

MONUMENTALLY SPEAKING - No. 10 May 2011

NSW COMMITTEE of the NATIONAL BOER WAR MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION INC

OCCASIONAL NEWSLETTER

Chairman's Report – May 2011

What is it all about, Tony?

Some friends ask why bother with the Boer War?
Its over isn't it?

Why does our NSW Committee spend so much time as volunteers on this project when most of us are neither descendants nor relatives of Boer War veterans? In my case, my great-grandfather was an ensign in the NSW Navy at the Boxer Rebellion at that time. We who are neither descendants nor relatives work to revive interest in the South African war so that the current Australian population is aware of those 23,000 Australian men and women who did serve and the 1,000 who did not return.

We are all doing this by holding Boer War Day remembrance ceremonies throughout Australia. At the time of writing, we are not sure which cities, towns or villages are holding services on the day or close to it. If you intend to hold ceremonies please advise our webmaster. The proposed ceremonies are shown on our website under the heading [Boer War Day 2011](#). Outside of NSW ceremonies are being held for the first time in Adelaide and Kalgoorlie.

It is important that we note where these services are to be held so that people can attend and that our elected representatives, at all three levels of government, notice that we do remember and do wish to have our permanent memorial built on ANZAC Parade, Canberra so that our veterans not are forgotten again.

**NATIONAL BOER WAR MEMORIAL DAY
WILL BE ON SUNDAY 29TH MAY 2011**

**(Some ceremonies on other days—see list on
page 12)How's your planning going?**

Feature article in this edition—David Deasey's
Machine Guns in the BW—Part 2, p 6-7

HRH Prince Charles has not forgotten the contribution made by Australians to this war. He has made a very generous donation towards the construction of our proposed memorial.

The Design of the Boer War Memorial

After several months of working through and refining a preferred design for the Memorial very pleasing progress has occurred. A final submission has been prepared for government and will go the next scheduled meeting of the Canberra National Memorials Committee (a Parliamentary Committee). Given the commitments of the budget sitting of Parliament it may not be until mid-year, unfortunately.

ANZAC Memorial – Hyde Park South, Sydney.

As Chairman of the NSW Committee of the National Boer War Memorial Association, it is my pleasure to extend an invitation to all descendants, relatives and friends to attend the Boer War Day Commemoration to be held in Hyde Park South on Sunday, 29 May, 2011 commencing at 11.00 am.

Her Excellency the Governor and Sir Nicholas Shehadie will be attending the service and Her Excellency has agreed to deliver the commemorative address.

South African Military Veterans Organisation of Australasia - [SAMVOA](#)

At our Sydney ceremony on 29th May this year we will be joined by members of the SAMVOA many of whom are descended from men and women who fought on either side in the Boer War.

Tony Larnach-Jones

Chairman NSW Committee of NBWMA

What was the South Africa
Soldiers Association?
For a start, see page 3.



BW soldiers from Norfolk Island

Rod Bain, the RSL rep on the NSW BWM committee, contacted the Hon Sec of the RSL Sub-branch on the island just on spec regarding any record of Norfolk Islanders having served 1899-1902.

Hon Sec Cheryl Snell responded promptly:

All have excellent service records with clasps added to their Queen's medal for actions in the Cape Colony, Orange Free State, Transvaal and Rhodesia.

They were also part of the force that relieved the besieged Elands River Post 15 Aug 1900.

Only David Buffett is recorded as having been seriously wounded, and had to be repatriated 5 March 1901.

The NI lads joined the NSW Imperial Bushmen with others from Bourke, Cobar, Cooma, Cootamundra, Gundagai, Hay, Tenterfield, Wagga Wagga and Young districts.

They left Sydney on the *Armenian* 23 April 1900, returning on the *Orient* 16 July 1901.

Though all the Norfolk Island boys returned, twenty one other Imperial Bushmen did not.

'Lost' Soldiers

Many people have wondered at how much variation there is in the quoted numbers of Boer War Australian soldiers and nurses, ranging from 16,500 to 23,000.

David Deasey offers this explanation:

It is estimated that twenty three thousand Australians served in the Boer War in any of Australian units, British units or South African irregular units. Many are still not recognised as Australians. Here are some examples:

Thomas Oldham **Bennett** served in the Commander in Chief's Bodyguard and the Western Light Horse, there is no record that he might be Australian, yet his next of kin is his wife who resided at 92 Alice St Newtown, Sydney.

Arthur **Brown**, also of the Commander in Chief's Bodyguard, gives his home as Coolgardie, Western Australia, yet none of our data bases list him as Australian.

Beaford or Bedford **Butler** of the Scott's Railway Guards and Western Light Horse gives his address as C/- GPO, Sydney.

Is he the same as 192 Private Bedford Butler of 1st Queensland Mounted Infantry discharged at Charters Towers 11-3-1901?

If you can identify any of these soldiers and tell us something about them please contact us.

Erratum/Mea culpa

IN *Monumentally Speaking No 9* your editor stated that Mark Edwell was a Vietnam veteran. Mark wrote promptly on receiving his copy to point out the error and ask that it be corrected in this edition. Mark is the President of the Illawarra National Serviceman's Association but was too young for the first call-up in 1951-9, and too old for the second 1964-72. Between these he served as a volunteer in the 3rd Battalion Royal NSW Regiment.

I apologise unreservedly to Mark and to readers. The error is entirely mine.

Keith Smith, Editor

The Distinguished Service Order by George Stevens

Queen Victoria awarded the DSO from 1886 to officers for leadership in battle and distinguished service when in combat under fire, and who were “...honourably mentioned in dispatches.” In the Boer War 65 were awarded to Australians, 15 to NZ. Do their descendants know of their bravery?

NSW Officers awarded the DSO in the Boer War

Capt Arthur B Baker NSW Citizens Bushmen
Capt Alfred J Bennett 1 NSW Mounted Rifles
Capt Henry H Browne NSW Imperial Bushmen
Lt Charles S Cape NSW Citizens Bushmen
Maj Rupert CG Carrington 3 NSW Imp Bushmen
Lt Henry B Christie NSW Citizens Bushmen
Lt Frederick A Dove 1 NSW Mounted Rifles
Lt RD Doyle NSW Imperial Bushmen
Maj Thomas H Fiaschi NSW Army Medical Corps
Capt Terence A Green NSW Army Medical Corps
Capt Maurice A Hilliard NSW Mounted Rifles
Capt Richard C Holman DCM 2 NSW Mtd Rifles
Capt William Holmes 1 NSW Mounted Rifles
Lt Albert H Horsfall NSW Army Medical Corps
Lt Frederick L Learmonth 1 NSW Mounted Rifles
Maj George L Lee NSW Lancers
Capt Archibald A McLean NSW Mtd Rifles
Lt Thomas M Moore NSW Citizens Bushmen
Maj William E O'Brien 5 A. Commonwealth Horse
Capt Alfred E Perkins NSW Army Medical Corps
Capt RE Roth NSW Army Medical Corps
Capt Kenneth M Wray NSW Imperial Bushmen



Capt Reuter Roth VD, NSW Bearer Company, Aust Army Medical Corps, receiving the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) medal from General Sir Ian Hamilton in the field.

Feedback: Rhonda Jones, Sec of the Blayney Shire Local & Family History Group, noticed the name Cornelius Lindfield in the list of Distinguished Conduct Medal winners in the last edition. The BSL&FH Group's research had discovered that Cornelius was a police officer in Blayney when he enlisted. Thanks Rhonda.

Parramatta—A little bit of history—The South African Soldiers Association A Memorial Service - August 1939 (WW2 began 3 Sept 1939)



“On Sunday, 6th August, 1939, the City of Parramatta & District Sub-branch of the RS. & S.I.L. of A. again kindly arranged a Memorial Service at the South African. Memorial, Parramatta Park. Over 90 of our member's attended the parade, and a large number of the sub-branch, which moved off from the Lancer Barracks to the Park, led by the Cavalry Brigade Band, under Captain Taylor.

“Mr. L. A. Robb, C.M.G., State President of the League, gave an interesting address. We again thank the local sub-branch for making all the arrangements for this visit, also for the collection towards our own Memorial Fund. Too much kindness cannot be expressed to Mr. and Mrs. Gander for their generous and kind treatment after the service, on each of our visits.”

And it's on again for **Boer War Memorial Day Sunday 29 May at the Lancers Barracks.**

Vale the 102 year old daughter of BW veteran Herbert Taylor



Left—Farrier Sgt Herbert Wallace Taylor, NSW Imperial Bushmen, 1901. **Above**—Sgt Taylor's daughter 102 yr old Mrs Coral Duck-Chong with Maj Gen David Morrison at the Boer War Day ceremony at the ANZAC memorial, Hyde Park 30 May 2010. Mrs Duck-Chong, of Manly, passed away 25 February 2011.RIP

NSW BOER WAR UNITS

The list of units raised in NSW may assist preparing for Boer War Day

RAISED IN COLONIAL NSW, PRIOR TO 1 JAN 1901



- NSW Lancers Oct 1899 – Dec 1900
- A Squadron NSW Mounted Rifles Nov 1899 – Jan 1901
- NSW Infantry Company/E Squadron NSW Mounted Rifles Nov 1899 – Jan 1901
- Australian Horse/First Australian Horse Nov 1899 – May 1901
- NSW Army Medical Team - Field Hospital and Bearer Company Oct 1899—Jan 1901
- NSW Nurses Oct 1899 – June 1902
- NSW Mounted Rifles/1st NSW Mounted Rifles Jan 1900 – April 1901
- A Battery, Royal Australian Artillery Dec 1899 – Sept 1901
- NSW Citizen Bushmen Feb 1900 – June 1901
- NSW Imperial Bushmen/6th Imperial Bushmen April 1900 – July 1901
- 2nd NSW Mounted Rifles March 1901 – June 1902
- 3rd NSW Imperial Bushmen May 1901 – Aug 1902
- 3rd NSW Mounted Rifles April 1901 – June 1902
- NSW Special Services Officers, and NSW members of SA Irregulars and British Units

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH UNITS RAISED SUBSTANTIALLY IN NSW



- 1st Australian Commonwealth Horse Feb 1902 – Aug 1902
- Australian Medical Team Feb 1902 – Aug 1902
- 3rd Australian Commonwealth Horse April 1902 – Aug 1902
- 5th Australian Commonwealth Horse May 1902 – Aug 1902



Royal Navy's role overlooked in Boer War



Before aircraft, everything went by sea...

Australian colonies had their own navies, but they were small ships for coastal transport, customs and local patrolling. For defence there was the RN.

The Royal Navy had long been recognised as the world's most powerful. However there were no great ship-to-ship engagements in the Boer War of the kind that made it famous during the Napoleonic Wars a century earlier, or the more recent Crimean War (1854-6), that was still within living memory.

Strangely it is difficult to find written accounts of the RN's role in the Boer War.

Those that are easily accessible concentrate on the magnificent feats by naval personnel in unshipping their large, long-range turreted guns and moving them not only ashore, but hundreds of miles inland to the front. Sailors, organised as Naval Brigades, dismounted them, build gun carriages, transported them and fired them—stories still to be told on these pages.

This brief article acknowledges the Royal Navy's massive role in finding suitable merchant ships, requisitioning them and then co-ordinating them as troopships to transport about 430,000 British and colonial troops from the UK, Australia, Canada, Ceylon, India and New Zealand.

Queen Victoria's Boer War army was the largest force ever to leave the UK and the colonies, requiring ships to be hired from every major line including from the names that have survived in the shipping industry such as Cunard and P&O, and also many others now forgotten. Many had to be extensively refitted to cope with the numbers of soldiers as well as their paraphernalia, and especially to meet the different needs of so many horses.

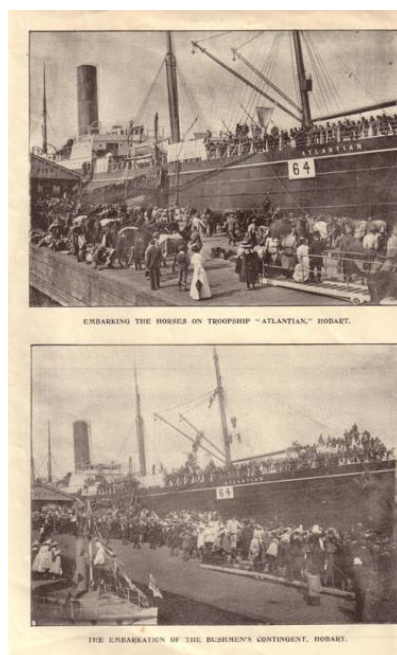
Then there were the large items: all the big guns, great stores of ammunition and special gear such as war balloons, the engineer's bridges and assault

boats, telegraph and signalling equipment and the many wagons needed to carry them.

Over the three years of the war the army needed hundreds of thousands of horses for the varying needs of the cavalry and the mounted infantry; to haul field ambulances, the big guns and the thousands of heavy transport supply trucks. The need for fresh horses was enormous: their life expectancy on the veldt was short, due to enemy fire and lack of good quality food. Hungry, they grazed on poisonous weeds, and thirsty, drinking fouled water, they caught diseases such as bluetongue. All this quite apart from the unrelenting work.

Easily the largest bulk load the RN organised was to source and transport the enormous quantity of fodder from around the world.

In future editions your editor hopes to find Australians who served in the Royal Navy. With a few exceptions, they are fairly difficult to identify and 'place' in any of the specific RN actions. Readers may have very welcome information?



No account of the Boer War is complete unless recognition of the RN's role is included.

First caption reads 'Embarking the horses on the Troopship *Atlantian*, Hobart.'

The second: 'The embarkation of the Bushmen's Contingent, Hobart.'

The AMP and the Boer War

Carolyn Bruyn, who is the AMP's Archivist, came across the following in the *Mutual Provident Messenger* (the AMP Staff newsletter) for February 1900:

"Off to South Africa

During the past month the AMP staff in various colonies has been somewhat reduced from an unwonted cause, to wit, the military ardour of some of its members desirous of

seeing actual, stern, sad warfare. The Board, having determined not to stand in the way of unmarried men, has given leave of absence to the following officers, who will thus practically form a federal unit of the staff 'at the front', and for whose success and safety we are all most heartily desirous.

NSW - Mr WR Harriott
Queensland - Mr Leslie Donkin
New Zealand - Mr FS Broome
Tasmania - Mr RP Smith"

Feature Article : Machine-guns in the Boer War Part 2

David Deasey

The Australian Regiment was formed in Cape Town on 26th November 1899, a seeming contradiction of War Office intentions. It consisted of five infantry companies (drawn from all states except Queensland) and one mounted rifle company (Victoria). Western Australia sent two Maxim machine gun teams whilst the NSW infantry company had one.



Soldiers of the First Western Australian Mounted Infantry with their two Maxims, at Rensburg, Feb 1900

If the first NSW contingent was similar to the later NSW machine gun sections its machine gun would have been on a similar field carriage to that of Queensland (later the infantry company, and its machine gun would be 'E' company 1st NSW Mounted Rifles). The Western Australian guns appear to have been fitted with a light steel Dundonald galloping carriage. It is believed that the photo below is of the Western Australian guns in the Rensburg area in January 1900. Certainly the guns have been fitted to a light metal carriage with no encumbering ammunition boxes although the standard gun shield for this equipment has not been fitted. It is not clear if the NSW gun team ever adopted this form of carriage.

Having joined the Regiment at Eslin, the three Maxims saw limited action as in general the Boers in that area avoided contact.

One example of operations at this time took place on Tuesday 10 January 1900 a composite infantry company under the command of Major Cyril Cameron (Tasmania) moved out towards Graspan to ambush potential Boer routes. They took with them a Maxim gun. Held as a reaction force was the Victorian Mounted Infantry company commanded by Captain Robert Salmon, which had one of the Western Australian guns on a galloping carriage in case the Boers emerged from Jacobsdal in force. No Boer activity occurred and neither force saw action.

February saw the unit holding over twenty miles of defensive line in the vicinity of Rensburg to prevent penetration by the Boers. The Maxims were used in a mobile role constantly moving to strengthen defences. The gun commanders at this time were Lieutenant Marcus William Logan (NSW), Lieutenant John Campbell (Western Australia-the MG section commander) and Sergeant Major John Keating Paul (Victoria) commanding the second Western Australian gun. As such none of the guns took part in the action at Pink Hill (Hobkirk's farm).

On 14 March 1900 the force was augmented by the arrival of a Colt 95 machine gun. After assembly, presumably on a galloping carriage, Colonel John Hoad appointed Sgt Major Paul (Victorian Permanent artillery) as its commander and after trials on the 14th the gun was declared ready and deployed for operations on the 15th. As the Victorian contingent had not brought machine guns it is possible that this arrival was to rectify this issue as it appears that the weapon was specifically ordered and sent from Colt's English subsidiary to the Australians. It was just in time as the operation to support the drive on Bloemfontein was underway. The Australians formed part of the force under General Clements on the march from Rensburg to Norval's Pont and on to Philippolis protecting the British flank south west of Bloemfontein. The machine gun teams were deployed in the column's flank guards as fire support.



Colt machine gun probably assigned to the Victorians of the Australian Regiment, 14 March 1900

The fall of Bloemfontein saw the regiment and its machine guns close up with the main force. Here on 14th April the Colt 95 machine gun of the second South Australian contingent with its galloping carriage under the command of Sergeant Major Joseph Press arrived taking the number of guns in the unit to five, the most any Australian unit would have attached during the war. It had arrived just in time to see the Australian Regiment disbanded and broken up to

form various subunits in the 1st Mounted Brigade under the command of General Hamilton.

The South Australian gun was quite different in being a Colt rather than a Maxim. Lieutenant De Passey recorded that his group had been in 67 engagements during their tour. There were five other ranks in the South Australian machine gun team. The initial concept was for the Colt to be packed onto a mule to provide the mobility with the gun team on horseback. The section had practiced this method and felt confident that it would work. However this was not the mobility solution favoured by the Royal Artillery who controlled the guns in South Africa. Wheels were the order of the day but Colonel Joseph Gordon (Military Commandant of South Australia) realised the problems that this would create if the weapon was fixed to a standard carriage. He knew too that the Canadians had opted for the Dundonald carriage for their Colts. He had a carriage ordered from the London branch of the Colt Gun and Carriage Company for the cost of £213.19.00 including freight to be shipped to South Africa to meet the contingent at Cape Town.

Much has been written over the years on the siege of Elands River. In this action some 505 Australians and Rhodesians (as well as approximately 50 native teamsters and labourers) found themselves surrounded by a Boer force estimated to be at least 3000. The Boers had modern artillery, several Pom Pom guns (a 37mm one pounder automatic cannon based on the Maxim action), and their own Maxim machine guns. The Elands River force were critically short of support weapons having only one obsolete 7 pounder black powder, muzzle loaded field gun mounted on a 9 pounder carriage and two machine guns. The machine guns were one .450/577 black powder Maxim (belonging to the Rhodesians) and one more modern .303 Maxim that appears to have belonged to the NSW Citizen's Bushmen Regiment.

The machine guns appear to have been the responsibility of Captain Edwin Hockings (Queensland Mounted Infantry) who soon found he had his hands full with problems. Both guns were very prone to stoppages and bore out a statement by a British general of the time that, like all new fangled technology they were fine in exercises on Salisbury Plain but in action had a bad habit of letting you down in the most embarrassing moments. It seemed his prophesy was coming true. Hockings however went to work and had the .45 stripped down and cleaned to within an inch of its life; to make sure that all the parts moved freely and smoothly. It then gave perfect service for the rest of the siege. The .303 was a different proposition, the same treatment improved the performance but stoppages were still regular.

In a light-bulb moment he went to his OC, Major Tunbridge from Queensland, who at that moment was relieving Colonel Hore as the post commander due to the latter's illness, and requested permission to use the rifle-

men's ammunition in the guns. Permission granted, the .303 then worked perfectly for the rest of the siege. Clearly purpose-made British machine gun ammunition was causing a problem.

The siege of the Elands River Post was balanced on a knife edge for a long period of time; a disinclination by the Boers to mount a frontal attack on machine guns may have swung the odds in the Australians favour.



This photo, from the Australian War Memorial collection, was not taken at Elands River—the action was too hot for photos—but this partly entrenched Maxim machine gun suggests that our troops were earning their “Digger” name in 1901.

There appeared to be three key problems with the Maxims in particular. They were the weight of the equipment on conventional carriages, lack of understanding of how to deploy the weapon and a serious problem with stoppages. One British commander, the Earl of Dundonald, became so concerned at the mobility issue posed by conventional carriages that he developed a light-weight steel carriage known as the Dundonald galloping carriage which significantly reduced weight and enhanced mobility. The second problem was the guns employment. Machine guns were still administered by the Royal Artillery and were treated as light field pieces. As such they were very much second rate field guns; their large carriages making such obvious targets. Some British units were known to dismount their guns leaving the carriages as decoy targets. These problems of mobility and employment led to guns only being used in set-piece battles, some units even leaving their weapons in store. One solution appeared the ready adoption of the Colt 95 (often referred to as Colt's gun) a much lighter air cooled weapon and with a reputation for reliability.

References:

James Green. *The Story of The Australian Bushmen*, 1903
Len Harvey. *Letters from the Veldt*, 1994
William T Reay. *With the Australian Regiment From Melbourne to Bloemfontein*, 1900

In the next edition of *Monumentally Speaking* NSW we hope to bring you details of the national BW memorial design, and reports of Boer War Memorial Day ceremonies.

NSW troops in action: Towards Peace—through April, May and June 1902

The Boers knew that they were defeated and would have to make terms, hopefully preserving their independence in Transvaal and the Orange Free State.

Reluctantly, the majority of Boer leaders, joined the peace talks. However, a minority of the most desperate and radical ones believed that there was still a chance and fought on. These were called “the Bitter Enders”.

So there were still a number of hot actions as the British forces attempted to find and pacify the Bitter Enders. In turn the Boers put up desperate and stubborn resistance.



It was at this time that the Australian Commonwealth contingent—the Australian Commonwealth Horse—the first Australian national military unit to be deployed overseas, arrived in South Africa.

Significant Actions April 1902—Peace

- * Ookiep put under siege 4 April
 - * Pretoria hosts Peace delegations 12-18 Apr
 - * Zulu warriors attack the Boers at Holkrans 6 May
 - * Peace talks at Vereeniging 15-18 May
- Armistice and treaty signed at Vereeniging 31 May**
- Troops return home, nurses stay, some for months after....

Back from the war—May 1900

Heroes welcome for 50 wounded and disabled

Thousands packed the wharves. Premier Sir William Lyne promises to find our heroes employment, and memorials for those who have made the supreme sacrifice. He said, “...you have proved your worth...never flinched...the bullets showered around you... We will shortly have a federation of colonies... it is fitting to express the hope that in future we will fight for a federated Australia”

Labour Party leader JST McGovern added, “...the fact that you have equalled the British soldier in the struggle ought for all time be written in letters of gold...”

Sydney Morning Herald 30 May 1900

Letter from Garth Benneyworth:

In this section in the last newsletter, under the heading Bloemfontein, the Paardeberg action is described as happening after Poplar Grove, when it was the other way around. Fresh mounted troops are credited with forcing the Boers into a hasty retreat at Driefontein, when in fact the Boers, who offered a determined resistance, were forced from their defences by the 6th Infantry Division bayonet attack supported with artillery, during which action Lt. Colonel Umphelby from Victoria was mortally wounded, while coordinating artillery fire. At Driefontein the mounted infantry and cavalry horses were exhausted and unable to play a decisive role.

Boer War Prisoners Of War listed on the Ballarat POW Memorial

Following “Possibly Australia’s newest BW memorial” in *Monumentally Speaking No. 9, page 4* Jennifer Burrell, the Ballarat & District Genealogy Soc Researcher wrote:

“Liz Heagney OAM has been working on the 38,000 Ex-POWs of all wars for this memorial in Ballarat. She has a huge collection of photos sent to her by the families of the prisoners and would very much welcome any from the descendants of the Boer War POWs. **Only POWs please.** Her postal address is 20 Park Street, Wendouree, Vic 3355

In time it is hoped that her work will be published. The Ballarat Ex-POW Memorial was the first outside Canberra to receive national status (and the associated funding entitlements.) This happened in Sep 2008.”

Jennifer Burrell

Boer War Trivia

Did you know that the girls of Sydney Girls High School (then situated in Elizabeth St where David Jones now is) wanted to present the units/subunits of the first NSW contingent with sets of Regimental Colours (presumably run up in the sewing class)?

When this was deemed impractical by the Military Authorities (spoil sports!) they presented each with a trumpet or bugle. The Lancers were presented with theirs at Victoria Barracks 2 Oct 1899. Wonder where they are now?

Or that The 1st Contingent's padre for the trip over was the visiting British Lions Rugby Captain? (Lions def Wallabies three matches to one on that tour).

Lady Superintendent Marianne Rawson RRC, MID

The Kalgoorlie Connection

Ma-

rianne Rawson was the Lady Superintendent of the ten nurses who were part of the 3rd Victorian Contingent of Bushmen.

They left Melbourne 10 March 1900 on the Troop Transport *Euryalis* and proceeded to Cape Town but were immediately diverted back to the east coast port of Beira in Portuguese East Africa, disembarking 3 April 1900.

The entire contingent was then sent west to Rhodesia, by the only open rail line, to join Bushmen from the other Australian states who were already there.

The Victorian Bushmen were brigaded with West Australians to form the 3rd Regiment under Major HG Vials, as part of General Carrington's Rhodesian Field Force. While the men were to go on to relieve the siege of Mafeking, the nurses remained in Rhodesia.

They were absorbed into British hospitals, transferring, as the front moved south into Transvaal, to serve at Salisbury, Fort Charter, Bulawayo, Hillside, Mafeking, Springfontein and Tuli.

The nurses were:

F E Hines, E Smith, A E H Thomson, D Tiddy, E Walter, D Smith, E Langlands, I Ivey and J B Anderson.

Nurse Hines died of disease at the Bulawayo Hospital, Rhodesia, on 7 May 1900. She was the first Army Nurse to die on active service and the only one to die in the Boer War.

Marianne Rawson had to bury Sister Frances Emma Hines and did so with full military honours in Bulawayo surrounded by Victorian Bushmen and all the Army Nurses.

Rawson's tireless devotion to duty and courage dealing with the wounded, injured and diseased was rewarded with a Mentioned in Despatches, and later the highest order for nurses, the Royal Red Cross.

And what has all this to do with Kalgoorlie?

The Governor of Western Australia presented Lady Supt Marianne Rawson MID RRC with her Royal Red Cross in Kalgoorlie on 20 July 1903.

Guest Speakers Available

NSW BWM Assn committee members are available to make a presentation on the Boer War, Australia's role in it and why we need a **national** memorial for all those soldiers and nurses who answered the call.

The illustrated lecture is usually 45 minutes plus questions but is easily adjusted to suit organisations' needs.

To arrange for a speaker to address your organisation, contact Tony Larnach-Jones (see panel page 2)

The next one is in Chatswood, in the Council Chambers, Lvl 6, 31 Victor St, on Thursday 19 May at 12.30 in the Chatswood Library's series of free lectures [Talks@Willoughby](#)

Presenters Keith Smith and Paul Lenehan.

Please ring Willoughby Library: 9777 7900 to book (seating and cuppa) at:

The Scots College

While searching for schools that existed prior to the BW for teachers or ex-students who may have served, David Deasey came across this:

Sydney Morning Herald 14 March 1901

Farewell to a Volunteer

The Scots College was the scene of a pleasant function on Friday evening, when the Principal, on behalf of the Cadet Corps, presented their drill instructor, Staff Colour-Sergeant Clayton of the Sutherland and Argyle Highlanders, who is leaving with the 2nd Regiment for South Africa, with a wristlet watch and a combination matchbox and sovereign case, which had been subscribed for by the cadets. The cadets fell in and, headed by the pipe band, escorted Sgt Clayton to the tram.

[appears to be 3672 Thomas Hutton Clayton, RSM, 2 NSW Mounted Rifles]

And in the South African Soldiers Assn Annual Report 1939-40 page 5:

Percy Collins Memorial Relief Fund

This fund, as the balance sheet shows, is still in a healthy condition; help from same has been given to necessitous cases. To Miss Mary Collins, of Teignmouth, (the Founder of the fund), we again send respectful greetings. As mentioned in the last annual report, we received a cheque from this dear lady whose name will not be forgotten by this Association. On being collected by the Bank, it amounted to £12/9/1. We do not expect any more donations from this dear lady, as her hands are full attending to evacuated children from London. We pray that the Great Architect of the Universe may comfort her in her declining years.

[Was Percy her brother, living in Australia so joined up here? The records have four Percys, two of whom were definitely Australians, but none are known to have died during the BW—yet another mystery]

Welcome to Western Australia's Boer War Memorial Committee

The story below was researched by John Sweetman.

Pte Thomas Hotspur Angel 3 Western Australia Bushmen

The name Thomas Hotspur Angel, No. 105, Private, 3rd Western Australia Bushmen is listed on the Boer War memorial in Perth's Kings Park.

Records show that Angel was born in South Australia in 1869 and had been a cattle drover in outback Western Australia. He was dangerously wounded in an action at De Burgh's Pass 7 April 1901 and died of enteric fever at Warmbad 24 April 1901. He was both Mentioned in Despatches and awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal. His name is also on the Honour Board in a Perth's St Georges Cathedral and on the Pietersburg (South Africa) Central Memorial.



The simple facts hardly tell the story of this remarkable soldier. Angel, 31, an expert bush horseman and familiar with firearms, was attracted to the idea of being a volunteer soldier in a Bushmen company. He enlisted in Geraldton and took the train south to the Army Training base at Karrakatta, about ten kilometres west of the city of Perth.

Turning civilian into a soldier was brief, curtailed by the need for his unit, 3 WA Bushmen (7 officers and 109 men) to board the troopship *Marplemore* departing Fremantle 13 March 1900 to land 18 April at the Portuguese East Africa port of Beira, then by train to Rhodesia.

In Bulawayo the Western Australians joined Bushmen contingents from other Australian colonies to form the Bushmen Brigade (see also the Marianne Rawson story

on page 9). 3WAB joined the Victorians to form the 3rd Bushmen Regiment commanded by fellow West Australian, Major HG Vials. Angel was in C Squadron.

The Bushmen Brigade was part of the large Rhodesian Field Force commanded by General Carrington in his sweep from Rhodesia south into Transvaal that included the relief of the garrison at Mafeking 17 May 1900 and the relief of the siege of the joint Australian-Rhodesians at the Elands River Post on 16 August 1900.

After these successes they were transferred first to Lord Methuen's column, then General Plumer's. Under both commanders the WA/Vic Bushmen distinguished themselves by their willingness to take the fight up to the Boers in many actions between July and December 1900, to the extent that the unit received a special commendation from the supreme commander Lord Roberts, on 3 December 1900.

On 6 April 1901 in the Pietersburg district of northern Transvaal, Sgt W George took a patrol which included Pte Angel to scout De Burgh's Pass which Boer soldiers were thought to hold. Sgt George evaluated the situation and decided to attack. Despite the patrol drawing heavy fire, Pte Angel dodged and weaved to considerable effect through the scanty cover to bring back a wounded comrade until he himself took a rifle bullet in the stomach.

The patrol later withdrew taking Pte Angel to a field hospital where he was stabilised and then sent by British Army ambulance to a larger hospital at Warmbad (warm baths). Whilst slowly recovering from his wound it appears that he caught the dreaded typhoid fever to complicate the recovery, and died on 24 April 1901.

For his bravery he was both Mentioned in Despatches and awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal.



The Wreath layer at the 2010 Boer War Day Memorial ceremony in Kings Park was Howard Angel. Howard, representing all of the families of the fallen named on the memorial, is the great nephew of Private T H Angel DCM 3WAB.

The field gun is a Boer 75 mm, captured by the 1 Western Australians Mounted Infantry (WAMI) in a dismounted bayonet charge at the Battle of Bothaville 6.11.1900.

No, **This** is Australia's latest Boer War Memorial

In the March edition of Monumentally Speaking on page 4 there was a note that the Ballarat (Vic) Prisoner of War memorial was the newest one to include the soldiers and nurses who served in the Boer War.

Mosman (NSW) has had a War Memorial since after the First World War. As in many places the scale and losses of that war overshadowed the Boer War which was not then noted on the memorial. Later an additional memorial was erected for the Second World War.

The Mosman Council has completed the work in time for the ANZAC Day ceremony on 17 April. The upgrade is funded jointly by Council and through a public appeal by the Mosman ANZAC Memorial Hall Trust and the Mosman RSL Sub Branch, launched by Peter FitzSimons on Remembrance Day 2010.

Men from Mosman were among those who fought in South Africa, like Lieutenant Percy Ormond Griffiths, killed in France in August 1918; Major W. D. Harris, M.C., of Avenue Road, who won a Military Cross in



*South Africa, c 1900 men of
1st Troop, D Squadron, NSW
Imperial Bushmen*

*The new memorial
includes a Boer War
plaque*

World War I; and Mr Thomas Gunning, who died in 1950 leaving the bulk of his estate to a movement to support immigration by British youth.

Mosman Library's Local Studies Collection shows that other Mosman volunteers include Sapper H F Ransom, Sapper Cox, Ben Young, Constable J W Taylor, S A Jones and "Wombat" who wrote for the Mosman Mail in 1899.

The first Boer War Day ceremony will be held at the new Mosman memorial at 11 am on Tuesday 31st May 2011. Brig Jack Byrnes will deliver the commemoration address and Mon Eugene Harley will say the prayer.

Mon Harley notes that his predecessor as parish priest of the Sacred Heart, Mosman, Fr Francis Timoney went to this war as the chaplain of the NSW Citizens Bushmen.

Mosman the newest— where is the oldest?



The Editor's Diary:

Meet the WA BWMA Committee and visit the Army Museum of Western Australia

Your editor recently had a family visit to Perth that turned out to be a bit of a busman's holiday. First he attended the regular meeting of the WA Committee of the National Boer War Memorial Assn, meeting the three members the Executive, John Sweetman, Maurice Kissane and Kevin Bovill, all flat out preparing for the Boer War Memorial Day ceremony on Sunday 29 May in Kings Park.

The meeting was held at the Belmont RSL club. Your editor mused on the suburb's name, wondering if it was named after the town in South Africa and the 1899 Boer War battles surrounding it.

A marvellous surprise was to find that many members of the Belmont RSL Sub-branch are/were South

Africans, and that there were two large display cases of South African militaria on show.

Several days later your editor was guided around the WA Army museum in the historic Artillery Barracks in Burt St, Fremantle. A stroll around the parade ground inspecting the serious hardware—from the ubiquitous Bren Gun Carrier to a Centurion tank, from a 25 Pounder field gun to two versions of the Italian L5 Pack howitzer—came first. Then a bee line for the "Colonial Gallery" to see a delightful collection ranging from WA's earliest military unit to the beginning of WW1, including some interesting Boer War items.

The museum has much more, spread over two storeys and covering all conflicts including Peacekeeping. While the displays are professionally curated, designed and built, most of the staff are volunteers.

More details: [Army Museum of Western Australia](#)
Or email:

Highly recommended to visitors to WA.



John Sweetman, Chair, Maurice Kissane, Secretary, and Kevin Bovill, Services Rep: WA Executive Committee—National Boer War Memorial

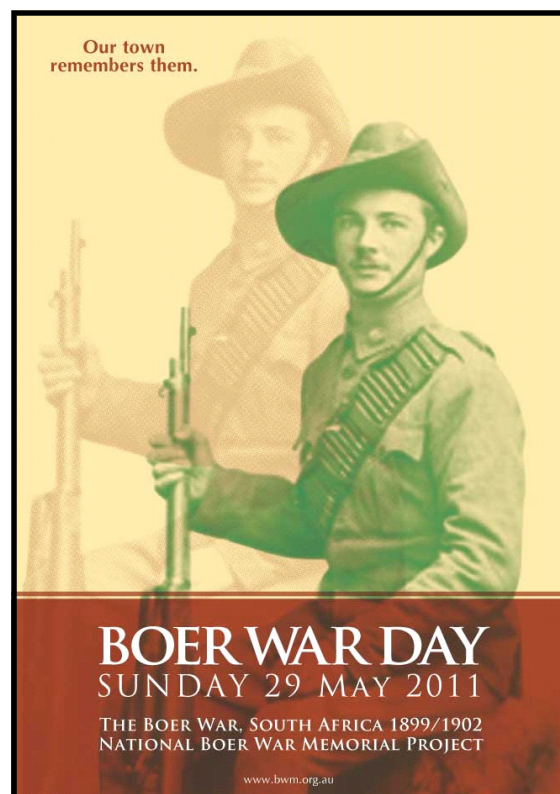
At the time of going to press:

Boer War Memorial Day Ceremonies will be at:

Adelaide	Boer War Memorial	11 am Sunday 29 May
Brisbane	ANZAC Square	10 am Tuesday 31 May
Clarence Town/ Dungog	Boer War Memorial Gates, Queen Street	10 am Sunday 29 May
Canberra	tba	
Hobart	Boer War Memorial, Do- main	12 Noon Sunday 5 June
Kalgoorlie	War Memorial	Tba Sunday 29 May
Launceston	Boer War Memorial City Park	12 Noon Sunday 12 June
Melbourne	Shrine of Remembrance	March assembly 11.30 at ANZAC Ave end of Shrine forecourt
Mosman (Sydney)	Newly rebuilt Mosman Cenotaph	11 am Tuesday 31 May
Nowra	BW Memorial Junction Street.	4 pm Sun 29 May
Oatley	Memorial Gardens	11 am Sun 29 May
Parramatta	Lancers Museum 2 Smith St open Entry Fee	10 am—4 pm Sunday 29 May
Parramatta	Lancers Barracks Cenotaph	12 Noon Sunday 29 May
Perth	Boer War Memorial Kings Park	11 am Sunday 29 May
St Marys (Sydney)	The Memorial, St Marys RSL, Cnr Hall St and Mamre Rd	11 am Sunday 29 May
Windsor	Boer War Memorial McQuade Park	AM Tues 31 May
Wollongong	Tpr Frank Andrews Memo- rial, McCabe Park	Noon, Sunday 29 May



This beautiful site at the lake end of ANZAC Parade, Canberra, is where the new memorial will be erected.



The sign on the back wall in the site picture below left. Barely legible, the last two words say "Future Site"

NATIONAL BOER WAR MEMORIAL FACT SHEET

THE BOER WAR TOOK PLACE BETWEEN 11 OCTOBER 1899, WHEN THE BOER-ISSUED ULTIMATUM WAS REJECTED BY THE BRITISH, AND 31 MAY 1902, WITH THE SIGNING OF THE TREATY OF VEREENIGING.

The Boer War was the first conflict in which Australian forces were involved as a nation, as the Federal Government sent Commonwealth contingents to the war after 1901.

About 23,000 Australian men & women served in the Boer War, nearly 1000 Australians paid the ultimate price for their service.

Australian troops served closely alongside more than 6000 New Zealanders, and frequently fought alongside them, truly becoming the first ANZACS.

Six Australians earned Victoria Crosses, the first time any Australians were awarded this highest honour. 161 additional bravery medals were awarded.

Many of our leaders in the First World War were drawn from men who fought in the Boer War.

Australian soldiers were highly regarded by all, drawing acclamation for their horsemanship and bush skills in particular. Australians fought and died alongside men from New Zealand, Canada, Britain, and the Commonwealth.

Men spent long periods in the saddle with few opportunities to bathe or change their clothes; lice were a constant problem. Temperatures during the war ranged from relentless heat during the day to freezing cold at night.

43,000 horses were sent from Australia and none returned.

It is Australia's only major war that is not commemorated on Anzac Parade in Canberra.

Australian contribution took the form of five waves – the first, mostly from militias, the second, from bushmen, the third, imperial bushmen, then the draft contingents, and finally the Commonwealth Horse contingents.

Top and bottom pix: front and back of 2011 **Boer War Memorial Day Posters**. Available for your use under the heading In the News on the website.