

MONUMENTALLY SPEAKING-QLD EDITION
INCORPORATING WESTERN AUSTRALIA AND THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
QLD COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER VOL 9 November 2014



National Boer War Memorial Association

National Patron

Air Chief Marshall Mark Binskin AC,
Chief of the Defence Force



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

Queensland Patron

The Hon Campbell Newman
Premier of Queensland



Miles Farmer giving his Mokari Drift Presentation

On Sunday the 29th of September the Queensland Committee hosted a presentation on the battle of Mokari Drift ably conducted by Miles Farmer, at the Sherwood-Indooroopilly RSL Sub-branch. The day was well attended And a most pleasing aspect was that donations received exceeded \$5000.

Project Manager Steve Bain gave the audience a briefing on the current status of the project . National Vice-President Ron Mc Elwaine thanked all attending and thanked Miles for a most professional presentation.

Email Addresses

For those currently receiving this newsletter by snail mail, and who do have an email address, please let us know your current email address, or if you are not on email and have moved, please update us so that we do not incur unnecessary postal expenses .

Featured in this issue

This issue of ***Monumentally Speaking*** features a most interesting account from Trooper Thomas Druitt Grandfather of one of our Committee Members Jennie Jones. Whilst it is a lengthy article, it contains a lot of first hand Recollections. It is always most informative to get the perspectives of those who served and their recollections. Mrs Pat Druitt has done a fine job in putting together Thomas Druitt's story.

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Indigenous Soldiers in the Boer War

My thanks to Mick O'Mallon for his work on the Indigenous participation in the Boer War. This article on pages 3 and 6 ,is somewhat abridged as there is a much larger story here, and I hope to continue with it in a later issue.



With an attentive audience

Queensland Chairman's Report

Welcome to the 19th Queensland National Boer War Memorial Association newsletter.

Design Position re the Monument:-

The final documentation covering the design of the monument is now 90% complete. It has been examined by NCA and suggested changes have been incorporated in the documentation.

The First Horseman

On Tuesday 12 August we had a very successful Pour event at the sculptor's foundry at 11am in the morning during which a portion of a Boer War Pom Pom shell was inserted into the molten bronze mix. A series of media releases were made in the few days beforehand: a general release through Australian Associated Press on Friday 8 August.

It is expected that this first sculpture will be completed in Feb/Mar 2015.

Second Horseman

I announced previously that the first phase, the half sized plasticine model of the second horseman, would be undertaken. The artist's impression shown then has been developed to this working sketch which shows much more detail. However, there are still likely to be further changes as the design subcommittee fully develops the equipment. As the patrol leader, the second horseman will have binoculars and a revolver holster not shown on this diagram. It is expected that this phase will be completed by early 2015.

Project Manager.

Steve Bain, the Project Manager recently visited the sculptor's factory to inspect progress of both horsemen. He reports the quality is excellent and progressing steadily.

Funding

At the 22 Oct 2014 the funding stood as follows:-

Total	\$1,524,239.71
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This includes

Commonwealth Seeding Funds	\$200,000
Qld. Donation	\$68,670

Staff & Running Costs

I have spoken previously about the need for the monument, the concept but not the staff. We are an all volunteer organi-

sation. In running the organisation, no funding is received other than funds that we generate ourselves through activities and sale of merchandise. Our volunteers give a great deal of their time and often their money to keep us going forward. We have been greatly assisted by the Australian Defence Force with non-financial support. Our aim is to construct a Memorial to commemorate those Australian men and women who volunteered to serve in Australia's first National war. All donations go direct to the memorial fund. Quite a number of Newsletters have been returned to us as people have left addresses, can I plead with you to remember to let us know if you are changing addresses. We are constantly monitoring email addresses to keep up our communication with you.

A little piece of history, in Qld we held our first committee meeting in Nov 2007 and we still have some of our original members.

Qld. News

On the 29th Sep. we conducted an afternoon commemorating Mokari Drift Day. We followed on from the presentation of an original letter, dated Sep 1901, which described the battle in detail. From feedback it was a wonderful afternoon where people intermingled, learnt about the battle where Lt. Caskey was killed and were brought up to date on the project. A most pleasing outcome for the day was the donations totalling \$5,150.

Our next commemoration will be on the 4th February at Sherwood Cemetery. This is the battle of Onverwacht Hills, which was the last major battle of the Boer War. It is also dear to us because 12 men of the 5th QIB were killed that day. Two died from their wounds several days later. Please keep the date in your diaries. We would love to see you there. Join us for morning tea afterwards at the Sherwood-Indooroopilly RSL Sub-Branch.

Conclusion

We have made some great progress this year but there is still much to be done and for that we need your financial support. I have included a donation form in this newsletter.

Finally I wish you all the compliments of the season. May you all enjoy a wonderful Festive Christmas.



Ron McElwaine OAM
Chairman Qld Committee of NBWMA



Correspondence and Donations to Secretary P.O.Box 165 Fortitude Valley Qld 4006

Aboriginal trackers and the Boer War.

According to the Indigenous Histories website, the exact number of trackers who served during the Boer War is unknown as there are few details about them, although there are brief snippets of information that can be found. In the months prior to the departure of the Federal Contingent on 18 February 1902, a short article entitled "The Melbourne Enrolment" appeared in *The Queenslander* on 25 January 1902, stating that: "the number of men so far attested for the Federal Contingent is 212".

The role that they played during the war has been detailed in the book *The Black Trackers of Bloemfontein* by Indigenous historian David Huggonson.

Tracking the Trackers.

Queenslander Dr Dale Kerwin a Griffith University Researcher has spent more than 15 years trying to ascertain the fate of up to 50 Aboriginal trackers, who assisted Australian troops in South Africa only to disappear from the record books.

Dr Kerwin states that Descendants of Aboriginal trackers who may have been stopped from returning home from the Boer War could be living in South Africa. He once heard a woman tell an indigenous radio show that while she was in South Africa the Taxi Driver had informed her that he was an Aboriginal descendant, but unfortunately didn't get the chaps name or contact particulars.

Records would suggest in one instance that some of these men were overseas deployed as "trackers" prior to Federation and may have fallen victim to the "Immigration Restriction Act", which later became widely known as the White Australia Policy.

The White Australian Policy basically meant that any non-European migrating to Australia under the "Restriction Act" was forced to complete a 50-word dictation in "any European language" at the border. Museum Victoria estimates more than 800 people were given the test in 1902 and 1903, and fewer than 50 passed. Given most of our guys signed official documents with a thumb print, it would be insanity to think that any one of them could have passed such a test if it were to be part of a criteria in getting them home - unless of course the test was given in their own Tribal Language, but then, that's not a European language is it!

Most of Australia's servicemen made the voyage home shortly after the war ended in 1902, however; a chap by the name of George Valder was assigned the task of repatriating Australia's Boer War servicemen back to Australia, and must have been doing it for some time; given there is a reference that five years after the end of the war he discovered he had two Aboriginal full bloods and one half caste on his books awaiting repatriation, and wrote to the Prime Minister in relation to the matter at the time.

Valder must also of mentioned that these guys had found employment, for the alleged reply stated. QUOTE. " all coloured persons born in Australia must obtain a special permit from the Commonwealth before they could be permitted to land" ; and "as these men have all since obtained employment, they will I believe manage to pay their own fares." UNQUOTE. No one knows if these men returned home.

Now 112 years after the last rifle sounded, Dr Kerwin continues to search for the trackers he thinks may have been left behind.

JACK ALICK - BOER WAR ABORIGINAL SOLDIER

Information links Jack Alick with a well known Aboriginal family originating in the Braidwood area of New South Wales. After looking him up on Colin Roe's "Oz-Boer Data Base" - which I find a lot more user friendly than Murrays - I found two entries for Alick with his given name referred to as John and not Jack; being a 28 yr old labourer from Cawwarrie via



Braidwood NSW, who 1stly served as 1063 Tpr John ALICK pre-Federation 1st Australian Horse NSW c1900, then as Tpr 356 in C Sqn 1st ACH c1902.

There is an unspecified reference to him being invalided home 1 May 1902, which I suspect was the result of him having contracted enteric fever, given he gives reference to "fever" in a letter written for him by a friend from South Africa dated 14 Sept 1901.

Opposite - Detail from a photograph of the Federal contingent before it sailed for South Africa in 1902, which was published in the [Town and Country Journal](#) and shows Jack Alick bottom right.

The group left Australia on 17 January 1900 with the second contingent of the First Australian Horse, arriving in Cape Town 23 February 1900, where they joined up with the first contingent in March. The Unit then advanced to Pretoria and beyond, taking part in action ranging from minor skirmishes to battles including engagements at Poplar Grove, Zand River, Diamond Hill, Zilicats Nek, Kameel Drift and the battle of Belfast. They arrived back in Australia, in Sydney on 2 May 1901 after almost a year and a half of war.

Jack's Letter.

Following is a copy of Jack's pre Federation letter addressed to a Mr George Larkins of Krawarree.

From - Korvall Pont, Convalescent Camp, September 4, 1900,

DEAR George,— I now take the opportunity of writing you a few lines to let you know I am still alive and kicking. I have been unfortunate enough to take an attack of fever from which I fell sick at Johannesburg just three months ago, but I am pleased to say I have almost fully recovered and am feeling well again.

I have not seen the regiment since I fell sick and I am not particularly anxious to rejoin them as I am quite satisfied where I am now having an easy time here, doing no duty. I have seen quite enough fighting and have had some very narrow squeaks. It is a very healthy place here and we are close to the Orange River and also the bridge which was blown up some time ago

(Continued on p 6)

My Grandfather, T. H. Cyril Druitt

With kind permission of Mrs Pat Druitt

Jennie Jones

THE BOER WAR

BACKGROUND: For the first hundred years of white settlement, Australia did not have its own army. Whenever Britain, the "mother country" fought wars elsewhere in the world, Australians would volunteer to fight alongside the British. The longest and most difficult colonial war was the South African or Boer War of 1899 – 1902.

SOME HISTORY: The Boers, or Afrikaners, were descendants of the Dutch, who were the first Europeans to settle in southern Africa from 1652. Britain took over the Dutch Cape Colony in 1806. The Boers resented the British settlers and their control over them, so they moved north to the Orange Free State and the Transvaal. The Boers asked for self-government for their two new colonies in 1880, but the British refused. Fighting broke out.

Gold had been discovered in the Transvaal and thousands of foreigners had come to the diggings, including many Australians. On 9th October, 1900, the Transvaal government demanded the withdrawal of the British troops from the Transvaal, and when they refused, the Transvaal declared war. The British Colonial Office telegraphed the six Australian colonies asking for troops.

The NSW Contingent of Citizens' Bushmen was put together by public subscription. The idea was to form a regiment of men who had knowledge of bush life. Men who were good shots, good riders, and sound physique. Preference was given to men who had experience of country work in Australia, management of horses, and bush travelling.

Family legend has it that Cyril and his brother Fred tried to enlist in Deniliquin, but Fred wasn't old enough, and the enlistment officer knew. So the two brothers saddled up their horses, rode to Jerilderie and enlisted there. They took the saddle and bridle off their horses, clouted the horses on the backside, and the horses found their way back to Deniliquin. The saddles and bridles were collected some time later.

2,000 men were recruited from all over NSW and taken to Randwick Park, Sydney. They were tested for their skill and fitness and 500 were chosen.

"Pastoral Times" Deniliquin. 20th January, 1900. The first article found in the papers concerning the involvement of the Druitt boys reads as follows: -

"VOLUNTEERS FROM DENILIKUIN - ... The following local boys have also volunteered for the bushmen's corps; Messrs. C. & F. Druitt, sons of Mr Druitt of the Deniliquin Telegraph Office.

... The offers of those named have been accepted and will pro-

ceed to Sydney shortly to undergo the medical, riding and shooting qualifications."

In the same edition of the paper is an item entitled: -
"NEW SOUTH WALES PATRIOTIC FUND, DENILIKUIN BRANCH. A patriotic response. ... for the purpose of assisting members of the NSW contingent to South Africa, as may be injured in the execution of their duty, of the wives and families of those who may lose their lives in such service ... had been liberally responded to in and around Deniliquin."

Then follows a complete list ... *"of money received up to date: - 'A long list of 200 or 300 names followed with many gifts of one pound, ten shillings or ten shillings and sixpence, some of five shillings or two shillings and sixpence, and then a few of one shilling, including a Mr T. Druitt."*

His contribution seems small, but perhaps he felt he had already made a huge contribution sending his two sons to fight.

A couple of weeks later, we are able to read in the paper, the results of the boys' attempts to join the Corps.

10th February, 1900

"VOLUNTEERS FROM DENILIKUIN - The two brothers, Cyril and Fred Druitt, who recently left Deniliquin with the intention of joining the Bushmen's Contingent, have passed all their examinations and are now in camp, and will shortly sail for the scene of the war."

On the same page of the paper is another article, showing that the ladies of the town, including a Mrs Druitt, are doing their bit to help the soldiers.

"OUR SOLDIERS IN AFRICA - A meeting of ladies was held on Saturday afternoon last in the Town Hall, for the purpose of sending little comforts over to our soldiers in the Transvaal, who may fall wounded during the campaign. The following ladies were present: - ten names including Mrs Druitt. It was decided to make a house to house canvas to obtain funds to procure the necessary material. It was also proposed to take up a tambourine collection in the streets to-night, when it is expected a good round sum will be collected for this deserving object."

I'm not sure how a 'tambourine collection' works, but the picture of ladies in long dresses banging tambourines around the streets of Deniliquin at night is a very interesting one!

Cyril and Fred both became Troopers of C Squadron. Fred, regimental number 288, gave his occupation as farmer, while Cyril, regimental number 285, was listed as an assistant telegraph line repairer. Clothing for the soldiers consisted of F. S. jacket and pants, with leggings and helmet. Arms and equipment was M.L.E. rifle and sword bayonet, bandolier and waist belt. Fully horsed, and supplied with saddlery. Pay was five shillings to privates. The Contingent of 30 officers, 495 other ranks, 570 horses and 10 carts, left Sydney on the transport ships 'Atlantian' and 'Maplemore' on 28th February, 1900, and arrived at Cape Town thirty-two later on 2nd April, 1900. They then travelled to Bulawayo.

From later information, we know both Fred and Cyril were on board the 'Maplemore'.

A letter giving some wonderful details of the journey appears in the 'Pastoral Times' on the 12th May, 1900, entitled: -

"Transport 'Maplemore'

Cape Town,

2nd April, 1900

I have not much time to write today, so you must excuse me for not writing a longer letter. The 'Maplemore' is anchored about a quarter of a mile from Cape Town, so we have no chance of getting on shore. We are not to land here, and I think we are going to Durban as far as I know. I've not enjoyed my trip, being so very sea sick all the way over with the exception of one or two days. We are well provided with food of the best kind. When we called at Adelaide, we picked up the Bushmen, and Jim Rundle was amongst them. At Freemantle, 125 Bushmen joined in, including Tom Burrows, late of Deniliquin, whom you know. He is married and his wife is in Melbourne.

There are 504 horses on board, and only 16 have died during the voyage. I still have the same horse as when I was in Sydney. He is fat now, having plenty to eat. I am sending two papers from here, also a small parcel. We found nine stowaways on board at the West, and they are working their passage over. There is one man to be sent back to Sydney for swearing at Captain McHattie.

In the hospital, there are a number of men suffering from bad arms and legs. I must give you an idea of Cape Town. It is on the beach facing the sea, and at the back there are several high hills, and one of them is just like a table. I forgot to tell you we had a splendid time in Freemantle and Perth. Cyril has written to you and told you all the news, but I will write again the next opportunity. Remember me to all friends, not forgetting Guy Jefferson. I intend writing to him when I have time."

The next we know of their involvement is a letter in the 'Pastoral Times' dated 22nd December, 1900 ...

"RETURN OF TROOPER DRUITT – Trooper Cyril Druitt returned to Deniliquin on Saturday afternoon from South Africa, after being absent for about ten months. Trooper Druitt arrived in Sydney some weeks ago, and left the metropolis on Thursday of last week for Jerilderie, from which town he was driven to Deniliquin in a special coach. At north Deniliquin, he was met by a number of his old friends, and the Mayor, Mr G. H. Perrin, escorted him into town, and at his residence in Cressey Street. Three cheers were called for by the Mayor and were heartily given. Trooper Druitt took part in several engagements in South Africa, but escaped any injury from bullets. However, he met with an injury to his leg through a kick from a horse, which prevented him from taking an active part in the campaign for some time.

Later on, he joined the ambulance corps but was invalided home on account of ill health. He is now, after the hardships accompanying active service in South Africa (which he says have not been at all exaggerated), looking in splendid form, and he has been heartily congratulated by his numerous friends this week on his safe return from the Transvaal.

Trooper Druitt has brought home with him a valuable lot of curios, including scraps of exploded Boer shells, pom poms, Transvaal coins, several Mauser, soft-nosed and explosive bullets used by the Boers, and a first-class saddle similar to those issued to the English cavalrymen."

A week later, Cyril was interviewed, and a lengthy item appeared in the local paper: ...

"TROOPER CYRIL DRUITT. HIS SOUTH AFRICAN EXPERIENCES.

Trooper Cyril Druitt, the Deniliquin soldier who returned a week or so ago from South Africa, was seen by 'Pastoral Times' representative a few days ago with reference to his experiences whilst on active service in South Africa, and in the course of conversation he related his doings since leaving Deniliquin as follows: -

"My brother, Fred, and I volunteered early this year to join one of the contingents which were being formed to take part in whipping out some of the Transvaal Boers, and we were selected in Sydney and sworn in as members of the Citizen's Bushmen's Contingent in February last. After being in camp some days, we left Sydney for South Africa in the steamer 'Maplemore' about 1st March last, and our journey across the Southern Ocean occupied some weeks.

On board the transport, we soon settled down to the strict military discipline and were regularly engaged in drill and firing practice, and in attending to our horses, but it took us some time to get used to the ship's food, which at first, was not fit for human consumption. At any rate, our trip across to Cape Town was most enjoyable, and as soon as we reached there we received orders to proceed to Beira, in Portuguese territory, several hundred miles north of Cape Town on the east coast, and it seemed to us then (and it afterwards turned out that we were correct) that we were to work right away round the northern part of the Transvaal and down into the enemy's country. Well, from Beira, we went on by railway to Bamboo Creek, and here our troubles commenced, for the dreaded "blue tongue" disease caused a large number of the picked horses brought over by us to die within a few days.

Leaving Bamboo Creek, our next stopping place was Umtali in Mashonaland, and a few days later, we arrived at Marandellas, some 300 miles by rail from the coast, which was our first base camp. The West Australians, South Australians, and some of the Queenslanders were with the New South Wales men, and after a few days delay, we were started on our long march to Bulawayo in Matabeleland, about 370 miles away, with the objective of ultimately reaching and relieving the besieged garrison under "B.P." (Baden-Powell) at Mafeking.

Our journey commenced on 11th May, and in three weeks time we got to Bulawayo, but before getting this far, we had learnt of t

(Continued from P 5)

The relief of Mafeking. We had only been on the march for a little

time when I had the misfortune to be kicked by a horse, which rendered a stay of a month or so in Bulawayo hospital necessary, and on rejoining my squadron, we went on to Mafeking, where we arrived on 6th June.

After a short stay here, and having had the opportunity to visit and inspecting Baden-Powell's entrenchments, we were next shifted on to Ottoshoop, thirty miles away, where our kits were overhauled and considerably reduced, as it was discovered we were carrying much unnecessary material, which was put on one side.

Zeerust was the next place we marched to, and thence to Rustenburg, where we had our first taste of fighting against the Boers, whilst Colonel Airey had charge of us. This encounter cost us the lives of two men, and four wounded on our side. We did not skip from Rustenburg too quickly, as we were besieged for three weeks through the enemy holding good positions on the surrounding kopjes and giving us a good deal of bother.

Our departure from this place to Pretoria was a grand sight, as nearly the whole of the towns people accompanied us – we were now under Baden-Powell, who came into camp the day after we occupied Rustenburg – and the troops and towns people covered the veldt for a distance of six miles. Uitval Nek was the next place we passed through, and then we started with 3,000 men for Warmbaths, passing on our way within a few miles of Pretoria, from which place we were reinforced by 2,000 Imperial men.

On our way to Warmbaths, we went through Waterval, where it will be remembered the Boers had a number of our men imprisoned. The 'goal' consisted of a little paddock surrounded by a substantial barbed wire fence about ten feet high, whilst on the east side there were several buildings, which looked more like shearers' huts than goal quarters for the officials and soldiers. Close by, we noticed a number of rough crosses denoting the last resting place of some of our British prisoners of war who had died from wounds, illness, or ill treatment. Leaving Waterval, we came to the Hamond's Kraal, where a small detachment of Rhodesians became accidentally separated from the main column, and came into conflict with the Boers, who dropped on to them suddenly at a distance of only about thirty yards, but this little band of the enemy was quickly dispersed through the Canadian artillery coming up and dropping on them in a 'brace of shakes.' In this little engagement, we lost one officer and four men killed, and two officers and eight men shot dead and three wounded, and carried many more away on their horses; subsequently, we buried both the Britons and the Boers in one grave. On arriving at Pienaars River, where a beautiful bridge once stood, we discovered that the enemy had completely destroyed it with dynamite. Leaving the river, we trekked on to Warmbaths, twenty-five miles away, and discovered on another road leading to the place that a number of Boers were travelling in the same direction.

Immediately on seeing this, Baden-Powell, whom we were under, ordered all the guns forward and we just managed to catch

up to the enemy and given them an exhibition of our gunnery. One of the shells dropped by one of our guns is said to have killed eight men and two horses, while another landing in the centre of a trolley, wrecked it completely. As we were coming in, the Boers were removing wagons of 140 prisoners held by them, and taking advantage of the confusion, the men took the pins out of the wheels, turning on the brakes, and the wheels very soon came off.

Commandant Grobelaar, the Boer leader, then rode up to the prisoners and said: "For God's sake, go home, and if we see you here again, we will shoot you." The men were then released and joined us. We made a fine haul of pigs and several hundred fowls, etc. at this place, which were a decided improvement on the regulation biscuits and bully beef.

Warmbaths is so called because of the natural hot water springs which are to be found there, and it is a great health resort. There are about one hundred baths there. For some time after getting to Warmbaths, we did a lot of patrol work towards Pienaars River, and a small patrol sent to a place called the Fish Ponds, had a smart brush with the enemy, losing two men and four wounded, and some were also captured.

We came to the town of Narlstrom just after leaving Warmbaths, and as the townspeople had been shepherding the Boers, we had orders to loot all the shops, and did so properly. There were no provisions in the place, but the clothes and boots were soon divided amongst the looters.

On account of the Boers attacking General Paget, we shortly after had to return to Warmbaths, where we had four days fighting with the heavy guns, but what damage was done, we could not ascertain. On our side, however, the losses were nil. One of the Canadians with us, whilst the fighting was going on, picked up a loaded shell thrown in by one of the enemy's guns, with the result that it exploded and shot off both his legs.

We had plenty to do in scouting work, and about Salt pans, Hebron's Krall, Shangarney river, and Sybrand's Kraal, where the country was difficult to get over. The different little bands of Boers we were after gave us a lot of trouble when getting away towards the hills. At a place called Jerusalem, we burnt about a dozen farmhouses because one of our men had been shot by one of them.

We had Commandant Grobelaar cornered for several days near Sybrand's Kraal expecting him to surrender, but although a few of his men came in and laid down their arms, Grobelaar managed to dodge us. This was about the whole of the work I took part in, and on about the 9th October, I was invalided home, and left Pretoria on a coal train for Cape Town – a journey which took six days. We had a couple of truck loads of Boer prisoners with us, and they told us they were full of the war and would have stopped fighting long ago, but their generals misled them."

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Speaking of the country through which he travelled, Trooper Druitt states that in Mashonaland and Matabeleland, there is nothing but plain low useless country, covered with any amount of rank grass or reeds even ten and twelve feet high. Where any of this long grass is growing about the hilly country, the Boers, when escaping to a kopje, burn it as they pass along, and on the black ground, they can plainly see their khaki-clad pursuers and 'pot' them as they come along.

In Rhodesia, the country is not very good looking, but in the Transvaal, there seems to be plenty of good looking farm land.

Of the Boer as a fighting man, Trooper Druitt has not a very high opinion, and sums up the men against whom the British have been fighting for twelve months past as "a poor lot."

Generally speaking, the Boers will not make any stand at all against their opponents if there is any possible chance of making away to a place of safety and shelter behind a rock, and even then, they might only fire a few shots and then 'scoot.'

Several men at the front who were formally Deniliquin residents were met by Trooper Druitt, viz. Messrs. J. Rundle, T. Burrows, R. Tindale (Finlay), and Frank Weir.

Rundle is now a quartermaster-sergeant in the South Australian Bushmen's Corps, and Tom Burrows is serving as a private with the West Australians; both were looking well when they were last seen by Trooper Druitt.

Fred Druitt (the returned soldier's brother) was a Hammond's Kraal when Cyril last had the opportunity of seeing him as he was on his way down to Cape Town, and he was then acting as a guard over a Boer farmhouse. Frank Weir (now a Sergeant-Major) was very well when Trooper Druitt last saw him, but in all his travels, he did not come across Sergeant Gibb, formally of Wandook Station. Private B. Tindale, of Finlay, had enteric fever and was in hospital in Pretoria at the time Trooper Druitt passed through the Transvaal capital.

It is not with any feelings of regret that Trooper Druitt has again reached Deniliquin, and he says that hundreds of other men would willingly return home if only given a chance to do so, as they are full up of the hardships they have to endure whilst on active duty.



285 Trooper Thomas Henry Cyril Druitt

(Continued from p3.)

We are surrounded on all sides by kopjes, and after 10 o'clock in the morning we are free to roam wherever we like and sometimes I take a turn at climbing, but not often as I have seen enough of these kopjes. I have been amongst all sorts and sizes of troops since my sickness, regulars and volunteers from almost every regiment out here and I must say they are as a majority a most lively and jolly lot of chaps and damned good company, especially in the tent where I am now.

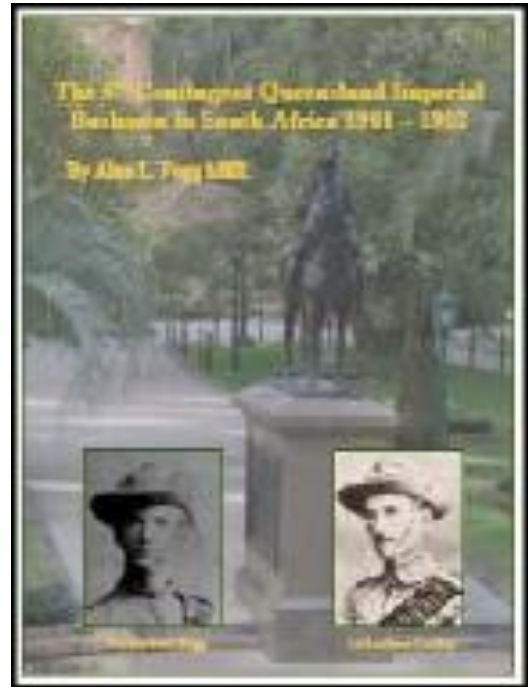
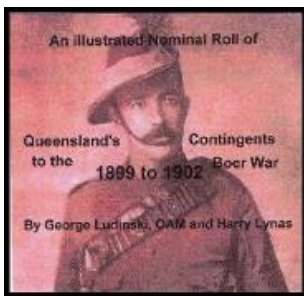
I understood you had a good days races at Snowball on Easter Monday and hope you all enjoyed yourselves. Of course it wasn't my luck to be there, but I enjoyed a night out in the rain on the veldt on Easter Monday without tents, and also the two following nights, after which I felt slightly washed out. I haven't space enough to go into details of all the fighting that I have been through, but will give you all particulars when I return home, which I hope won't be long, as I reckon it has lasted just long enough. Give my kindest regards to the Mrs and the Children and accept same yourself, from your old friend

JACK ALICK

MONUMENTALLY SPEAKING - QLD EDITION

Memorabilia for sale

Illustrated Roll of Qld Units
On CD. CD can be purchased
for \$15.00 each + \$2.00 P&H



History of the 5th Queensland Imperial Bushmen

By Alan Fogg MBE

Books sell for \$15.00 each + \$8.00
Postage for one book

BWM Ties!

These quality ties are a great hit. Designed and made in Australia, these ties are in the Queen Victoria Medal colours on navy background embossed with the leading horseman from the memorial design.

Priced at \$25.00 incl GST + \$3.00 postage

