



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

BOER WAR DESPATCHES

VICTORIAN EDITOR PO Box 2006, Blackburn South 3130

Phone (03) 9890 2465



BOER WAR DAY 2012

The weather was reasonably kind in Melbourne on Sunday 27 May with hundreds of descendants and supporters in attendance at the Shrine Commemoration Service. The usual strong support from the Victoria Police Pipe Band, the Creswick Light Horse and a couple of re-enactment groups lent some colour and nostalgia.

Many distinguished guests were in attendance with a number of senior serving and retired Army Officers. Major General David McLachlan AO, RSL State President, recited the 'ODE'. Messages were received from the Governor General, the Chief of the Defence Force, the Premier of Victoria and the Lord Mayor of Melbourne and these were read out by the Hon Michael Baden-Powell.



104 year old Mrs Mary Sadler, daughter of a Boer War veteran, inspects the mounts of the Creswick Light Horse after she had taken part in the march and service.

Master of Ceremonies, Lt.Col. Neil Smith AM, (whose ANZAC Day TV broadcast gave a wonderful Boer War coverage) ensured that the programme ran smoothly. Our President, Colonel John Haynes OAM, flew down from Sydney to speak about the proposed Memorial and the Banjo Paterson poem 'THE LAST PARADE' was recited by Tony Charlton in a moving tribute to the 43,000 Australian horses that carried our men on service in South Africa.



The Pipe Band marching off

Our sincere thanks to all who participated and made the event successful, especially the Victorian Veterans Unit, the Dept. of Veterans Affairs who greatly assisted with funding (the Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs attended the service), the Victoria Police Band, the Creswick Light Horse and many others including the Rev. Ken Bingham who kept us aware of the highest authority.



Colonel John Haynes addressing the crowd

TASMANIA COMMEMORATES BOER WAR DAY

Tasmanians turned out in force attending their Commemoration which was held over two weekends—Sunday 3 June in Hobart and Sunday 10 June in Launceston.



Tasmanians respond in Hobart on Boer War Day

Both services were organised by Reg Watson and he can be contacted PO Box 146 Lindisfarne 7015. Phone 62438597 or Mobile 1409 975 587

NOW THAT THE MEMORIAL DESIGN HAS BEEN APPROVED WHAT NEXT?

When the Howard Government set aside the site in Anzac Parade for the Boer War Memorial we were told they wanted to see a demonstration of community interest before any government funding was made available. To this end we have worked hard with and for the descendants of Boer War veterans. Boer War Day and other functions is one way of demonstrating this interest.. Politicians are also waiting to see how much we can raise towards the required four million dollars as a way of evaluating that interest. **SHOW THEM WE CARE.**

FUND RAISING

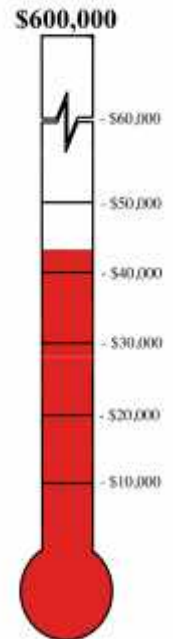
At the end of this year the sculptor Louis Laumen will be commissioned to start work on the first 1.5 times life size bronze mounted trooper for the memorial without waiting for Government funding. Time constraints demand that we make a start on the work and at least get the first horseman finished. It can not however proceed faster than we can provide funding. Fund raising must now be our top priority.

We won't be asking you to make provision in your will. We hope to have you around for a long, long time so that would be far too late. Perhaps there are other ways you might assist. Could your local club (Rotary, Lions, RSL etc) or Hotel, or the Company you work for help in this cause which has now become a matter of National honour? Please consider what you can do to assist.

Tax deductible donations can be sent to us or to the National Treasurer, NBWM Assoc., Bldg 96, Victoria Barracks, Paddington NSW 2021.

Some Tasmanians have sent donation cheques to us here in Victoria. Whether they are sent here or to the National Treasurer be assured that money is still credited to the Tasmanian total. Tax deductible receipts are issued for all donations over \$2.

VICTORIAN TARGET



BOER WAR MEDALLIONS

It may still be possible to obtain one of these magnificent Reserve Forces Day medallions after the July deadline. The round one is for those with family Boer War veterans and the oval one is for supporters. Go to the web site www.rfd.org.au download the application form and send completed form and \$37.50 to Major Frank Woodhams OAM ED, Treasurer, RFDC, 3/800 Military Road, Mosman, NSW 2088 (Queries—phone him 0299694167)

Promotional Merchandise (order form next page)



Vinyl Car Sticker

100mm X 150mm, \$2.00 ea



Pens—Maroon & Gold or Black & Gold
\$10 each



BoW Day Badge
\$8 ea.



Metal Laser Pin
25mm Diam
\$2

WHEN ORDERING PLEASE USE FORM ON NEXT PAGE AND COMPLETE ALL DETAILS

Queen Victoria Chocolate Tin \$25

It is 204mm X 60mm X 26mm and contains 8 slouch hat chocolates and a brief history of the slouch hat in the Boer War



Attractive Wooden Plaque: Please provide details below. The central motif can be replaced with a photo or a badge if arranged when ordering. Price \$60 (- \$15 if photo used). Phone: 03 98992468 for more details and order form.



Clear Crystal Glass Memorial—Laser Etched

130mm X 155mm X 30mm... Weight 880 grams. In lined presentation case. (Image has been shown with dark background to highlight engraving. Please provide details below with order. Can be supplied without badge or with the April 1902 pattern AC11 Badge instead of that shown. \$120 -PP&I \$22 in Victoria (may be slightly higher in other States)

VETERAN INFORMATION	
Given Names	(Please print)
Rank.....	Surname.....
Unit.....	Regimental number:
<i>Second tour if applicable</i>	
Rank.....	Regimental number:
Unit.....	

Merchandise Order

.....Pens—Black & Gold @ \$10 each \$.....
Pens - Maroon & Gold @ \$10 each \$.....
Car Stickers @ \$2 each \$.....
Lapel Pins (circular metal) @ \$2 \$.....
Enamel BW Day badge \$8 \$.....
Chocolate Tin \$25 each \$.....
Wooden Plaque
 Supply details as per reverse page \$.....
Crystal Glass Memorial \$130 each
 Please complete details on reverse \$.....

POSTAGE

Badges (up to 4) \$2.50
 Pens (up to 2) \$2.50
 Stickers only \$1.00
 Chocolate Tins \$6.00
 Crystal Glass Memorial \$22.00
 Wooden Plaque \$10 (+ \$5 for each additional if mailed together)
 (if purchasing multiple items contact 03 98902465 for P&P savings)
 \$

Sub-total \$.....

(Circle one) Mr Mrs Dr Ms Miss
 Other

Given Names: ..

Surname: ..

Address: .

Suburb: State :

Postcode:H Phone:

Mobile:

Email:

I enclose a cheque for \$

Payable to:

National Boer War Memorial Association- Vic,
 P O Box 2006, Blackburn South, 3130.

Please do NOT send cash in the mail

Office Use Only

Date Received:

Despatched.....

Tax Deductable Donations To The Boer War Memorial Fund

I would like to donate -

\$10	\$25	\$50	\$100	\$250
\$1,000	\$2,000	\$5,000	\$10,000	
Other				

(Circle one) Mr Mrs Dr Ms Miss Other

Given Names:

Surname:

Organisation / Business (if applicable):

Address:

Suburb: State :

Postcode: Phone: Home:

Mobile:

Business:

Email:

I enclose a cheque for \$

Payable to:

National Boer War Memorial Fund,
 C/o P O Box 2006, Blackburn South 3130.

Please do NOT send cash in the mail

Office Use Only

Receipt No:

Date Received:

Public Recognition of Donors
 To recognise larger donations certificates will be awarded as follows -

Bronze	\$1,000 to \$9,999
Silver	\$10,000 to \$49,999
Gold	\$50,000 to \$99,999
Platinum	\$100,000 and above

Recipients will be permitted to use that level of donor logo on their stationery. Gold and Platinum donors will also have their logo placed on future BWM promotional materials and the National website.

**'AGE' CORRESPONDENT, BILL LAMBIE
KILLED ON PATROL**

Melbourne 'AGE' journalist, William John Lambie was the first Australian war correspondent to be killed on service. He was embedded with the NSW forces in the Sudan in 1885 and was wounded during that campaign. He went to South Africa with the early Victorian contingent and was with them in the area north of Colesburg.



On 9 February 1900 he and a West Australian journalist Alfred Hales went out with a patrol of Tasmanians, under the command of Captain Cameron, which was ambushed at Newerfontein. When the Boers were encountered Lambie and Hales attached themselves to the advance party. In the skirmish two Tasmanian troopers, Gilham and Button were killed. Lambie and Hales were called on to surrender but as they tried to gallop for cover, Lambie was shot through the head and died instantly. He left behind a wife in Gippsland, Victoria. The Age reported:

"It is with the deepest regret that we publish the sad news cabled from England of the death of Mr W.J. Lambie special correspondent of The Age in South Africa." (Feb 13, 1900).



AN ESCAPEE FROM THE AMBUSH
Trooper V. S. Peers, 1st Tasmanian Mounted Infantry, who had enlisted from the mining town of Zeehan in Tasmania was one of those who escaped from the ambush. He managed to fight his way back to camp. R.L. (Bob) Wallace recorded "When he was stopped by a wire fence his horse was shot from under him by Boers coming up not far behind. With the bullets flying around Peers made a dash for the rocky side of a kopje. He was soon followed up the kopje by two Boers. In a close fight amid the rocks he shot them both. He then went looking for the Boers' horses. Suddenly

he came face to face with a third Boer. Both men fired simultaneously. The Boer fell severely wounded and Peers received a grazing wound on the neck. Almost immediately he shot dead a fourth Boer near a low bush. Although forced to lie low for long intervals because of the enemy in the vicinity Peers trudged on slowly through the night, walking more than five miles. He finally reached camp at 3 a.m. in a weakened condition from the effects of his wound.



Tpr. V.S. Peers
1st Tasmanian M.I.



Boer War 'veterans' discuss the campaign at the Shrine of Remembrance on Sunday 27 May 2012

**QUEENS SOUTH
AFRICA MEDAL**

Often it is the discovery of this medal amongst family effects that is the first indication about an ancestor's Boer War service. Possibly many more Australian families can boast a Boer War veteran than is generally believed.

The QSA is a very beautiful medal struck in sterling silver. It has the 'old' head of Queen Victoria on the obverse and Britannia saluting the troops on the reverse. (see over)



In Memoriam

Anderson, James William	1st VMR
Edwards, Samuel William	1st VMR
Hicks, William [21]	1st VMR
Patterson, Charles	1st VMR
Ross, John	1st VMR
Sampson, Francis Horatio [72]	1st VMR
Bayley, Henry [173] Private	2 VMR
Coustley, Robert [200] Private	2 VMR
Duff, Charles DeVertus [144] Private	2 VMR
Fechner, Gustav Heinrich [171] Private	2 VMR & 2ACH
Fechner, John William [172] Private	2 VMR
Hillman, Alfred [352] Private	2 VMR
Jewell, (Benjamin) Thomas [198] Private	2 VMR
Lockwood, James [151] Private	2 VMR
Murcutt, Joseph [353] Private	2 VMR
White, David [265] Private, also 5VMR	2 VMR
Yorston, Kenneth [184] Private	2 VMR
Dobbin, William Wood, Major	3 Vic Bmn
Gartside, Robert, Lieutenant	3 Vic Bmn
Hammond, Stanley [593] Private	3 Vic Bmn
Barton, Henry George [593] Corporal	4 Imp.Bmn
Cameron, John Alexander [32] Private	4 Imp.Bmn
Fisher, Edward [300] Corporal	4 Imp.Bmn
Gorman, George Henry [97] Private	4 Imp.Bmn
Hoare, John Richard [533] Lance Corporal	4 Imp.Bmn
Johnstone, Arthur Leslie [46] Corporal/Sgt	4 Imp.Bmn
Lugg, James Samuel [514] Private	4 Imp.Bmn
Johnson, Alfred Herbert [448] Private	Imp.Bmn
Perry, Jacob [353] Private	4 Imp.Bmn & 2ACH
Post, Peter James [91] Private	4 Imp Bmn & 4ACH
Reid, William Arnold [246] Private	4 Imp Bmn
Ryan, James Cue [417] Private	4 Imp Bmn
Schaeche, David [550] Private	4 Imp Bmn
Trevithick, Edward [247] Lance Corporal	4 Imp Bmn
Witton, George [86] Corporal	4 Imp Bmn
Kelly, John Francis, Captain	5 VMR
Kuhle, Gus	5 VMR
Mackley, William	5 VMR
Muir, Ronald Thomas	5 VMR
Davern, Arthur Valentine	4ACH
Patterson, William G.	4ACH
Wittingslow, W.J.	4ACH
Copeland, Alexander	6ACH
Fechner, Carl Albert	6ACH
Moss, Benjamin Charles	Scot.Horse
Muir, Lawrence Stewart	Scot.Horse
Muir, Ronald Thomas	Scot.Horse
Willoughby, Samuel	1 Tas IB
Heery, Thomas Joseph	3/NSWVR
Schaeche, Archibald Walter	1/NSW Imp.Bmn
Webster, Joseph	A Sq 1/NSWVR
Hammond, Frederick	3/QIB
Curtis, William Stewart	4WAMI
Dunstan, William John	5WAMI

Matthews, Alfred	Damants Horse
Langford, William Jones	South African Light Horse
Bracken, Thomas Francis	Kitcheners Fighting Scouts
Patterson, Eugene	Roberts Horse
Hellet, Harold	Natal Police
Smithers, Phillip	Gordon Highlanders

Named, but unit not identified

(or incorrectly identified):

Anderson, Frederick
Gourlay, Garnet Rupert
Hanigan, Harold Leslie
McTaggart, Douglas
Muir, Alexander James
Reid, Henry
Ross, David

These 'In Memoriam' notices were lodged by descendants during the Boer War Day Service at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne on Sunday 27 May 2012

QUEENS SOUTH AFRICA MEDAL

The QSA medal was issued to all who served in South Africa unless in those rare cases where a man was 'black listed' for some serious misdemeanour.. The first minting of the medal had the dates '1899 to 1900' embossed on the reverse when it was thought that the war was about to end in 1900. Very few of these were issued (mainly to some of Lord Strathcona's Horse). The dates were then erased from the medals before issue. The consequent variation in metal densities caused the medals, when slightly tarnished, to show 'ghost dates'. A later mintage did not have this phenomenon.

The QSA medal was generally issued with one or more clasps. There were 26 of these and they give a guide to the service of the recipient during the war. Five of them were 'State' clasps which were issued for service in a particular province when the recipient had not qualified for a 'defence' 'relief' or 'battle' bar.



The maximum number of bars which could be on a QSA was nine but they are extremely rare as only a handful of them were issued. Even eight bar medals are very rare. It is believed that only 10 eight bar medals were issued to men in the Australian contingents and we received no nine bar medals. Australians were involved in all actions during the war but the men serving in the contingents which went from Australia did not receive the bars for the Natal campaign as they were involved mainly in the push for Kimberley and Pretoria in the early stages.

The rarest bars to the Australian contingents are 'Belmont' & 'Modder River' which were gained by about 28 men of the NSW Lancers, and 'Relief of Mafeking' which was awarded to 110 men of the 3rd Queensland Mounted Infantry. Many of these QMI men were also present at the Defence of Elands River.