

VILJOEN, PHILIP RUDOLPH (February 28, 1889, Krugersdorp district, South Africa – June 3, 1964, Pretoria, South Africa). *Veterinarian; Administrator*. Son of AC Viljoen; mother's name could not be traced. Married Gladys Margaret Lyle, 16 June 1915. The couple had two daughters, Reneé and Jeanette.

EDUCATION: South African College Schools, Cape Town; Royal Veterinary College, London, 1912: MRCVS; Berne University, Switzerland, 1925: Dr Med Vet.

CAREER: Served in Boer Commando, aged 12, in 1901 during Anglo-Boer War; 1912 – 1918, veterinary research officer at Onderstepoort (but stationed at field station Armoedsvlakte near Vryburg for most of the time); 1914-1915, saw military service in German South West Africa (now Namibia) during WWI as member of the South African Defence Force; 1918 – 1919, Professor of Veterinary Science in Faculty of Agriculture of the Transvaal University College (now University of Pretoria); 1920 – 1923, Professor and head of the Department Materia Medica (renamed Veterinary Medicine in 1923) of the newly established Faculty of Veterinary Science of the Transvaal University College; 1924 – 1926, Sub-director of Veterinary Education and Research; 1927, Acting Director of Veterinary Education and Research; 1929 – 1930, Deputy Director of Veterinary Services and Animal Industry; 1930 – 1933, Acting Under-Secretary for Agriculture; 1933 – 1934, Secretary for Agriculture; 1933 – 1935, Chairman of South African Veterinary Board; 1935 – 1943, Secretary for Agriculture & Forestry; 1944 – 1945, Secretary for Agriculture; 1945 – 1948, South Africa's representative at FAO of UN; 1945 – 1949, South Africa's High Commissioner in Canada; 1949 – 1951, South Africa's High Commissioner in Australia.

CONTRIBUTIONS: Viljoen was actively involved in lamsiekte (botulism) research from 1914 – 1918 on the experimental farm Armoedsvlakte. He played a very active planning role in the establishment of the establishment of the Onderstepoort Faculty. Viljoen also conducted pioneering research on the development of early vaccines against anthrax and blackquarter in South Africa. It is clear from his many official reports that he played a leading role in shaping South African agricultural policy when he was in the very influential position of being head official (Secretary) of the Union of South Africa's Department of Agriculture.

HOMAGES AND DISTINCTIONS: Passed second examination at Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in London with First Class Honours. On qualifying at the College, was awarded the Coleman Silver Medal and several other awards, especially in Surgery. Awarded the Military Cross for outstanding service during the 1914 – 1915 German South West Africa Campaign during WWI;

WRITINGS: No published reference available. The majority of his publications consisted of official reports.

Viljoen P.R., 1918. Investigations into lamziekte in cattle. *5th & 6th Reports of the Director of Veterinary Research, Part 1*, 257 – 320.

Viljoen P.R., 1918. On sarcosporidea in relation to lamziekte. *7th & 8th Reports of the Director of Veterinary Research, Part 1*, 453 – 576.

Theiler A., Viljoen P.R., Green H.H., Du Toit P.J. & Meier H., 1920. The cause and prevention of lamziekte. *Journal of the Department of Agriculture* 1, 221.

Viljoen P.R. & Curson H.H., 1926. A preliminary Communication regarding anthrax spore vaccine and its use in South Africa. *South African Journal of Science*, 23, 551 – 555.

Viljoen P.R. & Scheuber J.R., 1926. Blackquarter in South Africa with special reference to improved methods of inoculation. *11th & 12th Reports of the Director of Veterinary Education & Research, part 1*, 490 – 570.

Viljoen P.R., 1932. Agricultural development in South Africa. *Farming in South Africa*, 7 (75), 85 – 88.

Viljoen P.R., 1934. Draft Report. Reconstruction of Agriculture. *Onderstepoort Archive* 8 1/1/2/1.3

Viljoen P.R., 1938. Planned agriculture in South Africa. *South African Journal of Economics*, 6 (3), 282.

Viljoen P.R., 1941. Agriculture and the War. Annual Report for the Department of Agriculture and Forestry for the year ending 31 August 1941. *Farming in South Africa*, 16, 129, 403 – 429.

REFERENCES/OBITUARIES: Fourie, P.J., 1964. 'n Memoire – Philip Rudolph Viljoen. *Journal of the South African Veterinary Medical Association*, 35 (3), 403-404.

Heloise Heyne
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