

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, DFC *Chief of the Defence Force*

Queensland Patron
Mr Campbell Newman *Former Lord Mayor of Brisbane*



1899



1902

MONUMENTALLY SPEAKING

- Queensland Edition -

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Quarterly Newsletter of the National Boer War Memorial Association – Queensland

“A Man For All Seasons”



**The last photograph of Arnold Wienholt,
taken shortly before he was killed**

Qld Chairman's Report

Welcome to the 11th Queensland National Boer War Memorial Association newsletter.



Just where are we with the Project?

We are trying to educate the current Australian Population that 23,000 Colonial troops served in the conflict and 1,000 of them did not return, and that those who did, returned as Australian Troops to a new Nation. As yet we still do not have a memorial to them in the national capital. It certainly is a most important part of our history that has to be recognised.

We are undertaking this education through this newsletter, presentations to interested groups, having schools involved, holding commemoration services for the last major battle in the Boer War, and the signing of the Peace Treaty on 31st May 1902. We have also started a Supporter's Group to further spread our information.

We have also started a National Petition to convince the government that many Australians want this memorial to complete our early military history. A copy of the Petition is included within the newsletter and I am asking you to obtain as many signatures as possible and forward them back to us. The State RSL has agreed to send the Petition state wide.

The State of the Monument

After many months of working with a Project Manager through many designs, a preferred option has now been prepared for the Government. This submission was presented to the Canberra National Memorials Committee (CNMC) on the 24th November. We now await the formal decision from the Minister.

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

On 31st May 2011 a Commemoration Ceremony was 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. The day was supported by the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (QMI). There were similar ceremonies all over Australia on the 29th May.

We all realize that the annual commemoration of Boer War Day must be continued and so next year Qld. will host its third commemorative event on the 31st May in ANZAC Square with the support of the Army Band, the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (QMI) and the Historical Troop.

AGM 2011

The AGM was held in Sydney at Victoria Barracks Paddington on the 5th September.

This was followed by a National Committee Meeting.

Qld. News

We have just received advice from Qld. Government Dept. of Building Industry and Information and Communication Technology that our application to the Community Memorials Restoration Program has been successful. This grant with the donations from Kedron Wavell Sub-Branch, Brisbane North District, Sherwood Indooroopilly RSL Sub-Branch and Sherwood Services Club will allow us to clean and restore the Lt L.J Caskey memorial in Toowong Cemetery, in time for the 111th anniversary of his death in September 2012.

6th Feb 2012: The Commemoration Service for the Battle of Onverwacht Hills. This will be conducted once again at the Sherwood Cemetery and commemorates the last major battle of the Boer War in which 2 Queenslanders were killed. Hope to see you there.

May I wish you all the compliments of the season and we all look forward to an even more productive year in 2012



Ron McElwaine
Chairman Qld Committee of NBWMA



Dates to mark in your diary for next year:

**6th February 2012 Commemoration Service at the Sherwood Cemetery.
Morning Tea after at the Sherwood/Indooroopilly RSL Sub Branch**

**31st May 2012 the commemorative service in ANZAC Square
Her Excellency The Governor of Qld has been invited to attend.
July 2012 [date to be advised] Reserve Forces Day Qld.**



**September 2012 [date to be advised] Lt Caskey Memorial Toowong
Cemetery**

Editorial

Our feature article this issue is one we will be serializing in three parts. It is a long story, but one worthy of telling. If you remember in the September issue, our feature article told of the 'The Men from Wondai'. Following this story I had an email from Major General 'Digger' James telling me he had a story about the life of Boer War soldier Sgt Arnold Weinholt of the 4th Qld Imperial Bushman. The story begins on page 5. I trust you will enjoy reading about this man's interesting life.

In our March 2012 issue, a new format will be used to include a page each for Western Australia and the Northern Territory NBWMA Committees. We look forward to welcoming them on board.

I recently attended the Reserve Forces Council 2012 Launch in Sydney, which was held over the weekend of 25th -27th November 2011. Congratulations to Lt COL John Moore and his team for a well organised and enjoyable weekend. You will find photos of the launch throughout this issue.

The Reserve Forces Council Day in 2012 will be adopting a Boer War theme and commemorating the 110th anniversary of the conclusion of the war. The following is what has been sent to the descendants who registered their ancestor.

"Reserve Forces Day is held on or near 1 July every year in recognition of those who train part time (in the Militia, Citizen, or Reserve Forces) and serve their country in peace and war. Parades are held in most capital cities, and many regional centres. In 2012 it is proposed to invite the descendants of those who served in the Boer War to be part of the commemoration and be presented with medallions in honour of the occasion. In order for the Reserve Forces Day Council to invite you to be so honoured, it will be necessary for your contact details to be passed on.*

The poem on page 13 is one about a topical and controversial subject – "Breaker Morant". This poem was not written by Morant, but for him. I found it very moving, written by another brother of the pen.

How quickly the year passes, and Christmas is with us again. Your support and friendship during the year of 2011 has been immeasurable, and the words "thank you" don't seem to be enough. So in 2012, we will once again be asking for support by way of donations. To our Supporters Group, 2012 is shaping up to be a big year, and we will be calling on you for assistance where possible.

From the Qld Committee, we wish you and your family a very Happy Christmas. Be safe, and enjoy the holiday season.



Colleen O'Leary
Editor



Feature Article**Captain Arnold Wienholt, DSO MC and Bar
Bush Scout and Intelligence Officer****“Early days and the South African War”****- Part One of Three -**

Arnold Wienholt was an Australian, born in Queensland in 1877, and in the Great War East African campaign he became an outstanding British intelligence officer. His father was a farmer who sent him to Eton for his education and then employed him on the family estates. During the South African (Boer) War Arnold enlisted in the 4th (Queensland Imperial Bushmen) Contingent, serving from May 1900 until August 1901. He was soon promoted to the rank of sergeant and established a reputation for firmness and fairness.

Lion hunting in Angola

After the war he then resumed life as a farmer and also entered politics in 1909, holding a seat in the Legislative Assembly until 1913. That year he failed to win a political position and decided to visit Portuguese West Africa (now Angola) to hunt lion. Sailing to Capetown in South Africa he then took a coastal boat to Luderitz in German South West Africa (now Namibia).

From there he used the German rail system to the northern inland town of Grootfontein and then trekked north with a wagon to the Okavango River and crossed over into Angola. Arnold spent nearly a year north of the Okavango hunting for food and attempting to track lion, something which his African helpers could not understand – food yes, but lion, why?

Finally Arnold shot and wounded a lion but on following it up next day the lion charged and savaged him, biting and breaking his right wrist and damaging his shoulder before leaving him. When he had persuaded his Africans to come down from the trees that they had climbed Arnold got back to camp, cleaned his twelve wounds with carbolic soap and set his broken wrist and injured arm on a piece of pine board.

Arnold then withdrew across the Okavango and through the Caprivi Strip, learning that war had been declared in Europe. At Schuckmansburg in the east of the Caprivi Strip he met a party of Rhodesian troops who had occupied this former German post. A military doctor there operated on his wounded hand, and Arnold continued to Livingstone in Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia) where a railway line led south to Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) and South Africa. Arnold offered his services as a scout as he had recent knowledge of northern German South West Africa, which South African troops were shortly to invade, to both the Southern Rhodesian and South African authorities. However his application was dismissed by General Smuts in South Africa and Arnold returned to Australia.

Enlistment as a Rhodesian Border Scout

After being told by an eminent surgeon that his right wrist and arm could not be improved (pieces of splintered bone kept working out) Arnold returned to South Africa seeking military service. He failed again, but moving up to Salisbury in Southern Rhodesia he was successfully enlisted as an Intelligence Scout along with three other men that he knew. They were all signed on as special service troopers in the British South African Police and tasked with scouting the Rhodesian, Angolan and German South West African borders.

Arnold was now squeezing his rifle trigger with his second finger. The four men split into pairs but unfortunately one man in the other pair named Sinclair shot a charging lion and wounded it, but it attacked again and killed him just as Sinclair himself killed the lion with his knife. Arnold worked north of the Okavango River again and struck up a good relationship with the Portuguese authorities in their isolated posts. Although Portugal was at that time neutral German troops crossed the Okavango and destroyed several Portuguese forts.

The reason for this seemed to be retaliation because the Portuguese authorities were not allowing (at the request of the British) any kind of supplies to cross their border into German South West Africa. The Scouts collected information from the Portuguese and from friendly Chiefs and Headmen in African villages. German patrols in Angola were not the only enemy as some South African Afrikaaner rebels who had joined the Germans also crossed into Angola as the South African invasion force pushed its way northwards through German South West Africa.

On 9 July 1915 the enemy forces in German South West Africa surrendered to the South African General Botha. A number of German soldiers and more South African rebels crossed the Okavango to seek sanctuary and internment with the Portuguese and Arnold and the other Scouts managed to capture some of the rebels. However the Scouts also gathered information about a group of eight Germans who



were planning to ride camels (the Germans had used an effective Camel Corps in German South West Africa) across Northern Rhodesia to join the German forces in German East Africa (now Tanzania). Major Robert Gordon DSO, the Head of Rhodesian Intelligence (and himself a Queenslander from Australia), came to join Arnold as they tracked the enemy party for eight days across 135 miles of bush. The Germans were surrounded and captured on 17 September 1915 and taken as prisoners to Livingstone. For his duties as a Border Scout Arnold received a mention in the Despatch sent by Lord Buxton, the High Commissioner for South Africa.

Now that all the former enemy troops in German South West Africa had been accounted for Arnold was discharged from the Rhodesian forces and he sailed from Cape Town to Bombay, India. From there he took the train to Delhi to seek military employment in Mesopotamia (now Iraq) where British and Indian troops were fighting the Turks. But the recruiters at Delhi only wanted men for Mesopotamia who were able to navigate and manage river-boats and motor launches, so Arnold was advised to go to East Africa where a hard campaign was being fought against determined German forces under the command of Colonel Paul Von Lettow-Vorbeck.



Above: Oberst Paul von Lettow-Vorbeck, commander of the German Troops in German East Africa

Enlistment in the East African Mounted Rifles

Sailing to Mombasa in British East Africa (now Kenya) Arnold enlisted in the East African Mounted Rifles. This was a volunteer unit of Europeans who had settled in British East Africa and it was based at Longido, a mountain in German East Africa positioned just across the border to the south of Nairobi. Arnold was serving in the Scout Troop of the East African Mounted Rifles and on 5 March 1916 he took part in the advance of the British 1st Division from Longido to Moshi, and then moved on to observe some stiff fighting at Kahe, a few miles to the south. Here, after defending well from good entrenched positions in thick bush, the Germans skilfully broke contact and withdrew, a tactic that the British were to see repeated time after time. The East African Mounted Rifles then rode to Arusha and the Scouts assisted in forcing the surrender, on 6 April 1916, of over 130 Germans and their Askari (African soldiers) plus 300 porters at Lolkisale, a hill on the route to Kondoa Irangi. The seasonal and extremely heavy rains now set in and the East African Mounted Rifles went into camp until mid-May.

Transfer into the East African Intelligence Department

At this point, May 1916, Arnold and five other Scouts were posted to the East African Intelligence Department as Warrant Officers Class I. He subsequently wrote: '*... for then began the happiest and most interesting part of our war service in East Africa*'. Arnold was teamed up with another Australian Ivan Lewis who had been accompanying him and with an East African settler Scout called Buster Brown (who later wrote a book about his intelligence exploits under the name of Christopher J. Thornhill). These three, along with a small party of armed African Intelligence Scouts, would ride ahead of the British advance down the Pangani River, seeking information about German dispositions and movements from local villagers. Regular return visits were made to the vanguard of the British advance to report useful information and observations. This was dangerous and also hungry work. Ration supplies were generally inadequate as the British commander General Smuts took no interest in logistics, and shooting game was not

possible without alerting the enemy. Most supplies were carried from the nearest railhead on African porters' heads and there were never enough porters as their work was hard and dangerous. The tsetse fly also killed a massive number of British animals. During 1916 the British lost many thousands of horses, whilst oxen and mules in tsetse fly areas were expected to live only six weeks. The animals died from disease, overwork and from lack of proper fodder and oats. The Scouts themselves regularly contracted malaria, and health conditions were so bad that for every British soldier killed ten others needed hospitalisation for tropical diseases. During the last four months of 1916 around 12,000 white troops were medically evacuated to South Africa, seriously weakening the strength of the British forces in East Africa.



Above: German Schutztruppe marches through Portuguese East Africa.

Next issue.....THE CONTINUING STORY OF Captain Arnold Wienholt.

REQUEST TO ALL DESCENDANTS – BECOME A SUPPORTER!

All of you who have registered as a Descendant of a Boer War Soldier are a vital and a valued part of our campaign to obtain Government recognition and financial support in our campaign to have a National Boer War Memorial erected on Anzac Parade in Canberra. The numbers are growing daily and will soon give the “pollies” something to think about and respect. We thank you also for donations you have made.

There is another way in which you could help us, and that is by joining the “Boer War Memorial Supporters Group, Qld”. An application form to join is included in this copy of Monumentally Speaking. It also explains in more detail the reasons and purpose behind this group, and its informal nature.

The annual subscription of \$15 will help defray operating costs, such as Newsletters and other mail-outs throughout Queensland. This will preserve donations for their real purpose which is to get a memorial approved and built in Canberra.

SOUTH AFRICAN CHOCOLATE TIN.

This is what the chocolate tins looked like, that was sent to the boys serving in the UDF (Union Defence Force of South Africa) in WW2. Ouma (Nanna) Isie was a mother figure to the troops. When I was in the Defence Force in 1988-89, the wife of the then State President PW Botha, Elize Botha headed the Sothern Cross fund that provided small stationary bags with a number of items included for the boys doing National Service. I still have the bag. – Mike Hanslow



One of our descendants, Patricia Barnes, sent me these photos of the Queen Victoria Chocolate Tin still with the chocolate inside.

If you look close enough you can see the makers name 'Rowntree'

Fundraising Merchandise

Queen Victoria Chocolate Tin – Slouch Hats



This is another re-creation of the original Queen Victoria Chocolate Tin from 1900 and is on sale from the Victorian Committee.

The tin (Size: 204 x 60 x 26 mm) contains 8 Slouch Hat chocolates and a brief history of the Slouch Hat in the Boer War and costs only \$25 per tin + postage. Allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.

Boer War Service Plaques

225 x 175 mm engraved wood suitable for wall mounting as a family reminder of your ancestor's Boer War service. A range of new plaques are now available.



Lapel Pin

\$7.50 each

Very few left, soon will be a collectors item.



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].

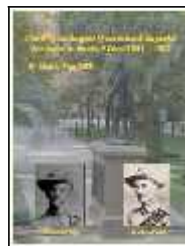
[Version with chest pocket – 50 cents extra]

History of the 5th Queensland Imperial Bushmen

by Alan Fogg MBE

Books sell for \$15.00 each + postage.

Copies can be obtained from Ron McElwaine, Qld Chairman [m] 0419 678 721



Boer War Stickers

Stickers can be purchased for \$2 each.



CASKEY MEMORIAL - TOOWONG CEMETERY BRISBANE

Lt Lachlan John Caskey was killed in action at Mokari Drift in South Africa in September 1901 and buried near the site of his death. He was a well known Queensland School Teacher and prominent sportsman [born at Spring Creek on the Darling Downs]. A memorial to honour him was built by public subscription and dedicated when his Regiment, 5th Queensland Imperial Bushmen returned to Brisbane early May 1902.

Miss MacLean, President of FOTC has been most supportive in our bid to obtain State Government funding assistance to have the memorial to Lt Lachlan John Caskey refurbished.

The funding now approved, will be on a dollar for dollar basis, and our Committee has obtained pledges for our share. All going well an appropriate ceremony will be conducted at the Memorial in September 2012—the anniversary of his death.



LT COL Miles Farmer OAM (Retd)



Council members and Guests at the recent Reserve Forces Day National Conference, Victoria Barracks NSW

Centenary of the Royal Australian Navy

The Service was the Centenary of the Royal Australian Navy; 1911-2011 was conducted by the Friends of Toowong Cemetery (FOTC) at the memorial in Toowong Cemetery on Sunday 6 November 2011.

Miles Farmer the Qld BWM Committee member attended the annual Remembrance Day Service. It was followed by a tour of a number of graves of naval personnel buried in the Toowong Cemetery. The tour was conducted by Miss Hilda MacLean, President of the FOTC. Commander Tony Roper RANR was the Guest of Honour, and Mrs Judy Magub, a former councillor, was the celebrant.

The Toowong Cemetery contains an untold wealth of Brisbane and Queensland history. For anyone interested they would find a "Guided Heritage Walk of Toowong Cemetery" most worthwhile. These walks are conducted on the first Sunday of the month at 10.30 am, with a different theme every month. The last for 2011 is 4 December, and the first for 2012 will be 5 February. [www.toowong.cemetery.org.au]



LT COL Miles Farmer OAM (Retd), Hilda MacLean, Cmdr Tony Roper

TOUR OF SOUTH AFRICAN BATTLEFIELDS & OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST

A tour of South African battlefields focusing on those in which Qld units took part is being considered for 2012. Other place of interest will also be included.

A Goal-wall Inscription

A volley – crack, a puff of smoke
The dead the murderer grins;
Come, cover with the Charity-clock
That multitude of sins.
And though some blame and count it
shame,
I won't withhold the tear
For the cold heart, the bold heart,
That ceased its beating here.

They say his debts he oft forgot,
But one he settled up!
They say he used to drink a lot-
His last was a bitter cup!
And right or wrong, or weak or strong,
I can't keep back the tear
For the Devil-heart, the rebel heart
That ceased its beating here.

I know he went from bad to worse,
I know what ill he wrought,
But I have seen him on a horse,
And heard of how he fought;
And, fool or wise, I own my eyes
Are troubled with a tear
For the rough heart, the tough heart,
That ceased its beating here.

A sorry life of drink and debt
That finished with the shift Men
give the murderer, and yet Was
his the singer's gift;
A scrap of song 'gainst a world of wrong!
I know! – But here's a tear
For the Crime heart, the Rhyme-heart
That ceased its beating here.

Some heels may spurn The Breaker's
grave
Some mouths thereon may spit,
But some have owned to hands that gave
A wreath to even it;
And here's a meed of poor word - weed
Would fain express the tear
For that Other-heart, that Brother-heart
That ceased its beating here.



This memorial of 'The Breaker' was written by a brother poet in the Bulletin, The Rev. Gordon Tidy [he wrote under the pen name of ['Mousquetaire']]. It crystallized the feeling aroused by news of Morant's fate when it reached Australia. The painting below was by Pro Hart.

Source: "Pro Hart's Breaker Morant' compiled by Dawn Ross.
Published by Rigby Publishers Ltd. Published 1981. Copyright @ 1981 Kevin C Hart.



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.



Reserve Forces Day National & NSW Launch 2012



- The Parade from Hyde Park to the Forecourt of NSW Parliament House -

