

mings blootstel aan verswaring en verwering wat nie geduld kan word nie. Die toringblokke se boonste verdiepings sal veral daaraan blootgestel word as die gasse met pypleidings opgeneem en bo uitgelaat word. Die lugreelings van die hele omgewing van Kerkplein se geboue, historiese geboue en andere sal gebruik moet maak van giftige en besoedelde lug uit die omgewing, wat vir die personeel wat in hierdie geboue moet werk, dit ondraaglik en ongesond sal maak. (Die tyd ontbreek vir 'n pleidooi vir die **Stasieplein** as terminaal vir die stad se busverkeer.

4. en onveiligheid van sulke ondergrondse parkeer- en terminale garages

Die onveiligheid van ondergrondse deurloope, winkels, garages en busstasies gedurende die besigheidsure is in alle lande alreeds 'n probleem, veral vir vrouens. Wat sal die onveiligheid nog vererger wees in die nare en aande, op Kerkplein in die ondergrond. Die onveiligheid veral met die samedromming van die leegloperelemente op Kerkplein en daaronder sal maak dat die publiek hierdie ondergrondse garages sal vermy teen alle koste, al moet hulle ook in die buitewyke van die stad Pretoria hulle inkope gaan doen, of hulle ontspanning in die aande daar gaan vind.

5. en die beskadiging van historiese geboue deur vibrasie.

Die samedromming van die munisipale busse in die voorgenome ondergrondse terminaal onder Kerkplein sal 'n aanhoudende vibrasie van die hele gebied veroorsaak. Voeg daarby die vibrasie van 2000 motorkarre in die twee parkeergarages daaronder dan kan verwag word dat die historiese geboue om Kerkplein verder sal verval as gevolg hiervan, ook siende die outydse fundamente van hierdie geboue, sonder sterk betonstruktuur en diepgaande pylers. Ons kan geen geloof heg aan die planne en verslae van ingenieurs dat hierdie gevare oorkom kan word nie.

Die gevare beskryf in items 2 tot 5 in verband met die ondergraving van Kerkplein dui daarop dat die Ontwikkelingsplan alhier nie prakties en wenslik is nie. Die Genootskap Oud-Pretoria maak ten sterkste beswaar teen hierdie ondergraving van Kerkplein. Daar is ander moontlikhede in verband met busroetes en busterminaal buite om die stadskern wat meer effektief en prakties sal wees. Enige gedagte van 'n ondergrondse busterminaal moet as onprakties beskou word. 'n Busterminaal hoort op grondvlak en daar is genoeg ruimtes daarvoor in Pretoria. Die effektiewere bediening van vervoer vanaf die **Pretoria Stasie** na al die stadsdele dien ook aandag te kry met die beplanning. Die koste van die ondergraving van Kerkplein vir drie parkeergarages sal enorm en onekonomies wees, veral as die motorparkeergarages deur die publiek vir veiligheidsredes en gesondheidsredes vermy sal word.

6. Die hele skema se koste van ongeveer 500 miljoen Rand, hoe dit ook al gefinansier word, sal uiteindelik op die belastingbetaler neerkom.

7. Die gedagte om die Stadskern aantrekliker te maak is lofwaardig. Die Genootskap Oud-Pretoria is egter gekant daarteen dat die hele gebied vanaf Kerkplein tot by Prinsloostraat aantrekliker gemaak word vir leeglêers. Dit sal die blanke kopersklandisie wegdryf na die buitewyke van die stad en die hele duur ontwikkelingsplan sal sy hoofdoel misloop. Die sentrum van Pretoria sal nie daardeur geselliger gemaak word nie. Planne moet vir eers daadwerklik beraam word om die leeglêers en onproduktiewe faksie uit die middestad verwyder te kry, anders sal Pretoria se stadskern deur almal, kopers en toeriste, verniy word.
8. Die Genootskap Oud-Pretoria sal graag die fundamente van die Ou Kerk wat in 1904 afgebreek is, in die plaveisel op Kerkplein uitgelê wil sien, om so die historiese gedenkwaardigheid van Kerkplein met Paul Kruger se standbeeld as dominerende simbool in die middel daarvan te verhoog.
9. Die heringebruikstelling van die ou Capitolteater vir 'n meerdoelige ontspanningsentrum dag en nag sal baie mense na Kerkplein lok. Nou dat die ou Wurlitzerorrel teruggeplaas word is hierdie ideaal nader aan verwesenliking. Nog meer sosiale en gesellige byeenkomsplekke moet op Kerkplein ingerig word.
10. **Algemeen.** Die Genootskap Oud-Pretoria versoek dat 'n seminar oor hierdie herontwikkelingsplan deur die **Stadsraad** byeengeroep word en dat alle belangstellende organisasies verteenwoordig word vir die bespreking en raadgewing. Die Genootskap se standpunt is dat so 'n vergadering die beginpunt moes gewees het van die hele aangeleentheid van die herontwikkeling van die Stadskern van Pretoria.

Die Genootskap Oud-Pretoria/The Old Pretoria Society bedank die Burgerlike Trust vir die organisasie van hierdie geleentheid, en vir u aandag aan ons vertoë.

**REPORTAGE IN THE "PRETORIA NEWS" OF THE UNVEILING OF THE
WAR MONUMENT IN FRONT OF THE UNION BUILDINGS AT PRETORIA
ON SUNDAY 21 JULY 1929***

Monday, July 22, 1929.

The Pretoria News

Page Five

THE MEMORY OF THE DEAD

**THE TWIN BRETHREN
REPLICA OF DELVILLE WOOD MEMORIAL
CEREMONIAL UNVEILING AT UNION BUILDINGS**

The unveiling of the Delville Wood Memorial at Union Buildings yesterday, by Sir Percy Fitzpatrick, K.C.M.G.,¹ Chairman of the South African National Memorial (Delville Wood) Committee, was a ceremony marked by the utmost reverence, as befitted the occasion.

Fully an hour before the ceremony was due to commence, trams, buses and private conveyances began to off-load their quota until there must have been something in the neighbourhood of 3 000 present to do homage to the South African heroes of the Great War, who gave their lives that out of the enmity and bitter loss might spring a new era of sympathy, co-operation and affection between all.

The scene at the Buildings was impressive. The South African flag and the Union Jack were at half-mast in front of the building, while two of these flags covered the memorial itself. The arrangements were excellent and the installation of loudspeakers enabled all to hear the service without difficulty. The terrace on which the memorial stands was reserved for the Guard of Honour, detachments of various regiments, members of the B.E.S.L.² and Moths,³ the Naval Brigade, Boy Scouts and V.A.D.⁴ In addition an enclosure was reserved for widows and persons who had suffered losses in the Great War. On the upper terrace the general public assembled, and for 250 yards they were packed along the front, every coign of vantage being taken. On the lower terraces also a large number of people assembled.

On the platform at the Memorial were Sir Percy Fitzpatrick, the Mayor (Councillor F. Dey), Mr. J.A. MacPhail, the Very Rev. the Dean of Pretoria, Rev. Dr. H.S. Bosman, Rev. Howard Young, Rev. E. Macmillan and Rabbi W. Hirsch. On both sides of the memorial, those who were placing the wreaths were provided with seats.

The Service

The service opened with the singing of the hymn "O God, our help in ages past", the crowd joining in to the accompaniment of the band of the XII Infantry Battalion. Followed a prayer by Rev. Dr. H.S. Bosman, a lesson (Psalm 121) by Rabbi W. Hirsch, and a further prayer by Rev. Howard Young.

Sir Percy Fitzpatrick unveiled the memorial amid tense silence, which

* See on page 37.

was rendered the more impressive by the Last Post by the trumpeters of the South African Field Artillery, the Guard of Honour of the South African Air Force presenting arms.

In a voice that seemed to lose its power as he proceeded, Sir Percy Fitzpatrick, obviously overcome by seeing the task of his committee an accomplished fact, addressed the vast crowd. In halting tones, he said:

"It is my great privilege today to present formally to the Government of the Union of South Africa this bronze replica of the sculpture which crowns the beautiful memorial to our dead erected on the battlefield of Delville Wood in France. This I do on behalf of the South African National Memorial Committee.

"May I be permitted to offer a few words of explanation? Our work has extended over ten years, from December 1919, when negotiations were begun for the acquisition by South Africa of the battle-ground of Delville Wood. As you must know, it was due to the patriotic and far-sighted act of General Smuts, when he was Prime Minister, that this work was made a truly National Memorial by the active help and association of the Government of the Union. It was he who appointed the National Memorial Committee to raise and administer the funds contributed by public subscription, and to complete the work of the Memorial.

Voluntary Subscriptions

"Nearly all the funds - well over £50 000 - were contributed by voluntary subscriptions, and we, the Committee, have been able to complete the memorial in Delville Wood, and meet all expenses at a cost which has left us a substantial margin after providing an agreed capital sum needed for upkeep in perpetuity. The great memorial on the field of Delville Wood was completed three years ago, and the high and generous spirit which has stamped the inception of the work was strikingly marked by the action of the Prime Minister, General Hertzog, who, in reply to my request, consented to visit Delville Wood on the occasion of the unveiling on October 10, 1926, to perform the ceremony himself on behalf of the Union of South Africa. His own generous and chivalrous act in inviting Mrs. Louis Botha to perform the actual ceremony of the unveiling, as representing her late husband, General Botha, will never be forgotten. The spirit of the dead whom we commemorate in the memorial has inspired all.

From the first there has been the feeling that, however appropriate it may be to have our great memorial in France, however honoured the position among the heroes of the world, however sanctified and hallowed for all time is 'The Sacred Way', thousands of South Africans are denied sight of it because the pilgrimage (to France) is beyond their resources, beyond their hopes. So we, who were charged with the duty of creating this tribute to our South African dead, seized the opportunity of securing replicas of the touching and inspired work of Mr. Turner, the sculptor of the Delville Wood memorial, with a view to their erection here and in Cape Town, and so keeping touch with our people. Yet it was beyond our resources to undertake their erection, involving as it did the securing of suitable sites and a proper setting. I approached the Prime Minister, General Hertzog, and, in keeping with his attitude towards the



The unveiling of the Monument for the Great War in front of the Union Buildings at Pretoria on Sunday 21 July 1929. At the foot of the Monument Sir Percy Fitzpatrick is speaking before the microphone; opposite him the four clergymen are standing. Photo of Col. J. Ploeger.

Memorial Committee from the outset, he, in consultation with his Government, whole-heartedly agreed to accept the bronzes with all that the acceptance of the gift implied. Our replica has now been erected here. In due course the other one will be put up in Cape Town.

Government's Assistance

"To the Government, then, we make grateful acknowledgment that this monument stands here today. Not only was the gift accepted, but our views upon the lay-out and scheme for this memorial were consulted. Thus it was that once more the genius and inspiration of Sir Herbert Baker, the man who planned the lay-out and erection of these magnificent Union Buildings, the man who designed our National Memorial in Delville Wood, could be called upon. Fortunately, he was on a short visit to South Africa, and the Government readily acquiesced in his services being retained. No one was more fitted for the work. No one could better have assured success. To the Municipal Council of Pretoria South Africa also owes a debt. Their response to an appeal for co-operation and financial support was immediate and practical. Last, but not least, we are greatly indebted to the zeal and enthusiasm of the Public Works Department, headed by Mr. O.W. Straten, the Secretary for Public Works. To this Department the Government delegated the task of bringing our wishes to fruition. And right worthily have they done their work.

Tribute to General "Tim" Lukin

"This ceremony almost completes the work of the National Memorial Committee, and I cannot let it pass without paying a tribute of admiration, affection, and gratitude on behalf of my colleagues to one whose character and services deserve to live in the memory of his country. General Lukin had given his life to the service of his country. He was not alone the trusted and devoted leader of the South Africans on the very site of the memorial - he devoted the last years of his life to the memorial, and to the relatives and dependents of those who fell. No one worked so devotedly and unselfishly as he did to make the memorial worthy of those whom we commemorate. He did not live to see its completion. On his death-bed his last message to me was: - 'Remember, I trust you to see it through to the end'.

We remember also today one whose name will always be associated with our national memorial in Delville Wood. I refer to the late Rev. Dr. H.P. van der Merwe, Moderator of the Dutch Reformed Church. Above all, we aimed at national unity in honouring our dead. In this he gave invaluable aid by taking part, with the full consent of the Synod, in the ceremony of the unveiling. That in itself was much. But he did so much more. His prayer and address on that day will ever be remembered by those who heard it. His words breathed a spirit of tolerance, of understanding, and of charity. He was inspired by a lofty patriotism that lifted us to a higher plane. He saw in that memorial a message to our beloved fatherland. He saw it as the foundation stone of a nation united and at peace. May the bright, pure flame of his patriotism be ever kept burning in our hearts!

Symbol of profound meaning

“Here in Pretoria now stands in a setting unique as it is fitting, a symbol of profound meaning to our land. A mighty union hammered out of the bloody discords of the past: a bond fashioned by our sons, the youth, the pride and glory of South Africa, on a hundred battlefields all over the world. To them in the hour of trial unity brought strength, and, more precious still, it brought a common purpose. They achieved that unity of purpose which you see in this magnificent work of art. Their purpose was single. It was to represent faithfully and well their own beloved land, South Africa, aye, even unto death! To you, the people of Pretoria, there is given a trust. Many will come here and will see this monument, many who have had no opportunity to know the far-away scenes of battle, or to understand the services rendered and sacrifices made by those who fell. You will see to it that they know the meaning of the memorial, the spirit of unity which moved those who are commemorated, and the high example they left to guide us. The symbol of the great Twin Brethren speaks to us of the unity and spirit and purpose of the two races – of courage, sacrifice, and achievement.

“It remains for me now to hand over this gift to the Government of the Union of South Africa, to be maintained for ever for your people”.

Sir Percy formally handed over the memorial to Mr. J.A. MacPhail, Under-Secretary for Public Works.

A trust for all time

In accepting it, the Government representative addressed Sir Percy and said – “I have been asked by the Honourable the Minister of Public Works to express to you and to all the people present his great regret that, by reason of his Parliamentary duties, he is unable to be here today and, as representing the Government, to take over from your hands the custody of this beautiful memorial. His Honour the Administrator, by force of circumstances and much to his regret, is also unable to be here, and I have, therefore, been deputed by the Minister to represent the Government of the Union of South Africa and on its behalf to take this Memorial into its safekeeping, as trustee for the people of South Africa, and to give the fullest assurance that for all time the upkeep and safeguarding of it will be looked upon as a sacred duty. I have now the honour to accept formally the custody of this Memorial”.

The Very Reverend the Dean of Pretoria dedicated the memorial. “In the name of the Holy, and Undivided Trinity and in the faith of Jesus Christ, the Redeemer and Saviour of mankind, we dedicate this Memorial to the unperishable fame and undying glory of those who laid down their lives for their King and country in the defence of liberty and in the maintenance of right and justice”.

The Funeral March was played by the Pretoria Regiment band and the Reveille sounded by the Artillery trumpeters.

The Wreaths

During the singing of the "Old Hundredth", wreaths were laid by the following:

H.E. the Governor-General and Princess Alice (Captain van Dam); The Government of the Union of South Africa (Mr. J.A. MacPhail); S.A. National Memorial (Delville Wood) Committee (Sir Percy Fitzpatrick); His Honour the Administrator (Mr. T. Osterloh); His Worship the Mayor (Councillor F. Dey); The British Empire Service League (Lieut.-Col. W.E. Puntis); The British Empire Service League Women's Auxilliary (Mrs. W.E.C. Tanner); Air Force (Lt.-Col. Sir P. van Ryneveld); Defence Headquarters (Lt.-Col. Bush); S.A. Field Artillery (Col. S.S. Taylor); Mrs. Niven; Mrs. Allan Fitzpatrick; Mrs. Oliver Fitzpatrick; Standard Bank (Mr. G. le Sueur); 1st S.A.I. Brigade (Major J.R. Leisk); The Navy League of S.A. (a representative of the Boys' Naval Brigade); The Moths (Mr. E.J. Wickham); The S.A. Scottish Regimental Association (Lt.-Col. E. Christian); St. Dunstan's Committee (Mrs. H.P. Veale); Dominion Headquarters B.E.S.L. (Col. E.F. Thackeray); The Sons of England (Mr. W.B. Clapham); The Sons of England Women's Association (Mrs. Joel); Pretoria Soldiers' Graves Association (Mrs. L.B. Roos); The London Committee of the National (Delville Wood) Fund (Mr. H. George); Pretoria Regiment (Major Harington); V.A.D.⁴ (Miss K. Palmer); Jewish Community of Pretoria (Mr. M. Leibman); Boys' High School (Mr. T.S. Wilkinson); Pretoria Girl Guides (Mrs. J.M. Cuthbertson). Captain E.S. Miller; Captain Williamson.

The wreath from the Governor-General was made of arum lilies and laurel leaves, while the Moths' consisted of a tin hat covered with moss with the inscription "Moths".

At the close a vast crowd thronged to the memorial and it was some considerable time before many could get a glimpse of the outstanding epitome: "Their ideal is our legacy,

Their sacrifice our inspiration".

Among the detachments which paraded under the command of Lieut.-Col. van Deventer were: S.A.A.F. (who supplied the Guard of Honour); Captain Meredith and 100 men, XII Infantry (Pretoria Regiment); Captain A. Simkins and 75 officers and men; S.A.P. Sub-Inspector J.E.W. Beyer and 50 men; S.A. Ord. Corps, Lieut. C. Trollope and 30 men; S.A. Field Artillery, 30 men; V.A.D., Lieut. K. Palmer and 20 nurses; Boy Scouts, Scoutmaster G.W. van Ahlefeldt and 30 boys; Pretoria Division Boys' Naval Brigade, Lieut.-Commander W. West and 40 ratings; B.E.S.L.² and Moths, Captain G. Elliot and 120 members.

Others present in addition to those who laid wreaths were:

Col. J.G. Jeffery and several junior officers of the Pretoria Regiment; Col. Weldrom; Captain Brink; Captain J.G. Marais; Councillors P.M. Vanleer, I. Solomon, W.S. Duxbury, J. Patmore, Greenlees, Gordon and Mr. M.G. Nicolson (Town Clerk). Major Kruger was in charge of the parade.

* This contribution is a sequence to the article by Colonel J. Ploeger, entitled "Die agtergrond van die oprigting van die Oorlogsgedenkteken voor die Uniegebou, Pretoria", in *Pretoriana* Nr. 90, November 1986, published to commemorate the battle of Delville Wood in France, 70 years ago. The editor.

References

1. K.C.M.G. : Knight Commander of (the Order of) Saint Michael and Saint George
2. B.E.S.L. : British Empire Service Legion
3. M.O.T.H. : Memorable Order of Tin Hats
4. V.A.D. : Voluntary Aid Detachment

“THE TWIN BRETHERN” (Die Tweelingbroers)

Die beeldgroep op die Delvillebos-monument is ontwerp deur die Britse beeldhouer Alfred Turner, wie se naam te dikwels weggelaat word. Dit stel die tweeling-halfgode Castor en Pollux, twee broers in die Grieks-Romeinse mitologie, voor. Die samesteller van die boek *Their name liveth, Volume 5 Part 3, Some pictures of Commonwealth war cemeteries 1914-1918 and 1939-1945*, published by order of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, 1964, gee op p. 21 die volgende toeligting: op die bogenoemde monument in Noord-Frankryk:

“... the flat top of its dome is surmounted by a bronze group showing a charger (strydros, oorlogsperd) between two men in the pride of their youth, holding hands symbolic of the comradeship between men of Dutch (d.w.s. Afrikaans) and English origin, who, recently enemies, had combined together against a common foe. The architect for both cemetery and memorial, Herbert Baker, has recorded that the figures are also intended to recall Castor and Pollux, the twin brethren who appeared from the skies to fight in the ranks of Rome”. This group is the work of the sculptor Alfred Turner”.

Vir die Grieke en Romeine was Castor en Pollux seuns van Zeus of Jupiter, die oppergod of hemelgod, en vorm hulle saam ’n sterrebeeld. Volgens Romeinse tradisie het hulle van die hemel gekom om die Romeine te help om die stryd teen die Latyne by die meer van Regillus te wen. Daarom is hulle in Rome hoog vereer. Hulle is die Dioskouroi (Grieks vir seuns van Zeus) en *Dioscure* (Latyn) genoem.

Die mitologiese tweelingbroers is nou geassosieerd met die perd as gewyde dier. Daarom geld later Castor en dikwels ook Pollux as beskermer van die vee-stapel, insonderheid die perd. Ons vind die goddelike tweeling, geassosieerd met die perd, ook by ander Indo-Europese volke. In die mitologie van Voor-Indië heet hulle Nakoela en Sahadeva, die een as beskermer van die heilige beeste, die ander as hoeder van die perde. Hulle vorm deel van die vyf Pandava-broers in die uitgebreide Sanskriet-epos **Mahabharata**. In Europa vind ons die tweeling by die Angelsakse en heet hulle Hengist en Horsa, dit beteken eenvoudigweg hings en ros (horse). Die *Encyclopaedia Britannica* en ander bronne beskryf hierdie twee mitologiese halfgode ernstig as die twee leiers van die eerste groep Saksers wat komende uit die Nederlande in 450 n.C. in Kent geland het. Ander naslagwerke wys met meer begrip op die mitologiese aard van die Angelsaksiese tweeling.

C. de Jong

Gedig van C.M. van den Heever gewy aan die Suid-Afrikaanse militêre wat in 1914-1918 aan die Wesfront in Frankryk en België omgekom het.

(In *Pretoriana* no. 90, p. 20 is 'n gedig van J.R.L. van Bruggen aan dieselfde strydery gewy, opgeneem).

OORLOGSKRUISIES IN VLAANDERE

Die kruisies straal wit-glansend in die son:
van helde, dood vir hulle vaderland.
Vir hulle vaderland? Die horison
reik ver en droef sy eensaam skemerrand . . .

Hier in die wildheid van die dood gestort,
by duisende gemodder in die klei,
vir watter doel? Die daglig is so kort
en verre windgeruis is hoog oor my . . .

Hul kind, hul vrou, hul huis, hul land verlaat,
met wilde drif en holle krygsgeroem,
die somber teken op die strak gelaat:
ons is vir ewig tot die dood gedoem.

En diep die voetgedreun die eeue deur
van donker skares in dié hel geja,
en eendag as die tempele sal skeur,¹
sal ons verbitter nog om antwoord vra.

Van uit die voortyd vlam die lig nog na
van puine gloeiend in dié vuur vergaan,
maar stil sal ons die heimwee in ons dra
oor hierdie wreedheid van² die mens gedaan.

Want rus die dooie, immer roep ons bloed,
en kyk ons na die verre skemerland,
na wit-bestraalde kruisies, en ons groet
die helde wat geval het vir hul land . . .

Uit: C.M. van den Heever, *Versamelde gedigte*; J.L. van Schaik, Pretoria 1945.

1. toespeeling op Markus 29 vers 51: "....die voorhangsel van die Tempel het in twee geskeur" – Die voorhangsel het die twee vertrekke in die Tempel te Jerusalem, te wete die Heilige en die Allerheiligste, van mekaar geskei. Volgens die Evangelie van Markus het dit geskeur toe Jesus aan die kruis oorlede is.
2. "van" beteken hier óf aan óf deur die mens gedoen.