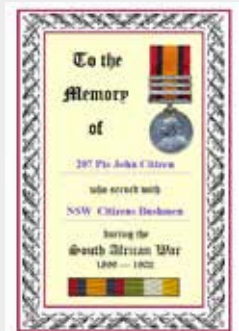


New foreword by
Col. John Haynes OAM
Memorial Certificate

Free to Registered Descendants with book purchase.

Gluestick it inside the cover for future generations of your family.

Please advise veteran ancestor's Army Number (if known), Surname, Given name(s) and unit(s) on the form below.



From Victoria

**CENTENARY OF ANZAC
SYDNEY ANZAC DAY
MARCH 2015**

We encourage all descendants to march under the Boer War Banner on this occasion and if possible wear their ancestor's medals on their right breast



bwm.org.au/fund

We need more funds. If you are not internet connected, please send your cheque or money order to our Victoria Barracks address below. Thank you

To NBWMA – Victoria, PO Box 2006, Blackburn South, VIC 3130.
Please mail me *The Australians at the Boer War*. Enclosed is a cheque/money order (no cash please) for \$60 to cover one book and postage.

Name

Address

Town/Suburb

State

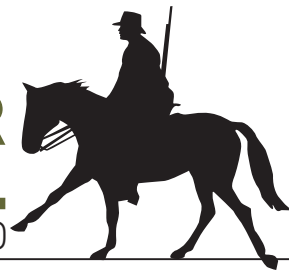
Postcode

Please enclose a Memorial Certificate as our tribute to:
Surname Given name(s)

Army number Unit(s) in which he/she served

If necessary, please add a note to clarify your required entry

Monumentally Speaking is an occasional newsletter © National Boer War Memorial Association
Correspondence and donations to Building 96, Victoria Barracks, Paddington, NSW 2021.



DONATION FORM

To: The National Treasurer
National Boer War Memorial Association Inc.
Building 96 Victoria Barracks
Paddington NSW 2021

I would like to contribute to the National Boer War Memorial Fund to build a National Boer War Memorial in ANZAC Parade Canberra, with a tax deductible donation of:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$2,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

Mr / Mrs / Ms / Other _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

_____ State _____ Postcode _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

- Cheque attached payable to National Boer War Memorial Association Inc.
- Direct bank transfer to The Defence Bank
National Boer War Memorial Account
BSB 803-205 Account 2035 8376.

Please include your last name and initials on bank transfers AND mail this Donation Form to the Treasurer at the address shown to allow a receipt to be mailed to you.

**National Patron: Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin AC, Chief of Defence
Force Fund Patron: The Hon Tim Fischer AC**