

# Pretoriana



TYDSKRIF VAN DIE GENOOTSKAP OUD-PRETORIA  
PRETORIASE HISTORIESE VERENIGING

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**LYS VAN BESTUURSLEDE VAN DIE  
HISTORIESE VERENIGING VAN PRETORIA  
GENOOTSKAP OUD-PRETORIA OP 1 OKTOBER 1985**

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Daar is stelle *Pretoriana*'s met uitgawes vanaf die vroeë jare vyftig, by die Genootskap beskikbaar. Skryf 'n briefie aan Anton Jansen, Posbus 33704, Glenstantia 0010, Pretoria, of nog makliker, skakel sy kantoor nommer 70 6456 of na kantoortyd 47 5838 om 'n stel *Pretoriana*'s te bestel.

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## VAN DIE REDAKSIE

As vervolg van Dr. N.A. Coetzee se artikel oor sy herontdekking van Paul Kruger se familiebybel in Pretoria lig die redakteur die lesers in oor die nuwe eienaar van hierdie waardevolle boek ná die veiling daarvan. — Dr. Coetzee deel die uitslag van die skooltuinwedstryd in 1984 mee. — Twee skrywers werp lig op die tuisfront in Pretoria tydens die Tweede Anglo-Boere-oorlog 1899-1902: Mevrou Bridget Theron het 'n Magistersverhandeling oor die lewe in ons stad tot die Britse besetting op 5 Junie 1900 geskryf; ek beveel die lees van haar belangwekkende werk graag aan; Kol. Dr. J. Ploeger publiseer in ons tydskrif 'n artikel oor die verskaffing van voedsel en werk aan Pretorianers onder die Britse besetting.

Mnr. J. Wolterbeek, senior lektor in sterrekunde aan die Universiteit van Suid-Afrika, bied 'n bydrae oor die sterrewag op die plaas Broederstroom aan die Hartbeespoortdam aan, waar die Nasionale Opelugmuseum sal verrys. Daar is 'n gepaste aanleiding om sy bydrae op te neem: die sterrewag sal in 1986 talle besoekers uit Suid-Afrika en die buiteland ontvang wat die komeet van Halley wil waarneem. Die naburige woonhuis van Gustav Preller op Pelindaba heet ook „Sterrewag”.

Op 8 Junie 1985 is 'n gedenkplaat van die Raad vir Nasionale Gedenkwaardighede (RNG) by die Britse militêre begraafplaas by Donkerhoek onthul ter herdenking van die groot slag wat op 11 en 12 Junie 1900 daar gelewer is. Die onthulling is verrig deur Weermag-generaal C.L. Viljoen; sy toespraak is in hierdie uitgawe afgedruk. Digby die gedenkplaat is 'n maket van die slagveld geplaas; dit is in die Nasionale Kultuurhistoriese Museum vervaardig. Dit was 'n stylvolle plegtigheid.

Mnr. Arnold Kretzmar het in *Pretoria News* van 15 Februarie 1984 'n artikel oor die eerste motorvoertuig te Pretoria in 1897 geplaas. Hierdie feit is van historiese betekenis; daarom is sy artikel hier heropgeneem.

Die bydrae deur Dr. N.A. Coetzee oor Mnr. John J. Kirkness, steenfabrikant en vooraanstaande sakeman in ons stad, wat in *Pretoriana* No. 86, Desember 1984, verskyn het, is in Engels vertaal en hier herplaas.

Robert C. de Jong het in 1981 'n Magistersverhandeling geskryf oor die Pretoriase Nederlanders in 1890-1918 en hul groot bydrae tot die kultuurlewe in hierdie stad. Sy werk is slegs in 'n klein aantal eksemplare beskikbaar; daarom word in hierdie uitgawe die samevattinge in Afrikaans en in Engels opgeneem.

Ter herinnering aan die Nederlandsche Zuid-Afrikaansche Spoorweg-Maatschappij (NZASM) verwys die redakteur na die lokomotief en rytuig van dié maatskappy in die hoofstasie te Pretoria. — Daarna volg 'n bespreking van Mnr. J.W. Meijer se Magistersverhandeling oor Herman J. Coster en 'n aantekening deur Mnr. G.R. Mulder oor die ou kareboom by Silkaatsnek, waar in 1864 'n nasionale versoening plaasgevind het. — Uit die brosjure *Pioneer Sketches* wat deur Mnr. T.E. Andrews oor persone in die Ou Begraafplaas begrawe saamgestel en uitgegee is, tref die leser aantekeninge oor sommige van hulle aan die einde van *Pretoriana* No. 88 aan.

## FROM THE EDITOR

As a sequel to Dr. N.A. Coetzee's article about his rediscovery of Paul Kruger's family bible in Pretoria the Editor informs the readers on the new owner of this valuable book after its auctioning. — Dr. Coetzee gives the results of the school garden competition of 1984. — Two authors shed light on the home front at Pretoria during the Second Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902: Mrs. Bridget Theron has written a Master's thesis about life in our town up to the British occupation on 5 June 1900; I recommend her very interesting work with pleasure. Col. Dr. J. Ploeger publishes in this issue of *Pretoriana* an article on the provision of food and employment to Pretorians during the British occupation.

Mr. J. Wolterbeek, senior lecturer in astronomy in the University of South Africa, offers a contribution on the observatory at the farm Broederstroom at Hartbeespoortdam, where the National Open Air Museum will be built. There is a good reason for the publication of his article, for the observatory will receive in 1986 many visitors from South Africa and abroad to observe Halley's Comet.

On 8 June 1985 a memorial plaque of the National Monuments Council was unveiled close to the British military cemetery at Diamond Hill to commemorate the great battle waged there on 11 and 12 June 1900. The unveiling was performed by Defence Force-general C.L. Viljoen. His speech is printed in this journal in full. Close to the plaque a maquette of the battlefield has been placed; it was made in the National Cultural History and Open Air Museum. It was a solemn meeting.

Mr. Arnold Kretzmar published an article on the first motorcar at Pretoria in 1897, in *Pretoria News* of 15 February 1984. This is a fact of some historical importance; therefore his article is reprinted in this issue. — Dr. N.A. Coetzee's paper on Mr. John J. Kirkness, brick manufacturer and prominent businessman in our town, published in *Pretoriana* Nr. 86, December 1984, has been translated into English and appears in this issue. — Mr. Robert C. de Jong wrote in 1981 a Master's thesis on the Pretorian Dutch 1890-1918 and their considerable contribution to cultural life in this town; his work is only available in a limited number of copies; therefore the summaries of his work in Afrikaans and English are reprinted here.

To remind the Nederlandsche Zuid-Afrikaansche Spoorweg Maatschappij (NZASM) the Editor refers to the locomotive and carriage of this company in the main station at Pretoria. — Thereafter he reviews Mr. J.W. Meijer's Master's thesis on Herman J. Coster, a good work. He adds a note by Mr. G.R. Mulder on the old karee tree at Silkaatsnek where a national reconciliation took place in 1864. — From Mr. T.E. Andrews' *Pioneer Sketches* on persons who were buried in the Old Cemetery, some are borrowed and reprinted at the end of this issue, *Pretoriana* Nr. 88.

## DIE FAMILIEBYBEL VAN PAUL KRUGER GEVEIL

In *Pretoriana* No. 86 van Desember 1984, p. 4-8, het Dr. N.A. Coetzee berig dat die familiebybel van die latere Staatspresident S.J.P. Kruger op sy plaas Boekenhoutfontein by Rustenburg bewaar is en dat Britse soldate dit in April 1902 in die stat van hoofman Magata buitgemaak en na Engeland saamgeneem het. Nakomelinge van die Britse eienaar daarvan, lord Harmsworth, het die Bybel in 1949 deur die bekende kunshandel Sotheby in Londen laat veil. Die kosbare boek is gekooi deur die antkwariaat Israel & Kie te Amsterdam. Hy het die boek verkoop aan 'n Nederlander wat na Suid-Afrika geëmi-greer het. Dr. N.A. Coetzee het einde 1984 die Bybel by sy seun in Pretoria opgespoor en dit by hom besigtig. Die seun, 'n oud-Nederlander, het die Bybel op 7 Februarie 1985 weer laat opveil, toe deur 'n filiaal van Sotheby in Johannesburg. Die South African Press Association het daaroor in die *South African Digest* van 15 Februarie 1985 die volgende berig:

„Kruger Bible fetches R18 000

President Paul Kruger's family Bible has been sold for R18 000 at an auction in Johannesburg. The buyer was Dr. A. Shapiro, a wellknown figure in Johannesburg auction houses. The Bible was presented to President Kruger in 1864 by A.K. Hohls, a member of the Hermannsburg Missionary Society, according to the auction house. It was taken for safekeeping to Magatostad, a tribal village near President Kruger's son's home in the Rustenburg district during the Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902. It was found by a British soldier and taken to England, where it went into the collection of Sir Leicester Harmsworth.

Sir Leicester's library was sold in 1949 and the Bible passed into the hands of a dealer. In 1951 it was bought from the firm by the previous owner's father.”

Sotheby in Johannesburg het Dr. Coetzee meegedeel dat die adres van die koper is: Dr. Alishai Shapiro, 1805 High Rise, Primrose Terrace, Berea, Johannesburg. Die verkoper van die Bybel wil onbekend bly.

C. de Jong

## RESULTAAT VAN DIE SKOOLTUINEKOMPETISIE IN DIE DISTRIK PRETORIA 1984

Historiese Vereniging van Pretoria – Genootskap Oud-Pretoria  
Pretoria, 11 Februarie 1985

Aan die Hoofde van Laerskole in Pretoria

Geagte Meneer,

U word van harte bedank vir u deelname in die Genootskap Oud-Pretoria se Skooltuine-kompetisie vir die Skoolraadsdistrik Pretoria. Die uitslag is soos volg deur Mnr. J.E. Repton beoordeel.

1984

1e prys	Skild	Rachel de Beer	Pretoria-Noord
2e prys	Skild	Fleur	Lyttelton Manor
3de prys	beker	Mayville	Mayville
4de prys	beker	Wonderboom	Annlin
5de prys	beker	Die Poort	Kameeldrif
6de prys	Voorpos		Waverley

Hierdie skole word van harte gelukkigewens en die skole wat nie pryse verower het nie word baie bedank vir die wedywering wat hulle help bevorder het. Ons hoop vir die beste vir die toekoms.

Die pryswennende skole word versoek om op een of ander stadium 'n funksie te hou waar die prys voor die kinders in die skoolsaal oorhandig kan word. By so 'n geleentheid sal die Genootskap Oud-Pretoria graag verteenwoordig wil wees, en sal 'n paar woorde aan die kinders en personeel gerig word.

Die pryswennende skole word versoek om self die skild of beker te laat haal by die skole waar dit op die oomblik gehou word. Bel die skool en maak 'n reëling om die skild of beker te laat aflewer of te laat haal. Vir hierdie reëling word hier die pryswenners vir die vorige twee jaar aangegee, waar die beker nog moet wees of die skild nog gehou word, afhangende of daar in die vorige jare 'n funksie gehou was.

1982

1983

1e Prys	Skild	Laerskool	Derdepoort	Laerskool	Die Poort
2e "	Skild	Laerskool	Monument Park	Laerskool	Derdepoort Jan Niemand
3e "	Beker	Laerskool	Stephanus Roos	Laerskool	Lynnwood Ridge
4e "	Beker	Laerskool	Wonderboom	Laerskool	Fleur
5e "	Beker	Laerskool	Valhalla	Laerskool	Kwaggasrand
6e "	Beker	Laerskool	Skuilkrans, Murrayfield	Laerskool	Voorpos

Die Genootskap sal dit baie waardeer as die skole self die trofee in die hande sal kry, en as daar probleme is my sal opbel by 463142 Pretoria.

Ook word die pryswennende skole versoek om die graving op die trofee self en teen eie koste te laat aanbring.

Om die Genootskap se voorsitter te skakel vir die funksie wat vir die oorhandiging gereël word, moet u 463142 Pretoria skakel.

Hoogagting die uwe  
dr. N.A. Coetzee Voorsitter

## THE HOME FRONT AT PRETORIA DURING THE WAR OF 1899-1902

In war records the military operations usually draw most of the space, more than the activities behind the front line at the home front. Nevertheless these activities deserve much attention because generally the military operations are affected by the situation behind the lines, such as the provision of arms, ammunition, food, clothes and medical care and the morale of the non-combatant population.

There are a few publications about the home front in the British colonies and the Boer republics in South Africa during the Second Anglo-Boer War of 1899-1902, but much remains to be researched and published. I feel pleased that I can offer here a review of the recent Master's thesis by Mrs. Bridget Theron on Pretoria during the War before the British occupation of 5 June 1900, and a paper by Col. Dr. J. Ploeger on the provision of food and employment to the population of Pretoria during the British occupation.

Both treatises are well-documented and are valuable contributions. They depict in lively style the atmosphere of a town in a country at war, as one can read in great war novels, such as Margaret Mitchell's *Gone with the Wind* on the Civil War in the United States 1861-65, and as I felt it in different countries in World War II: the approach of the war, week after week, as an inexorable disaster, the mobilization of the army, the departure of most able-bodied men from the offices, factories and shops to the front, the gradually increasing scarcity of food, clothes and most necessities of life, the rise in prices, the daily casualty lists, the arrival of wounded soldiers and prisoners of war, the daily good or bad news from the front, the rumours caused by the hiding of bad news by the official reports, the suspicion against people born in enemy country, the growing tension and despair when the enemy approaches the town closer; week after week, and droves of fugitives arrive, the fighting around the town, the surrender of the town and triumphal entering of the enemy army, the solemn replacement of the beloved national flag with the enemy flag upon most of the buildings. Then ensue the years of enemy occupation with the multitude of foreign soldiers in the streets and shops, harsh



measures, stricter curfew, the queues for purchase of food, soap, candles and other scarce necessities, wild rumours about the war operations and treason, the bitterness against collaborators with the enemy, the conspiracies against the enemy, the escapes or arrests of suspected compatriots, their condemnation and execution by the enemy and the general feeling of defeat and humiliation.

The destruction and misery, caused by the British occupation of Pretoria in 1900-1902 are far exceeded by those in many towns during the two World Wars in other continents, but to the Pretorians they were nevertheless very trying.

C. de Jong, editor

Review of: Bridget Mary Theron, *A social history of Pretoria during the first phase of the Anglo-Boer War : October 1899 – June 1900*, Master's thesis, University of South Africa, November 1984, 304 pp.

Mrs. Theron gives a detailed and lively survey of commerce, industry and banking, schools and church activities, health care and hospitals for soldiers and civilians, social life and amusement, community services such as sanitation and fire brigades, and amenities, prisoners of war, the experiences of some notable persons and finally the reaction of Pretorians to the approach of the British army and the occupation of the town on 5 June 1900. The account ends with the despairing note of a young English-speaking pro-Boer lady in her diary on 5 June: 'It is all over. Pretoria belongs to England'.

Mrs. Theron's record of the activities and feelings of Pretoria people before the occupation is well written. One of her most interesting chapters is, in my opinion, that on social classes and life on the eve of the war and her remarks on the urbanized descendants of the Afrikaner Voortrekkers and the foreigners, mainly of British or Dutch descent. I recommend with pleasure the reading of her work.

Introduction to: Col. Dr. J. Ploeger, "Aid to indigent people at Pretoria in wartime 1900-1902".

Colonel Dr. Jan Ploeger was military historian of the South African forces and State historian and he is writing a great work in several volumes on the home front during the war in 1899-1902, *inter alia* on the concentration camps for white and non-white people. In the following paper he deals with the distribution of food and other necessities and the provision of employment to needy Pretorians under the British occupation. Many people, even well-to-do persons, had no more income and became dependent on help from the authorities.

It would be interesting for a dietician to ascertain to what extent the rations issued to the Pretorians, as stated by Dr. Ploeger, were sufficient for the upkeep of health. He refers to the understandable fear among fugitives in Pretoria of being sent to concentration camps outside the capital, which camps had a bad reputation because of the high mortality. They refused work and thereby lost their rations rather than being sent to the camps.

Dr. Ploeger's article is a concrete piece of information on circumstances in occupied Pretoria.

In Dr. Ploeger's paper persons below the age of 10 or 15 years are indicated with -10 or -15, persons of the age of 10 or 15 years and older are indicated with +10 or +15.

# HULP AAN BEHOEFTIGES TE PRETORIA IN OORLOGSTYD (1900 – 1902)

deur Kol. Dr. Jan Ploeger

## INLEIDING

In die tot hede ongepubliseerde proefskrif van dr. H.M. Buys: *Militêre regering in Transvaal, 1900–1902* (U P 1972), kom 'n aantal gegewens voor in verband met hulp wat tydens die Tweede Vryheidsoorlog aan behoeftiges te Pretoria verleen is. Tot vandag toe is slegs by wyse van uitsondering aandag aan hierdie besondere aspek van ons stad se geskiedenis gewy. Volgens die skrywer is dit 'n belangrike leemte in ons kennis. Op grond van hierdie oortuiging volg hier 'n aantal aanvullende gegewens wat geen aanspraak maak op volledigheid nie, maar niteenstaande hierdie tekortkoming tog van nut mag wees.

### 1. Hulpverlening voor die Britse besetting van Pretoria en kort daarna

Tydens hierdie periode het die owerhede van die Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek 'n landsomvattende organisasie, bekend as die **Proviant Kommissie**, in die lewe geroep om sowel vir voedselaankope as vir die verspreiding daarvan onder diensdoende burgers en hulle afhanklikes en ander behoeftiges te sorg.

Tewens was daar, voor en ten tye van die Britse militêre besetting van Pretoria, 'n ondersteuningskomitee in die hoofstad werksaam. Die dorp was in 14 wyke verdeel en vir elke wyk was 'n tweetal dames verantwoordelik om gevalle van behoeftigheid na te gaan en verligting te probeer bring. O.m. was mev. (maj) P.E. Erasmus, P. Maré, (ds) Goddefroy, Hollard, N. Mansvelt, burgemeester Potgieter se eggenote, mev. P. Postma en mev. T. Beckett lede van hierdie organisasie, waarna in Engelse bronne verwys is as die **Pretoria Benevolent Society**, terwyl die amptelike benaming vanouds **Gouvernements Ondersteunings Kommissie Pretoria** was.

Na die besetting van die hoofstad was hierdie kommissie gemagtig om goedere by die Britse Direkteur van Voorrade aan te vra<sup>1</sup>. Hierdie organisasie het met Britse hulp tot 26.10.1900 met sy werksaamhede voortgegaan. Op dié datum het kaarte wat aan behoeftiges verstrekkend was, verval<sup>2</sup>.

### 2. Die 'Government Relief Committee'

Na die Britse gesagsoorname te Pretoria en die daaraan voorafgaande plundering van goewermentsvoorradskure, gepaardgaande met die afsnyding van die spoorwegverbinding met Delagoabaai en die lang Britse verbindingslyne na oop hawens, was die voedseltoestand in Pretoria vermoedelik redelik kritiek. Dit was ook 'n moeilike taak om 'n vinnige verbetering in die bevoorrading te bring omdat militêre bevoorrading voorkeur in oorlogstyd geniet het en die vervoermoontlikhede van voorrade per trein beperk was as gevolg van die dravermoë van die spoorwegnet. Aanvalle deur Boere op die spoor-

lyne het ook van tyd tot tyd ontwrigting meegebring. Bowedien het Pretoria se bevolking deur die aankoms van plattelandse vlugteling te egeneem<sup>3</sup>.

Omstreeks 20.6.1900 het die **Government Relief Committee** te Pretoria tot stand gekom<sup>4</sup>. Hierdie komitee wat oor 'n kantoor in die voormalige Hooggeregshofgebou in Bureauaan beskik het, was soos volg saamgestel: Kapt. burggraaf Milton (voorsitter), adv. W.E. Hollard, H. Bosch, E.P.A. Meintjes, Ir. M.E. de Wildt en G.J. Roosegaarde Bisschop (sekretaris)<sup>5</sup>. Hierdie nuwe organisasie, wat ten behoewe van behoeftiges te Pretoria in die lewe groep is, het op 30.6.1900 sy eerste uitdeling gereël<sup>6</sup>.

### 3. Omvang van die werksaamhede

Op 30.6.1900 is voorrade vir 3 dae aan 280 gesinne, m.a.w. aan 1 120 persone, uitgedeel. Op 4.7.1900 was daar 582 gesinne (2 325 persone) wat vir ondersteuning in aanmerking gekom het. Hierdie syfers het op 13.10.1900 tot onderskeidelik 710 en 2 884 gestyg<sup>7</sup>.

Gedurende dié tydperk is die volgende lewensmiddels aan volwassenes en die helfte aan kinders (— 10) uitgedeel: Vleis  $\frac{3}{4}$  pond per dag; meelblom 1 pond per dag; koffie  $\frac{1}{2}$  ons per dag; suiker 2 ons per dag, sout  $\frac{1}{2}$  ons per dag. Weekliks het elke gesin  $\frac{1}{2}$  sak steenkool ontvang. Op 19.7.1900 het die Direkteur van Voorrade gelas dat meel teen 3d per pond verkoop moet word en vyf dae later is die verkoop van meel gestaak. Koffie en suiker is teen 1/6 en 6d per pond verkoop, maar nadat klein hoeveelhede verkoop is het dié voorsiening ook ten einde geloop.

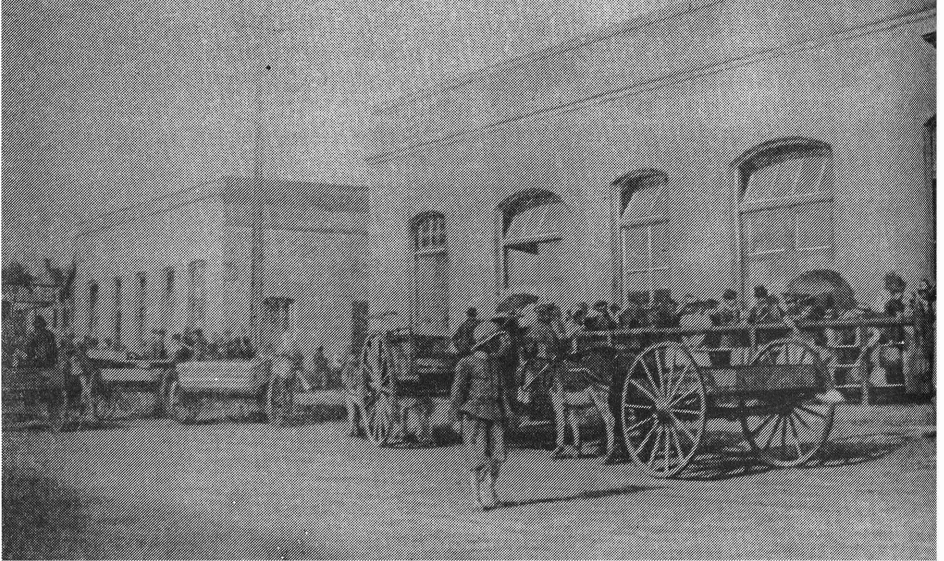
Aan Swartes is hulp verleen, nl. aan siekes en oues van dae, terwyl die ander te werk gestel is. Sendelinge het mieliemeel, vleis, meelblom, suiker, sout en koffie aan hierdie bevolkingsgroep verstrekk. In totaal is oor 'n onbekende tydperk ongeveer £100 vir hierdie doel uitgegee.

Hierdie toestand het tot 20.11.1900 voortgeduur. Op dié datum het maj. Th. Armstrong op besuiniging aangedring, terwyl tydens 'n vergadering — wat op 24.12.1900 onder voorsitterskap van adv. Hollard gehou is — aan die lig gekom het dat 4 518 persone hulp ontvang. Die Direkteur van Voorrade, mnr. C. Hamilton, was by dié byeenkoms aanwesig<sup>8</sup>.

Op 12.1.1901 het die komitee aan vlugteling, behoeftiges en afhanklikes van persone wat vir die stadsraad gewerk het, rantsoene op verskillende weksdae uitgedeel<sup>9</sup>.

In verband met die voedselvoorsiening aan Pretorianers, wat toestemming van die Direkteur van Voorrade ontvang het om voedsel aan te koop solank die spoorwegvervoer deur Boere-optrede onderbreek was, is op 26.9.1900 aangekondig dat daagliks 1 pond meel vir elke volwassene en kind, maar nie meer as in totaal 7 pond per dag nie, teen 3d per pond by die reeds genoemde voormalige Hooggeregshofgebou aangekoop kon word<sup>10</sup>.

Behalwe dat die G.R.C. met voedselvoorsiening en -verkope belas was, was die organisasie ook van die begin af bedrywig op die gebied van werkverskaffing<sup>11</sup>.



Voedseluitdeling aan die burgerbevolking van Pretoria onder Britse besetting in Junie 1901. Die foto is oorgeneem uit H.W. Wilson, *After Pretoria: The guerilla war*, Volume 2, Londen 1902, p.840. Die onderskrif in H.W. Wilson se boek lui: "How Pretoria was fed: civilians drawing their rations, June 1901".

Die twee geboue op die foto is van die regering en het gestaan aan die westekant van die Andriesstraat. Die straatjie tussen die twee geboue heet die Burolaan. Opvallend is die aantal goedgeklede burgers in die toue wat nietemin as behoeftiges voedsel van die owerheid wil gaan ontvang.

Met dank aan Mnr. T.E. Andrews.

#### 4. Werkverskaffing

Op 21.11.1900 het 'n amptelike kennisgewing in die *Government Gazette* verskyn waarin verpligte registrasie in verband met werkverskaffing aangekondig is<sup>12</sup>. Kapt. J. Puckle wat op dié tydstip as voorsitter van die G.R.C. opgetree het, het dié persone wat sou weier om te registreer, gewaarsku dat hulle hulle rantsone sou verbeur. Siekes moes doktersertifikate bring en vir volwassenes is die volgende weeklikse rantsone beskikbaar gestel: Vleis 6 pond; meelblom 6 pond; meliemeel 2 pond; suiker 1 pond; koffie  $\frac{1}{2}$  pond; sout  $\frac{1}{4}$  pond. Kinders (- 15) was geregtig op die helfte en elke gesin sou  $\frac{1}{2}$  sak steenkool per week ontvang. Mans (+15) wat in goewermentsdiens of vir die stadsraad werk, sou  $\frac{2}{6}$  per dag ontvang.

Op 25.11.1900 is berig dat die registrasiekantoor op 27, 29 en 30.10.1900 geopen sou wees. Alle persone wat hulp ontvang het, was verplig om op dié dae te registreer en verklaar watter werk hulle begeer. Indien daar werk beskikbaar was, dan sou hulle te werk gestel word. In verband met weiering om te registreer of om werk te aanvaar of wanneer hulle deur wangedrag ontslaan sou word, sou dié groepe se ondersteuning erval. Ook is bepaal dat vrouens  $\frac{3}{4}$  van die rantsone vir mans sou ontvang<sup>13</sup>.

#### 5. Hulp aan persone wat nie in Pretoria woon nie

Aan gesinne wat buitekant die dorp gewoon het, kon - na goedkeuring deur die Direkteur van Voorrade - toestemming verleen word om die volgende hoeveelhede lewensmiddels van die dorp na hulle huise te vervoer:

Meel of meelblom 1 pond per dag; vleis 1 pond per dag; koffie  $\frac{2}{3}$  ons per dag; suiker 4 ons per dag; tee  $\frac{1}{3}$  ons per dag; sout  $\frac{1}{2}$  ons per dag; rys 2 ons per dag; konfynt  $\frac{1}{4}$  pond per dag. Kerse en seep kon in redelike hoeveelhede vervoer word, terwyl - in geval daar geen vleis beskikbaar was nie - Swartes 2 pond meel meer as die gewone hoeveelheid kon ontvang.

#### 6. Besonderhede voor die oorskakeling

In Februarie 1901 het die uitgawes wat uit die werksaamhede van die G.R.C. te Pretoria voortgevloei het, onder die rekenpligtige sorg van die pas opgerigte **Burgher Camps Department** geval. Die omvang van die hulpverlening was soos volg wat Pretoria betref:

	Rantsone		Gemiddelde aantal persone per dag	Totale koste
	Volwassenes	Kinders		
Febr. 1901				£5 002 : 6 : 2
Mrt ..	91 147	73 610	5 397	£4 163 : 4 : 6
Apr ..	89 960	34 295	4 141	£3 589 : 1 : 2
Mei ..	71 424	65 131	4 405	£3 968 : 8 : 4 <sup>15</sup>

Uit hierdie oorsig word dit duidelik dat die aantal behoeftiges sterk toeneem het. Om hierdie toestand te beëindig het die Hoofsuptendent van

Burgerkampe besluit om 'n aantal ondersteundes wat nie kon bewys dat hulle in Pretoria moes bly nie, na burgerkampe in hulle distrikte van herkoms te stuur. Op dié wyse sou die aantal aansoeke om hulp beperk word. Die militêre goewerneur van Pretoria, genl.-maj. Maxwell, het hierdie besluit goedgekeur<sup>16</sup>. Op dieselfde dag het genl. Maxwell vir adv. Hollard vir sy voortreflike werk bedank en 'n nuwe stelsel met 'n nuwe komitee in die vooruit sit gestel<sup>17</sup>. Gelyktydig is in die *Government Gazette* in die vorm van goewermentskennisgewing nr. 56, 1901, die nuwe stelsel uiteengesit<sup>18</sup>.

## 7. Die veranderings soos aangekondig op 22.4.1901

In verband met gelykvormigheid is aangekondig dat met ingang van 1.5.1901 goewermentshulp behartig sou word deur 'n nuwe G.R.C. bestaande uit mnre. W.K. Tucker (voorsitter), Fred Lance, W.M. Brown en T.G. Ligertwood (sekretaris). 'n Bestaande dameskomitee sou sy werksaamhede voortsit, rantsoene-uitreiking sou gestaak word, terwyl hulpverlening uitsluitend sou geskied op grond van kaartjies wat deur die nuwe G.R.C. uitgereik sou word. Benodighede sou dan van 'n bepaalde hulpwinkel verkry kon word.

Flugteling sou die dorp moes verlaat, nl. dié wat goewermentsteun ontvang het. Hulle sou na burgerkampe gestuur word met uitsondering van: (a) Eienaars van huise te Pretoria wat dié huise bewoon; (b) Gesertifiseerde siekes en kreupeles; (c) Persone wat munisipale werk verrig; (d) Britse en ander flugteling van ander nasionaliteite.

Werklone vir hulle wat onder beskerming van die G.R.C. werk, sou van 1/6 tot 3/6 per dag wees en hulle wat dié lone sou weier of tydens hulle werk luiheid sou openbaar, sou na burgerkampe gestuur word.

As een van die redes vir hierdie besluite is genoem dat die ou stelsel misbruik is deur persone van allerhande nasionaliteite. Met ingang van 1.5. 1901 sou die nuwe reëling slegs vir gebore of genaturaliseerde Suid-Afrikaners geld<sup>19</sup>.

Meer insig omtrent die vroeëre reëlings is bekombaar uit 'n verslag oor Mei 1901 wat deur Lance en Ligertwood opgestel is<sup>20</sup>. Hulle wys daarop dat dit in die verlede die gewoonte was om aan almal, afgesien van die omstandighede waarin hulle verkeer het, maar wie se name op aanbeveling van die dameskomitee en die stafoffisier wat met die permanente stedelike bevolking en die flugteling te doen gehad het, voedsel te verskaf. Op die tyd-stip waarop die nuwe G.R.C. die leisels oorgeneem het, was die aantal flugteling, werknemers van die Pretoriase stadsraad en die behoefdiges van Pretoria 5 089 volwassenes (+12) en 2 363 kinders. Op grond van die reeds genoemde goewermentskennisgewing is nou die verdeling 'blywers-vertrekendes' ingevoer met dié gevolg dat 'n aantal verteenwoordigers van laasgenoemde groep verkies het om vir hulself te sorg. Die vertrek van ander na die kampe is vertraag as gevolg van gebrek aan tente.

As gevolg van hierdie maatreëls het op 3.6.1901 ongeveer 700 mans, 1 500 vrouens en 2 101 kinders (- 12) nog hulp ontvang teen 'n totale koste van ruim £3 500. Volgens 'n berekening sou elke hulpbehoewende die goewerment 6/- per week kos. Inspekteurs is aangestel om ondersoekwerk te verrig, terwyl na gelang van verdienstes die mate van hulpverlening vasgestel is.

Die nuwe G.R.C. is vanaf 27.8.1901 ook belas met die onderhoud van die persone wat op pad na hulle onderskeie kampe aanvanklik in 'n deurgangskamp, bekend as die **Rest Camp**, gehuisves was. Hierdie kamp was geleë naby die Pretoriase stasie van die Pretoria-Pietersburg-spoorlyn, maar is in die loop van Junie 1901 na 'n nuwe terrein naby Van der Hovensdrif verskuif<sup>2 1</sup>.

## 8. G.R.C.-verslae (Junie – September 1901)

In Junie 1901 is daar as gevolg van 'n tekort aan tente nie veel vordering gemaak met die uitstuur van die tydelike bevolking van Pretoria na burgerkampe in hulle distrikte van herkoms nie. Inspekteurs wat in Mei 1901 aangestel is, het verklarings van hulpbehoewendes gekontroleer en verslae oor onvoldoende sanitêre reëlings en vuil geboue opgestel. Sanitêre aangeleenthede is na die stadsraad van Pretoria verwys.

In dieselfde maand is hulp aan gemiddeld 4 261 persone verleen teen 'n totale koste van £2 231:10:2. Die aantal hulpsoekendes, veral mans, het afgeneem. Siektes, veral masels, kinkhoes en griep, is aangemeld en alle ernstige gevalle is deur dokters behandel. Sterfgevallen in Mei 1901 was 41, terwyl in Junie 27 persone beswyk het. By die plaaslike hulpverlening was in Junie 1901 22 Blankes en 15 Swartes betrokke<sup>2 2</sup>.

In 'n ander opgaaf oor Junie 1901 is die aantal persone wat deur die G.R.C. te Pretoria bygestaan is, soos volg ingedeel: Mans 258; vrouens 1 204; kinders 1 877; totaal 3 339<sup>2 3</sup>.

In Julie 1901 was die weeklikse gemiddelde 2 904, terwyl daaglikse gemiddeld rantsoene vir 312 volwassenes en 255 kinders na die **Rest Camp** gestuur is. Verder is vermeld dat daar weer persone was wat hulle aan hulpverlening onttrek het om te voorkom dat hulle na burgerkampe gestuur word, terwyl 'n paar hulpbehoewendes werk gekry het en vir hulself kon sorg. 'n Paar gesinne is na kampe gestuur, terwyl die sterfte onder ontvangers van hulp in die stad 22 oor die maand Julie 1901 bedra het<sup>2 4</sup>.

Tussen 1 en 31.7.1901 is aan volwassenes 49 467 en aan kinders 58 207 rantsoene uitgereik. Ook is mediese geriewe en klere verstrekkend en lone aan kampbewoners betaal. Die totale onkoste in verband met die hulpverlening was ruim £2 006 en die koste om een persoon te versorg het – met insluiting van administrasiekoste – byne 4½ d per dag bedra<sup>2 5</sup>. In Augustus 1901 het 'n verdere vermindering van hulpsoekendes gevolg, nl. 181 gesinne, bestaande uit 60 mans, 268 vrouens en 726 kinders. Van hierdie gesinne het 13, bestaande uit 1 man, 20 vrouens en 35 kinders, na kampe verhuis. Dan was daar 168 gesinne (698 persone) wat vir onvermelde redes nie meer hulp verkry het nie. As gevolg van hierdie vermindering van hulpbehoewendes kon tot 'n mate van personeelvermindering oorgegaan word<sup>2 6</sup>. Volgens 'n tabel van 31.8.1901 het op dié datum 157 mans, 725 vrouens en 1 118 kinders (totaal: 2 000) hulp van die G.R.C. te Pretoria ontvang<sup>2 7</sup>. In September 1901 was daar 'n verdere daling deurdat 24 gesinne, bestaande uit 5 mans, 36 vrouens en 71 kinders, na kampe gestuur is, terwyl 32 gesinne (4 mans, 43 vrouens en 71 kinders) te kenne gegee het dat hulle selfonderhoudend was. Dan is die hulp aan 19 gesinne (10 mans, 5 vrouens, 13 kinders) verminder. In totaal het 25 gesinne op grond van bestaande of nuwe aansoeke vir hulpverlening

in aanmerking gekom. 'n Verdere personeelvermindering van die G.R.C. het gevolg. Die aantal sterfgevälle onder ondersteundes in die stad was 17 (Augustus 1901: 15), terwyl vleisverskaffing deur die **Cold Storage Company** gestaak is (5.9.1901). Daarna is reëlings getref om gebuite vee te slag. Op 30.9.1901 het 160 mans, 663 vrouens en 1 010 kinders (totaal: 1 833 persone) onder die sorg van die Pretoriase G.R.C. geval<sup>2 a</sup>.

## 9. Die vleisposisie. Eerste verslag oor die kamp by Van der Hovensdrif en sluiting op 31.1.1902

Oor die gehalte van die vleis wat aan slagters deur die Direkteur van Voorrade verstrek is, het in September 1901 'n groot mate van ontevredenheid ontstaan. Dit het die Pretoriase slagters laat besluit om 'n petisie aan Sir Alfred Milner te stuur, waarin o.m. verklaar is:

“This stock ..... is in such a poor condition, and the meat of such an inferior quality that it is almost unsaleable, and would be altogether so if it were not that the public can obtain no other meat, and your memorialists believe that it must be injurious to health, as it is so to speak unfit for food. And owing to the outbreak of rinderpest in our midst an additional source of danger to the health of the public has been added in the use of the meat thus locally supplied.”<sup>2 a</sup>

Verder het die slagters oor die hoë pryse gekla wat hulle vir dié vleis moes betaal en gevra dat bevroe vleis van die kus ingevoer word. Volgens hulle sou 'n twintigtal trokke koelkamervleis per week voldoende wees. 'n Paar weke daarna het die militêre goewerneur van Pretoria geantwoord dat 'n ongenoemde hoeveelheid vleis aan Pretoria toegewys was<sup>3 o</sup>.

Uit hierdie petisie van die slagters kan o.i. afgelei word dat die vleis wat die behoeftiges en die bewoners van die kamp te Van der Hovensdrif ontvang het, ook aanleiding tot klagtes gegee het.

Aangaande hierdie kamp wat ook onder die sorg van die Pretoriase G.R.C. geval het, het sekretaris J. Souter op 30.9.1901 gerapporteer dat die kamp-personeel uit 'n opsigter, 'n assistent en 'n rantsouenitdeler bestaan het<sup>3 1</sup>. Die kamp is onder toesig van laasgenoemde skoongehou terwyl die stadsraad vir die verwydering van vullis e.d.m. gesorg het. Daar was 2 latrines, terwyl ander in aanbou was. Rantsouene is weekliks volgens 'n kaartstelsel en ooreenkomstig die bestaande skaal gerantsoeneer. Daar was 'n markeetent wat as 'n hospitaal ingerig was en 'n kombuis met kookgerei. Eers was verpleegster Van Smallen van Irene in bevel, maar sy is ontslaan en deur verpleegsters A. de Villiers en mev. Steemans vervang. Mev. Carinus was aan die hoof van die sokombuis en vleis is gewoonlik deur die **Benevolent Society** verstrek en soms ook deur die G.R.C. wat ook hout, steenkool, gort, rys, hawermout e.d.m. verskaf het. Dan is 'n tweekamerige gebou, terwyl warm water in die kamp beskikbaar was. 'n Sinkgebou is as 'n bēreplek opgerig. Op 27.8.1901 was die kampbevolking 511. Daarna het 348 persone aangekom en is 674 na ander kampe deurgestuur, sodat die kampbevolking op 30.9.1901 185 persone was. In September was daar 7 sterfgevälle.



'n Sekere dr. Wilson het as kampdokter opgetree en in die kamp was 'n ap- teek aanwesig. Tentbesoeke was daaglik gereël en van tyd tot tyd het die dokter die tente geïnspekteer.

In Desember 1901 het die afname in verband met die voorsiening van bystand aan hulpbehoewendes en personeel verder voortgegaan. Op 7.12.1901 was daar nog 333 gesinne, bestaande uit 117 mans, 468 vrouens en 728 kinders wat in die stad en in die kamp versorg is. Op 31.12.1901 was die toestand soos volg: Gesinne 50; mans 18; vrouens 38; kinders 71. In dié betrokke maand was M.K. Willis sekretaris van die G.R.C. te Pretoria. Hy is bygestaan deur kwartiermeester Juby, magasynmeester Van der Merwe, klerk Early, en 'n aantal ongenoemde personeellede<sup>32</sup>. In dieselfde maand was daar slegs een sterfgeval te betreur, terwyl 15 persone na burgerkampe oorgeplaas is en 69 persone verkies het om nie meer rantsoene te ontvang nie. In Januarie 1902 het die aantal versorgdes van 1 111 tot 1 243 toegeneem en was die maand se gemiddelde 1 207. Op 25.2.1902 is in 'n gekombineerde verslag oor die maande Januarie en Februarie verklaar dat daar teen die einde van Januarie besluit is om die kamp by Van der Hovensdrif te sluit omdat die aantal persone wat deur kolonnes na Pretoria gestuur is, tot 'n minimum gedaal het<sup>33</sup>. Nadat besluit is om 'n aantal "undesirables" na kampe in Natal en ander na kampe in hulle distrikte van herkoms te stuur, is die Van der Hovensdrif-kamp op 31.1.1902 gesluit. In totaal is 67 persone na die burgerkamp te Irene, 68 na Natalse en 13 na ander kampe gestuur. Op 31.1.1901 is die kamppersoneel, bestaande uit mnre. Stucki (opsigter), Stork (klerk), mev. Bolton (hospitaalmatrone), verpleegsters Moyes en Radlof, vyf Swartse en die kampwag onder kpl. Campbell na die **National Scout**-kamp, Meintjeskop, Pretoria, oorgeplaas. Maj. Lloyd het op 2.2.1902 alle kamptoerusting in die ontruimde kamp oorgeneem en die G.R.C. van die verantwoordelikheid onthef om die bewoners van die **National Scouts**-kamp van rantsoene te voorsien. Gesinne van **National Scouts** wat in die dorp gewoon het, het onder die sorg van die G.R.C. gebly<sup>34</sup>.

## 10. Besonderhede oor die tydperk Februarie – Julie 1902

In Februarie 1902 het die G.R.C. te Pretoria 'n nuwe taak begin aanpak, nl. om Britse vlugtelingte wat in stede aan die kus gewoon en begin terugkeer het, tydelik rantsoene te verleen. Dan is daar nog 'n ongenoemde aantal gesinne wat volgens sekretaris Willis nie op bystand geregtig was nie, uit Pretoria verwyder en na die burgerkamp te Irene gestuur.

In Maart is 'n lys van persone wat deur die G.R.C. onderhou is en in diens van die stadsraad was, opgestel. Die mans wat onder hierdie groep geval het, het geen bystand ontvang nie. Wel was dit die geval met kinders of siek en bejaarde familieledes. Van die te werk gestelde mans was 'n groot aantal eienaars van burgerregerwe en onderstand is verder verstrek aan gesinne waarvan die gesinshoof te oud of medies nie in staat was om in sy onderhoud te voorsien nie. In dergelike gevalle was die ondersteuning per volwassene 6/- per week, vir 'n egpaar 12/- per week en vir elke kind onder drie jaar 3/- per week. In totaal het ruim sewentig gesinne vir hierdie vorm van bystand in aanmerking gekom<sup>35</sup>. In dieselfde maand is ondersteuning in

totaal aan 110 mans, 445 vrouens en 695 kinders te Pretoria verstrekk. 'n Maand later was die totaal 899<sup>36</sup>.

In April 1902 het H.W. Congreve vir mnr. Willis as sekretaris van die G.R.C. opgevolg. Uit sy verslag blyk dat in dié maand 108 persone, onder wie 11 **National Scouts**, na kampe gestuur is. In die burgerkamp te Irene is 87 persone opgeneem<sup>37</sup>.

In Mei het die G.R.C. se personeel te Pretoria bestaan uit: H.W. Congreve (sekretaris), sers. Juby (kwartiermeester), S.G. Robinson en F.W. Stork (klerke), Mitchey (slagter) en uitdelers Esterhuizen en Eckard<sup>38</sup>. Sekretaris Congreve het in sy verslag melding gemaak van 'n groot aantal versoeke om hulp, maar dat slegs 'n klein aantal applikante kon bewys dat hulle beter te Pretoria as in 'n burgerkamp gehelp kon word. 'n Aantal persone was selfonderhoudend, terwyl 133 na die kamp in Irene vertrek het. Die sekretaris was van mening dat meer druk op applikante vir ondersteuning uitgeoefen moes word deur hulle voor die keuse te stel om kamp toe te gaan. Dan sou die aantal aanvraers aanmerklik verminder. Op 1.6.1902 het 82 mans, 316 vrouens en 483 kinders (totaal: 881) nog ondersteuning van die Pretoriase G.R.C. ontvang<sup>39</sup>. In sy verslag oor Julie 1902 het die sekretaris van die Pretoriase G.R.C. na 862 ondersteundes verwys en tewens nadruk gelê op 'n nuwe taak wat op die komitee se skouers begin rus het, nl. die rantsoenering van burgers wat na die vredesluiting uit die veld terugkeer en op pad na hulle plase was. Hulle is van rantsoene voorsien. Tussen 12 en 30.6.1902 is 1 919 volwassenes en 549 kinders op dié wyse gehelp, terwyl 220 persone of gesinne met rantsoene na hulle plase vertrek het. Verder is klere en komberse uitgedeel, terwyl — namens die repatriasiekommis-sie — tente aan huiswaartskerendes verstrekk is. Dan was daar burgers wat familieledere in kampe in Natal en elders gehad het wat spoorwegpasse benodig het, terwyl kampbewoners na ander kampe oorgeplaas is om by hulle gesinslede te kom. Hierdie werksaamhede het die gewone hulpverlening waar-omtrent geen gegewens genoem is nie, heeltemal oorskadu<sup>40</sup>.

In die laaste beskikbare verslag van sekretaris Congreve oor Julie 1902 het hy melding gemaak van die feit dat weekliks nog gemiddeld 783 persone bygestaan is in vergelyking met 868 in Junie en 1 059 in Mei 1902. In die loop van Julie 1902 het die werksaamhede wat in Junie grootskaalse afmetings aangeneem het weens vertrek van burgers na hul plase of na kampe om hulle gesinne te vind, aanmerklik afgeneem. Hy het tewens in die vooruitsig gestel dat die werksaamhede van die G.R.C. deur die Repatriasie-afdeling oorgeneem sou word en op grond daarvan sy verslag beknop gehou.

## SLOT

In hierdie oorsig is kortliks, en op grond van beskikbare dokumentasie, besonderhede meegedeel in verband met die pogings wat tydens die Britse besettingstydperk gedurende die Tweede Vryheidsoorlog aangewend is om bystand aan behoeftiges in Pretoria te verleen. Ook is duidelik dat persone te werk gestel is en ander vir verskillende redes na burgerkampe oorgeplaas is. Tot die begin van 1902 was die Pretoriase G.R.C. ook belas met die bevoorrading van kampe binne die stedelike gebied, nl. eers die **Rest Camp**, en later die kamp by Van der Hovensdrif. Organisasories is die bystandver-

lening in die loop van die tyd van die Direkteur van Voorrade na die Burgerkampe se departement oorgeplaas. Die kantore van hierdie departement was in die huidige Hooggeregshofgebou, Kerkplein, gevestig<sup>4</sup>. Na die vrede het die G.R.C. 'n aansienlike hoeveelheid werk versit in verband met terugkerende burgers wat òf op pad na hulle plase was òf hulle naaste verwante in burgerkampe wou opspoor. Ten slotte kan opgemerk word dat Johannesburg oor 'n soortgelyke organisasie beskik het. Ongetwyfeld sal die reaksie van *Pretoriana* verdere aanvullende gegewens oor hierdie onderwerp verwelkom.

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24. *Ibid.*, p.337.
25. *Ibid.*, p.309.
26. *Ibid.*, p.338, Report for August 1901 (Fred Lance), 19.9.1901.
27. *Ibid.*, p.311.
28. Cd 853, pp. 34, 45, 46.
29. T.A.B., MGP 123, Niemeyer and Marais – Baron Milner, 1.10.1901.
30. Assistant to Military Governor – Niemeyer and Marais, 21.10.1901.
31. Cd 853, p. 46.
32. T.A.B., FK 610, CO11417, Report for the month of December 1901.
33. *Ibid.*, Return for the month of January 1902.
34. T.A.B., FK 613, CO14337, Monthly report for January and February, 25.2.1902.
35. T.A.B., MGP158, MGP5590/02, Government Relief Committee – Acting Military Governor, 25.3.1902.
36. Cd 942, p. 3; Cd 1161, p. 3.
37. T.A.B., FK 620, CO23939, Report for the month of April 1902.
38. T.A.B., FK 625, CO30720, Monthly report May 1902.
39. Cd 1553, p. 11.
40. T.A.B., General Report for the month of June 1902 (toentertyd ongesorteer).
41. T.A.B., FK 970, CO394421, Secretary's Monthly Report July 1902, 31.7.1902.

## THE HISTORY OF THE HARTEBESPOORT OBSERVATORY AND ITS TELESCOPES

by J. Wolterbeek

At present the Hartebeespoort Observatory contains one twin astrocamera called Rockefeller and one double astrocamera called Franklin-Adams. This means: the 2 Rockefeller cameras are identical to each other; the 2 Franklin-Adams cameras are not. They are both named after respective sponsors who donated money for their construction.

**The Rockefeller** (photograph 5) is composed of 4 parallel tubes, namely 2 thick tubes (which are the identical twin cameras), a thinner but longer guider tube (see center of photograph) and a finder (the thinnest and shortest tube). The finder is a visual telescope to assist the observer in finding those stars that must be photographed. The guider is also a parallel telescope. It is there to enable the observer, while the sky rotates, to keep the cameras all the time precisely pointed at his desired stars, during the exposure, which may easily last 30 minutes. (This does not imply that the observer must move the telescopes manually during the exposure; an electric engine does that, but sometimes a fine adjustment must be made by him).

The Rockefeller always was, and still is, owned by the Leiden Observatory, the Netherlands. It was constructed from 1930 to 1938 by Grubb and Parsons Co. at Newcastle-on-Tyne, England. In 1938 it was mounted at the Union Observatory, Johannesburg, but mainly to be used by guest astronomers from Leiden. The Union Observatory was located on the site where the NITR is now (the National Institute for Telecommunication Research of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, CSIR). In 1950 the 2 Grubb-manufactured camera lens systems were replaced by other lens systems of the same dimensions, but with different optical qualities, manufactured (with an interruption due to World War 2) at Zeiss, Jena (now East Germany). In 1957 the Rockefeller was transferred from Johannesburg to its present site at Hartebeespoort, where work continued. With the retirement of Prof. Theo Walraven in 1980, no more Leiden astronomers have used the Rockefeller. It may now be used entirely by South African institutions under certain conditions.

### Research done with the Rockefeller

Initially the twin camera was used to photograph star clusters and special parts of the Milky Way. This was done, in order to calculate, after measuring the blackening of star images, the apparent brightness of star after star on any given photoplate (photograph on glass plate). Apparent brightness is the brightness of a star, as it seems to us; not as it is in reality. In order to calculate also the real (intrinsic) brightness of the star, its distance would have to be known. Conversely, if the intrinsic brightness is known, then measurement of the apparent brightness from the photoplate gives the distance. Hence, from one photoplate, the apparent brightness of many stars can be measured. For many stars, this apparent brightness is constant. For

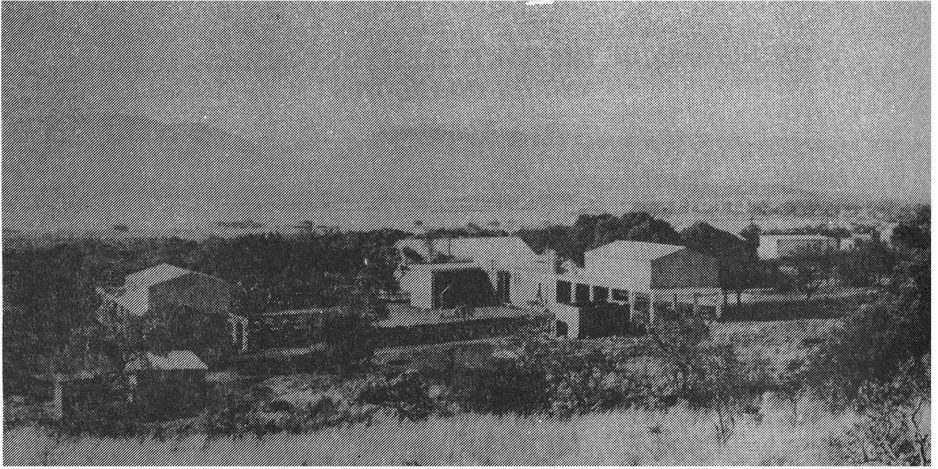
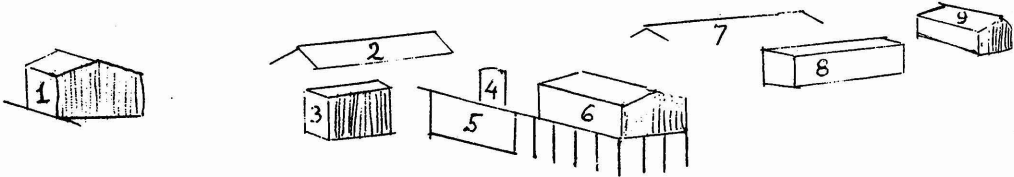


Foto uit die boek van Gijsbert van Herk, Herman Kleibrink en Willem Bijleveld, *De Leidse Sterrenwacht, Vier eeuwen wacht bij dag en bij nacht*, Uitgegeven ter gelegenheid van het 350-jarig bestaan van de Leidse Sterrenwacht, Uitgeverij Waanders / De Kler, Zwolle 1983, p.1 10  
 Die byskrif in dié boek lui soos volg:

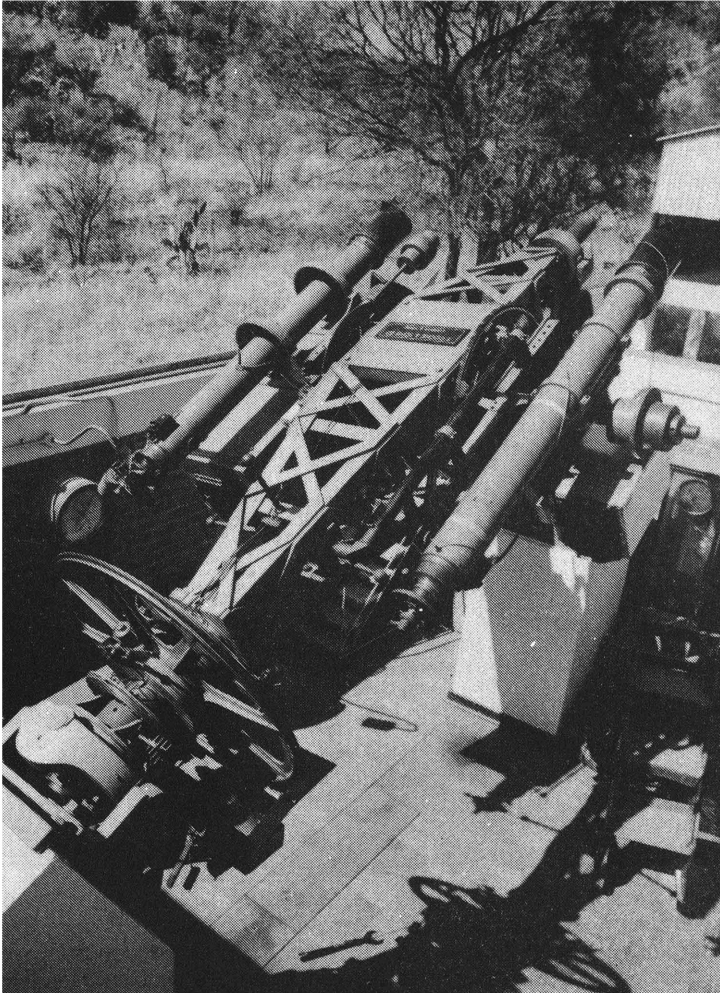
“Overzichtsfoto van het Leidse Zuidelijke Station bij Hartebeespoortdam. Men kon daar, in de tijd dat de luchtvervuiling voor sterrenkundigen nog niet hinderlijk was, op zo’n twee à driehonderd heldere nachten rekenen, een veelvoud van het aantal in Leiden. Hier stonden de in Nederland gebouwde Light-Collector (in het waarneemgebouw links), de Rockefeller telescoop (hier gedeeltelijk zichtbaar), gebouwd in Engeland, en de Franklin-Adams kijker (niet zichtbaar)”.



**Photo 1. Hartebeespoort Observatory overview.**

1 Walraven reflector dome (empty since 1975). 2 Visiting astronomer’s house. 3 Office. 4 Rockefeller telescope pointing upwards. 5 Rockefeller dome. 6 Rockefeller dome’s sliding roof, opened Southwards. 7 Director’s house (only roof partly visible). 8 Director’s garage. 9 Roof of Franklin-Adams dome. Hartebeespoortdam visible. Magalies-mountains against skyline.

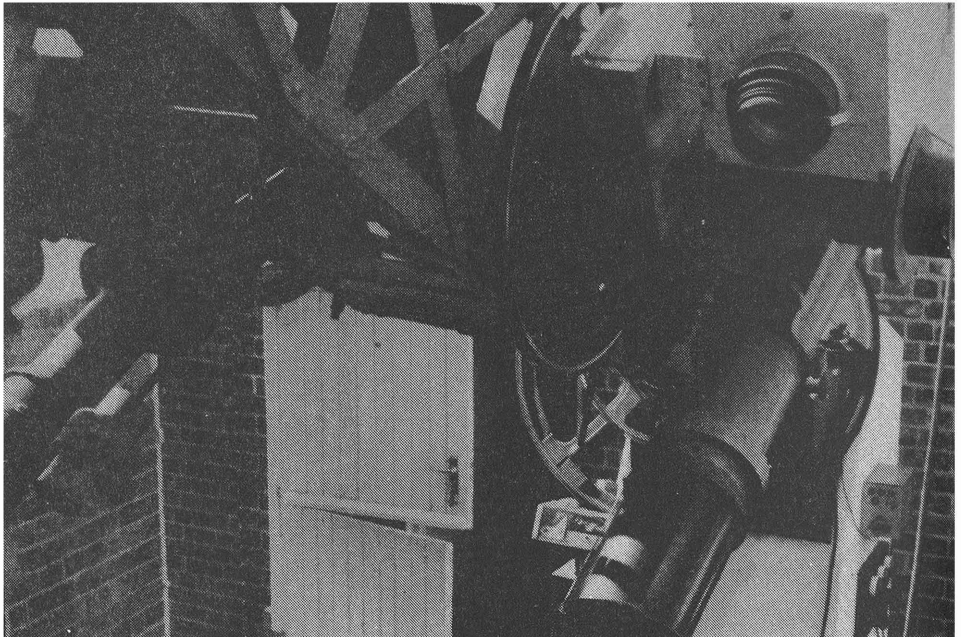
Photo taken in 1959.



**Photo 2.** Franklin-Adams overview, mounted at the Hartebeestpoort Observatory in 1953. The main A camera is the blockshaped instrument in the center of the photograph. The smaller camera B is to the right. Each has a long visual guiderscope parallel to it. The framework between them carries the telescopes, and is mounted precisely parallel to the axis of the earth. The sliding roof has been removed to the South.

From: Our National Open-Air Museum, Pretoria,  
November 1983, h.14

Photo: NASKO



**Photo 3. Franklin-Adams (F-A) Telescope**

In the upper right corner, the lens and part of the blockshaped Franklin-Adams B camera can be seen. Right below and left below are visual guiding telescopes. The large wheels are again the setting circles for co-ordinate readings.

Photo: NASKO



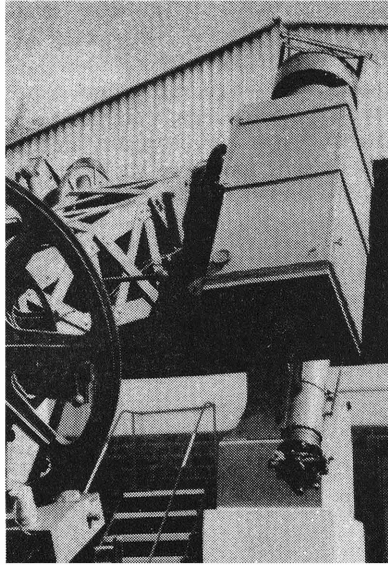
many others, its changes with time, for instance as a result of pulsations of such a star as a whole, or alternatively as a result of the star being periodically eclipsed (completely or partially) by another star, that revolves around it continuously. Brightness variations of vast numbers of stars, in various parts of the Milky Way and beyond, have been determined in this way by Leiden astronomers. For that purpose, many photoplates must then be taken of such a star field. The physical reasons for these variations have been investigated theoretically. Occasionally, a comet has been photographed, in order to have its changes in position determined, and hence its orbit around the sun calculated.

Since 1950 apparent brightnesses have at the Rockefeller also been measured in an electronic way, that is by means of a device which transforms received light into electric current, which is then amplified and measured. This is more accurate than photographically, but can only be done with one star at the time.

**The Franklin-Adams** (originally with only one camera, see photograph 2) was constructed about 1885 by Thomas Cooke optical firm in England. Originally it was used in England to photograph the entire Northern sky, in view of making a Star Atlas. In about 1909 it was transferred to the Union Observatory; first of all for making a similar Star Atlas of the Southern hemisphere. This was completed in 1911 and repeated between 1925 and 1937. Furthermore, the Union astronomers used the F-A camera for discovering planetoids and comets, in view of having their positions determined photographically, and sometimes for determining their orbits around the sun. A planetoid, also called minor planet, is a rock in space that moves around the sun like any planet does. The biggest is about as large as Poland, 770 km. in diameter. Leiden astronomers, since 1925 often as guests at the Union Observatory, often used the F-A for similar purposes (apparent brightness variations of numerous variable stars) as for which they used (since 1939) the Rockefeller. In 1947 a second camera (Franklin-Adams B) was manufactured at the Union Observatory workshop and mounted on the F-A mounting (see the upper right corner of photograph 3). Hence, the cameras A and B are parallel to each other. The lenses of the B-camera are smaller than those of the original A-camera; they were taken from a Royal Air Force reconnaissance camera of World War 2. On photograph 4 the entire Franklin-Adams can be seen; cameras A and B, each with a guider telescope.

In 1953 the entire Franklin-Adams was transferred from the Union Observatory to the present Hartebeespoort site, which was then called: Union Observatory Annex. In 1957, the F-A was joined there by 2 Leiden telescopes, namely the Rockefeller and the Walraven Light Collector. The latter is a large reflector telescope, with a concave mirror of 90 cm. diameter, constructed for measuring, by electronic devices, the apparent brightness of star after star in 5 colours simultaneously i.e. in 5 wavelength regions. In 1975 the Walraven reflector was transferred to ESO (the European Southern Observatory in Chili). Its previous dome at Hartebeespoort is unoccupied ever since, and can be used now for other purposes.

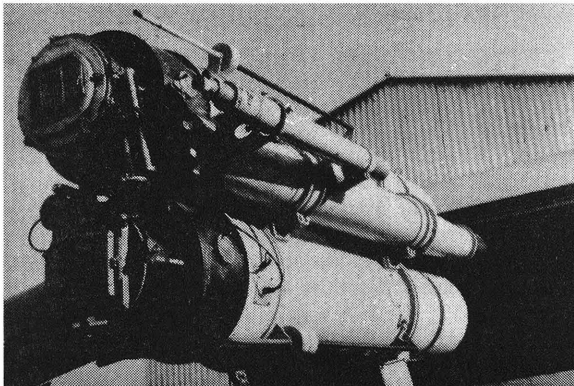
In 1961 the Union Observatory was renamed Republic Observatory. The last Republic astronomer was Mr. J.A. Bruwer (Oom Koos). With his



**Photo 4.** Franklin-Adams.

The blockshaped device is the Franklin-Adams A camera. Underneath it, the protruding eyepiece of its guiderscope can be seen. The large wheels are graduated circles for setting the telescopes at stars of given co-ordinates.

Photo: NASKO



**Photo 5.** Rockefeller.

The 2 big tubes are the twin cameras. The long tube through the center of the photograph is the guider. The smallest tube (above) is the finderscope.

Photo: NASKO

retirement in 1975 the Republic Observatory, including regular work with the Franklin-Adams, came to an end. Thereafter, the F-A, together with all the buildings, houses and ground (i.e. the Hartebeespoort site except the Rockefeller telescope), was handed over to DNE (the Department of National Education). It still can be put to good use, e.g. for initiating a Popular Observatory (with permanent exhibitions, guided tours, viewing evenings, demonstrations, all in combination with research). For instance, Comet Halley will be photographed here from November 1985 until May 1986. There are many such institutions in Europe and America, e.g. 23 in the Netherlands alone.

**Technical Data.** With every description of telescopes, some readers desire to know some of their numerical characteristics. We mention the diameters  $D$ , and focal distances  $f$ , all in cm, of the various objective lens systems.

		$D$	$f$
Rockefeller	cameras A & B	40	229
	guider	20	345
	finder	10	120
Franklin-Adams	camera A	25	113
	guider A	15	175
	camera B	9,0	50,8
	guider B	15	175

## HERDENKING VAN DIE SLAG BY DONKERHOEK,

Junie 1985

Die slag by Donkerhoek (soos die Afrikaners dit noem) of Diamond Hill (Diamantkoppie - soos dit in Engels heet) op 11 en 12 Junie 1900 was die grootste veldslag wat in die omgewing van Pretoria gelewer is. Daarom is dit geregverdig dat by die Britse militêre begraafplaas op die slagveld 'n maket (Engels: maquette; museumvakterm vir model) van die uitgestrekte slagveld geplaas is en dat op 8 Junie 1985, 85 jaar ná die slag, by die maket 'n gedenkplaat in brons onthul is. Die plek daarvan is aan die voet van Diamantkoppie waar die beslissing geval het. Die bewaring en rekonstruksie van ander slagvelde, soos by Bloedrivier en Magersfontein, het daarby as voorbeeld gedien.

Die inisiatief daartoe is geneem deur die Nasionale Kultuurhistoriese en Opelugmuseum (NASKO) en die Raad vir Nasionale Gedenkwaardighede (RNG) te Pretoria. Die RNG het vir die gedenkplaat gesorg, NASKO vir die maket en die ontmoetingsplek met grasdak waaronder die plaat en maket geplaas is. Die terrein vir die plek is netsoos die terrein van die begraafplaas langsaan welwillend beskikbaar gestel deur Mnr. Koos Reyneke, argitek, eienaar van die plaas Kleinfontein.

Die plaat is onthul deur die hoof van die Suid-Afrikaanse Weermag, generaal C.L. Viljoen SSA SOC SM. Hy het die hoofrede tydens die plegtigheid by Sammy Markshuis 'Zwartkoppies' en die begraafplaas gelewer. Die teks daarvan is hierna afgedruk. Dit was 'n indrukwekkende, ten dele militêre plegtigheid met 'n militêre orkes, taptoe waarby "The last post" geblaas is, vlaghysing op die begraafplaas en kransleggings. Dit is merkwaardig dat op 'n Britse begraafplaas hulde gebring is aan die Boere wat in 1900 by Donkerhoek geveg het as voorlopers en voorbeelde van die Suid-Afrikaanse leër wat tans veg teen invallers in die Republiek. Maar as deel van die herdenking is die gevalle Britte geëer met blomkransse waarvan een deur generaal Viljoen en een deur die Britse militêre attachée te Pretoria gelê is.

Daar is al veel oor die slag by Donkerhoek gepubliseer, nog onlangs in *Militaria*, militêr-historiese tydskrif van die Suid-Afrikaanse Weermag, deur H.F. Nel, "Die slag van Donkerhoek", in jaargang 15 Nos. 1 en 2, Pretoria 1985. 'n Samevatting van dié verslag is hier dan ook oorbodig. Generaal Viljoen gee so'n samevatting in sy toespraak wat hierna volg. Ek vestig egter graag die aandag op die "Memoirs of the Boer War" van generaal Jan C. Smuts, gepubliseer in W.K. Hancock and Jean van der Poel, *Selections from the Smuts papers, volume 1*, University Press, Cambridge 1966, p.537-603. Generaal Viljoen en ander het op 8 Junie Smuts aangehaal. Smuts behandel hierin die oorlog in Transvaal gedurende die tweede halfjaar van 1900, gekombineer met sy eie ervarings, in mooi, beeldryke Engels met talle verwysings na geskiedenis en letterkunde. Hy gee 'n uitmuntende verslag van die krygsbedrywighede. Dit is heel jammer dat hy dié werk nie voltooi het nie, want dit sou een van die beste boeke oor die oorlog gewees het. Die verklaring van die onvoltooidheid is myns insiens nie gebrek aan tyd of inspirasie nie, maar die anti-Britse kleur van sy oorlogsherinneringe en die toenadering wat hy sedert 1907 tot die Britse regering en die Engelstaliges in Suid-Afrika gesoek het. Voltooiing en publikasie van sy oorlogsherinneringe was daarom politiek ongewens.

Smuts beskryf lewendig die demoraliserende uitwerking van die besetting van Pretoria, "that holy of holies of the Republic in South Africa", deur die Britse leër op 5 Junie 1900 en die sielkundige verandering wat die slag by Donkerhoek onder die Boeregeneraals en burgers teweeggebring het. Hulle het na 'n hewige stryd van twee dae teruggetrek, maar hulle was toe oortuig dat hulle die Britte nog kon verslaan. Daardeer het die oorlog ná die slag nog twee jaar voortgeduur.

Die mooi maket van die slagveld in gips gemaak meet ongeveer 1 x 1,5 m. Dit is ontwerp deur Amalia Steyn en vervaardig deur Piet Brink, albei in diens van NASKO. Nog beter as op die bygaande sketskaart van die slagveld is op die maket die baie heuwelagtige, diep ingesnyde landskap by Boekenhoutkloof ten noorde van die Oosterspoorlyn sigbaar; dit is verstaanbaar dat die Britse ruitery onder generaal French hom daar vasgeloop het en deur generaal De la Rey vasgekeer is.

In die sobere, stylvolle begraafplaas lê Britte en Canadese begrawe wat op 11 en 12 Junie 1900 en 'in latere naburige gevegte geval het en daar in 1960 of kort daarna herbegrawe is. Vanaf die begraafplaas het die besoeker 'n wye, mooi uitsig oor die breë, vrugbare vallei waardeur die Britte ooswaarts opgeruk het, en agter hom lê die hoë, uitgestrekte rante vanwaar die Boere die Britte bestook het.

C. de Jong

### **Toespraak Genl. C.L. Viljoen : Onthulling van Bronsplaas by Donkerhoek 8 Junie 1985.**

Dit is vir my 'n aangename voorreg om by geleentheid wat 'n verbintenis met ons militêre geskiedenis het, te kan optree. Hierdie plegtigheid is dan ook geen uitsondering nie.

Graag wil ek die Raad vir Nasionale Gedenkwaardighede bedank - en ek doen dit nie alleen namens ons land se mense nie, maar ek is oortuig daarvan ook namens die nageslag van die Britse burgers wat hier begrawe lê - vir die wyse waarop hierdie grafte versorg word. Daar is ook van Suid-Afrikaanse burgers oorlogsgrafte in Europa en ander wêrelddele en 'n mens kan maar net hoop dat daar netso goed na hulle omgesien word.

Op 11 en 12 Junie vanjaar sal dit net mooi 85 jaar gelede wees dat die Slag van Donkerhoek, óf soos die Engelse dit noem "Diamond Hill", plaasgevind het. Dit is 'n slag wat 'n uiters belangrike plek in die annale van die Tweede Vryheidsoorlog inneem en wat in 'n baie kritieke stadium van die oorlog plaasgevind het - nadat Bloemfontein en kort daarna ook die hoofstad van die Suid-Afrikaanse Republiek, nl. Pretoria, deur die Engelse verower is.

Wat die slag nog merkwaardiger maak, is nie net die stadium waarin dit plaasgevind het en die persoonlikhede wat daaraan deelgeneem het nie, maar ook die omvang van die artilleriewapens wat aangewend is en die voetvolkeenhede wat daarby betrokke was. Dit is die enigste veldslag waar ál die magte van die voormalige Suid-Afrikaanse Republiek van president Paul Kruger saamgetrek was. Aan Britse kant was dit die volle mag wat oorgebly het van diegene wat vanaf Kaapstad na Pretoria toe opgeruk het. Om 2 nm. op 5 Junie het veldmaarskalk lord Roberts, die Britse opperbevelhebber in Suid-

Afrika, Pretoria met 'n mag van meer as 25 000 man triomfantlik binnegetrek. Dit was vir hom die hoogtepunt van sy loopbaan, want hy was van oordeel dat die verowering van die hoofstad van die Suid-Afrikaanse Republiek die bereiking van sy strategiese doelwit meegebring het en dat die einde van die oorlog nou in sig was.

Die val van die ZAR<sup>1</sup> se hoofstad het die Boeremagte in die Noorde ernstig geknou. Tereg het genl. Smuts die opmerking gemaak dat aan Boeremagte hierdie stad as die heilige der heiliges van die Republiek beskou is en is groot waarde aan die behoud daarvan geheg<sup>2</sup>. Die burgers het geglo dat die gekonsentreerde Boeremagte 'n beslissende slag by Pretoria sou lewer wat die Britse magte na die kus sou terugwerp. Dit was dan ook hierdie verwagting wat die duisende burgers beweeg het om tydens die rampspoedige terugtog van Modderivier<sup>3</sup> steeds op kommando te bly.

Ten spyte van 'n algemene gees van wanhoop onder die Boeremagte en die feit dat duisende hul wapens na die verowering van Pretoria neergelê het, het die Transvaalse krygsraad besluit om voorlopig die bergketting van Wonderboompoort na Donkerhoek en vandaar suid, ná omstandighede in besit te neem en te verdedig. Hulle het hierdie voorneme aan pres. Kruger oorgedra.

The selection of the battle-field reflected the inborn military genius of the Boer generals. In this instance Commandant-General Louis Botha arrived at a carefully thoughtout strategy after carrying out a reconnaissance of the terrain on horseback under great pressure. He deployed his burghers along a 40 km. line (6 hours on horseback) in the mountainous terrain. From this position they were able to cut the Delagoa Bay railway line, as well as virtually all the remaining routes of importance leading to the Eastern Transvaal. President Kruger and other key officials, meanwhile, moved to Machadodorp to ensure that the government did not fall into enemy hands.

The Commandant-General was determined to stand fast in his defence line and to hit back hard at Roberts' superior force, in the face of which the Boers from Belmont<sup>4</sup> were being forced to continually retreat. In this way he could restore the burghers morale and faith in their ability to successfully withstand the British Army.

With a force of approximately 3 500 to 4 000 burghers and over 20 guns, Genl. Botha patiently waited for the British attack.

On the British side, Lord Roberts' army preparing to launch the attack on Botha's defence line had dwindled to approximately 20 000 men with 74 guns from the force of more than 39 300 which had set out from Bloemfontein towards Pretoria at the beginning of May — chiefly as a result of disease, battle casualties and the necessity of having to leave behind garrison forces and protection elements along his communication lines.

Lord Roberts was fully aware that he would have to destroy the Boers' main Transvaal force militarily if he hoped to bring the war to a successful conclusion. The proximity of Boer forces so close to Pretoria posed great dangers for him, and left him no choice but to launch his attack without waiting for reinforcements.

The British Field Marshall realized that the location of the Boer defences would result in heavy casualties from a frontal attack. He therefore formulated a plan of attack aimed at encircling the Boer line in a pincer movement on

both flanks, thereby cutting off their line of retreat. At the same time he would attempt to approach the Boers from the rear — from experience he knew that the Boers would retreat if they were threatened from that direction.

Wat die verloop van die geveg betref, kan ek net kortliks opsom deur te sê dat die Britse troepe op die suidelike flank, hoofsaaklik weens hulle getaloorwig en meerderwaardige vuurkrag die Boere se flank wou omvleuel<sup>5</sup>. Op die noordelike flank het genl. de la Rey, op sy beurt, gedreig om genl. French te omvleuel. In hierdie sektor het die Boere dan ook vir die eerste maal sedert Roberts van Bloemfontein opgeruk het, daarin geslaag om die vyand se aanval af te slaan en hulle eie posisies te behou.

Lord Roberts het tot die gevolgtrekking gekom dat Diamond Hill die sleutel tot Botha se linie op die suidelike flank was<sup>6</sup>. Botha het dit ook beseen en aan De la Rey laat weet dat alle moontlike versterkings na die suidelike flank moet opruk. Dit het vir De la Rey gevolglik die moontlikheid ontnem om French beslissend te verslaan. 'n Boodskap van Botha het hom bereik dat die toestand kritiek is aangesien die vyand suid van Donkerhoek deurgebreek het en sy rug bedreig het<sup>7</sup>.

Dié dag<sup>8</sup> het die burgers uitmuntend geveg sodat die waarnemende kommandant-generaal vir Kruger verseker het dat hy sy manne nog nooit moë sien staan het nie.

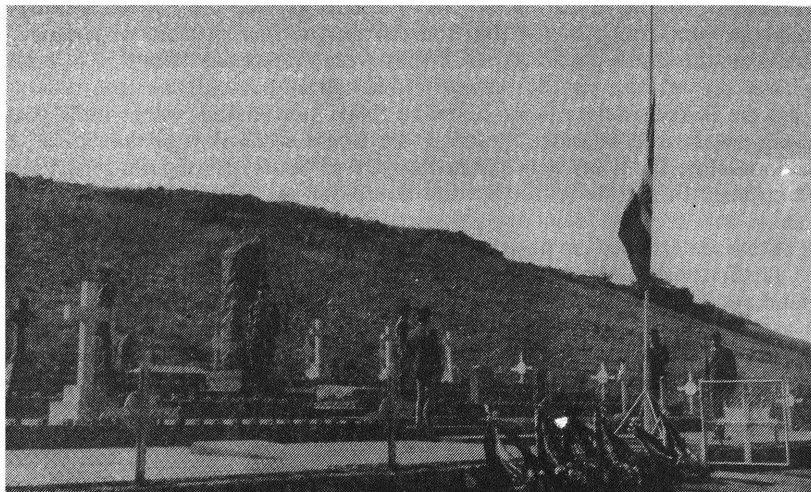
Lord Roberts se magte het nie deur die Boerestellings gebreek nie, maar hulle het tog daarin geslaag om die sterktepunte in dié deel te verower vanwaar hulle die laagliggende stellings kon beheer. Hy was egter oortuig dat hy die volgende dag 'n beslissende deurbraak sou maak en dié gedagte het hom bevredig.

Roberts se verklaarde doel met die operasie was om die Boere verder van Pretoria te verdryf en daarin het hy geslaag. Sy krygsplan was egter daarop bereken om met 'n vinnige beweging agter Botha se rug in te sny, hom die terugtog te belet en sodoende die Transvaalse hoofmag te vernietig. Daarin het hy nie geslaag nie. Die operasie wat in 'n lotbestemmende oorwinning vir die Britse magte moes eindig, het bloot 'n verdrywingsaksie geword. Die Boere het dit as 'n oorwinning vir hulself beskou, waaruit hulle feitlik ongeskonde getree het om die stryd te kan voortsit.

Die vasberadenheid waarmee 'n groot deel van die burgers geveg het, het getoon dat daar nog baie vegkrag in die Boeremag opgesluit was en dat die oorlog nog lank nie verby was soos Roberts ná die inname van die hoofstad gemeen het nie. Die nag van 12 Junie het Botha stilletjies met sy magte teruggetrek en kon hulle ongeskonde die stryd voortsit.

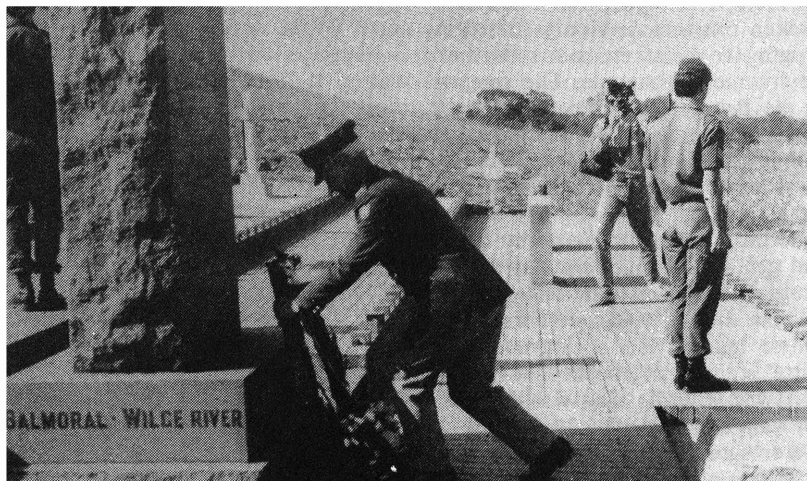
Vir die Boeraanvoerders het dit nou duidelik geword dat die konvensionele manier van oorlogvoering waardeur hulle met groot magte voor die Britte stelling ingeneem het om telkens weer teruggedryf te word, uitgedien was. Hierdie slag was in die Transvaal, naas die slag by Dalmanutha<sup>9</sup>, een van die laaste konvensionele slae van die oorlog, wat daarna deur die Boeremagte volgens die guerilla-beginsels gevoer sou word.

Die slag van Donkerhoek beklee 'n besondere plek in ons krygsgeiedenis, omdat dit getoon het dat selfs na die verlies van hulle hoofstad die magte van die ZAR<sup>1</sup> nog steeds bereid was om hulle land se soewereiniteit en hulle grondwet en vlag te verdedig. Die burgers wat tot die bitter einde die stryd voortgesit het, terwyl talle van hulle makers huiswaarts gekeer



Erewag van die Suid-Afrikaanse Weermag op die begraafplaas van Britse militêre by Donkerhoek rond die gedenksuil by die halfstokvlag op 8 Junie 1985. Die blomkrans staan op 'n ry gereed om by die gedenksuil gelê te word.

Foto: T.E. Andrews



Generaal C.L. Viljoen lê 'n blomkrans vir die gedenksuil vir gevallne Britse militêre by Donkerhoek op 8 Junie 1985.

Foto: T.E. Andrews



het, is voortgedryf deur 'n pligsbesef en 'n trou aan dit wat vir hulle heilig was.

Die hoofzaak van die SA Weermag in ons tyd is nog steeds om die soewereiniteit van ons land en sy mense met mag en krag te verdedig. Die Slag van Donkerhoek kan ook as blywende voorbeeld vir ons jong krygsmanne voorgehou word vir die wyse waarop vreeslose en heldhaftige optrede in die aangesig van groot gevaar sonder uitsondering die beste motivering en moreelbouer vir krygsmakers is. Ons het verneem hoedat duisende burgers na hulle plase teruggekeer het omdat hulle die stryd as verlore beskou het. Die veggees van die burgers by Donkerhoek het hulle egter gemotiveer om na die Kommando's terug te keer en die stryd vir nog drie jaar voort te sit.

Tans is ons land weer gewikkel in 'n stryd. 'n Stryd waarin gepoog word om ons land in chaos en anargie te dompel. Donkerhoek is ook vir ons die inspirasie om die soewereiniteit van ons land en dit wat vir ons heilig is, te verdedig. Enige mag wat wil poog om wetteloosheid en anargie te bewerkstellig sal met hierdie onverbiddelike wil om te wen rekening moet hou.

Churchill het tereg beweer dat 'n mens sonder kennis van sy geskiedenis soos iemand sonder 'n geheue is. Hy weet nie waarvandaan hy kom nie en hy weet dus nie waarheen hy oppad is nie.

'n Volk kan seker nooit genoeg doen om sy geskiedenis lewendig te hou en die belangstelling van veral sy jeug daarin te prikkel nie. Die beste manier om dit te doen is nie alleen om dit in boeke op te teken nie, maar om geleenthede te skep waar daar op lewende wyse met die verlede kennis gemaak word. In sy krygsgeskiedenis waarin 'n heroïese verlede uitgebeeld word, vind 'n volk altyd besieling vir sy toekoms. Die Slag van Magersfontein<sup>10</sup> word reeds saam met hierdie slagveld op aanskoulike wyse aan besoekers voorgestel<sup>11</sup>. Na ek verneem het, is die Nasionale Kultuurhistoriese en Opelugmuseum voornemens om 'n duursame reliëfmodel van hierdie slagveld te bou<sup>12</sup>.

'n Mens sou ook graag wou sien dat die hele Donkerhoek-slagveldgebied 'n nasionale gedenkwaardigheid word wat groot getalle besoekers van oorsee en van hier te lande die geleentheid kan bied om op dié grond mee te lewe in 'n stukkie van ons roemryke krygsgeskiedenis.

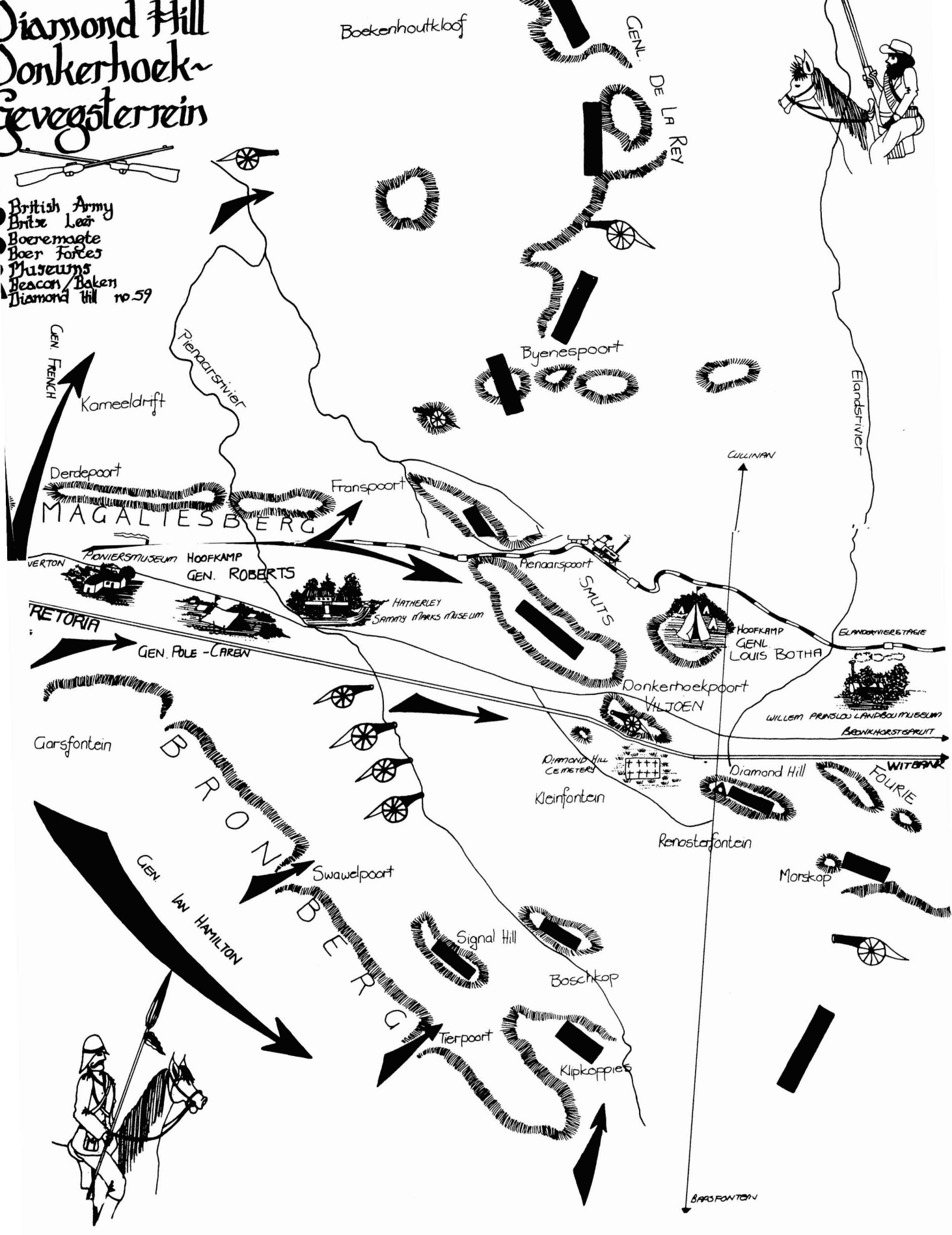
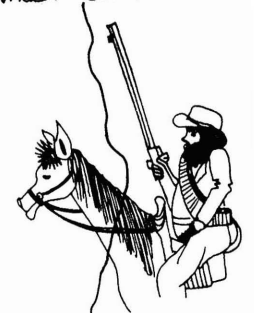
Mag al die pogings in hierdie verband met groot welslae bekroon word. Ek dank u.

#### Aantekeninge van C. de Jong, redakteur

1. ZAR is die afkorting van "Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek".
2. Aangehaal uit J.C. Smuts, "Memoirs of the Boer War", in W.K. Hancock and Jean van der Poel, *Selections from the Smuts papers*, University Press, Cambridge 1966, volume 1, p.537.
3. Bedoel is die oorgawe van die leër van generaal P.A. Cronjé aan lord Roberts by Paardeberg aan die Modderrivier op 27 Februarie 1900; dit was die beslissende wending in die oorlog.
4. Bedoel is hier die geveg by die spoorwegstasie Belmont ten suide van Kimberley; daar het lord Methuen met 'n Britse leër van De Aar opgeruk om Kimberley te ontset en op 23 November 1899 die Vrystaters teruggedryf.

# Battle-Field Diamond Hill Donkerhoek- zevegsterrein

- British Army
- Britse Leër
- Boeremagte
- Boer Forces
- Museums
- Beacon/Baken
- Diamond Hill no.59



5. Hierdie omvleuelingstaktiek is toegepas deur generaal Ian Hamilton op die suidelike flank, maar dit het misluk omdat die Boere 'n kontrabeweging uitgevoer het. Op die suidelike flank het op 11 Junie 1900 die graaf van Ayrlic gesneuwel. Sy grafsteen is op die Britse militêre begraafplaas by Diamantkoppie langs die gedenkteken vir al die Britte wat daar lê.
6. Diamantkoppie was die sentrale stelling van die Boere en nie op die suidelike flank nie.
7. In werklikheid het Australiërs onder kolonel De Lisle nog nie deurgebreek nie maar die westelike deel van Diamond Hill beset.
8. 12 Junie 1900.
9. Die veldslag by Belfast, Berg-en-Dal of Dalmanutha op 27 Augustus 1900 was die laaste slag in die gereëldde oorlog in Suid-Afrika.
10. In die slag by Magersfontein op 11 Desember 1899 het generaal P.A. Cronjé lord Methuen verslaan en die Britse opmars om Kimberley te ontset gestuit.
11. Dit is 'n verwysing na die maket (model) van die slagveld by Magersfontein en die museum op die koppie van Magersfontein.
12. Die maket is geplaas kort voor die onthulling van die gedenkplaat by die Britse begraafplaas by Diamantkoppie.



Genl. C.L. Viljoen langs die gedenkplaat vir die Slag by Donkerhoek wat onthul is by die Britse militêre begraafplaas by Diamond Hill op 8 Junie 1985.

Foto: NASKO

## **Opskrif van Gedenkplaat by die Britse militêre begraafplaas by die Donkerhoekslagveld**

In hierdie begraafplaas rus onder andere Britse soldate wat tydens die slag van Donkerhoek in die Anglo-Boere-oorlog (1899-1902) gesneuwel het. In Junie 1900 het 'n Boeremag van 4 000 man onder bevel van genl. Louis Botha hierdie rante oor 'n afstand van 40 km - vanaf Tierpoort in die Suide tot by Boekenhoutskloof in die Noorde - beset om die ooswaartse opmars van die Britte te stuit. In die daaropvolgende geveg op 11 en 12 Junie het 'n Britse mag van 20 000 man uit Pretoria, onder aanvoering van Lord Roberts, die Boerelinie aangeval. Na taai weerstand het Botha in die nag van 12 Junie onopgemerk in 'n ooswaartse rigting teruggetrek. Die Britse ongevalle was ongeveer 175, dié van die Boere 30. Dit was die vernaamste slag in die Pretoria-omgewing tussen die Britse leër en die Transvaalse mag tydens die Tweede Vryheidsoorlog.

## **Legend of the memorial plaque near the British military cemetery close to the battlefield of Diamond Hill**

In this cemetery are buried, amongst others, British soldiers who fell at the battle of Diamond Hill during the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902). In June 1900 a Boer force of 4 000 men, commanded by genl. Louis Botha, occupied these ridges over a distance of 40 km - from Tierpoort in the South to Boekenhoutskloof in the North - to stem the British eastern advance. In the ensuing battle on 11 and 12 June a British force of 20 000 men from Pretoria, under the command of Lord Roberts, attacked the Boer line. After strong resistance, Botha withdrew in an easterly direction under cover of darkness on 12 June. The British casualties numbered about 175 and those of the Boers 30. It was the most significant battle in the Pretoria area between the British army and the Transvaal forces during the Anglo-Boer War.

Raad vir Nasionale Gedenkwaardighede      National Monuments Council

1984

*Die Kulturele Lewe van die Pretoriase Nederlanders, met Besondere Aandag aan die "Nederlandsche Vereeniging", 1890-1918*

**SAMEVATTING**

deur **Robert Cornelis de Jong**

Studieleier en Promotor: Prof. dr. P.G. Nel.

Departement Afrikaanse en Nederlandse Kultuurgeskiedenis.

Graad waarvoor die verhandeling ingedien is: Magister Artium.

Die gangbare definisie van "Kultuur" as die "lewenstyl van 'n samelewing" was beslis van toepassing op die Pretoriase Nederlanders, weens hulle bedrywigheid op byna elke kultuurterrein. Veral voor 1900 was die Nederlandse gemeenskap die dominerende kultuurgroep in Pretoria, en hulle het aldus die basis neergelê waarop die kulturele ontplooiing van die Afrikaner ten dele kon plaasvind.

Sedert 1890 het 'n groot aantal Nederlandse immigrante hulle in die Zuid-Afrikaanse Republiek gevestig. Hulle was werksaam in die staatsdiens, onderwys, handel en die Nederlandsche Zuid-Afrikaanse Spoorweg Maatschappij (NZASM). 'n Hele aantal Nederlandse verenigings het hulle verskyning gemaak. Na die Tweede Vryheidsoorlog (1899-1902) was die omstandighede anders. As 'n gemeenskap wat hom nóg aangetrokke gevoel het tot die triomferende Angelsaksiese bevolkingselement nóg tuisgevoel het in die opkomende Afrikanerdom het die Nederlanders hulself in talle verenigings teruggetrek en dus hulle kulturele identiteit behou. Na 1906-1907 as die hoogtepunt van die verenigingslewe het verskeie verenigings verdwyn. Oorsake vir die agteruitgang in die getal verenigings was verafrikaansing, die opkoms van 'n moderne vermaaklikheidslewe (soos bioskoop) en die moeilike tyd gedurende die jare 1902-1909 en die Eerste Wêreldoorlog (1914-1918).

Alle Nederlandse verenigings het 'n paar gemeenskaplike kenmerke geopenbaar: 'n onafhanklike gees, 'n klein kern van gereelde lede, goed georganiseerde konserte en ander funksies en die gawe om op ongedwonge wyse vrolik fees te vier. Daar was meer kontak met die Afrikaners as met die Engelsprekende Pretorianers. Nederlandse verenigings se openbare mondstukke was meestal *De Vrije Opmerker* (1905-1907) en *De Spectator* (1910-1922), benewens *De Volksstem* (sedert 1905 *De Volkstem*).

Die belangrikste Nederlandse vereniging, asook die enigste wat uit die jare voor 1918 oorgebly het, was en is die Nederlandsche Vereeniging, opgerig in 1893. In 1918 het hy sy 25-jarige bestaan gevier, en daarom eindig die verhandeling met hierdie jaar. Baie aandag word aan dié invloedryke vereniging geskenk, waarby byna alle Nederlandse verenigings na 1903 aangeslote was. Die ander Nederlandse verenigings was op amper elke kultuurterrein aktief: politiek (een vereniging), ekonomie (een), liefdadigheid (twee), onderwys (twee), letterkunde (een), toneel (drie), sang (vyf), sang en toneel (twee), dans (een), sport (vyf) en sosiale verkeer (een). Daarbenewens kon nog tien ander verenigings opgespoor word wat egter slegs genoem word.

Die Pretoriase Nederlanders het nie alleen aan individuele verenigings se werksaamhede deelgeneem nie, maar het ook in wedersydse solidêre same-

werking ter geleentheid van 'n aantal manifestasies byeen gekom. Die ver- naamste hiervan was die jaarlikse viering van die geboortedag van Koningin Wilhelmina, sedert 1893. Hierdie hoofstuk is van besondere belang in die kader van die Koningin Wilhelmina-herdenking van 1980 (31 Augustus 1880-31 Augustus 1980). Ander gebeurtenisse was die viering van Prinses Juliana se verjaardag (1909-1918), die feestelike inwyding van die Pretoria-Delagoa-baai-spoorlyn (1895), die ontvangs van offisiere van die Hr. Ms. Johan Willem Friso (1897), pogings tot 'n eie Nederlandse verenigingsgebou (1905-1908), die Rembrandtfees (1906), die De Ruyter-herdenking (1907), die plasing van 'n gedenksteen ter ere van die Nederlanders wat in die Tweede Vryheids-oorlog gesterf het (1906-1909), die ontvangs van offisiere en bemanning van die Hr. Ms. De Zeven Provinciën (1911), deelname aan die Uniefeeste (1911), die Onafhanklikheidsfeeste (1913) en 'n paar feestelike maaltye en begrafnisse.

Die meeste van die eens bloeiende Nederlandse verenigings is tans lankal vergete. Alleen die Nederlandsche Vereeniging het as 'n aktiewe herinnering aan daardie onrustige tye oorgebly.

Die verhandeling sluit die volgende bylaes in: statute van die Nederland- sche Vereeniging (1904 en 1914), grafieke van die getal lede van die Neder- landsche Vereeniging per jaar, asook van die getal Nederlandse verenigings per jaar, 'n lys van bestuurslede van Nederlandse verenigings, die inskripsie van die gedenksteen ter ere van gesneuwelde Nederlanders, 'n lys van belang- rike Nederlanders wat in die teks genoem word, 'n lys van lokaliteite wat in die teks genoem word.

*The Cultural Life of the Netherlanders in Pretoria, with Special  
Attention to the "Nederlandsche Vereeniging", 1890-1918*

**SUMMARY**

**by Robert Cornelis de Jong**

Study leader and Promotor: Prof. dr. P.G. Nel.

Department: Afrikaans and Netherlands Cultural History.

Degree: Magister Artium.

The current definition of "culture" as a "community's lifestyle" definitely applied to the Dutch in Pretoria on account of their being active in almost every cultural sphere. Especially before 1900 the Dutch were the dominant cultural group in Pretoria, and thus laid the basis on which the cultural growth of the Afrikaner depended in many ways.

Since 1890 a large number of Dutch immigrants settled in the South African Republic. Their professions mostly lay in the realms of the civil service, education, trade and the Netherlands South African Railway Company (NZASM). Quite a few Dutch societies made their appearance. After the Second Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) the situation was different, and as a community which was neither orientated towards the victorious Anglo-Saxon element nor to the rising Afrikanerdom the Dutch withdrew in

numerous societies, and thus they preserved their cultural identity. After 1906-1907 as the climax of society life various societies again disappeared. Reasons for the gradual diminishing of their number were the loss of their Dutch character, the developing modern entertainment (for example cinema), the appearance of more professional celebrities and the difficult years during the period (1902-1909 and the First World War (1914-1918)).

All the Dutch societies had a few characteristics in common: an independent spirit, a small nucleus of regular members, well-planned concerts and other celebrations and the gift of organizing spontaneously gay occasions. They had more contact with the Afrikaners than with the English-speaking Pretorians. The Dutch societies mostly used the weeklies *De Vrije Opmerker* (1905-1907) and *De Spectator* (1910-1922) as their public mouthpiece, besides *De Volksstem* (since 1905 *De Volkstem*).

The most important Dutch society, and also the only one still active in Pretoria as a survivor of the years before 1918, was and is the "Nederlandsche Vereeniging" ("Dutch Society"), which was founded in 1893 and celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1918, reason for the thesis ending there. Much attention is given to this influential body, to which almost all Dutch societies were connected after its rebirth in 1903-1904. The other Dutch societies were active in virtually every cultural sphere: politics (one society), economics (one), charity (two), education (two), literature (one), theatre (three), singing (five), theatre and singing (two), dancing (one), sports (five) and social life (one). Besides these another ten societies could be accounted for, which, however, are only mentioned in the text.

The Dutch of Pretoria not only participated in activities pertaining to societies individually, but congregated in mutual cooperation on a solidary basis during a number of festive occasions. The most important of these was the annual celebration of Queen Wilhelmina's birthday, from 1893 onwards. This chapter is of particular significance to the Queen Wilhelmina Centenary of 1980 (31st August 1880 – 31st August 1980). Other occasions were the celebrating of Princess Juliana's birthday (1909-1918), the festive inauguration of the Pretoria-Delagoa Bay railway (1895), the visit of the officers of HMS Johan Willem Friso (1897), attempts at a Dutch society building (1905-1908), the Rembrandt festivities (1906), the De Ruyter Commemoration (1907), the placing of a memorial for the Dutch who died on the side of the Boer republics during the Second Anglo-Boer War (1906-1909), the visit of officers and crew of HMS De Zeven Provinciën (1911), participation in the Union Festivities (1911), the Dutch Independence Centenary (1913) and a number of burials and festive meals.

Most of the once flourishing Dutch societies are long forgotten nowadays. Only the "Nederlandsche Vereeniging" has remained as an active remembrance of those restless years.

The thesis contains the following supplements: constitution of the "Nederlandsche Vereeniging" (1904 and 1914), graphs of the number of members of the "Nederlandsche Vereeniging" per annum, as well as of the number of

Dutch societies per annum, the inscription of the memorial table in honour of the Dutch who gave their lives for the cause of the Boer republics during the Second Anglo-Boer War, a list of important Dutch personalities mentioned in the text, and a list of localities mentioned in the text.

### **HERINNERINGE AAN DIE NZASM IN EN OM PRETORIA (3)** **Die NZASM-lokomotief en -rytuig op die Pretoriase hoofstasie** **deur C. de Jong**

Daar is enkele lokomotiewe en rytuie van die Nederlandsche Zuid-Afrikaanse Spoorweg-Maatschappij (NZASM) in Transvaal bewaar. Ou lokomotiewe ("loks") staan op die hoofstasies van Pretoria en Johannesburg, in die James Hall Transportmuseum te Johannesburg en voor die stasie van die spoorwegdorp Waterval-Boven; hulle is museumstukke. Op die spoorwegterrein Esselenpark by Johannesburg is nog 'n NZASM-lok in werkende toestand, is my meegedeel. Elkeen van die NZASM-loks het sy eie naam. Die hoofstasie in Johannesburg bewaar verskeie naamplate van gesloopte NZASM-loks.

Die lok op die perron van die Pretoriase hoofstasie dra die letters ZASM, netsoos die ander loks. Dit was die gebruikelike afkorting van die maatskappy se lang naam. Die lok in Pretoria dra in geelkopersyfers sy nommer, 242. Onder die letters ZASM is die groot embleem van die Raad vir Nasionale Gedenkwaardighede (RNG) eweneens in geelkoper, bevestig. Dit beteken dat die ou lok 'n nasionale monument is.

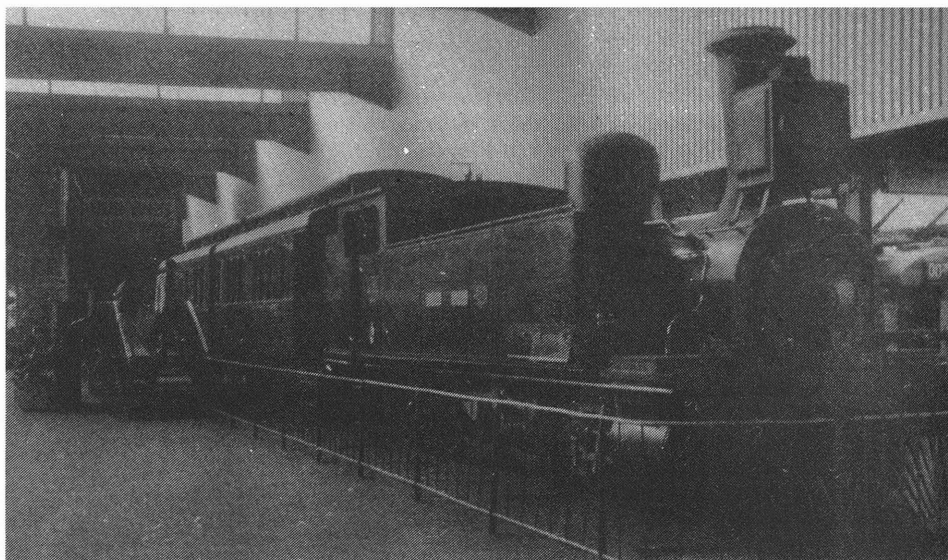
Op een sykant van die lok is langs mekaar deur die RNG twee bronsplate aangebring, een met Engelse teks en een met Afrikaanse teks. Die Afrikaanse teks lui soos volg:

Hierdie lokomotief is op 17 November 1965 aan die Suid-Afrikaanse Spoorweë geskenk deur Consolidated Main Reef Mines and Estate Ltd. Jaar gebou 1897, vervaardiger Nederlandse fabriek  
Oorspronklike eienaar NZASM  
Gewig in bedryfstoestand 45 ton 15½ c.w.t.  
Trekkrag bereken by 75% keteldruk 16 580 LB  
Inhoudsvermoë: water 1503 gelling brandstof 4 ton  
Jaar in diens gestel 1897 Jaar aan diens onttrek 1913

Hierdie lok is van die middelsware tipe.

Aan die swart lok is 'n donkerrooi geverfde rytuig gekoppel. Dit dra op sy sykante die groot embleem van die NZASM: 'n gevleuelde wiel waarvan 'n variant ook by die Suid-Afrikaanse spoorweë aangetref word op 'n halwe aardbol en daarbo in sierlik saamgevegte letters die monogram NZASM.





Lokomotief en rytuig van die Nederlandsche  
Zuid-Afrikaansche Spoorweg-Maatschappij  
(NZASM) op die perron van die hoofspoor-  
wegstasie te Pretoria

Foto: C. de Jong, 1985

'n Traliehek om die lok en rytuig hou die publiek op 'n afstand, maar 'n trap stel die nuuskieriges in staat om op te klim en in die rytuig te kyk.

Die salonrytuig wat die NZASM aan president Kruger geskenk het, staan in die Krugermuseum in Kerkstraat-Wes.

Pretoria, die hoofsetel van die NZASM, is gelukkig met die besit van hierdie herinneringe aan dié maatskappy.

## GEDENKTEKENS VIR MINDER BEKENDE PERSONE IN EN OM PRETORIA (2)

**Herman J. Coster**

Bespreking van: Jan Willem Meijer, "Dr. H.J. Coster 1865-1899", M.A.-verhandeling Geskiedenis, Universiteit van Suid-Afrika, November 1983, 202 pp. deur C. de Jong

In die Paleis van Justisie aan die Kerkplein in Pretoria is 'n reliëfportret van Herman Coster, afkomstig uit Nederland; generaal J.C. Smuts het dit op 23 Augustus 1923 onthul. In 1983 het Coster 'n ander waardevol gedenkteken gekry. Dit is die lewensbeskrywing wat Mnr. J.W. Meijer oor hom saamgestel het en wat Mnr. Meijer as Magisterverhandeling by UNISA gedien het.

Hermanus Jacob Coster is gebore uit Doopsgesinde ouers te Alkmaar in Nederland op 30 Juni 1865. Sy vader is oorlede toe hy 13 jaar oud was, maar sy welgestelde oom, die geneesheer dr. T.H. Blom Coster, het veel tyd en geld bestee om met sy begaafde neef uitgebreide reise in die buiteland te onderneem. Herman het regte in Leiden gestudeer. Ook sy voorsitterskap van die Leidse studentevereniging het tot sy vorming bygedra.

Hy het volwasse geword in die jare kort na die eerste Anglo-Boere-oorlog 1880-81. Die ekonomie en kultuur van Nederland het toe opgebloeï en talle nasionaalgesinde Nederlanders wou hul beskawing na die Nederlandse kolonies en Suid-Afrika uitdra. Die belangstelling vir die stamverwante heldevolk van Boere in Suid-Afrika het opgevlam. Voorbeelde van kultuurbewuste Nederlandse immigrante in Suid-Afrika was N. Mansvelt, W.J. Leyds en H.J. Coster. Coster het 'n veelbelowende loopbaan in Nederland, Oos- of Wes-Indië of die Verenigde State laat vaar en hom in 1890 in Pretoria gevestig. As idealis wou hy die Nederlandse beskawing in Transvaal versterk en dié land help ontwikkel en teen verbruitsing behoed, aldus tipeer Meijer hierdie geesdriftige Nederlander.

Na 'n moeilike begintyd as advokaat het hy van Staatsekretaris Leyds regeringsopdragte ontvang om wette te indekseer en op te stel. Sy bekwaamheid het spoedig geblyk en in 1895 is hy as Staatsprokureur benoem. Leyds het hierdie belangrike amp in 1884-89 beklee. Coster het in 1896 opgetree as Staatsaanklaer teen die Reformers, dit was die Johannesburgse medestanders van dr. L.S. Jameson wat die regering van die Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek (ZAR) wou omverwerp.

Reeds in 1897 het hy ontslag geneem en na die advokateberoep teruggekeer. Hy het egter voortgegaan om die regering sy dienste te lewer, onder meer vir die grondwets hersiening wat weens die oorlog in 1899 nie in werking



Dr Hermanus Jacob Coster  
na 'n tekening deur  
Anton van Wouw

Voorbeeld vir die Reliëfportret in die Paleis van Justisie  
aan Kerkplein te Pretoria.

getree het nie.

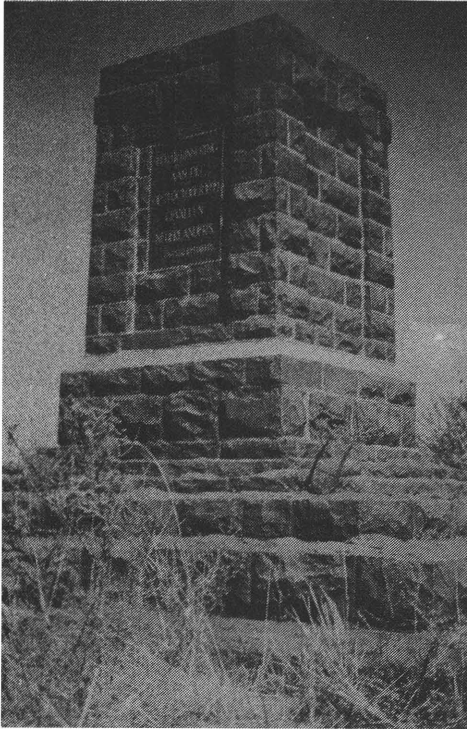
By die nadering van die oorlog het hy hom as luitenant by die Nederlandse vrywilligerskorps aangemeld en met die Hollanderkorps onder generaal Jan Kock na Natal opgeruk. Hy het saam met ander Nederlanders op 21 Oktober 1899 by Elandslaagte gesneuwel. Deur sy krygsmansdood, 34 jaar oud, het hy in Nederland en Suid-Afrika helderoem verwerf.

Mnr. J.W. Meijer het in sy biografie van Coster 'n uitstekende bydrae gelewer oor "Krugers Hollanders" wat sowel geprys as verguis is. Hy lê tereg die nadruk op Coster as bekwame regsgeleerde en as idealis vir die Nederlandse beskawing in Transvaal in plaas van op Coster se kort optrede as krygsman. Hy verklaar Coster se onverwagte aftrede as Staatsprokureur in 1897 nie uit wrok oor President Kruger se neerhalende opmerking oor die Hollanders in Transvaal, waarvoor Kruger hom trouens grootmoedig om verskoning gevra het —, ook nie uit wrok oor die verafrikaansing van die Staatsdiens waarin die een Nederlander na die ander deur Suid-Afrikaners vervang is nie —, maar uit die intrekking van die vreemdelingewet deur die Eerste Volksraad onder druk van die Britse regering. Hy het dit as 'n ontoelaatbare toegewing aan Britse druk beskou. Meijer skryf dat Coster toe in sy ideaal van onafhanklikheid vir Transvaal teleurgestel is, maar lojaal jeens die regering gebly het. Hy het hom in September 1899 nie by 'n Boerekommando nie maar by die Hollanderkorps aangesluit om die Nederlanders se loyaliteit jeens die ZAR te demonstreer, aldus Meijer.

'n Vergelyking tussen Coster en Leyds is myns insiens interessant. Leyds was Staatsprokureur en Staatssekretaris onder Kruger. Hy en Coster was baie bekwaam en daardeur gerespekteer, maar Coster was 'n eenvoudiger, emosionele en warmere mens as die koel, ietwat snobistiese Leyds wat nooit populêr was nie. Byvoorbeeld Coster het Afrikaans gepraat, Leyds nooit nie.

Coster se vroeë dood was 'n tragedie. Volgens Meijer het tragedie ook sy gesin getref. Hulle het in 1901 na Nederland teruggekeer. Sy tweede seun is, 14 jaar oud, by 'n skietongeluk dood. Sy oudste seun is in 1942 in 'n Japannese krygsgevangenskap in Oos-Indië oorlede. Sy jongste seun is as versetstryder deur die Duitse besetters in Nederland in Maart 1945 tereggestel. Hy het blykbaar die opofferingsgesinde idealisme van sy vader geërf. Daar is geen kleinkinders nie. Toestemming om haar in Suid-Afrika te vestig is aan Coster se weduwee in 1938 geweier. Sy moes van lae inkomste leef totdat Eerste Minister D.F. Malan haar in 1950 'n Staatspensioen toegestaan het. Sy is, 85 jaar oud, in 1953 oorlede.

Volgens voorstel van Dr. W.H.J. Punt is Coster in 1961 in die Ou Begraafplaas te Pretoria herbegrawe. Herinnerings aan hom is die bogenoemde portret in die Paleis van Justisie en sy naam op die muurborde met name van Nederlanders wat deur die oorlog in 1899-1902 omgekom het, in die Nederduitsch Hervormde Kerk aan Du Toitstraat te Pretoria en die Nederduitse Gereformeerde Tweekoringkerk in Bloemfontein en op die monument vir gevalle Nederlanders te Elandslaagte wat deur Gerard Moerdijk ontwerp en op 19 Desember 1925 onthul is. Op 4 November 1901 is 'n gedenksteen vir Coster in die gewel van die Akademiegebou te Leiden en op 6 Desember 1967 is 'n groot monument op sy graf in Pretoria onthul. Die Costerstraat op Voortrekkerhoogte te Pretoria en in 'n paar voorstede in Nederland met name uit Suid-Afrika herinner nog aan hom.



Elandslaagte ..... die einde .....  
 Monument vir lede van die Hollanderkorps wat by Elandslaagte op 21 Oktober 1899 gesneuwel het, merendeels van Pretoria; die eerste naam op die lys van gevallenes is die van luitenant H.J. Coster. Die monument staan op die koppie waar die geveg gelewer is.

Foto: C. de Jong



Gedenkteken vir Herman J. Coster op die Ou Begraafplaas in Kerkstraat-Wes, digby die Helde-akker, op die plek waar hy op 11 Desember 1961 herbegrawe is. Die gedenkteken is op 6 Desember 1967 deur kommandant-generaal R.C. Hiemstra onthul. Die bostaande foto is dadelik ná die onthulling gemaak.

Foto: C. de Jong

**Little did President Kruger know ....**

**THE FIRST MOTORCAR IN PRETORIA, 1897**

by **Arnold Kretzmar**

from *Pretoria News* Wednesday 15 February 1984

When President Paul Kruger told his coachman on the hot summer day of January 4 1897 to inspan the horses and get his State coach ready to take him to Berea Park, he could not have foreseen that this day would inaugurate the dawn of a new era in the history of South Africa.

The age of the ox-wagon, the horse and buggy, the hansom cab, the Cape cart and Zeederberg's coaches would be coming to an end.

The unpredictable Horseless Carriage, with who could tell what promise and menace, had arrived.

Precisely at 4 o'clock the President stepped out of his coach accompanied by his State Secretary, Dr. Leyds.

Others in his entourage were Mr. A.D.W. Wolmarans and Mr. J.C. Smuts, the State Attorney.

Also among the notables was a Mr. Conyngham Green, carrying in his head who knew what secrets of events still to come, but hardly visible under the inconspicuous title of British Agent.

The President was introduced to a tiny gentleman in a large top hat, a Mr. J.P. Hess, and his partner, A.E. Reno, pioneers of the first motor car in South Africa – a 1½ horsepower Benz Voiturette. They had imported it from Germany a few weeks before.

Curiosity about the new vehicle was tremendous and the largest crowd in the history of Pretoria had assembled at the Berea Park.

Enormous anticipation had already been aroused by the following announcement of the event.

“The Invention of the Age. The First Exhibition In South Africa Of The Horseless Carriage – In full work in the Berea Park on Monday, January 4th at 4 pm.

“Under the rules of the South African Cycling Club and under the auspices of the Pretoria Mechanics Amateur Cycling Club.

“Price of admission 2/6 per head. Photographers free.”

Oom Paul gave the signal to Mr. Hess to start up the Horseless Carriage; there was a roar of cheering as it sputtered and fumed around the Berea Park.

When it stopped, crowds of sightseers broke loose like schoolboys after a rugby test, bursting with curiosity – fingers touching the spokes of the wheels, the glittering brass lamps, the shining leather seats.

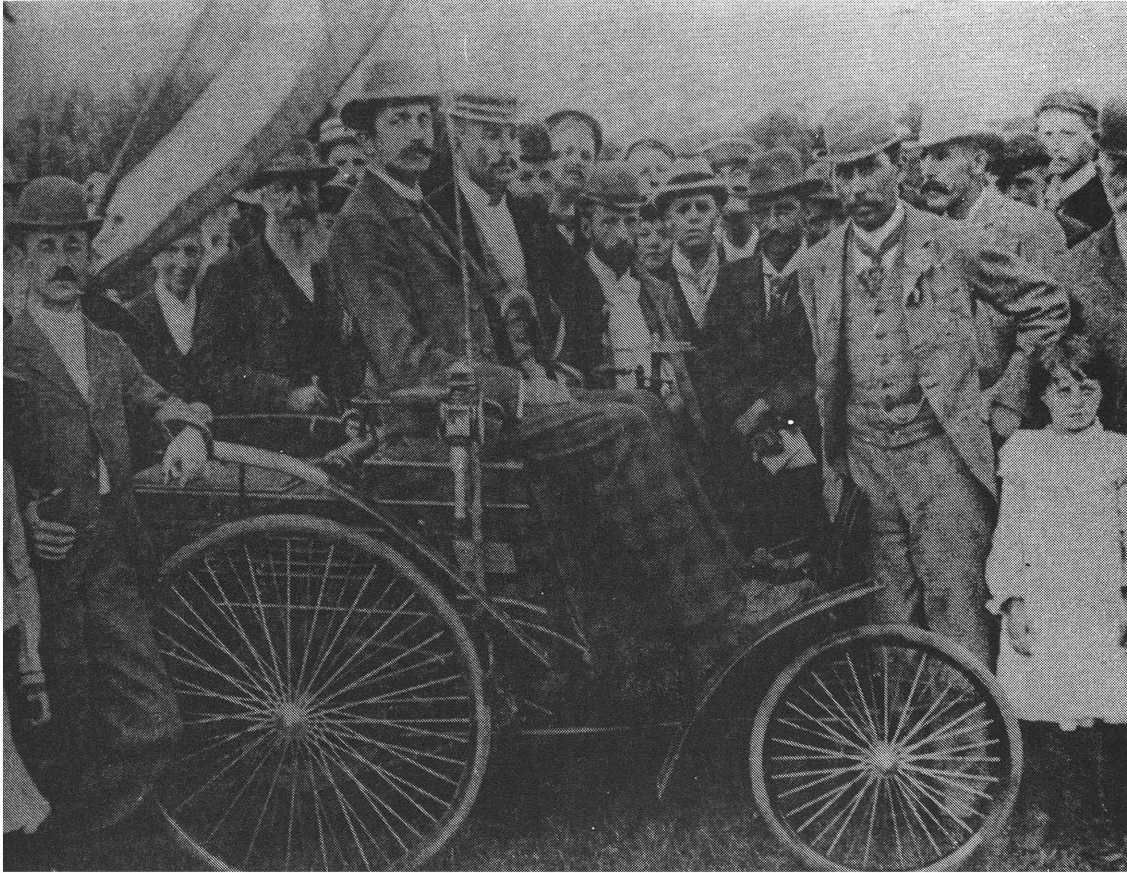
Mr Hess stepped down from the high seat. The President congratulated him upon his invention. State Secretary Leyds whispered into the President's ears that Mr. Hess was the importer and not the inventor.

The President accepted the correction with a smile, and promised Mr. Hess he would present him with a special medal to mark his great occasion.

The President was asked “Would Your Honour care to take a ride with us?” Oom Paul declined and, with a twinkle in his eye, said “No, thank you, a dog might bark, the car might buck and throw me out.”

The promise of a medal was honoured. It read: “Presented by His Honour Paul Kruger, President of the Transvaal Republic, to Mr. J.P. Hess on Monday the 4th January 1897, in honour of his having introduced the first motor in South Africa.”

After the great day the town buzzed with talk and speculation about the



Een van die foto's wat gemaak is van die eerste motorvoertuig in Pretoria in Bereapark op 4 Januarie 1897. Die voertuig is ingevoer deur J.P. Hess en A.E. Reno. Op die sitplek vooraan sit die Staatssekretaris W.J. Leyds. Wie kan my inlig oor die identiteit van die oranje persone?

Die diepers op die gesigte is tipies vir die Viktoriaanse tydperk

future. What would it now hold for South Africa and the world?

There were far-seeing men who saw great benefits immediately.

They said the new machine could now be inspanned to an oxwagon, and so goodbye to the rinderpest, and all the other pests more numerous than the plagues of Egypt – horse-sickness, tsetse flies, heartwater, miltsiekte, and the like.

Others rejoiced: “What about the savings of forage, expensive harness, lazy grooms, runaway horses breaking disselbooms, and throwing drivers and passengers into the street?”

An end also, they said, to intractable oxen, unmanageable mules and obstinate donkeys.

Then there were others who, looking far beyond the rinderpest and shrewdly anticipating the age of speed traps, alcohol tests, drunken driving and parking-meter fines said: “Our motor carriages can now stand in the street unattended and the bumptious Zarps dare not interfere.”

They did not live long enough to be sadly disillusioned.

The Press had its say, and said much. *The Standard* said: “The long-expected motor, the first of its kind in South Africa, imported by Messrs Hess and Co, was tried in the Berea Park. The exhibition was a great success and the carriage was much admired.”

*The Advertiser* also expressed its satisfaction: “The car ran very smoothly and the quicker the motion, the less noise could be heard from the machinery.”

Another newspaper in anticipation of the event said: “Messrs Hess and Co are the introducers of this wonderful invention in South Africa and Pretoria will count it a redletter day that they will be the first to set eyes on the workings of this great scientific invention.

“If 250 000 people waited with eager eyes to see the first motorcar move on that rainy autumn day in London only a few weeks ago, we think that 3 000 Pretorians present for the honour of being the first people in South Africa to see a machine which will supercede all locomotion by the end of the century.”

Johannesburg’s turn to see the first horseless carriage came nine days later on January 13 1897 in the presence of a vast gathering, at the Wanderers ground.

The importers took no risk in bringing the car from Pretoria to the Wanderers. They railed it from Pretoria, the official reason being: the Jukskei River as well as Six Mile Spruit might be in flood.

The explanation did not sound very convincing – that January was a very dry month.

A week after the Johannesburg exhibition, the car was bought by Mr A.H. Jacobs (better known as “Coffee” Jacobs).

Being a shrewd businessman, “Coffee” Jacobs mounted the horseless carriage on a stand, where it gleamed brilliantly in the sun. You could view it by buying a pound of tea or coffee and presenting your ticket. Vast amounts of tea and coffee were drunk in those weeks, until, sadly enough, the car was destroyed in a garage fire.

Before this historic car passed from the scene, the Benz makers in Ger-



many were so delighted with President Kruger's interest that they named the road leading to their Mannheim factory "Pretoriastrasse."

Despite countless punctured tyres, roads no better than farmtracks, and many a horseless carriage being dragged out of flooded drifts and spruits by teams of oldfashioned oxen, interest in it quickened.

In 1901 the Royal Automobile Club was responsible for the first motor service station being opened; and since it was no use coming to the cycle dealers for mechanical repairs, the RAC persuaded Mr Malcolm Irving to open a workshop.

This business, later taken over by Mr Sidney Benjamin, is believed to have been South Africa's first service station.

Now that we have jaded appetites and all the signs and wonders of invention no longer excite us, it is an interesting exercise to turn back to those days of 1897 and the years that followed up to the outbreak of World War I.

With what jubilation each new invention was welcomed, with what mounting excitement each new miracle of technology was hailed!

It is instructive to read about this Age of Innocence in Stefan Zweig's "World of Yesterday."

"None could foretell what might happen in a single year. One discovery, one invention followed another and instantly was directed to the common good. On the day that the Zeppelin made its first flight I happened to be in Strassbourg on my way to Belgium when, amid the jubilant roaring of the crowd, it circled the cathedral as if to pay homage to the thousand-year-old building....

"In Vienna we shouted with joy when Bleriot flew over the Channel as if he had been our own hero. How useless, we said to ourselves, are frontiers when any plane can fly over them with ease, how provincial and artificial are customs duties, guards and border patrols, how incongruous in the spirit of these times, which visibly seeks unity and world brotherhood."

## JOHN JOHNSTON KIRKNESS<sup>1</sup>

by N.A. Coetzee

He was born on 1 April 1859 in the Orkney Islands to the north of Scotland and died at 82 on 13 June 1939 in Pretoria. In his student days he qualified in building construction, obtaining the Diploma in Building Construction at the Heriot Watt College in Edinburgh and completing his apprenticeship as a carpenter with a Glasgow firm. He came to South Africa in 1879, aged 22, landing at Port Elizabeth and working in Durban, Bethlehem and on the Barberton goldfields. He went back to Orkney and married Mary Ann Baikie in Kirkwall on 16 June, 1884. After returning to South Africa he settled in Pretoria in 1889.

There were two sons and a daughter. After they married, Kirkness built and moved into a residence at 225 Pomona Street, Muckleneuk, where he and his wife lived for the rest of their lives. His wife died on 20 April, 1936. He built the house himself to test the bricks that he was making in his own brickworks at Groenkloof. This fine old mansion, at present owned by the University of South Africa, ought to be declared an historical monument.

There was a period when the kiln in the enormous Groenkloof excavation, where the well-known "Kirkness" face-bricks, roof and floor tiles and pottery were made for so many years, held a million bricks and half a million other articles continually in the making. These were used throughout the country, in neighbouring territories and overseas. The Groote Schuur Hospital in Cape Town and the Salisbury Post Office in Harare were roofed with Kirkness roofing tiles, and flooring tiles and vases were used by Sir Herbert Baker in South Africa House in London. The site of the brickfield is now being developed as the sports fields for the Pretoria College of Education. We hope that a suitable memorial will be erected to this building pioneer of South Africa at the entrance and that the fields will be called the John Johnston Kirkness Sports Fields.

The head office of J.J. Kirkness was on Church square next to the Old National Bank and Old Mint. The façades of these buildings have been preserved and restored by the Postal Department and the hope exists that a memorial plaque to J.J. Kirkness will be put up there<sup>2</sup>.

The following is a summary of those buildings and other structures erected by Kirkness, which have been declared National Monuments.

1. The completion of the fourth and last Raadsaal in Bloemfontein, 1893, tender price R25 000.
2. The Old Raadsaal, Pretoria, tender price R165 000, 1889. The doors and windows were made in the Orkneys by Samuel Baikie & Co. Sytse Wierda

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<sup>1</sup> Translation of the article by Dr. N.A. Coetzee, "John Johnston Kirkness", in Afrikaans published in *Pretoriana* Nr. 86, December 1984, p. 40-46, with the portraits of Mr. John J. Kirkness and his wife Mary Ann Kirkness born Baikie.

<sup>2</sup> This happened on 23 September 1985 (C.d.J.).

designed the third floor and Kirkness completed the building in 1899. The furniture of the Raadsaal was made from walnut in England. On 24 June 1983, two rooms in the Raadsaal were converted into a Kruger period ZAR Museum. Some remembrance to J.J. Kirkness should be incorporated in this museum.

3. The Old Arts Block and Old Science Block of the University of Pretoria were completed by Kirkness in 1911, after which the UP faculties, then housed in the Old Staatsgimnasium in Bosman Street, were able to move to the present campus.
4. The Wierda Bridge over the Hennops River: Kirkness's tender of R15 182,20 was accepted in 1891. The bridge was named after Sytse Wierda, Head of the Public Works Department of the ZAR.
5. The Lion Bridge over the Apies River was designed by Sytse Wierda and Kirkness's tender for building it was R13 131. The bridge was opened by President Kruger on 11 June 1894. The four bronze lions were cast by MacFarlane Sun Foundry in Glasgow.
6. The Paul Kruger Hospital, Rustenburg, Kirkness roofing tiles were used.
7. The Old Main Building of the Veterinarian Research Institute, Onderstepoort, was built by Kirkness and opened in October 1908.
8. The State Artillery and Stables Complex, Houses 1-15 and stabling complex, for which the tender by the Executive of the ZAR was accepted on 2 May, 1897, yet another Kirkness product.

The following is a list of other buildings of J.J. Kirkness, some of which have already been demolished. An appeal is being made to save those still standing by declaring them National Monuments.

1. The National Bank and probably the Old Mint on the north-western corner of Church Square.
2. Inverclyde House on the corner of Andries and Skinner Streets (already demolished).
3. The Old Mint and neighbouring buildings in Visagie Street, Pretoria, (partially demolished and rebuilt).
4. The first Land Bank building in Paul Kruger Street, Pretoria.
5. School House, Pretoria High School for Boys.
6. The Normal College main building, Rissik Street, Pretoria.

This is a further reason why J.J. Kirkness's name should be connected with the College's Sports Fields in Groenkloof.

7. The Sammy Marks Building in Church Street, opposite the State Theatre and Strydom Square was designed in 1903 by W.J. de Zwaan and built by J.J. Kirkness, who was on friendly terms with Sammy Marks. We hope that the efforts to get this handsome building declared a National Monument and to have it effectively used will be successful. The Kynoch Building next to it is thought to be one of the oldest buildings in Pretoria.
8. Part of the Mental Hospital, Pretoria West.
9. The former Union Hotel, Church Street East, Pretoria.

10. White House, Muckleneuk, Pretoria, which was designed by Sir Herbert Baker.
11. The church of the Afrikaans congregation in Barberton was built by Kirkness.
12. He built the Vicarage and Parsonage in Bethlehem, OFS, and also the bridge over the Liebenbergsvlei in that region.
13. He built the church for the Afrikaans congregation at Heilbron.

Sir Herbert Baker used Kirkness bricks, vases and floor tiles for the Union Building in Pretoria and numerous houses in Pretoria were built by Kirkness and show the beautiful ornamental bricks from his Pretoria kilns.

J.J. Kirkness also played a giant's part in the development of the economic, cultural and religious life of the Pretoria of his time. What follows is a summary.

1. The Federated Employers Mutual Assurance Company was founded by Kirkness and others. The first policy was issued to him on 22 April 1937 as an acknowledgement of what he had done on.
2. He played a leading part in the preservation of Church Square. With the then mayor, Johannes van Boeschoten, he ensured in 1911 that the trams would not go across the Square but around the Square.
3. J.J. Kirkness was the fourth mayor of Pretoria.
4. He supported the Governor-General's Fund in the First World War with all his might and the King awarded him the OBE in recognition of his efforts.
5. He was for many years chairman of the Pretoria branch of the Prisoners' Aid Society.
6. With Charles Maggs he donated the Amchewitz paintings, which are to be seen in the foyer of the City Hall, to the City Council of Pretoria.
7. He was President of the National Master Builders' Federation.
8. He donated the bricks for the St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Schoeman Street, Pretoria. One of the elders' pews is named after him and the restoration of the stained glass windows, completed in 1981, was undertaken in remembrance of J.J. Kirkness and his wife Mary Ann. The declaration of this building a national monument is a matter of priority and the best thing that could be done to preserve the building for posterity.
9. One of the lion cages in the Pretoria Zoo was named in memory of Kirkness because of his financial support in its construction.
10. He donated the furniture in one of the rooms of the Royal Colonial Institute in London and contributed generously towards the construction of London House where the social club of Commonwealth students who have studied in England is situated.
11. One of the greens of the Caledonian Bowling Club is named after him; he was an active bowler there.
12. He was a founder-member of the Pretoria Caledonian Society.
13. He was an active member of the Pretoria Club.



The brick factory of John J. Kirkness in Groenkloof, Pretoria, about the year 1940 – the factory is viewed from the north; the two hills south of the factory are to the left Klapperkop and to the right Schanskop.

Photo: Martin Gibbs

14. In his will he made generous provision for the St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, the Presbyterian Orphanage, the Pretoria Benevolent Society, the Princess Christian Home and the Pretoria General Hospital.

In the *Pretoria News* of 1 May 1981 it was reported that a portion of Zandfontein in Booyens would be divided into 30 industrial sites with a park, to be called "Kirkney" in memory of Kirkness. It is hoped that suitable recognition will be given to J.J. Kirkness by the erection of a monument in the park with a bronze plaque.

The *Pretoria News* of 15 June 1939 gave a full page to the arrangements at the funeral of J.J. Kirkness, with a summary in small print of all the expressions of sympathy sent by persons and institutions and a list of those who donated wreaths. It would be worthwhile for the *Pretoria News* to reproduce this page on a suitable memorial occasion.

John Johnston Kirkness and his wife Mary Ann Baikie are buried in the Presbyterian Acre in the Rebecca Street Cemetery in Pretoria West.

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3. *Pretoria News*, Thursday 15 June, 1939, report of the funeral of John Johnston Kirkness.
4. "Bricks and Brickfield", *The Star*, 30 May 1923, an article on bricks, tiles and pottery and the Groenkloof Factory, written to advertise the Pretoria Show of 30 May 1923, with photographs.
5. *Pretoria News*, 9 July 1980: Kirkness Brickfields filled in for sports fields for the Teacher Training College, Pretoria.
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7. *Pretoria News*, 6 Aug. 1950: "Lion Bridge to be a National Monument."
8. Letter from National Monuments Commission, 1983-11-23, to J.N. Kirkness, reference 3/1/3/Pre/13.
9. Onderstepoort Veterinarian Research Institute, Main Building, letter to J.N. Kirkness 3/1/3/Won/7 of 1983-10-07 from the National Monuments Commission, Transvaal Archives, Depot Volume PWS 1761, file no. 18/5410.
10. *Pretoria News*, 21 July 1981 and 27 July 1981, referring to the 50 cent stamp and 6 cent stamp of the SA Fourth Definitive Series, issued 10-6-1982, with pictures of the Raadsaal and Parliament Building, Bloemfontein. The Pretoria Raadsaal is depicted on the 4 cent stamp.
11. *Pretoria News*, 6 October 1983, 75th anniversary celebrations of the Onderstepoort Research Institute.
12. *Die Beeld*, 7 July 1980: "The lions of Lion Bridge." Reference is made to *De Volksstem* of 13 June 1894. The Bridge was built by Kirkness for

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Advertisement of John J. Kirkness in the *Lochhead's Guide, Handbook and Directory of Pretoria*, 1913. Published by Transvaal Reliable Agency, Pretoria 1913, p.198.

#### Postscript by J.N. Kirkness

1. The Lion Bridge in Pretoria. The successful tenderer for the bridge got into financial difficulties even before completing the foundations and J.J. Kirkness was called in to finish the construction of the bridge.
2. Something similar happened in the case of the RAADSAAL of Bloemfontein when the contractor was unable to finish the work and J.J. Kirkness was called in to complete the work. The above correction is, and will be, recorded in the *Historical monuments of South Africa*. (The editor confirms this correction and refers to J.J. Oberholster, *Die historiese monumente van Suid-Afrika*, uitgegee deur Kultuurstigting Rembrandt van Rijn, 1972, p. 207 regse kolom).
3. J.J. Kirkness did not build the Kruger Hospital in Rustenburg. He only gave a donation of the roofing tiles.

- R26 000 in 1894. The *Pretoria News*, 16 July 1981, contains another article about the Bridge.
13. *The Star*, 2 January 1952 and *Pretoria News* of 30 December 1981: articles about the Lion Bridge.
  14. *Pretoria News*, 10 February 1981: "Treasure House Ignored", about the Old Raadsaal, Pretoria. The walnut furniture was made in England.
  15. Letter from National Monument Commission, 4/E/Pta/6, Box 4637, Cape Town, 10/T/Pta/3 of 6 August 1980, about the arrival of Kirkness in Pretoria, 1887.
  16. Arthur Barlow, *Almost in Confidence*, a reference to Kirkness in connection with the building of the fourth Raadsaal, Bloemfontein.
  17. *Pretoria News*, 20 April 1981, about the death of T.G. Kirkness, son and partner of J.J. Kirkness. He was born at Bethlehem, 19-3-1886, and died at the age of 95.
  18. *The Star*, 17 May 1980, about Sammy Marks and the Kynoch Buildings, also in *Pretoria News*, 2 July 1980.
  19. *Pretoria News*, 10 January 1981 and 5 June 1981: Preservation of the Sammy Marks Building, built by Kirkness in the Dutch Renaissance Style.
  20. Church Square Tramline Dispute 1910, in *Pretoria News*, 9 November 1979.
  21. Roy MacNab, *South Africa House, London*.
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For further information consult the indices of the following books for references to J.J. Kirkness:

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26. Fitzpatrick, *Dummy and Grest*.
27. Doreen Greig, *Herbert Baker in South Africa*.
28. Picton Seymow, *Victorian Buildings in South Africa*.
29. Doreen Greig, *A Guide to Architecture*.
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31. Hall and Power, *Pretoria 1910*.
32. Partridge, *Thus the Bowl should run*.
33. Eric Rosenthal, *A Short Biography*.
34. Pretoria Club, *Old Ivory and Roses*.
35. *Pretoriana, Journal of the Old Pretoria Society*, Vol 1, No 1, p.4; Vol 1, no. 2, p.11; Vol 3, no 2, p.2; 1962, no 38, April, p.28; 1977, no 76, Index to Volumes.



## OU KAREEBOOM HERINNER AAN TRANSVAALSE BURGEROORLOG

Mnr. G.R. Mulder van Schoemansville verwys in sy hierna volgende aantekening na die kareeboom aan die noordekant van Silkaatsnek, waar van 9 tot 15 Januarie 1864 vrede gesluit en die burgeroorlog in Transvaal in 1863-64 beëindig is. Die boom is een van die skaars herinneringe aan die verwarde en beskamende tydperk in Transvaal van die Zandrivierverdrag – waarin Brittanje die onafhanklikheid van die republiek in Transvaal erken het – tot die vrede by die ou kareeboom. Dit was 'n tyd van broedertwis en burgeroorlog waarin die Oorvaalse republiek tydelik in vier dwergstate – Potchefstroom, Zoutpansberg, Lydenburg en Kliprivier (Utrecht) uiteengeval het.

Die oorsake was:

1. ernstige meningsverskil tussen die Volksraad en die staatshoof (president) oor die afbakening van hul bevoegdhede, m.a.w. botsing tussen demokrasie en outokrasie
2. ernstige meningsverskil oor aansluiting al dan nie, van die Transvalers by die Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk in die Kaapkolonie, omdat die predikante van dié Kerk in 1836-40 almal teen die Groot Trek gekant was
3. partikularisme van die vier genoemde deelstate waarvan die leiers nie onder 'n sentrale regering in Pretoria wou buig nie.

Die broedertwiste het geduur tot die Britse anneksasie in 1877. Die aanleiding tot die burgeroorlog in 1863-64 was die posisie van president Marthinus Wessel Pretorius, 'n anomalie. Hy wou staatshoof van die Oranje-Vrystaat en Transvaal tegelyk wees en beide republieke verenig. Hy is as president van die Vrystaat gekies en die Volksraad van Transvaal het hom daarom 'n halfjaar verlof toegestaan, maar hom daarna beveel om te bedank vir een van sy twee ampte as president. Hy het toe bedank as president van Transvaal en die Volksraad het W.C. Janse van Rensburg as nuwe president gekies. Maar Pretorius se aanhangers in Potchefstroom wou hom as president handhaaf, het gerebelleer en 'n Volksleër onder Johannes Willem (Jan) Viljoen, grootgrondbesitter en grootwildjagter, op die been gebring. Die Volksleër het na Pretoria opgeruk en president van Rensburg het na Rustenburg gevlug. Viljoen het na hierdie dorp opgetrek, maar 'n Staatsleër onder kommandant-generaal Paul Kruger het hom tegemoet getrek. By die Krokodilrivier by Silkaatsnek het die leërs gebots en geskermtusel. Die Volksleër het 6 dooies en 14 gewondes, die Staatsleër 3 dooies en 6 of 8 gewondes verloor. Die getalle lyk klein, maar ons moet bedink dat daar in Suid-Afrika altyd min mense was en dat die botsings daarom nie minder talryk en hewig was nie. Dit is die slag van Krokodilrivier op 5 Januarie 1864 genoem.

M.W. Pretorius het reeds in April 1863 as president van die Vrystaat sy bedanking aangekondig en op 6 Januarie by die Volksleër aangekom. Hy het vredesonderhandeling voorgestel. Dit het van 9 tot 15 Januarie 1864 by die kareeboom plaasgevind. Die vredesgees het oorwin. Daar is besluit om 'n presidentsverkiesing te hou. Op 10 Mei 1864 is M.W. Pretorius met die vereiste

meerderheid van stemme weer as president gekies.

Min mense gee in ons tyd aandag aan die droewige broedertwis in die ou-Transvaal, maar onder hulle was die groot Afrikanerskrywer N.P. van Wyk Louw. Hy het die burgeroorlog gedramatiseer in sy hoorspel "Kruger breek die pad oop". Die historikus wat dié episode onlangs uitvoerig beskryf het, is Dr. O.J.O. Ferreira in "Stormvoël van die Noorde, Stephanus Schoeman in Transvaal" (Makro-Boeke, Pretoria 1978, p.307-308). Hy vermeld die ou kareeboom op p.308 en voeg in 'n verwysing 255 op p.322 by:

"J.J. van Tonder, 'Verhale en foto's van veertig boommonumente in Suid-Afrika', p.75 - Die boom is vandag nog te sien op die plaas Uitkoms van mnr. H.J. Briel ongeveer 9 km vanaf Brits. B.K. de Beer, 'Agter die Magalies', pp. 243-248, 509-510 en 521-525, gee 'n baie breedvoerige verduideliking waarom hy meen dat hierdie kareeboom nie die Vredesboom of 'Sweerboom' is nie maar wel 'n 'Wagboom'. Omdat die betrokke gedeelte talle onjuisthede bevat, daar geen bronverwysings voorkom nie en die posisie van die boom in elk geval geen direkte verband met (Stephanus) Schoeman het nie, word hiermee volstaan".

Ook ek volstaan met hierdie inleiding en gee die woord aan Mnr. G.R. Mulder.

C. de Jong

## DIE GESKIEDKUNDIGE OU KAREEBOOM

Baie van ons mense weet van die besondere Kareeboom langs die teerpad van Silkaatsnek na Brits. Maar weet u presies waar die boom staan? En het u al die boom met sy gedenksteen gaan besigtig? En weet u wat het onder die boom op 5 Januarie 1864 gebeur? Ja, so is daar in die Brits distrik vele gedenkstene, monumente en geskiedkundige besienswaardighede waarlangs ons gedurig verby beweeg sonder om hulle op te merk of te besigtig. Hierdie dinge is mos reeds deur ons voorgeslagte opgerig as aandenkings vir ons en ons kinders.

Byna al die gedenktekens vertel vir ons iets van die worstelstryd en swaarkryjare van die Suid-Afrikaanse volk. Hulle behoort ons gedurig aan te spoor op die Pad van Suid-Afrika. As u weer moeg word, of wil tou-op-gooi, of nie weet wat met u kuiergaste of kinders te doen nie, gaan dan na die gedenktekens - staan daar 'n oomblik stil, skep weer moed en vertel hulle die geskiedenis. Ons voorouers se worstelstryd en opofferinge mag ons nie vergeet nie. Dit moet ons juis inspireer om voort te beweeg.

Die ou oorspronklike kareeboom het reeds al gesterf maar van sy takke het rondom sy stam afgesak grondtoe, weer wortel geskied en jong bome gevorm, sodat daar vandag vyf jonger kareebome staan. Die ou droë stam, byna 2 meter in omvang, staan vandag nog trots regop met sy kinders rondom hom.

Naby die boom is 'n betonsteentjie met 'n plaat daarop waarop die volgende bewoording voorkom:

“Nadat die Burgerstryd in Transvaal met die Krokodilrivierslag in hierdie omgewing op 5 Januarie 1864 beëindig is, het die voormanne van die “Staatsleger” en die “Volksleger” van 9 tot 15 Januarie 1864 onder hierdie boom samesprekings gevoer wat tot die herstel van vrede en eensgesindheid gelei het”.

President Kruger het in die hoedanigheid van Kommandant Generaal ’n belangrike bydrae gelewer om die vrede te herstel.

Hierdie monumentjie is opgerig deur die Lenteskool van Brits en onthul op 5 Julie 1961.

Hoe lyk dit, gaan u die monument en boom besoek en sy geskiedenis nales? Doen dit gerus terwille van u nageslag.

G.R. Mulder, Schoemansville, 1979

## THE OLD CEMETERY IN PRETORIA (3)

by T.A. Andrews

The following biographical notes on persons buried in the Old Cemetery in Church Street West, are borrowed from the booklet *Pioneer sketches*, written and issued by Mr. T.E. Andrews. The editor thanks him for his permission to reprint from his sketches in *Pretoriana*.

### ELOFF F.C.

Frederik Christoffel Eloff's background is vague. He married Elsie Francina, President Kruger's daughter, and settled on the north eastern portion of the farm Daspoort purchased from Marais (Les Marais) in 1896 and called it Eloff Estate which in turn gave us the name of Eloffsdal established in 1918, and Capital Park, so called because it was established in park-like surroundings amongst bluegum plantations, north of what also became known as Eloff's Cutting at the Zoo.

Francina gave her name to a street there and Eloff Street was named after Frikkie.

F.C. Eloff Jnr. became Paul Kruger's private secretary and accompanied him to Europe in exile. Another member of the family, Sarel, played an important part in the Second Anglo-Boer War. His name is remembered for leading an attack and capturing a section of the Mafeking defences, which he was forced to surrender, and for his unsuccessful attempt to escape from a prisoner-of-war camp on St. Helena in February, 1901. Sarel left his name to a township and railway station, “Eloff” on the East Rand, where he settled and married.

S.J.P. Eloff (Fanie), the well known sculptor, named after his grandfather, executed the ‘Discus Thrower’ at the Eastern Sportsground and his parents’ tombstone.

## FORSSMAN

The Forssman brothers from Sweden left their mark also in the history of the Transvaal. Oscar, the youngest brother, an engineer, came to Natal in 1844 when 22 years old. He transferred his interest to the Transvaal and by 1852 was a prominent merchant importing gunpowder and stationery material for the government.

He encouraged some of his countrymen to come to the Transvaal and they settled along the Vaal River ever since known as Scandinavian Drift. Those settlers served their adopted country well as farmers and soldiers who died almost to a man against the British Blackwatch Regiment at the Battle of Magersfontein in December 1899.

Oscar, the Portuguese Consular Representative, became wealthy and owned many farms in the Transvaal. During the Siege of Potchefstroom (1880/81) he took refuge in the open British Fort. He later settled in the Zeerust district, but spent his last years in Pretoria.

Magnus, his elder brother, came out with a party of settlers in 1864. A qualified surveyor, he was commissioned in 1865 to survey Potchefstroom and became Surveyor-General of the Republic in 1866. Under his guidance, the scattered farms were surveyed and registered. He was connected with the Eastern Border question and was honoured for his services by being made Chevalier of the Portuguese Order of Jesus Christ<sup>1</sup>.

## FOURIE J.J.

Joseph Johannes (Jopie) was born on the farm Wildebeesthoek north of Pretoria and died a martyr of the 1914 Rebellion.

His grandfather was one of the original settlers in the Pretoria district.

A military man from his youth, it was he who carried the message to the Jameson Raiders, demanding their surrender. During the Second Anglo-Boer War he served on General Joubert's staff and after the occupation of Pretoria he continued to campaign and was wounded through both hips and captured when they attacked a fortified British position at Pienaars River on the 4th October, 1901.

Jopie married Susan Engelmohr in 1903 and went farming until he took up an appointment as cattle inspector in 1912. In 1914 whilst still an officer of the Union Defence Force he joined the Rebellion forces without resigning his commission and was again wounded in a fight at Rondefontein on the 23rd November, 1914.

Fourie's detachment was attacked and overcome by a government force under command of his uncle, Col. N.J. Pretorius, at Nooitgedacht on the 16th December, 1914. Fourie and his brother were charged with treason, found guilty and sentenced to death. The sentence of his brother Lt. Johannes Fourie was commuted to five years imprisonment. A petition for clemency for Jopie was turned down and he died facing a firing squad at dawn on Sunday morning, 20th December, 1914.

In death he was not allowed to find rest. After the execution, he was buried in the prison cemetery, two days later he was reburied under a ficti-

tious name in Rebecca Street Cemetery in Pretoria West and in 1915 the body was again exhumed to dispel rumours that quick-lime had been poured over his remains after the execution. On the 20th December, 1923, the 8th anniversary of his death the body was exhumed for the 3rd time and interred in the Old Cemetery in Church Street.

It is said that during his lifetime he had had little influence in the sphere of politics, but his death made a profound and lasting impression on the South African political scene.

### **FRANKEN M**

“Here rests Marinus Franken, born  
at Haamstede, Holland, 31st March  
1847 died 5 June 1907”

is the legend on his tombstone.

Very little is known about Franken besides the fact that he designed the second church (often referred to as Franken's Church) on Church Square that was built by Van der Veen.

There was a Franken boarding house recorded in 1880 and Franken's building in 1893. If those were called after him or his family, if he had any, is not known.

### **GODDEFROY M.J.**

Marinus Joseph, Minister of the Nederduitsch Hervormde Kerk, born in Brussels in 1848; he was invited to South Africa and came out in 1887.

He lost 2 sons during the War of 1899-1902 and he was exiled to India. After his return to the Transvaal he accepted a call to Middelburg.

He died in August 1920<sup>a</sup>.

### **GRAY REV. JAMES**

James Gray was born in 1852, ordained in 1878 and for health reasons left his native Scotland and settled in Harrismith, Orange Free State in 1883 where he established a Presbyterian Church. He married Mary Williams Tyler, daughter of a missionary.

A dedicated man, he took the Word to the Barberton Goldfields and started a Congregation in Johannesburg in May 1887 with a sermon in the yet uncompleted Heights Hotel. He founded St. George's Church there and stayed until 1889 when he accepted a call from Pretoria where he built up a strong Congregation.

Rev. Gray served the Capital well for 20 years. President Kruger laid the foundation stone of the St. Andrew's Church in Schoeman Street, a year after his arrival. With the assistance of Mr. Fred Nicholson, they were instrumental in establishing the State Library by collecting R1 400. He took a prominent part in the political and public life of the city.

He left Pretoria during the Second Anglo-Boer War and served as Chaplain to the Scots Fusiliers under General Buller's command. After the fall

of Pretoria he became Librarian and Chaplain to the local military hospitals.

In 1909 he answered a call from Trinity Church and transferred himself to Grahamstown where he laboured for 11 years. He established the Rhodesian Congregation and finally settled down in Johannesburg with the Clifton Congregation.

After 50 years service, he retired at the age of 76. He died in his Kensington home in November 1938 age 86; his wife Mary died in 1946; Rev Gray and his wife and two children are buried in a family plot.

One of his daughters, Marian, age 15, died in New York and his son, Allan, age 19 was reported missing when flying over the Western Front in August 1917.

### **GUNNING J.W.B.**

Jan Willem Boudewyn, M.D., First Director of the Transvaal Museum and Zoological Gardens, born at Hilversum, Holland on 3rd September, 1860. He married twice. His first wife (1884) was Susanna Neethling of Stellenbosch who died in 1889; his second wife was Ellen Dobbins of Bethulie whom he married six months later.

Gunning arrived in South Africa in 1884 and practised in the Cape Province and in the Orange Free State. On taking up residence in Pretoria in 1891, he no longer practised his profession and became acting director of the Transvaal Museum which was started in a school room in 1874.

"Het Staats Museum" was founded in 1892 under the Chairmanship of Dr. N. Mansvelt, Superintendent of Education, who laid the foundation stone of the Museum in Boom Street.

The Zoological Gardens started in a small way in a yard at the back of the old Market Hall, the animals were transferred to the "Rus-en-Urbe" property adjoining the museum.

Gunning died on 23 June 1913, his mother-in-law, Mrs Dobbins is buried near his grave. His wife, Ellen, died in Durban in 1942 and was cremated there.

A memorial plaque is to be found on a seat in the main avenue of the Zoo.

### **HAAK B.J.**

Bernardus Johannes Haak came to South Africa as a ganger in the service of the NZASM, which was constructing the railway line to Delagoa Bay. He became assistant station master and was transferred to different stations, finally becoming Station Master of Koedoespoort in 1898, the year that his eldest son, Albert arrived to take up a position as fitter and turner on the railways. B.J.'s wife and children arrived a month before war (1899) was declared.

During the war, father and son established a cycle repair shop; by 1909 they had extended the business and were agents for and importing the first Reno motor cars into Pretoria.

B.J., the founder of the well known Haaks Garage, died in 1923.

A street in Waltloo Industrial Township, east of Pretoria near the original Koedoespoort station site, was named to his honour by the City Council in 1973.

### **P. HANDCOCK AND H.M. MORANT**

To the memory of ..... 27 February 1902..... He that loseth his life shall find it — is the legend on the tombstone erected by friends.

Two Australians who died on the same day during the Second Anglo-Boer War and buried in one grave — unusual? Yes. What the TOMBSTONE does not tell is that they were Lieutenants in the Volunteer Bushveld Carbineers who were executed by a British firing squad for murder.

The Corps was raised for scouting and raiding cattle of the commandos operating in the north-eastern area of the Transvaal. The men lacked discipline, drunkenness was the order of the day or night as some writers described them. Unofficial records maintain that they murdered more than 25 surrendered prisoners of war and natives.

The Rev. Daniel Heese, a German Missionary, saw the bodies and was murdered on his way to report the matter at Pietersburg. A Boer trooper in the Corps who witnessed the first murders and threatened taking action was brutally murdered by Lt. Handcock.

Many of the soldiers objected to their actions but remained silent for fear of receiving the same treatment. No man left camp alone or without their loaded rifles at hand.

Word of their cruel deeds leaked out and at a Court Martial the commanding officers were cleared of the charges, the main culprits were found guilty and faced a firing squad at dawn on the 27th February, 1902.

### **HEATHER EDWARD GEORGE BAKER**

Born in Queenstown, C.P., in 1864. As a youngster he went to Kimberley and in 1875 was living in Pretoria. Heather at the age of 16 served with the Pretoria Carbineers under Captain D'Arcy during the Siege of Pretoria 1880-81 and was wounded when Commandant Botha's laager was attacked at Swartkoppies on the Pienaars River.

On termination of hostilities, he launched out in business as merchant and had a bakery.

In 1906, Heather entered public life and served Pretoria with men such as Eddie (E.T.) Bourke and C.M. de Vries.

### **HEROES ACRE**

Is a mis-nomer of the Afrikaans version "Helde-akker". A petition by H.P.A. Pretorius and J.G. Fourie to investigate the possibility of the reinternment of famous Republican persons in one spot of the local cemetery was successful and General P.J. Joubert was instructed to investigate and obtain permission for the reburial of such persons.

It would seem that the original intention was to have war heroes buried in this acre, but through the years whilst maintaining the name, "held-Helde"

has now been accepted to be one who had led his country in a different field, that of politics, and is now exclusively used for heads of state.

General Andries Pretorius was the first hero of the Acre when he was rewarded with full military honours on 31st May 1891.

General Andries W.J. Pretorius, Voortrekker leader after whom Pretoria was named, was in command of the Boers who defeated the Zulu forces on the banks of the Ncome Spruit, when some 3 000 Zulu warriors were killed. The stream ran red with the blood of the slain, and from that day (16th December 1838) the waterway was called Blood River.

Pretorius trekked to Pretoria in 1847, settling on the farm Grootplaats in the Magalies River Valley. His first wife died at Warmbaths (Tvl) while he was besieging Bloemfontein in May 1848. In 1852 he signed the Sand River Convention giving independence to the settlers north of the Vaal River. He died on his farm on the 23rd July, 1853.

General A.H. (Hendrik) Potgieter, another Voortrekker leader who lent his name to Potgieter Street in Pretoria and to Potchefstroom in the Western Transvaal, left the Cape in 1835; he was in command of the Vechtkop laager in 1836 and broke Mzilikatzi's power when the Chief was routed from the Transvaal in November 1837.

He founded Mooiriviersdorp which when re-established higher up the river adopted the name Potchefstroom. In 1845 he trekked eastwards and established the town of Andries-Ohrigstad nearer Delagoa Bay which he visited in 1843.

A restless pioneer, adverse to controls, he led his followers northwards to the Zoutpansberg where he died on the 16th December, 1852. The dorpie brought to life by him later adopted the name Schoemansdal.

General Piet Joubert's wish to have this Voortrekker hero's remains re-interred in Pretoria was not to be. The memorial to his honour was erected on the 10th May, 1895.

Thomas François Burgers, President from 1872 until the Annexation of the Transvaal in 1877, was bitterly disappointed at the political events and settled in Hanover, C.P., where he died on the 9th December, 1881. It is said that his deathbed wish was to be buried at the entrance to his sheep kraal so that all trace of himself can be trampled into oblivion. He was first buried at Richmond C.P., then re-interred in 1888 on his farm Zoetvlei. His remains were brought to Pretoria and reburied on the 26th November, 1895. His wife Mary, was buried with him on the 29th April, 1929.

### **HEYS G.J.**

George Jesse Heys, born in Durban 1852. He went into business in Kimberley in 1872 and came to Pretoria in 1879 settling in a home in Andries Street which he called Natal Villa. He opened a general dealer business in Church Street and started a stage coach service.



His later home, the palatial Melrose House opposite Burgers Park, was the residence of Lord Roberts and used as British headquarters during the War of 1900/02 where the Treaty of Vereeniging was signed on the night of 31st May 1902.

The house with its contents was purchased by the Pretoria City Council; on the day it was declared a National Monument, it was officially opened as a museum to the public by a former State President, Mr. C.R. (Blackie) Swart.

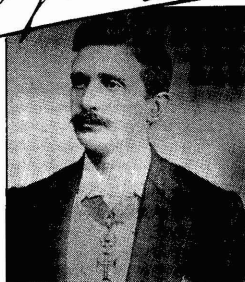
Sunnyside Methodist Church Hall known as the Heys Memorial Hall was erected from funds donated by Mr. Heys to commemorate the memory of his wife, Janey. The seldom heard City Hall carillon was donated by him in 1934.

Whilst on a visit to his daughter in England in 1939, Heys took ill and died. His body was returned to Pretoria to be laid to rest beside his wife who died in 1929, and his young daughter, Daphne.

1. For literature regarding the Forssman brothers the editor refers to the *South African Dictionary of Biography*, edited by the Council for Human Research, Pretoria–Cape Town 1968; volume one, in voce M.J.F. Forssman and O.W.A. Forssman; A.H. Winquist, *Scandinavians and South Africa*, A.A. Balkema, Cape Town 1978, and the series of articles written by C.G. Trotzig at Stockholm, in Swedish, translated by C. de Jong into Afrikaans and published in *Africana Notes and News*, Africana Museum, Johannesburg, volume 24 Nr. 6, June 1981, volume 26 Nr. 1, March 1984, Nr. 3, September 1984 and Nr. 7, September 1985 (C. de Jong).
2. There exists a good biography on Ds. M.J. Goddefroy. Schalk Jacobus Botha received a doctorate from the University of Pretoria on 14 September 1979 with the thesis *Ds. Marie Joseph Goddefroy 1848–1920, Sy lewe en betekenis*. The author has published much work on church history of South Africa. (C.de J.)

# KRUGER se REGTERHAND BIOGRAFIE VAN DR. W.J. LEYDS

*“Ek het my hart aan die Afrikaanse  
saak verpand, en ek het my lewe daaraan bly wy.”*



---

L.E. VAN NIEKERK

Die eerste volledige biografie van die veelsydige en talentvolle, maar omstrede Nederlandse juris dr. W.J. Leyds, wat so 'n groot rol in die Transvaalse geskiedenis gespeel het. Geïllustreer met seldsame foto's. 472 bladsye; **R39,95**

Nou by u naaste boekhandelaar

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