



National Boer War Memorial Committee NSW
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MONUMENTALLY SPEAKING - No. 13 March 2012

NSW COMMITTEE of the NATIONAL BOER WAR MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION INC

OCCASIONAL NEWSLETTER

Chairman's Report – March 2012

The Canberra National Memorials Committee has approved our recommended design—see the centrespread of this newsletter. Lt Gen David Hurley AO DSC, Chief of the Defence Force (CDF) launched it on 1st March and it has been widely distributed through the press. His comments together with photographs are on page 10.

The National Boer War Memorial Association has grown from a group of interested and unpaid individuals who have worked for seven years to establish a National Boer War Memorial on ANZAC Parade, Canberra to commemorate those who served in Australia's first war. We wish to revive Australians' interest in the South African war; to become more aware of those 23,000 Australian men and women who served and the 1,000 who did not return.

The Governor General is our Patron in Chief and the CDF is the National Patron. We raised sufficient money to conduct the mandated public design competition and the project can now proceed provided that we can find the necessary funds which have been estimated to be \$4m.

The proposed BWM construction timeline has to commence in the current financial year to commission the BWM in 2015 during the WW1 Centenary timeline. The NBWMA has still not received a Deductible Gift Register (DGR) status specific to the project. We can continue to operate under the current arrangements. We have not had any Federal Government seed funding, whereas other memorial projects have - up to \$250,000.

Donations now available through PayPal

Please note that the secure PayPal donation facility has been installed on our website. Donors can use their credit cards or PayPal accounts to donate to the Memorial Association over the internet. Go to:

Donating by Direct Credit into the National Boer War Memorial account is still possible—on the same page.

And of course, if you're a bit concerned about using these newfangled gadgets, please send your cheque or money order to The Treasurer, NBWM Assoc Inc, Building 96, Victoria Barracks, Paddington NSW 2021.

Boer War Day 2012—the 110th Anniversary:

In addition to the BWM project, we remember those who served by holding Boer War Day remembrance ceremonies throughout Australia.

This year we will be holding our third National Boer War Day.

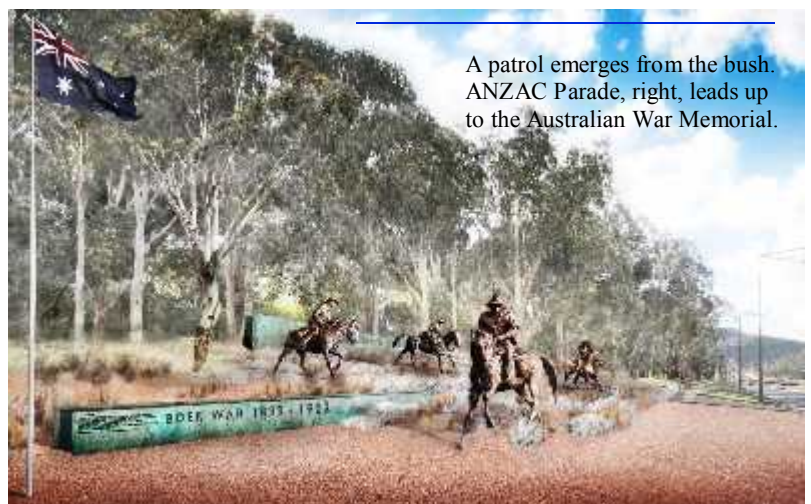
At the time of writing, we are not sure which cities, towns or villages are holding services on the day, or close to it. If you are holding ceremonies please advise our webmaster John Howells who will post them on the website

It is important that we note where these services are to be held so that people can attend and that our elected representatives at all three levels of government notice that we do remember, and do wish, to have our permanent memorial built on ANZAC Parade, Canberra so that our veterans are not forgotten again.

ANZAC Memorial – Hyde Park South, Sydney. The New South Wales Committee of the National Boer War Memorial Association, it is my pleasure to extend an invitation to all descendants, relatives and friends to attend the Boer War Day Commemoration to be held in Hyde Park South on Sunday, 27 May, 2012 commencing at 11.00 am.

Maj General Mick Slater AO DSC CSC, Commander, Force Command, will deliver the Boer War Day Commemoration Address.

Tony Larnach-Jones
Chairman NSW Committee of NBWMA



A patrol emerges from the bush. ANZAC Parade, right, leads up to the Australian War Memorial.

Feature Article: The national Boer War memorial DESIGN ! See centrespread

BW Soldier to WW1 airman

It's often been argued that the Boer War was a very real rehearsal by the newly federated Commonwealth of Australia for its early and effective contribution to WW1.

Many who had served in South Africa put their hands up again in 1914, making up about 30% of leadership ranks because of their field experience. One such case recently came to notice when the editor of the 24 Squadron RAAF Association NSW newsletter, Bert Wolfe, sent his latest to your editor. Bert reprinted Cpl Aaron Curran's piece about a famous dent in the wall of Hangar P95 at Point Cook RAAF in Victoria.

The now immortalised dent was made in September 1914 by Captain Thomas White who crashed his Bristol Boxkite trainer into the hangar while landing.

He walked away from it, became only the second pilot to qualify, was sent to the Middle East theatre and won the DFC and, later, a knighthood.

What the article didn't say was that 14 years before, No. 509 Sergeant Major Thomas Walter White, joined the 1st NSW Mounted Rifles' C Squadron. The squadron included others to become famous, each for quite different reasons: Capt Robert Lenehan, Lt Charles Lee, Sgt SR Antill, Farrier Sgt Peter Handcock and Tpr John EF D'Apice. 1NSW MR arrived at Cape Town on the *Southern Cross* 18 February 1900, not returning until 29 April 1901. During those 15 months Sgt Maj Thomas White earned the Queen's Medal and clasps for his service in the Cape Colony and participation in actions at Driefontein, Johannesburg, Diamond Hill and Wittenberg.

KS

Community War Memorials Funding maintenance and restoration

The NSW Government has a Community War Memorials Fund to help protect and restore war memorials across NSW.

Grants of up to \$10,000 are considered by the State War Memorials Committee, which will assess applications and announce grant recipients twice a year around ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day.

The current round of applications will close on 13 April 2012.

<http://www.veterans.nsw.gov.au/heritage/memorialsfund>

Interesting job available Volunteer Secretary

NSW Cttee of the National BWM Assn Inc
Tasks include:

- Attend meetings at Victoria Barracks
- Take minutes
- Manage invitations to functions (Excel an advantage)
- Assist with ceremonial, social and fundraising functions.

Applications to: tony.larnach-jones@bwm.org.au



Reserve Forces Day Launch Parade led by Boer War Banner and BW Descendants

Sat 26 November 2011



The 'Launch for the 2012 Reserve Forces Day march' (July 1) was organised by a committee headed by Lt Col John Moore OAM RFD ED. <http://www.rfd.org.au/site/2012.asp>

Because their national organisation chose the Boer War as this year's unifying theme, representatives of the NSW BWM committee were invited to participate in the planning. Some also marched.

So on the rain-threatening morning of Saturday 26 November 2011 the Lancers Band, resplendent in ceremonial whites, played a powerful arrangement of "Soldiers of the Queen" with some 14 descendants of Boer War veterans – each representing one of the major units sent to South Africa – leading a huge turnout of Reservists from all services from Hyde Park to Parliament House to parade in the forecourt.

Premier Barry O'Farrell, addressed the parade standing probably on the spot that his 1899 predecessor, Sir William Lyne, had stood when reviewing the parades of the soldiers and nurses he sent to South Africa.

Later, inside, speakers included Premier O'Farrell, Sen Mark Thistlewaite, Sir Lawrence Street, VCDF Air Marshal Mark Biskin, and Lt Col John Moore, ending with our own Col John Haynes, Chairman of the National BW Association. Each presented different aspects of Reserve Forces service. All included references to the way in which those who answered the call to arms in 1899 established the reputation of Australians in a hot war, and praised the work of the National Boer War Memorial Association in attempting to have that nationally recognised with an appropriate memorial in Canberra.



Lancers Band in Macquarie Street approaching the forecourt of Parliament House while playing a great upbeat rendition of "Soldiers of the Queen".



BW soldiers' descendants in the Strangers Room at Parliament House.

Vale **George Stevens** d 28 Dec 2011, aged 83. Although not a descendant or relative of a BW veteran George strongly supported the justice of their being a national Boer War memorial. His practical help was to initiate a drive to interest the general public and recruit BW descendants and relatives.

George contributed several articles on service and bravery medals to *Monumentally Speaking*.

He served in the RAN from 1946, retiring as a Sub-Lieutenant Electrical Officer in the Fleet Air Arm on HMAS Sydney.

We extend our sympathy to Shirley and their family.

NSW Committee of the National BWM Association Inc



Australian War Memorial Special Exhibition

Nurses from Zululand to Afghanistan

opened December 2011 and continues through October 2012 in the Special Exhibitions Gallery. Devotes only a small amount of space to the first nurses to be sent overseas by the Commonwealth government (in fact those displayed were NSW colony nurses sent in 1900) the exhibition as a whole recognises the significant roles of nurses and nursing in Australia's military and peace-keeping history. Recommended.
<http://www.awm.gov.au/exhibitions/nurses/>

A long shot...

Direct descendants of BW veterans are pretty rare. One of our readers, in Esperance WA, wandered across the road with a copy of our Petition to visit her long-time neighbour.

"Of course I'll sign" she said "After all, I am a daughter of a Boer War Soldier!" Amazing what you find out....

Another registration coming up, but see next item....

Important—please help

First generation descendants and/or descendants of veterans who served in three wars.

We have no record of descendants in these categories who have notified their rare situation. Clearly we should have them. Would those of you who fit either (or maybe both!!!) categories please let David Deasey know at his email or by mail through the Victoria Barracks address at the foot of the page.

Gaps between wars: Sudan to Boer War 13 years; BW to WW1 12 years; WW1 to WW2 21 years.

Towns, Suburbs and Streets named in memory of the Boer War

Do you live in a town, a street or near a park or feature of the land named after Australia's experiences in the Boer War?

The article in *Monumentally Speaking No. 11*, page 4 'Towns, suburbs and streets' brought responses including some asking for more information about why people and places mentioned were significant enough to earn this kind of memorial.

Continuing alphabetically, do you have these names that were famous at the time?

Colenso. Town in Natal, south of the besieged Ladysmith. In December 1899. Entrenched Boer forces along the banks of the Tugela River inflicted a heavy defeat on combined British forces under General Buller.

Doyle, Capt Robert Dines, lieutenant in NSW Imp Bushmen, then NSW Imperial Bushmen, then 2IC Aust Regt, then led its sub-unit Doyle's Scouts. So served through 1900-1902.

Fiaschi, Maj Thomas Henry. 2 IC NSW Army Medical Corps. Italian citizen. Colonel in 1 AIF in WW1.

French, Gen John Denton. British. dashing Cavalry commander 19th Hussars. In February 1900 he led the drive which included troops of Australian Horse, NSW Lancers,

Qld Mounted Infantry and NSW Medical Corps to the relief of the besieged diamond town Kimberley.

Gatacre, Lt Gen Sir William . UK. Invented the army mess tin. Commanded the 3rd Div at Stormberg.

Grieve, Lt Gideon James. NSW Special Services Officer posted to lead the Black Watch, kia 18.2.1900

Griffin, Troop Sergeant Major George Allman. 1st Australian Horse. First Australian kia 16 Jan 1900

Harrismith. Town in eastern Orange Free State, the focus of a bold escape by Boer Generals de Wet and Steyn, Feb 1902.

Holman, Sgt (later Capt) Richard DCM DSO. NSW Mounted Rifles. Only soldier to win both top bravery awards.

Holmes, Lt William DSO. 1st NSW Mt Rifles. In WW1 led Australia's first action to take German New Guinea, then at Gallipoli. KIA when commanding 4 Div AIF 2.7.1917.

Howse, Capt Neville. Doctor, NSW Army Medical Corps. First Australian VC. WW1 as DGMS, then federal Minister for Health.

Hunt, Sgt William, A Sqn NSW 1 Bushmen. Awarded DCM for bravery at the siege at the Elands River Post. Later also Mentioned in Despatches.

Kimberley. One of the three significant towns besieged by superior Boer Forces in the first months of the war. Others were **Mafeking** and **Ladysmith**.

New on the BWM Website

Webmaster John Howells, inspired by the unveiling of the national memorial design—see centrespread—is updating the website using the design’s themes. The look and feel will change but the content of course will go on increasing in scope and depth to become the most authoritative and up-to-date, on-line, Australian Boer War resource. If you haven’t browsed around it lately, now is the time. www.bwm.org.au

Collectors’ Corner Seen on eBay

Boer War era **Sterling silver Vesta case** (wax match), hallmarked. Inscribed. Est \$270.00



Match-striking surface indented into base.



Guest Speakers Schedule

NBWM Assn committee members are available to make an entertaining illustrated, and informative presentation on the Boer War, Australia’s role in it and why we need a **national** memorial for all those soldiers and nurses who answered the call.

Usually planned to be 30 minutes plus questions but is easily adjusted to suit your organisation’s needs.

To arrange for a speaker to address your organisation, contact Tony Larnach-Jones tjconsulting@bigpond.com

Presentations scheduled at the time of going to press:

17 March ARHS New England NW Conference, Glen Innes

Tony Larnach-Jones

7 April Beecroft Uniting Church Retirement. Vill, David Deasey

13 April Cape Banks Family History Soc, Tony Larnach-Jones

18 April Westpac RSL Sub-branch, John Howells

24 April Academy of the Word, Sydney, Tony Larnach-Jones

11 May Blue Mountains FHS, Springwood, Tony Larnach-Jones

24 July Canterbury & District Historical Soc, Belmore, David Deasey

28 July Liverpool Genealogical Soc, Liverpool, Keith Smith

Panoramic view of the design for the National Boer War Memorial for the ANZAC Parade, Canberra, site

Design: **Jane Cavanough—Artlandish, and
POD Landscape Architecture, Sydney**

Sculpture:
Louis Laumen, Melbourne

Project Manager:
Maj Steve Bain, Brisbane



A section of mounted troopers in patrol mode

STUNNING REALISTIC DESIGN

MODERN CONCEPT LINKS TO 1899-1902 ACTION

Simple but magnificent this design complements all others along ANZAC Parade

The patrol's horses step carefully through the sparse and arid landscape sloping down from the back wall of the memorial. Each soldier keeps an eye on his mates while looking out for signs of booby traps or potential for an ambush, for the tell-tale wheel tracks of big guns or supply wagons. For snipers. Smoke from campfires. Friend or foe.

Louis Laumen's statuary pays tribute to both the men and the horses that suffered the privations of war: burning sun and frosty cold, rain, wind, the roughness of the veldt, barely survival rations, suspect water, lice. Both soldiers and their horses susceptible to fatal diseases and accidents as well as the occupational hazard of all soldiers, disfiguring wounds and agonising death.

The patrol section could be from any contingent sent, whether called Lancers, Bushmen, Rifles, Gunners, or the Medics and their Stretcher Bearers. After a few months they all looked alike, spit and polish fading to khaki chameleons melding into the veldt.

This memorial recognises that all Australian troops in the Boer War were mounted or dependent on horses to tow their ambulances, artillery and supply wagons, to match the highly mobile Boer soldiers. It recalls their endurance and sacrifice, cast in enduring bronze.

The walls grow out of the natural landscape to frame the action to tell our stories: an outline of Australians' part in the war, a verse from Banjo Paterson, and extracts from a soldier's letters home.

The front wall provides space for wreath and poppy tributes. Its six parts remind us that Federation united the six colonies into the Australian nation during the 33 months of the Boer War. The nation's first war is a significance event. Engraved unit lists, including the nurses serving for the first time in Australia's military history will be added, The higher back wall provides a horizon for the site's South African environment. The natural Australian eucalypt bushland is the backdrop to all of the memorials along ANZAC Parade.

The most difficult design task has been to link the time when the Boer War took place, celebrated then by great landscape artists like Tom Roberts and Arthur Streeton, simultaneously recognising that the memorial is actually being erected at this time in the 21st century and how the present is represented by more contemporary landscapes of Russell Drysdale and Sydney Nolan.

A modern memorial, visitors to the site are able to walk among the statues in touching range to get something of the sensation of being with the soldiers on the veldt, sharing the hardships of operating in a hostile environment. While the vegetation and the shapes of the hills in South Africa are different, both bush landscapes have uncanny similarities evolved to cope with low rainfall. The air is crystal clear, but easily becomes dusty or smoky, the light is harsh, sunrises and sunsets brilliant.

Between the bitumen of ANZAC Parade and the gradual beginning of the memorial the designers have ensured that there is space for commemoration ceremonies.

This magnificent design suits the commemorative purpose, sits well into the site and it complements the memorials to later conflicts that are already erected along ANZAC Parade.

Keith Smith 3 March 2010

National Boer War Memorial Design Louis Laumen—sculptor for all reasons

Victorians enjoy the majority of Louis Laumen’s work, particularly in Melbourne, especially near the MCG.

But his fame is considerably wider.

You could build a tour of Laumen’s works in Melbourne and country Victoria examining, just for example:

- * Sporting stars at the Melbourne Cricket Ground—all of them...
- * Saints at the front of St Patricks RC Cathedral
- * *Magic Pudding* characters at the Royal Botanic Gardens
- * *St Mary (McKillop)* at Penola College, Broadmeadows
- * *Sir Douglas and Lady Gladys Nichols* at Parliament House
- * *Widows and Children 1*, Legacy Garden Shrine of Remembrance.

And it would be worth making a trip to Benalla to see the wonderful tribute to WW2’s Australian doctor “*Weary*” *Dunlop Memorial*, pictured above right.



Below: Laumen’s miniature (25 cm) 1994 simply titled “*Frommelles*”.



A short drive to Ballarat for *Sir Henry Bolte* and “*Pompey*” *Elliott*—left.

North of the Murray, stop in Albury for the *HC Mott* bust in the Library Museum, and in Sydney walk into Parliament’s Speakers Garden for *Sir Thomas More*, and to St Mary’s Cathedral for a different statue of *Saint Mary McKillop*.

Western Australians wandering through Perth’s Kings Park to look at the Boer War memorial should also look at Laumen’s *Widows and Children 2*.

Or, if in London call at the Marylebone Cricket Club to see his *Sir WG Grace*.

In Rome above the altar in the *Domus Australia*, see his life-size *Crucifix*, originally commissioned by Cardinal George Pell for the Homebush Seminary.



Harold Edward “*Pompey*” *Elliott* 1878-1931. 4th Victorian Contingent to the Boer War. Awarded DCM and Mentioned in Dispatches. Here portrayed in WW1 uniform as a Brigadier General, he won many more awards for bravery and leadership at Gallipoli and the Western Front.

This cross-section of saints, sportspersons, politicians, parsons, civic and military heroes, characters from Australian children’s stories as well as a few sinners demonstrates Louis Laumen’s versatility in the art of realistic statuary.

The NBWM Association welcomes his design for the National Boer War Memorial statuary.

Right: Louis Laumen, in bottom left of picture, putting finishing touches to the clay which is almost ready to go to the foundry for casting in bronze

The figure is Sir Albert Coates, 1895-1977, a stretcher bearer in WW1 and surgeon in WW2. The finished bronze (2000) is in Ballarat, Victoria



The photos in this brief tribute would suggest that Louis Laumen’s work is all ‘very serious’. To show the lighter side, below is the beguiling group from Norman Lindsay’s famous *Magic Pudding* in Melbourne’s Botanic Gardens.



Boer POW camps—captured combatants sent overseas

In two earlier editions of MS – No. 9 March 11 p4 and No. 10 May 11 p8 – there were references to the recently built Prisoners of War memorial in the Botanic Gardens, Ballarat, Victoria, which includes the names of those Australians captured by the Boers 1899-1902.

Several readers who have expressed being deeply moved by their visits to our POW Memorial, have asked whatever happened to the Boers taken as POWs by the British?

Andrew and Tricia Cooper, readers of the online edition of *Monumentally Speaking*, have lived for some years on Bermuda, the UK island possession in the Atlantic Ocean about 900 km off the US east coast state North Carolina. They mentioned that several small islands enclosed in the Great Sound bay of the main island of Bermuda had been BW POW camps. Andrew kindly sent me the book *Boer Prisoners of War in Bermuda* written by Colin H Benbow MA, PGCE, FZS, Senior Lect at the University of Maryland and Tutor in History at the Bermuda College. Benbow first published in 1962 but had continued his research, so that the book I received was the 2006 4th edition.

The significance of the original edition's date is that Benbow was able to interview survivors of Bermuda's experience, including two women residents, the Tucker sisters, who were anti the war and gave shelter and assistance to several escapees. He also interviewed two other local ladies who had contributed a great deal about the prosperity in Bermuda provided by the camps.

Benbow also corresponded extensively with nine South African survivors, and several South African authorities, including **Mr BJ du Toit**, then living in Bloemfontein. (Readers who attended the ACT Tree Planting Ceremony - described in *MS No 11*, August 2011 p 10 - will recall that **RAN Rear Admiral Alan du Toit** mentioned in his address that he had ancestors on both sides of the Boer War.)

The British established camps in a number of overseas possessions. First was St Helena, famous for holding Napoleon from 1815 until he died in 1821. Next were Ceylon (Sri Lanka) and India - including the town of **Abbottabad** in the news as Osama bin Laden's hideout (now Pakistan).

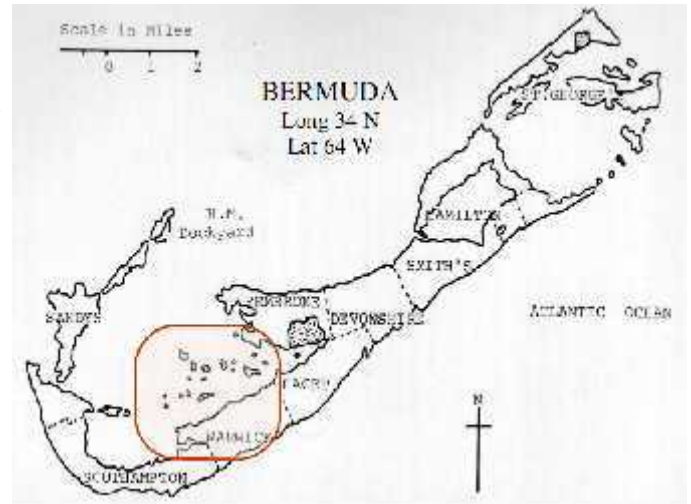
As sites in the Empire ran out, the British negotiated with Portugal for six camps close to Lisbon expressly to house the 1,500 who crossed to Mozambique (then Portuguese East Africa) from both Transvaal and Orange Free State. There was good reason to think these Boers would continue to make cross-border attacks.

By war's end, 31 May 1902, there would be 25,000 men and boys imprisoned out of South Africa.

Bermuda's turn came in May 1901, when the Royal Engineers constructed camps on the tiny islands enfolded in the arms of the main island's half-moon bay, The Great Sound.

Royal Navy ships brought the Royal Engineers and their building equipment. Merchant ships brought the vast quantity of building materials and supplies, resources not available in any quantity in Bermuda.

Until the Boer War Bermuda's 17,000 people relied heavily on Canadian and American tourists, about 5,000 a year, for most of their income. While most of the population welcomed the idea of POWs for the economic boost, they did not want their presence to deter tourist dollars.



When on 26 June 1901 the troopship *SS Armenian* (well known in Australian ports) arrived in Bermuda's Port Royal it carried the front line soldiers of Gen Piet Cronje's commando captured at the battle of Paardeberg (February 1900). Some in this group had bravely attempted to take the ship and sail to Holland.

The *Montrose* arrived soon after but among its POWs were 36 convicted prisoners from the Cape Colony, found guilty of 'assisting the enemy' by eg illegal possession of weapons, sabotage and murder; transportation in lieu of hanging.

Bermuda had no facilities to deal with criminals as distinct from POWs. It soon became apparent though that the POWs who misbehaved had to be separated from the majority by placing them on one island, and requiring the worst to wear 'the marksman's heart' on their shirts.

POW's were well treated except that there was little work available to lessen the boredom and expression of its frustration. Boys attended camp school run by captive teachers. Religious services were similarly held by captive clergy and sometimes Bermudans. Medical care meant POWs were rowed to the main island's hospital. The few deaths were due to natural causes. Certainly the captured Boers in overseas camps had a far higher survival rate than in the internment camps back in South Africa.

POW's were free to swim, fish, play many sports, have amateur theatricals, learn music and practise singing aided by equipment and materials supplied by Bermudans. A number were able carry on their trades.

A few managed to escape despite the distance of Bermuda from the nearest land, the USA, by swimming from their prison island to the Bermudan main island and stowing away in ships in the harbour.

Keith Smith Jan 2012

