

National Boer War Memorial Association

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MONUMENTALLY SPEAKING – QLD EDITION

INCORPORATING WESTERN AUSTRALIA AND THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Vol. 4, No. 1, March 2012



The Boer War Memorial Design Unveiled

Qld Chairman's Report

Welcome to the 12th Queensland National Boer War Memorial Association newsletter.

Where are we with the Project?

The Minister for the Arts, Hon. Simon Crean MP, has advised that the National Capital Authority has approved the Boer War Memorial design proposed by the National Boer War Memorial Association.

The memorial will be an inspired design of Australian troopers mounted on war horses breaking through the trees on Anzac Parade in Canberra.

The sculptures of a section of four horsemen are dynamic, bold and realistic; not impressionistic. The positioning and postures of the troopers create dynamism and tension in the memorial. Each horse and soldier is portrayed with individual character and movement in the act of patrolling; searching and watching.

The design will bring a new note to Australia's national memorial precinct which leads to the Australian War Memorial. It will commemorate Australia's first war as a federated nation.

The design embraces the horseman as the bushman folk hero of Australian culture; an independent and resourceful Australian acclimatised to a tough existence on the land. The significance of the four troopers is that they represent the four-man section, a formation for fighting and patrolling established during the Boer War. When they went into combat, three men would dismount to fight while the fourth would lead the horses to cover. This display of interaction and observation is reflected in the placement of the horses in the setting.

When hearing the call to arms young adventurous Australians volunteered in their thousands. Some 16,000 were sent from Australia, first from the colonies and then from the Commonwealth after Federation in 1901, with a further 7,000 enlisting in South Africa, bringing the total to nearly 23,000 men, 60 nurses and 43,000 horses.

Colonel John Haynes OAM, National President of the Boer War Memorial Association, describes the Design as *"A magnificent and fitting memorial to the predecessors of today's troopers serving in the Australian Defence Force"*.

National Boer War Day to Commemorate the Signing of the Peace Treaty

On 31st May 2012 a Commemoration Ceremony will be conducted in ANZAC Square Brisbane, at the base of the Boer War Memorial, to commemorate the signing of the Peace Treaty in Melrose House Pretoria in 1902. This year our guest of honour will be Her Excellency The Governor of Queensland. The day will be supported by the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (QMI) and the Australian Army Band Brisbane. There will be similar ceremonies all over Australia.

We all realize that the annual commemoration of Boer War Day must be continued, particularly during this year, the 110th anniversary of the signing of the peace treaty.

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Queensland News

We have just completed the restoration of the Lt L.J Caskey memorial in Toowong Cemetery, in time for the 111th anniversary of his death in September 2012. There will be a rededication ceremony in September. This was funded by the Qld Government's Community Memorials Restoration Program and this grant was matched by donations from Kedron-Wavell RSL Sub-Branch, Brisbane North District Qld RSL, Sherwood-Indooroopilly RSL Sub-Branch and Sherwood Services Club. It is believed that this monument was the first erected in Queensland for the Boer War.

On 6th Feb 2012 we held a Commemoration Service for the Battle of Onverwacht Hills at the Sherwood Cemetery and commemorated the last major battle of the Boer War in which 11 Queenslanders were killed and 2 died later from their wounds. Approximately 100 attended the service with 80 plus joining us for morning tea.

We have now completed the design stage and are now moving onto the tendering/construction stage. We will now need more help in the way of descendant registration and donations. Your support is vital to the success of the project



Ron McElwaine
Chairman Qld Committee of NBWMA



DATES TO MARK IN YOUR DIARY FOR THIS YEAR:

May 31ST 2012 the commemorative service in ANZAC Square 09.30 start.

June 29th 2012 Reserve Forces Day Qld: Cocktail Party Victoria Barracks

June 30th 2012 Reserve Forces Day Qld: Wreath Laying Ceremony ANZAC Square Brisbane at the Boer War Memorial. Medallion presentations.

July 1st 2012 Reserve Forces Day Qld: A parade through Ipswich of Reserve Forces and Boer War Descendants. Wreath Laying Ceremony and Medallion presentations.

September 23rd 2012 Lt Caskey Memorial Toowong Cemetery situated just inside the main gate. Time TBA in the next issue

See page 4 for more details of the Reserve Forces Day celebrations.

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Editorial

It has been a long road but finally here it is, our wonderful Memorial to the men and women of the Boer War. I would like to wax lyrical but I think the front page photo, chairman's report and photos of the media launch says it all. We are all very proud of what we have achieved as state committees working hard throughout Australia and now the really hard work starts, getting the donations. Of course your support and donations whether it is buying our merchandise or direct donation have helped us achieve this result.

This issue is very full; we welcome our compatriots from WA and NT who will join us in every future edition.

Although a very hot day many people joined us for our memorial service on the 6th February to honour the men of the 5th QIB at the battle of Onverwacht Hills [page 9]. The Reserve Forces Day Celebrations see details below. Our petition is being well supported but we need more we are aiming for 15,000 signatures and currently our total is 6,268. Please photocopy the form at the back of this issue and get as many names onto our list as possible and thank you to all those of you who have made such a great effort already.



Colleen O'Leary

Editor



....A Monument of Memories in this, the 21st, Century to those who were forgotten in the 20th Century



Reserve Forces Day Council (Qld) Celebrations 2012
www.rfd.org.au



The Reserve Forces Day Celebrations will be held in June and July 2012. They have chosen the Boer War as their theme for this year – of course, Boer War soldiers were all volunteers [reservists] and they would like as many descendants and supporters to join with us in the celebrations.

There are two medallions that have been struck. One is the "Descendant Medallion", and the second is the "In Memory Medallion". Both can be purchased by descendants and those wishing to support our project. Below are the photos of the medallions.



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NBWMA Media Launch – Canberra, 1st March 2012

“A magnificent and fitting memorial to the predecessors to today’s Troopers serving in the Australian Defence Force”

COL. John Haynes [Retd],
National Chairman, NBWMA



COL John Haynes [Retd.] National
Chairman, Boer War Memorial Assoc.



General Hurley, AC, DSC
Chief of Defence Force



Louis Laumen, Sculptor



General Hurley and Louis Laumen



Friends & Descendants
at the Media Launch



Brigadier Spence & Captain Fitzgerald
in uniform of the NSW Lancers c. 1900

Feature Article

Captain Arnold Wienholt, DSO MC and Bar Bush Scout and Intelligence Officer

“Early days and the South African War”

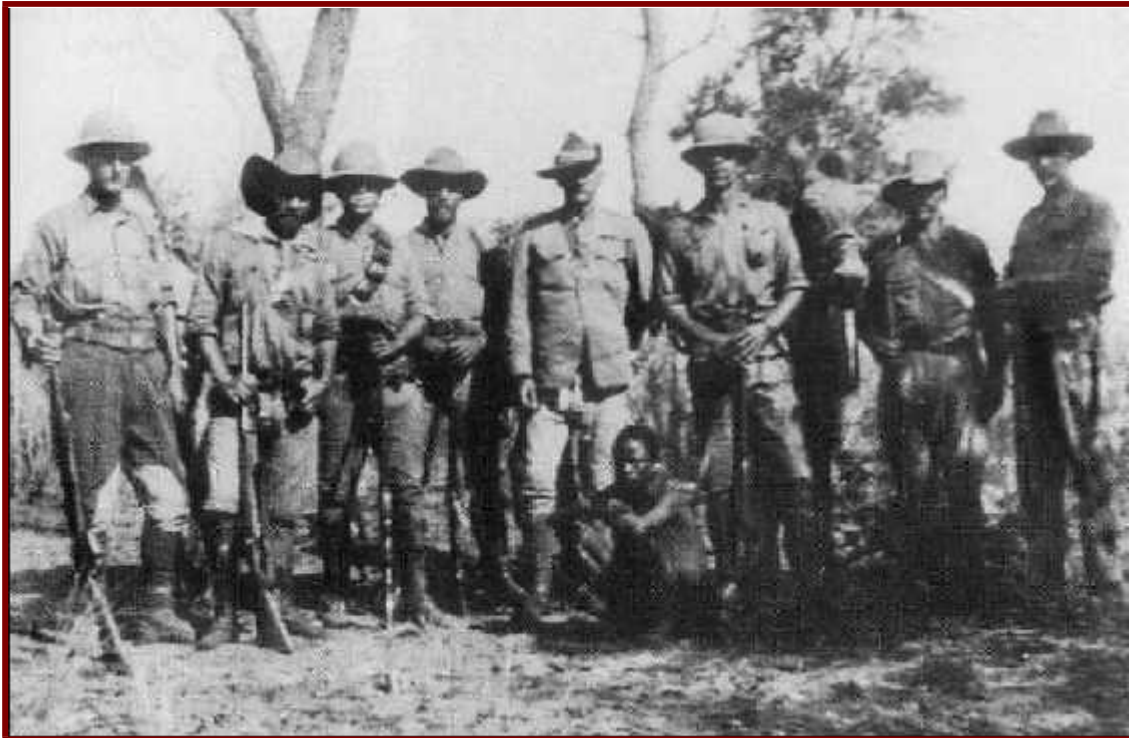
- Part Two of Three -



A Bonfire and a Capture

In June 1916 the trio of Scouts set off on mules across the Wami River and patrolled towards the German Central Railway that ran from Dar Es Salaam on the Indian Ocean to Lake Tanganyika in the interior. The Germans were still using the railway to move troops and supplies and the Scouts were in an exposed situation. In mid-July they came across a main track upon which hundreds of African porters were carrying loads for the Germans, who were once again skillfully fighting rear-guard actions and withdrawing ahead of the British advances. Arnold decided that he must break cover and take direct action. The three Scouts approached the endless line of porters, and posing as Germans, ordered the porters and the handful of Askari with them to drop their loads onto a bonfire. The Africans were allowed to take whatever they wanted for themselves first. Arnold reckoned that around 200 loads were burned: clothing, cases of schnapps and vinegar, bags of rice, beans and flour and 20 loads of sugar. The Scouts had taken the precaution of cutting the enemy telephone wire that ran along the road and were able to withdraw from the scene without meeting a German.

The Germans were not amused, particularly at losing a consignment of trousers that was urgently needed because of wear and tear on clothing due to thorn trees in the bush. The enemy tracked the Scouts and attacked their camp from two directions. Lewis and Brown got away unscathed and six days later arrived back at a British position. Arnold was wounded in the hip and jumped in a nearby river to escape. Having avoided the attentions of crocodiles he got out of the river lower down, meeting one of his Intelligence Scouts, and they walked through the bush by night taking vegetables from villagers' patches of farm land. On the fifth night they entered a small village mid-way between the British and German lines and were given food by the headman who promised to guide them to the British forces. However the headman alerted the Germans instead who ambushed the British pair next day, killing the Scout whilst Arnold bolted into the bush. He kept going although his wound was now slowing and fatiguing him, and that evening, after following the guidance of African villagers again, he walked into another enemy ambush and was captured by local Afrikaaner settlers who had enlisted with the Germans.



Above: The Scouts who tracked the German Camel Corps Wienholt 3rd from right, Gordon 4th from right, Lewis 2nd from left.

An Escape and a Gallantry Award

Arnold was taken to the main German camp where a doctor dressed his wound. He was fed well and introduced to Colonel Von Lettow-Vorbeck who was affable towards him. Then followed four days of marching under escort to the Central Railway and a rail journey to Dar Es Salaam. This was followed by a march down the coast to Kilwa and then a twelve-day march inland was made to Liwale where a camp had been established for Allied officer prisoners of war. A German doctor here healed Arnold's wound, but the British occupation of Kilwa led to all prisoners being marched for 14 days to a more distant camp at Mangangira on the Luwego River.

By January 1917 Arnold was fully fit and on a night of very heavy rain and thunderstorms he led three other escapees out of the camp. A Royal Navy officer in the camp had donated a compass that the Germans had failed to find on him, and with this a route was struck hopefully to hit the coast north of Kilwa. After 15 days of marching and this time helped by villagers who could see that the Germans were losing in East Africa, the escapees reached a post held by the British force based at Kilwa.

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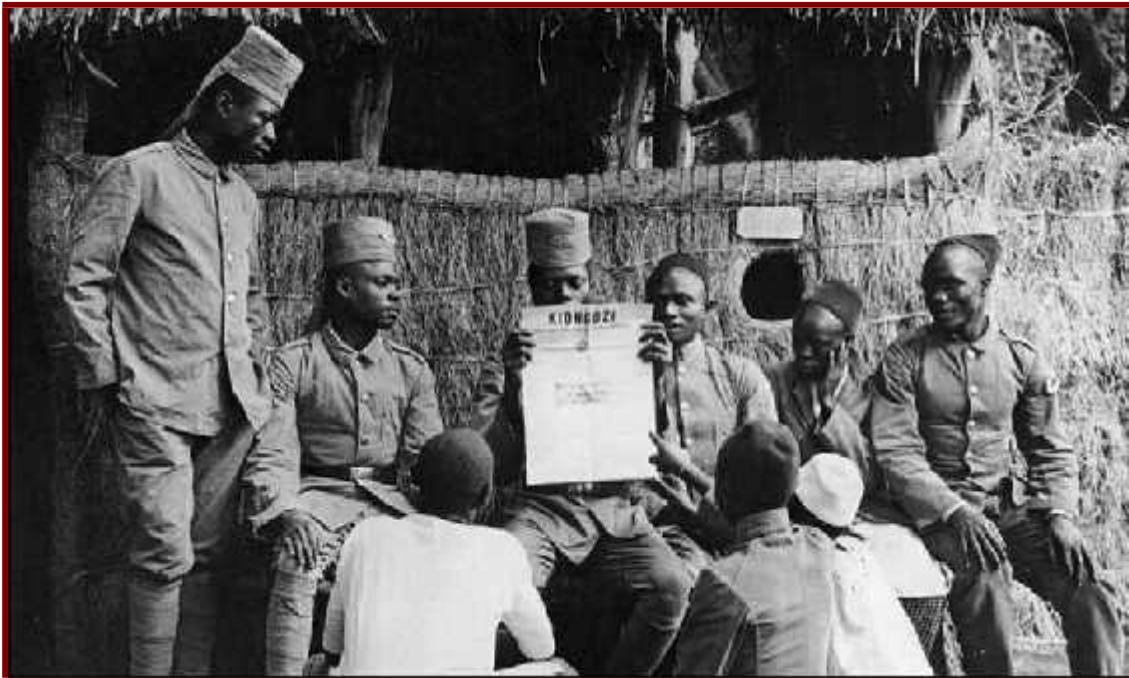
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Arnold was awarded a Military Cross and his citation read:

For conspicuous gallantry and endurance as leader of a patrol. The patrol covered some 200 odd miles of the most difficult country and obtained valuable information. He was subsequently separated from his patrol, severely wounded and captured by the enemy. He ultimately escaped, and made his way back to our lines across 100 miles of unknown bush.

Arnold was weakened by his privations in the bush and became seriously ill with dysentery. After initial treatment at Kilwa he was moved back to Nairobi for convalescence.

In mid-1917 he was passed fit and was back in the bush again near Kilwa, tasked with tracking German movements and with destroying enemy stores and food dumps that had been sited in the bush to sustain enemy companies as they withdrew south. By this time most Africans in German East Africa were actively helping the British forces, and so reliable information could be obtained. Arnold and his Scouts had several contacts during which a number of German European prisoners were taken. For this work Arnold was awarded a Bar to his Military Cross but a citation was not published.



Above: German Askari listen to the news.

Next issue.....The final instalment of Captain Arnold Wienholt's story.

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Onverwacht Battle Memorial Service

A memorial Service was held at the Sherwood Anglican Cemetery to commemorate the soldiers who fought at Onverwacht Hills the last battle of the Boer War There were 11 Queenslanders killed in that battle and two at a later date. The memorial at the Sherwood Anglican Cemetery was erected by friends of Sgt Robert Berry and A/Cpl John Macfarlane. In 2002 the 2/14th Light Horse Regiment [QMI] and the RAACA [Qld branch] affixed a plaque to the memorial to commemorate the names of all 13 men of the 5th Qld Imperial Bushmen who were killed at the Battle of Onverwacht Hills.





His mother was informed of this on the 25th April 1901. He was also awarded the Queens South African Medal + clasps for Cape Colony, Orange Free State.

Today, the only reminder of this gallant soldier's part played in the war is a metal headstone in a lonely Wayside Inn Cemetery, Waterval Onder in the Transvaal. A cemetery that, unless you were looking for it, you would past without a thought.



John Sweetman

NBWMA WA Committee Historian



This photo was taken in Kings Park, Western Australia, at the Boer War Memorial. It has no date or names attached. By looking at the clothes, I would say these men are probably Boer War and WW1 veterans. Can anyone help? Please contact John Sweetman [see contact list on page 12].



The Northern Territory has a small committee working hard to raise funds for our project. As you can appreciate, to my knowledge no troops left from there for the Boer War, but may have joined in other states. If you know of anyone from the NT who went to the Boer War, Paul would be very interested to make contact with you.

Ed.

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Fundraising Merchandise

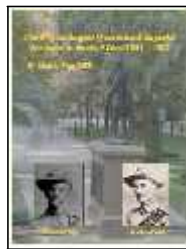


Queen Victoria Chocolate Tin – Slouch Hats
\$25 per tin + postage. Allow 3-4 weeks delivery.



All products may also be purchased from Colleen O'Leary

History of the 5th Queensland Imperial Bushmen
by Alan Fogg MBE



Books sell for \$15.00 each + postage.

Illustrated Roll Of Qld Units CD

CD's can be purchased for \$15 each [+ \$1.50 Postage].



Polo Shirts
Embroidered black BWM polo shirts.



Ranging in sizes from Small to 4XL, polo shirts are \$30, short sleeved [+ Postage].

[Version with chest pocket – 50 cents extra]

State Contacts

Interstate correspondence should be addressed to the appropriate representative:

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BWM SPEAKERS AVAILABLE



As you may be aware, several of our committee members are quite conversant with the History of the Boer War. However, as the momentum of the project builds, so too has their speaking engagements increased in number. Therefore, if you would like a speaker to talk about the many aspects of our project at an upcoming function, our speakers would be only too happy to assist. We do, however, request that sufficient notice is given so a speaker can be arranged.

Queensland Mounted Infantry and the Queensland Imperial Bushman

There is a distinct difference in the slouch hats that were worn by the Qld Mounted Infantry and the Qld Imperial Bushman. Qld committee member Lt Col Miles Farmer [Retd.] described this difference to those who attended the morning tea after the Service for the Battle of Onverwacht Hills. If you look at the photo below you will see that the QLD Mounted Infantry wore the Emu feather in the upturned brim and the Qld Imperial Bushman wore the Possum fur as their puggaree. If you look at the bottom of page 9, you will see the slouch hat on the memorial is depicted with the Possum fur. We do not know why the slouch hats differed in this way, but would be interested in talking with anyone who does.

Ed.

