



NATIONAL BOER WAR MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

National Patron: Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin AC, Chief of the Defence Force



Monumentally Speaking ~ Queensland Edition

Newsletter - Volume 10, No. 1 - February 2017

Queensland Chairman's Report

The Statues are nearly there!

NATIONAL NEWS

The Sculptures

Horses 1 & 2 are complete
Horse 3 is at the foundry and ready to be poured
Horse 4 is at the full size clay stage
The sculptor will contract the transport of horses to site.

Site Works

All design works are approved and a contract has been awarded. Approval to commence work on site was received on the 3rd Feb. Contractor will be on site from mid-February. Work has commenced off site.

Financial Position

All the necessary funds have been raised to complete the memorial and the site works. Thank you for your generous support, we couldn't have achieved this funding milestone without your help.

The Memorial Dedication in Canberra will be Wednesday 31st May 2017

We stand at the brink of our most exciting period as we head towards the dedication of the memorial on 31st May 2017. Inside this newsletter is a 2-page information insert which provides details of the dedication ceremony and how you can attend if you are able.

After 15 years we are almost there. Well done all!

QUEENSLAND NEWS

We have just completed the Commemoration Ceremony for Onverwacht Hills at the Sherwood Cemetery. Our next big event is the Brisbane Boer War Day Ceremony in ANZAC Square on the Sunday 28th May 2017.



Ron McElwaine OAM RFD ED
Chairman
Queensland Committee of NBWMA



“Heroes of the Boer War” Seminar Sherwood-Indooroopilly RSL Sub Branch Sunday 25th September, 2016

Last September we held our annual seminar at the Sherwood-Indooroopilly RSL Sub Branch, the theme was “Heroes of the Boer War”. Our special guest speaker was MAJGEN Iain Spence CSC, RFD whilst he was still the Head Cadet, Reserve and Employer Support Division in Canberra.

Other special guest speakers included Pierre van Blommestein and Gordon Bold from the South African Military Veterans Organisation of Australasia (SAMVOA), who spoke about ‘Boer and Colonial Citizen Soldiers’.

MAJ Steve Bain the Project Manager in charge of construction of the memorial provided a comprehensive update on our plans to have the memorial ready to be dedicated on Wednesday 31st May, 2017.



Pierre van Blommestein, the Padre of SAMVOA (South African Military Veterans Organisation), gave some insights to a South African view of the Boer War.



MAJGEN Iain Spence talked on ‘The Horse the Unsung Hero of the Boer War?’.



MAJ Steve Bain (left), the Project Manager of the Boer War Memorial construction, with LTCOL Miles Farmer, gave an update on the progress of the bronze statues of the 4 mounted troopers and the timings to achieve completion of the memorial for 31st May 2017.



Bill Cross and Mick O’Mallon talked about Australia’s Boer War VC recipients and the brave Nurses who were awarded the Royal Red Cross Medal.



MAJGEN Iain Spence with Corinda State High School teacher Tracey Hall and President of the school’s P&C Association, Alan Birchley.

The Battle of Onverwacht Hills Memorial Service at Sherwood Cemetery Thursday 2nd February

Each year, the Boer War Memorial Association in Queensland supports the memorial service to the Battle of Onverwacht Hills conducted by the Sherwood-Indooroopilly RSL Sub Branch at Sherwood Cemetery.

The commemorative service centres on a fine memorial that was erected by local residents to honour several soldiers from the district who died at the Battle of Onverwacht Hills in the Boer War.

The RSL Sub Branch awards a medallion for the best Boer War Essay to a student from Corinda State High School. This year's winner was Miss Maria Killipati, photographed here receiving her medallion from guest speaker, LT James Bedogni, from the 2/14 LH Regiment (QMI).

Miss Genevieve Bowman read a message between Corinda State High School and Ermelo High School in South Africa.



NEW Book Release

CARVINGS from the VELDT - Part Three

Rifle carvings from the Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902

After seven years of collecting photos from fellow rifle collectors and research, this latest edition of my book is currently being printed and will be available around **15th Dec. 2016**. The book contains all new material - another 344 pages (A4 size) in full *glossy colour* featuring 338 more rifles, carbines and handguns-all with the names or initials of Boers and soldiers (mostly Australians and New Zealanders). Also a selection of swords, bayonets, bandoliers, ammo, medals and a large selection of unit badges worn by both sides - British, Colonial & Boers.

The book is available in both **Hard cover** and **Card cover**.

Prices: **Hard Cover = Aud \$89.00** **Soft Card Cover = Aud \$69.00** **plus postage:** 1 book = \$13.00, 2 books = \$17.00 (overseas to be advised).

Ph: 02-66764320 (9am to 5pm)

The first **100 copies** will be a numbered edition (**NB: Hard Cover only**). When you order, please advise your **Postal address** and if you require author to sign your copy?

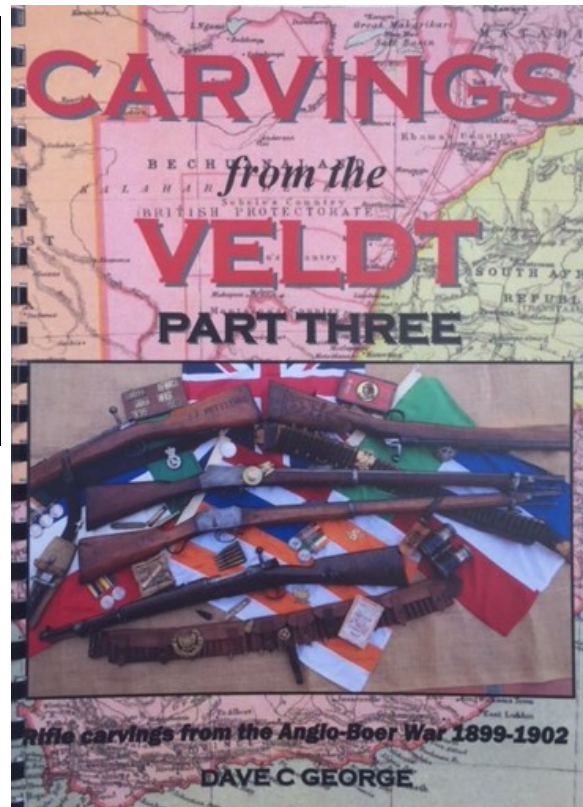
Payment: Bank deposit, paypal, money order or cheque (for paypal, use my email address).



Website:

www.boerwarriflecarvings.net

Right: A 'sample' cover. The image above is an enlargement of the photo on the front cover.



For the same price, you can also buy this book from BWM Committee member, Jennie Jones (0409 274 991) and a \$10.00 donation goes to NBWMA.

Boots, Belts, Buckles, Badges, Books 'n' Buttons.

By Mick O'Mallon, Boer War Historian

On Saturday 4th, from 10 am to 4 pm, Memorabilia Table Sales of South African/Rhodesian/Boer War/Australian AIF and Light Horse Memorabilia, were put on display at the Sherwood-Indooroopilly RSL Sub Branch at Corinda. The intention being that part proceeds from sales would go to the Sub Branch and the Boer War Memorial Committee Qld. There were four Table providers present.

1. Greg Amey of Aussie Digger Militaria Clothing & Equipment, seen below holding a re-tailored Boer War Jacket and Light Horse Shoulder Ammunition Pouch.



Greg informed me that the re-tailored Boer War jacket had entailed sewing a collar onto the jacket, as the original jackets were only a straight collared button at the throat type. These were then reissued to the Volunteer Defence Corps (VDC) for WW2.

I reflected that must have been a heck of a recycled item of Military Clothing languishing in War Stocks somewhere for nearly 35 or 40 years!

2. Mike Hayes - seen below holding one of five books that he has published, with three of those books reflecting his interest as a keen Rhodesian Rail "buff". Mike had a very extensive and interesting collection of Rhodesian, South African and Boer War Memorabilia for sale or swapping!



Mike also disclosed he had lived in Rhodesia for 22 years, having been a Londoner recruited by General Motors for work in Port Elizabeth 1970. But he left for Bulawayo 1974, and later joined and served with the Rhodesian Para Military Police Force and Police Anti-Terrorist Unit during the Rhodesian Bush War. He still has two Sons who live there!

3. Peter Deridder - from Underwood and a former Member of 11 Field Arty Regt, had an interesting and diverse collection of badges, buttons, cards, shoulder patches etc, and is seen in the adjacent photo holding up a selection of "Appeal Badges".

Peter disclosed that he is an avid collector and "hobbyist" who likes to do the Shows and Meetings whenever and wherever he can!



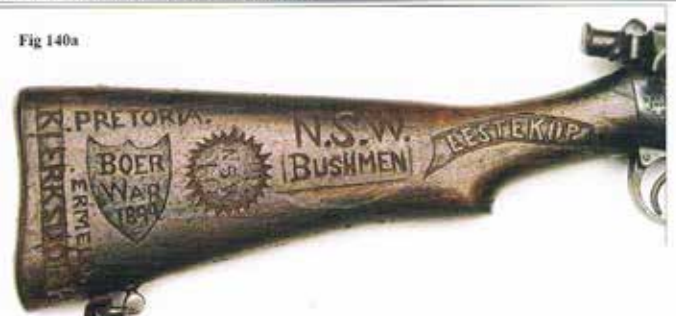
4. Jennie Jones - A Boer War Memorial Qld Committee Member and former Rhodesian Women's Police Reservist during the Rhodesian War - seen below holding up Part 2, of the Parts 2 & 3 that she had on sale of David George's most excellent and well researched pictorial series of "Carvings from the Veldt" - a depiction of the art work from both sides of what combatants got up to in their spare time "whittling" away on their rifles and equipment.



Part One: Carvings on British and Colonial Rifles

Fig 140: S. B. (S. BRACEY)
Type of Rifle: Magazine Lee-Enfield Mk 1* (BSA & Co, 1900)
Cal. .303" Serial No. 20504A (matching bolt)

Fig 140a





A Family Affair - whilst flipping through Part 2 of David George's book I came across the above photo that caught my eye!

The caption reads: **Boer Family - Father and 10 Sons.**

Many Boer farmers did indeed have large families. It is interesting to examine the various weapons and different bandoliers held by the family. The father standing at the left appears to be the only one who has the modern Model 1895 Mauser rifle, while his sons hold a variety of Martini-Henry rifles and carbines. Three of the rifles appear to have cut-back stocks to convert them into light weight sporting rifles, while (apty) the youngest son, seated at the right, holds a Martini-Henry carbine.

After Thoughts - I looked at the faces in this photograph and wondered how many of the sons would have survived the war, or what would have been the outcomes of their individual or collective circumstances, given the amount of research that I have done on Lord Kitchener's "scorched earth policy", with the burning and destruction of Boer live stock and farms, and the involuntary incarceration of Boer Women and Children into the British run Concentration Camps!

Approximately 26,370 women and children died in the concentration camps in the two republics (Republic of the Orange Free State and the Republic of Transvaal). The exact number of deaths is unknown. 81% of these deaths were children. An entire generation of Afrikaners was erased.

Blacks in Custody - No accurate records are available, or were kept, by the British on the number of Black farmhands, employees, supports etc who were incarcerated or died in custody. However, what Records have been found, and going on the number of grave sites discovered, a reasonable guesstimate would be around 20,000.

By today's standards what Kitchener implemented, condoned, and forced his subordinates to enforce would likely have seen him in the Hague World Court being tried for murder, genocide and crimes against humanity!

NAAFI Lady (Jennie Jones) - brew and sangers. In among all the goings on Jennie did a bang up job of getting into the "galley" and providing tea, coffee and yummy sandwiches for attendees and table holders, which I unashamedly partook of after my own "browse-around"!



Outcome - Some future thought - Unfortunately attendance numbers were down, with only about a dozen interested persons putting their hands in their back pockets and reaching for their wallets.

However, two ideas that were bandied around was that next time the event should be held either on a RSL Sub Branch BBQ Day when numbers are up, or move the whole shebang over to the Auditorium at the Sherwood RSL Club on a Saturday or Sunday when numbers are high over there.

Contact Particulars. Following are some contact particulars I have for the Table Holders if anyone is interested about enquiring what Memorabilia is available for purchase or exchange, or when and where Antiques Militaria Firearms & Collectable shows and fairs are on in the Brisbane area in 2017:

Boer War Day Brisbane 2017 : Sun May 28

We will still be holding our local Boer War Day commemorative service in Anzac Square, but this year it is a few days early: Sunday 28th May (to enable many of us to attend the memorial dedication in Canberra later that week). The service will commence at 10.00am adjacent to the mounted Boer War Trooper memorial in Anzac Square (Adelaide Street).