



National Boer War Memorial Association

Patron-in-Chief

Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

National Patron

General David Hurley AC, DSC
Chief of the Defence Force

Queensland Patron

The Hon. Campbell Newman MP
Premier of Queensland

MONUMENTALLY SPEAKING – QLD EDITION

INCORPORATING WESTERN AUSTRALIA AND THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Vol. 4, No. 2, June 2012

**National Boer War Memorial Day Ceremony
31st May 2012 – ANZAC Square, Brisbane**



Lieutenant Colonel Mark Welburn, Commanding Officer of the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry) accepting the replica King's Banner from Her Excellency The Governor of Queensland Ms Penelope Wensley AC.

Qld Chairman's Report

Welcome to the thirteenth Queensland National Boer War Memorial Association newsletter.

National News – Recent Activities

Since the launch, we all waited with baited breath for the Budget, expecting to find that the NBWM construction had been funded. We understand the Anzac Centenary Board did indeed recommend that the NBWM be funded, but the Government didn't agree.

The National Executive had their first meeting with the designer, accompanied by his landscape advisor. Also present was Major Steve Bain, our Project Manager.

The National President met with our sculptor to discuss the design. He is passionate about the Project. At today's prices, the cost will be \$1.8M for the four mounted troopers. He will create the first model of a Mounted Trooper for half the full fee. We can then use that for public relations etc. He requires the BWM answer by November this year – otherwise he must accept another commission. He will store the Mounted Trooper until we can pay the other half for the casting and detailing. Full details of the meeting have been passed to the Canberra Construction Committee.

The National President wrote twice to Minister Crean, and followed up with an email last week to get an answer about the Site reservation etc. No reply yet.

Committee members have also been in touch with Bernie Ripoll (Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer) about these issues, and NSW Committee member, David Deasey, has been speaking to Andrew Leigh (Member for Fraser).

Irrespective of any Government funding, we must try to be in a position to Commission our Sculptor for the first mounted trooper by Nov 2012. We need to approach all levels of Government now for their direct help and do whatever we can to raise funds.

Queensland News - National Boer War Day to Commemorate the Signing of the Peace Treaty

On 31st May 2012 we held a Commemoration Ceremony 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 was Her Excellency The Governor of Queensland Ms Penelope Wensley AC. The day was well supported by the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (QMI), the Australian Army Band Brisbane, and the Queensland Mounted Infantry Historical Troop. There were similar ceremonies all over Australia. I would like, at this point, to thank Lt. Col. Welburn for the support provided by his unit, the 2nd/14th LHR.

As a result of the ceremony, the Committee was presented with a book "War Sketches in Colour" (Capt. S.E. St Ledger, 1903) by Rita Zock, and with a limited edition print of Gen. Kitchener returning home from the Boer War by Ms Alwyn McNamara and Alexa Dixon. See Page 14.

In ANZAC Square we had a crowd of descendants and supporters approaching 200, with representatives from the RSL and numerous historical associations and the general public also present.

Editorial


For those of you who could not make it to our Boer War Day Service in ANZAC Square on the 31st May 2012, there is a montage of photos on Pages 8, 9 & 10. This will give you an idea of just how wonderful the day went. The day started with heavy rain and wind, but as the time got closer to the service, the rain gods pulled the clouds apart and let the sunshine upon us – such a relief for all concerned.

As always, the 2nd /14th Light Horse Regiment (QMI) attended, and the Commanding Officer LT COL. Mark Welburn came all the way from Townsville to accept the replica King's Banner from the Queensland Governor. Her Excellency The Governor of Queensland Ms Penelope Wensley AC delivered a very fitting and heartfelt speech. This year we also had the Australian Army Band-Brisbane with us, and what a difference it made having music from the Boer War being played.

What a great success the Reserve Forces Day Council (Sth Qld) has had with sales of the "Descendants" and "In Memory" Medallions. Our Construction Fund has benefited from the donations by \$8,000 to date – so, to all who purchased a medallion and gave a donation, a big "Thank You". We will have some photos of the June medallion presentations in the September issue. Thank you also to all the Reserve Forces Day Council Qld, and to all Reserve Forces Councils nationally who participated in this venture.

The feature story in the September 2012 issue will be a very touching one about a soldier who took his favourite horse *Blaze* (see photo) to the Boer War. The discovery of this story and the remarkable painting of the two of them came about through two members of the committee who meet a lady called Jennifer Marshall. Jennifer paints the most wonderful paintings of soldiers from the Boer War and WW1 era and their horses.



Colleen O'Leary 
Editor

Have you ever been reading about the Boer War, and wondered as to the meaning of some of the South African words? Here are some of the more common ones...

BERG: Mountain	BILTONG: Strips of sundried meat	BOER: Farmer - during the Boer war it implied anyone who fought the British
BURG: Town	BUSHVELDT: A plain covered with bush or scrub	BURGHER: A man of one of the Boer Republics with full citizen rights
COMMANDO: Irregular unit of mounted Boers	COMMANDANT: Senior officer of a Boer commando	DONGA: Dry bed of a river or an eroded gully creek
DORP: Village or Small Township	DRIFT: Ford	FIELD-CORNET: Boer lieutenant

More next issue...

Feature Article

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

“Early days and the South African War”

- Part Three of Three -

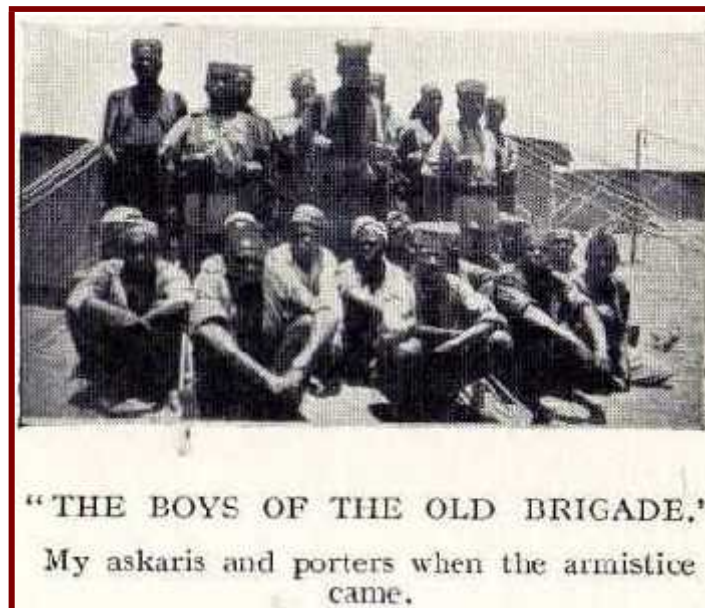


Portuguese East Africa

Colonel Von Lettow Vorbeck was determined to keep fighting as long as the war in Europe lasted. His refusal to surrender had tied up over 100,000 Allied troops in East Africa, plus the large tonnage of shipping that was required to supply them. Slimming down their forces the Germans crossed the Rovuma River into Portuguese East Africa (now Mozambique) in late 1917 and immediately began raiding Portuguese forts to obtain weapons, ammunition and supplies (Portugal was now one of the Allies).

Portuguese rule was rough on the Africans under them and the Germans went out of their way to be friendly to villagers, obtaining food by paying for it with bolts of cloth seized from Asian owned village stores.

By early 1918 nearly all British white and Indian infantry units had been posted out of the East African theatre for health reasons. The local British black regiment, The King's African Rifles, had been rapidly expanded as Africans could put up with the climate and bush conditions relatively easily, and their logistic requirements were simple when compared with the requirements of European and Indian troops. Columns of King's African Rifle Askari, and the Gold Coast Regiment from West Africa, now concentrated in Portuguese East Africa to try and track the Germans down.



“THE BOYS OF THE OLD BRIGADE.”
My askaris and porters when the armistice
came.

Arnold, now a Lieutenant, took a group of 40 Intelligence Scouts into Portuguese East Africa and began scouting. However the local villagers strongly supported the Germans and would not supply information. One day the location of the Scouts' camp was advised to the Germans who immediately attacked it with two rifle companies and two machine guns. Arnold and his men had to abandon everything except their rifles and sprint into the bush to get away. The Scouts withdrew towards the Indian Ocean coast to obtain fresh supplies from the British base at Pemba.

The German resistance lasted until late November 1918 (two weeks after Armistice Day in Europe), and by that time Colonel Von Lettow Vorbeck had marched his remaining men out of Portuguese territory back into German East Africa around the east of Lake Nyasa, and he had invaded Northern Rhodesia. If news of the Armistice had not arrived from Europe then the Germans were in a strong position to destroy the Northern Rhodesian and Belgian Congo Katangese copper mines, and march on into Portuguese Angola. During the last half of 1918 Arnold had been scouting for the most active and successful British column in Portuguese East Africa and for that work he received a promotion to Captain and was awarded a Distinguished Service Order. His citation read:

"For continuous gallant conduct and endurance under most trying circumstances during a period of six months in the bush. He performed a most arduous march, during which his party were more than once attacked by superior enemy forces, through the unknown country which he had to reconnoitre and report on; and finally succeeded in gaining touch with a column as ordered. He performed many other successful reconnaissance's during which he had several encounters with the enemy, and furnished valuable information with regard to their movements. Throughout he showed great courage and endurance, and rendered most valuable service."

Australia, and then back to Africa

On demobilisation Arnold returned to Australia in early 1919, became married, and resumed farming and political activities. When Italy invaded Ethiopia in 1935 Arnold went to Addis Ababa as a war correspondent but he soon joined the Ethiopian Red Cross as a front-line transport officer. After the Italians had conquered Ethiopia Arnold went back to Australia and publicised Ethiopia's plight, but failed to change any political opinions in Britain or Australia. When the Second World War broke out Arnold sailed to Aden where he waited for Italy's entry into the war by learning the Amharic and Arabic languages.

Military Mission 101

After Italy declared hostilities against Britain in June 1940 Arnold was called to Sudan and commissioned at the age of 62 as a Second Lieutenant. He and a few other British and Australian officers were recruited into Mission 101 (later renamed Gideon Force). The task was to march small units named Operational Centres into Ethiopia to foster rebellion against the Italians. Each Operational Centre consisted of a commander, four British Non-Commissioned Officers and around 30 Ethiopians.

Arnold was the Mission Intelligence Officer and he led the third Operational Centre across the border, using mules to carry heavy equipment and supplies. However the Italian border troops had received information about Mission 101's activities, and Arnold's group was tracked by Italian troops using local Gumz tribesmen as irregular scouts. Probably on 10 September 1940 the enemy attacked as Arnold's group packed up its camp.

Two versions of what happened next exist. One states that Arnold was severely wounded and scrambled into the bush where he died of wounds, and the second states that Arnold was captured and executed by the Italians.

Whichever version is correct, we do know that a very courageous and uncompromising Australian intelligence officer and bush fighter was killed in enemy territory when he was at an age that exempted him from active service. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission commemorates Arnold on the Khartoum Memorial, Sudan.

Further Reading and Present-Day Comparisons

There are two excellent books on the Great War Campaign in East Africa: *Battle for the Bundu* by Charles Miller and a more recent one *Tip & Run – the untold tragedy of the Great War in Africa* by Edward Paice. The latter book provides significant detail on what the human cost was to the Africans whose lives were affected by the war.

Some commentators have suggested that Colonel von Lettow-Vorbeck was an outstanding guerrilla leader, particularly Major J.R. Sibley in a well-illustrated paperback book titled *Tanganyika Guerrilla – East African Campaign 1914 – 1918*. Others have seen similarities with today's conflict zones where small numbers of insurgents can effectively engage much larger conventional forces. However Colonel von Lettow-Vorbeck was a conventional but inspired commander, who practised sound tactics especially in rearguard actions and withdrawals, and who always retired along prepared interior lines of communication. Every time the Germans moved they moved nearer to their replenishment dumps whilst the Allies moved forward and extended their already long lines of communication.

One aspect of the Great War East Africa campaign that has a parallel today is the use of ground. When terrain prevents the unrestricted use of conventional forces, then the enemy who chooses the ground on which the next action will be fought has a decided advantage.

In East Africa the Germans were adept at occupying vital ground for a limited period of time in order to cause attrition amongst the Allied forces. This attrition disrupted Allied progress whilst casualties were evacuated and water, supplies and reinforcements were brought forward, much of this being achieved by the efforts of vastly over-worked African porters. This was often the moment when the Germans would break contact and slip away through the bush to the next piece of vital ground to be temporarily defended.

SOURCES:

Official History Military Operations East Africa August 1914 – September 1916 compiled by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Hordern.

The Story of a Lion Hunt by Arnold Wienholt. *Taking Tanganyika – Experiences of an Intelligence Officer 1914-1918* by Christopher J. Thornhill.

The Despatch from the High Commissioner for South Africa in the London Telegraph Second Supplement dated Friday 13 July 1917.

The Australian Dictionary of Biography Online.

My Reminiscences of East Africa by General Paul Von Lettow-Vorbeck.

General Smuts' Campaign in East Africa by Brigadier General J.H.V. Crowe.

An Improvised War – The Abyssinian Campaign of 1940 – 1941 by Michael Glover.

The Life Of My Choice by Wilfred Thesiger.

The Eccentric Mr. Wienholt by Rosamond M Siemon.

History of the Second World War. Volume 1. The Early Successes against Italy by Major General I.S.O. Playfair CB DSO MC.

National Boer War Memorial Day Ceremony – Brisbane Pictorial



Lt COL R McElwaine (Retd) OAM
escorting Her Excellency The Governor
of Queensland Ms Penelope Wensley AC



Australian Army Band Brisbane



VIP's attending the Ceremony



Descendants and Supporters



Lt COL Jack Chipman (Retd) reciting The Ode



Don Hill escorting his mother, Betty Sunderland



Greg Peake, Rod Single and Phil Lilliebridge



2nd / 14th Light Horse Regiment (QMI) Lancer Guard



Old Mounted Infantry Historical Troop



Capt. Adele Catts and Charles Achilles



Representatives from the South African Military Veterans Organisation of Australasia



Len Harvey and daughter, Cynthia



Representatives from Aspley State High School



Rita Zock and Capt. Catts



Vic Reading and John Strachan



Shane Alloway and his Waler



David Feez and Angus McDowall



Representatives from Corinda State High School



Shane Alloway and his Waler



Western Australia Edition

Monumentally Speaking
Vol 4. No.2, June 2012



A National Boer War Memorial Day ceremony was recently held in Perth's Kings Park. Commemorating the 110th Anniversary of the signing of the Peace Treaty of 1902, the service was blessed with a beautiful sunny day, and attended by a large number of descendants and supporters.



Mr John Sweetman, NBWMA (WA) Historian

Atmosphere was provided by a British bell tent and a Boer encampment display, complete with uniformed re-enactors from the West Australian Military Living History Society, members of the 1st West Australian Mounted Infantry and 2 Boer Burghers, complete with mother and two children, from The South African Military Veterans Organisation of Australasia (SAMVOA).



British Bell Tent



Boer Family

The official service began with the Catafalque Party, drawn from the 10th Light Horse Regiment (lineal descendants of the WAMI) being called to mount their positions around the base of the memorial.

The ceremony was introduced by Mr Maurice Kissane (President of the NBWMA - WA Branch), and featured a Boer War Oration by the CO, 10th LHR, Major Geoffrey Craggs.

Following the Army Band playing "Soldiers of The Queen", with a vocalist leading, the wreath laying ceremony commenced, accompanied by a lone piper from the Coastal Scottish Pipe Band, which was originally formed in 1898.



Western Australia Edition

Monumentally Speaking
Vol 4. No.2, June 2012



The official wreath was laid by Mr Garth Pienaar, State President of SAMVOA, on behalf of our former Boer foes and their women and children, in a spirit of reconciliation. The Governor of Western Australia, Malcolm McCusker QC, also laid a wreath on behalf of Her Majesty The Queen, as did representatives of the three services; Premier's Department; Chief Justice; New Zealand government; WAMI; Boer War Nurses (laid by Mrs M Wilson in Boer War Nurses uniform); British, Canadian, New Zealand and Rhodesian ex-service organizations - joined this year for the first time, by the British South Africa Police (BSAP - Rhodesia); Boy Scouts; and Australian Army Cadets.



Wreaths laid during Perth's National Boer War Memorial Day ceremony

"Good by Dolly Grey" was then played by the Australian Army Band, followed by a short address by Mr. Brian Ross, on the Boer view of the war.

Sarie Marais (a traditional Afrikaans folk song, created during either the First or the Second Anglo-Boer War) was then played by the Australian Army Band.

Following the Australian National Anthem, the service was closed with the Catafalque Party dismounting from their positions.



10th Light Horse Regiment

[Ed. – Many thanks to John Sweetman for details of the ceremony , and Judy Borrett for the photographs]

Centenary Theatre Group, by special arrangement with Futerman, Rose & Associates, is proud to present:

BREAKER MORANT

By Kenneth G. Ross



Morant

Handcock

Winton

There are no truths - only history

Playing 8 - 29 September
Friday & Saturdays at 8pm, Sundays at 6pm

Book on-line at www.centenarytheatre.com.au

Groups welcome - licensed bar - 0435 591 720 for more information

Chelmer Community Centre, Cnr. Queenscroft & Halsbury Streets, Chelmer

