

**Pretoria's
Honoured Dead
Anglo-Boer War
1899 - 1902**

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PRETORIA'S HONOURED DEAD

ANGLO-BOER WAR 1899 – 1902

In 1886 gold was discovered on the Witwatersrand and the question of suzerainty became one of the new and bitter controversies leading up to the war. This discovery of gold brought not only wealth but also an influx of foreigners, many of them British subjects, who soon out-numbered the Transvaal Boers. These Uitlanders (foreigners) were heavily taxed and the Volksraad determined to maintain Boer supremacy refused to give them any voting powers. After the failure of the raid on the Transvaal by Jameson, in the hopes of encouraging an uprising amongst the foreigners, the Transvaal felt that its independence was once again being threatened and President Kruger now demanded that Britain abandon all its claims to suzerainty. Neither Britain nor the South African Republic (Transvaal) would yield and an ultimatum, which expired on the 12th October 1899, was finally sent to the British government.

The first action of the war took place at Kraaipan, between Vryburg and Mafikeng when Gen JH de la Rey, on the night of 12 October 1899, captured the armoured train 'Mosquito' at Kraaipan siding.

BURGHER GRAVES

The Burgher war graves in Church Street Cemetery are not only of Pretorians, others unidentified are from commandos who were brought to Pretoria for medical attention and found their last resting place in our town.

The graves of those war heroes went unattended, neglected and deteriorated to such an extent that the many unmarked grave mounds would have been lost to posterity had not the members of the Suid-Afrikaanse Vroue Federasie, a national womens' organisation who in 1925 accumulated funds for the purpose of researching and recording information and for the purpose of erecting simple tombstones on graves of the honoured dead of Boer Burghers of the Second Anglo-Boer War; the original tombstones were replaced by the Burgher Grafte Komitee (War Graves Board) with a standard war graves tombstone and erected the memorial bearing the names and information of those in God's Acre, Church Street Cemetery.

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF BOER CASUALTIES

Approximately 87 365 Boers served:

Transvaal Burghers	41 650
Orange Free State Burghers	27 609
Regulars	2 686
Various Foreign Corps	2 120
Rebels	13 300
Total	87 365

SECOND ANGLO-BOER WAR MEMORIAL

OBSERVE SIDE

KILLED IN ACTION OR DIED OF WOUNDS:

DE JAGER	V/K	CJ	LADYSMITH	6	1	1900
COETZEE		CPB	WATERVAL	26	10	1901
DE BEER		JHB	BUFFELSPRUIT	4	11	1900
DE KLERK		BJ	ZUSTERSHOEK	21	10	1901
ELS		NJ	PRETORIA	5	3	1900
LUTTIG		HJ	AAN SIEKTE	9	5	1900
OLIVIER		SJP	SPIOENKOP	26	1	1900
REINECKE		RR	"	26	1	1900
ROOS		FJ	LADYSMITH	6	1	1901
STEYN		JJ	PRETORIA	11	7	1900
VAN ZYL		EL	LADYSMITH	11	12	1899
WAGNER		FW	"	6	1	1900
WESSELS		JJ	PRETORIA	18	9	1900
WILLEMSE		JC	LADYSMITH	6	1	1900

FROM SICKNESS ON COMMANDO:

BURGER	PJ	PRETORIA	26	11	1900
ESPACH	AJ	"	4	1	1900
KRUGER	CJ	"	16	10	1900
WERNDLE	A	"	15	5	1900
ZIETSMAN	JZ	"	4	11	1900

ACCIDENTAL:

GOUDSWAARD	PW	EERSTE FABRIEKE	22	11	1900
HAUPTFLEISCH	C	PRETORIA	20	5	1900

NO INFORMATION:

BOTHA
DE BOER
ERASMUS

KOCK	J
KRUGER	H
KRUGER	S
MASIS	
MAYS	
MANSVELD	
NEL	O
POTGIETER	
RIECK	J
STRYDOM	
VAN RENSBURG	HO
WELGEMOED	DJ



SECOND ANGLO-BOER WAR MEMORIAL

REVERSE SIDE

BURGHERS BURIED ELSEWHERE IN CEMETERY:

COSTER LT DR	HJ	ELANDSLAAGTE	21 10 1899
ALBERTS	JJ	ELANDSRIVIER	3 8 1901
DE VILLIERS	DT	LADYSMITH	11 12 1899
DU TOIT	JM	PRETORIA	3 5 1902
HOHLS DR	OTTO	MODDERSPRUIT	30 10 1899
JEPPE	CFW	SPIOENKOP	24 1 1900
LIEBENBERG	AJ	NATAL	3 1 1900
MALHERBE	JP	SPIOENKOP	24 1 1900
MANCE	ALFRED	LADYSMITH	6 1 1900
MEYER	CH	PRETORIA	9 9 1901
NIEMEYER	JOHN	LADYSMITH	11 12 1899
SPANIER	HARRY	"	12 12 1899
VAN REENEN	FO	PRETORIA	1 3 1900
VON STROLMAN Lt	BC	LINDLEY	26 6 1900

FROM ILLNESS ON COMMANDO:

KOCK Gen	JHM	LADYSMITH	31 10 1899
BURGERS	M	"	20 1 1900
CLAS	HA	PRETORIA	27 6 1901
CUSE	CAL	"	6 3 1900
HAASBROEK	SF	"	10 3 1900
LOTTERING	WJJ	"	17 3 1900
OOSTHUIZEN	CJ	"	21 3 1901
SCHULTZE	ACH	"	13 1 1901

EXECUTED:

CORDUA	HANS	PRETORIA	24 3 1900
KRAUSE	PR	"	11 6 1901
UPTON	RC	"	21 8 1901
VENTER	NT	"	11 6 1901

BRITISH WAR GRAVES

The British military section occupies a large portion of Church Street Cemetery. Of the 22 000 soldiers who died during the war years 1899 – 1902, approximately 6 000 were killed on battlefields, 2 000 of wounds and 22 000 succumbed to disease, mainly enteric fever filling cemeteries in all the provinces of the Republic.

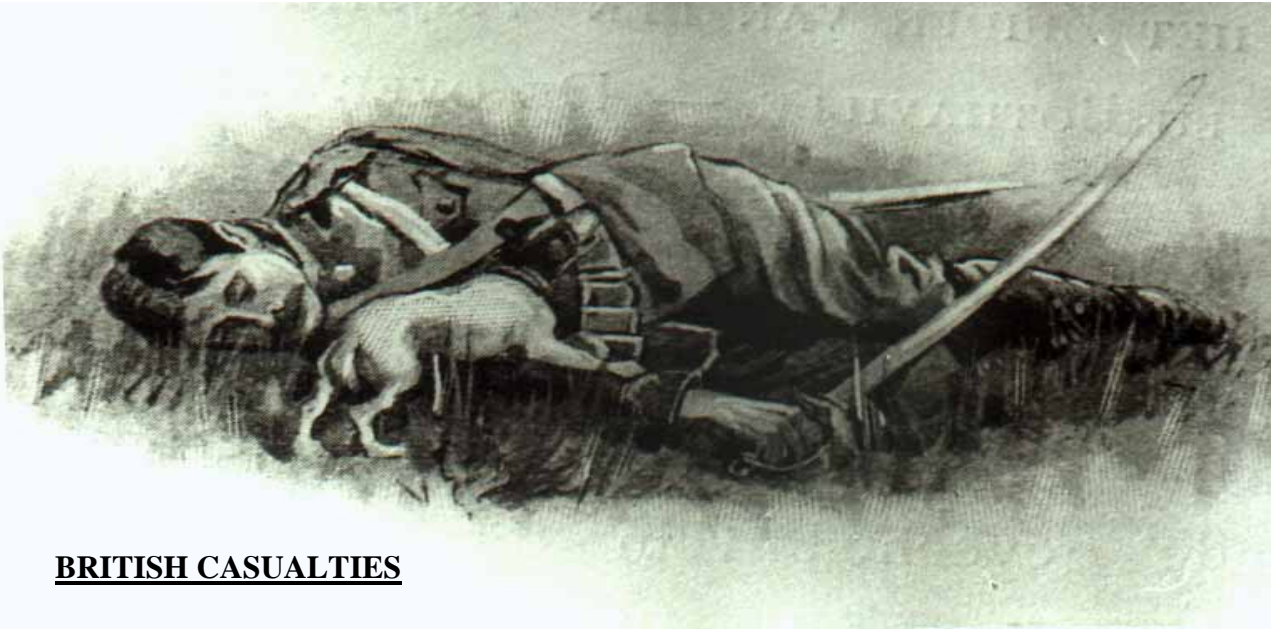
Pretoria's Volks Hospital in Potgieter Street was too small to accommodate the wounded and sick forcing the military authorities to commandeered buildings and large homes as recuperation centres. The yet uncompleted Palace of Justice on Church Square was one of such buildings and opened by Field Marshall Lord Roberts at a ceremony on 11 July 1900.

Other places and homes for hospital purposes were the Staats Meisjes School (now Hamilton School), Kenturk, home of George Bourke in Celliers Street, Sunnyside and Mr Tom Beckett's Merton Keep Estate in Arcadia, where Prince Christian Victor, Queen Victoria's grandson died.

Wards in various hospitals were furnished and provided for by Lewis and Marks, Tom Beckett, George Heys and Andrew Johnston.

'Sons of the Empire' lie buried in foreign acres, their graves tenderly cared for by the Guild of Loyal Women and from 1961 protected by the National War Graves Board.





BRITISH CASUALTIES

Casualty figures differ in published material.

In the Boer War by Thomas Pakenham he quotes:-

100 000 casualties of all kinds among 365 693 Imperial and 82 742 Colonial soldiers.
 22 222 found a grave in South Africa
 5 774 were killed in action and accidents
 16 168 died of wounds and disease

JL Smail's Those Restless Years, states:

In the field
 7 792 Killed or died of wounds
 20 811 Wounded
 9 533 Prisoners of War or missing

Other casualties
 13 250 Died of diseases
 798 Accidental deaths
 2 018 Died of wounds
 102 Prisoners of War died in captivity
 75 430 Wounded, sick, unspecified

After Pretoria – The Guerrilla War by Harmsworth

5 774 Killed in action
 22 829 Wounded

ALBERTS JJ

The Boer War memorial records that Alberts died at Elandsrivier on 3 August 1901.

Elandsrivier is a name of three water courses in the Transvaal.

Cemetery records reveal that M Johannes Alberts, a Prisoner of War was buried in Grave G B52 on 6 August 1901.

BOTHA

A member of the Boer forces during the Second Anglo-Boer War.

No further information regarding his identity or military history is available. The cemetery register does not record this burial.

BURGER PJ

Died on 26 November 1900; a member of the Boer forces who died of illness in Pretoria; his name appears on the Burgher memorial in the Burgher acre. No record was found that he was a Pretorian.

BURGERS M

A member of the Boer forces at Ladysmith in Natal where he became ill and died in Pretoria; his name appears on the Burgher memorial in the Burgher plot.

Longlands Directory of Pretoria for 1899 records M Burgers as being a senior partner of Burgers and (SW) Pienaar, Solicitors notaries and Conveyancers with offices on Church Square.

CLAS HA

Died 27 June 1901 of illness contracted whilst on commando. His name appears on the Boer memorial in the Burgher acre. No record was found that he was a Pretorian.

COETZEE CPB

Died in action at Waterval on 26 October 1901; it is uncertain which Waterval is referred to; Waterval is the name on which Half Way House on the Johannesburg road was established and is a farm at Pyramid north of Pretoria where the main British prisoner-of-war camp was established by the Boer military authorities.

CUSE CAL

Died 6 March 1900 of illness contracted on commando; his name appears on the Burgher memorial. The name is not found in Pretoria records or what commando he was a member of.

CORDUA HANS G: AB22

25 September 1876 – 24 August 1900.

Came from Germany in 1896 and on the outbreak of the Second Anglo-Boer war (1899) he volunteered and served as a Staff Officer in the State Artillery.

On the occupation of Pretoria on 5 June 1900, Cordua surrendered and after taking the Oath of Allegiance to the British, became involved in a conspiracy to seize General Lord Roberts, Commander of British



Forces in South Africa and hand him over to the Boer commandos outside Pretoria and to shoot all British officers stationed in Pretoria.

The Plot was discovered and the leaders arrested. Cordua's trial was conducted in a military court housed in the Second Raadsaal council chamber on Church Square.

Cordua, says one writer "impressed me as being very much a visionary; a young man, 23 years of age, who would court popularity in almost any cause. The influences about him were undoubtedly bad, and the idea of making 'Europe stagger' at his great attempt had no doubt thoroughly possessed him."

The finding of the court was guilty and the sentence severe:-

"For being found wearing the uniform of a British soldier in time of war in the enemy's country – DEATH"

"For breaking his oath of parole – DEATH"

"For conspiring with others to seize persons of certain British officers – DEATH."



The other leaders were found not guilty and deported to prisoner of war camps in the Cape Province.

Cordua was executed by firing squad in the prison grounds on 24 August 1900. Captain Borchard, the Court Usher remarked:

"He bore it bravely, he admitted the justice of the sentence, and walked across the prison yard to the place of execution, and faced it like a man."

COSTER DR HERMANUS JACOB O CC A20A

30 June 1865 – 21 October 1899

Coster was born at Alkmaar, Netherlands on 30 June 1865 and died in battle on 21 October 1899.

In 1891 Coster was practising as an advocate and on Ewald Esselen's resignation in 1895 succeeded him as State Secretary, resigning two years later because of a dispute with President Kruger.

When war broke out in 1899, he was instrumental in raising the Hollander Corp and served under Commandant Jan Lombard. On Saturday, 21 October 1899, the Corps under General JHM Kock's command stood against the forces of General French at Elandsplaagte; British losses were 50 dead and 213 wounded; the Boer losses were 45 dead among who were two Johannesburg English speaking men, a German, Count Von Zeppelin and Coster. General Kock was wounded during the battle and died a few days later in a British military hospital in Ladysmith.



Lt Dr HJ Coster was reinterred in Church Street Cemetery on 11 December 1961.

Herman Coster Avenue in Andeon township honours his name.

DE BEER JHB

The name of De Beer appears on the Burgher memorial under the heading 'Killed in action or died of wounds' on 4 November 1900 at Buffelspruit; it is possible that he died of wounds received on the 9 September 1900 in an engagement with General Fourie with about 500 men and three guns were to hold the Roodehoogte Hills.

General Gordon's cavalry was sent forward to turn the Boers resting in the kloofs and on the ridges near Buffelspruit, (a tributary of the Komati River near Carolina in Mpumalanga), while a section of the 66th Battery and a squadron of cavalry took post on a hill facing them and gradually drove the Boers off the ridge. This name is not recorded in the Cemetery Register and no record is found that he was a Pretorian.

DE BOER

Nothing is known about this member of the Boer forces who died in Pretoria; his name appears on the Burgher memorial, but is not recorded in the Cemetery Burial Register.

DE JAGER CORNELIUS JANSEN D: GA:10

Died 6 January 1900;
Deneys Reitz gives the following account of his death.

"Asst Field-Cornet De Jager led an unsuccessful attack on the Red Fort north of Ladysmith late in November 1900.

The fort was again attacked by Burghers under Zeederberg and de Jager on 6 January 1901 and again was unsuccessful. The attack was brought to a standstill and the burghers sought refuge among the rocks. Willemse, who with a handful of burghers fought on until the fort was reached where they were killed."



Reitz's diary continues "as the hours dragged by, the sun blazed down unbearably, and the wounded moaned and cried for water, of which we had none. By scrambling across the track – crawling from rock to rock we managed to pull most of them into the shelter of the embankment until we had brought in all except a few who were lying too far up.

While busy at this, I took a hurried glance at the dead. One of them was Assistant Field-Cornet de Jager, the others were men I had seen about camp."

DE KLERK BJ

Died 21 October 1901. A member of the Boer forces killed in action at Zustershoek during the Second Anglo-Boer War. His name appears on the Burgher memorial.

DE VILLIERS DT O:BB A57



Desere de Villiers, 18 year old son of Tielman N de Villiers, (1846-1925), attorney and Chairman of the Temporary Town Council (established in 1897), who ran away from school in the Cape to join the Republican forces, and was killed in action at Ladysmith, Natal on 11 December 1899.

General Ben Bouver, writing off cowardice in battle, wrote “on the other hand I remember a young man called De Villiers, silent, abstracted and nervous. It was thought he could not have a heart for war and efforts were even made to enable him to stay back in some non-combatant capacity, offers which he declined without comment. He went to the front and among brave men became distinguished for his gallantry until he was killed in action on the Tugela under circumstances of memorable heroism.”



DUFFY CE

A member of the BMI, killed in action at De Wetsdorp, in the Orange Free State on 12 April 1901.

It is recorded that on 19 November 1900 Gen CR de Wet attacked the town and on 23 November the British garrison under Maj WG Massy surrendered. In April 1901 another battle was fought there, in which Duffy lost his life.

DU TOIT JACOBUS M D: CA84

A member of the Burgher forces during the Second Anglo-Boer War, who died in Pretoria on 3 May 1902. His name appears on the Burgher memorial in the cemetery, but not in the cemetery register.

ELS NJ D: BA18

A member of the Boer forces who died of wounds received in action on 5 March 1900. His name appears on the memorial in the cemetery. It is not known if he was a Pretorian or in what commando he served.

ERASMUS

A member of the Boer forces during the Second Anglo-Boer War; no information is found regarding his background; his name appears on the Burgher memorial in the cemetery.

ESPACH AJ

Died 4 January 1900; a member of the Boer forces who died from illness while on commando during the Second Anglo-Boer War. His name appears on the Burgher memorial. It is not known if he was related to BJ Espach, residing in Pretoria in 1899.

FLETCHER DOROTHY

A nursing sister in a military hospital who died on 29 December 1900; her memorial was erected by her fellow workers.

GOUDSWAARD PW

A member of the Boer forces during the Second Anglo-Boer War who was killed in an accident at Eerste Fabrieken east of Pretoria on 22 November 1900; his name appears on the Burgher memorial in the cemetery. He was not a Pretorian and it is not known in which commando he served or what accident caused his death.

HAASBROEK SAREL F D: BC96

In Van Zyl's "Helde Album", Komdt Sarel Haasbroek and 12 men from the Ventersburg commando ward off a strong detachment of British troops at Acton Links, west of Spioenkop on 21 January 1900 after Gen CE Fourie had left the position. He died from an illness contracted whilst on commando and died on 10 March 1900. His name appears on the Burgher memorial in the cemetery.

HANDCOCK PJ C: BA65

Peter Joseph Handcock, born at Bathurst, Australia, was a shoeing-smithy by trade; he was married and had three children.

He enlisted in the 2nd New South Wales Mounted Infantry Regiment for service in South Africa during the Second Anglo-Boer War 1899 – 1902 on contract for one year; he sailed from Australia on 17 January 1900.

Handcock was promoted to Farrier-Sergeant and re-enlisted when his contract expired.



"To the memory of P Handcock and HM Morant – 27 February 1902" is the legend on the tombstone erected by friends.

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

The Bushveldt Carbineers was raised for scouting and raiding cattle of the commandos operating in the north-eastern area of the Transvaal. The men lacked discipline and drunkenness was the order of the day. Unofficial records maintain that they murdered more than 25 surrendered Boer prisoners of war and natives.



Rev Hesse, a German missionary, saw the bodies of a group of Boers that had been shot and murdered on his way to Pietersburg to report what he had seen. A Boer trooper in the Corps who witnessed the first murders and threatened to take further action was brutally murdered by Lt Handcock.

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

Word of their cruel deeds leaked out and at a Court Martial, the commanding officers were cleared of the charges, the main culprits

were found guilty and faced a firing squad on the 27th February 1902. Books and a film were written and made on this subject.

HAUPTFLEISCH CA

A member of the Boer forces who died from an accident in Pretoria on 20 May 1900. His name appears on the Burgher memorial in the cemetery, but is not recorded in the Cemetery register. It is not known if he was related to G Hauptfleisch, cab proprietor living in Pretoria in 1889.

HOHLS JO

Dr Johann Otto Hohls (1861 – 1899), son of a Natal German Missionary; during the Second Anglo-Boer War he established a field hospital at the base of Pepworth Hill in Natal.



The English batteries concentrated upon silencing the Boer guns and to quote Denys Reitz “we could see that the people were making heavy weather on the hill, for its summit was covered in smoke and flame, and the roar of the bursting shells shook the ground, even where we lay.”



“.. six or seven dead artillery men, some horribly mutilated, were laid out on a square of grass and Ferdinand Hohls, the German military doctor, was attending to the wounded.

On my return down the hill, I found Dr Hohls, lying in a heap, struck dead by a shell while helping the wounded on 30 October 1899.

JEPPE CFW C: EA 30-32

Carl Jeppe, Head Draughtsman in the Surveyor-General’s department who enlisted for service in Natal during the Second Anglo-Boer War (1899 –1902).

Denys Reitz whose journal ‘Commando’ records the only first hand information regarding the Pretorians on the war front he wrote:-

“One of the men holding this point (Spioenkop summit) told me that the Pretoria men had doubled across the gap shortly before and were now lying among the rocks on the far side, so I decided to follow; but the moment I left cover I drew so hot a fire that I was thankful to dive back for shelter and give up the attempt. Halfway across lay the huddled body of a dead man and now that I had time to look more carefully at him I recognised Charles Jeppe, the last of my tent-mates. His death affected me keenly, for we had been particularly good friends. Outwardly he was a surly man, but he had shown me many a kindness since first we messed together on the Natal border.”



“Towards midday we collected our Pretoria dead. We carried them down in blankets, and when the commando wagon came up we placed the bodies on board and escorted them to Ladysmith, whence they were sent to Pretoria for burial.”

KRAUSE O GA31

The Burgher memorial lists PR Krause as Executed on 11 June 1901.

The Boers who had been permitted to return gave continual trouble. They were perpetually escaping or declined to recognise the binding force of the oath of neutrality which they had all taken when they surrendered.

One of the most flagrant instances of treachery occurred on the night of June 9 when three men named Krause, Venter and Delpont, who had all taken of their own free will the oath of neutrality, and had been granted permits to reside in the capital, attempted to break through the barbed wire fence which surrounded Pretoria in order to join the Boers.

It afterwards appeared that a society of burghers, all surrendered men and 'parolists' had been formed to organise and assist such attempts.

On this occasion the three were surprised by the British military police patrol red-handed, with arms in their possession, in the very act of breaking out. Krause fired on the patrol, but by an extraordinary piece of luck the bullet struck a button and glanced aside, inflicting only a flesh-wound.

The three were seized and tried by a military court, which brought in a verdict of guilty on the counts of attempted assassination, breach of the oath of neutrality, and the unlawful carrying of arms in Krause's case, and of the last two counts in the other instances. All were sentenced to be shot, and the sentence was carried out in the case of Krause and Venter. Delpont was deported.

KRUGER CJ

This name is inscribed on the memorial as a Burgher who contracted an illness on commando and died in Pretoria on 16 October 1900.

It is not known if Kruger was a Pretorian or which commando he was a member of.

KRUGER H

Information of the Memorial only relates that he was a Burgher that served during the Second Anglo-Boer War and that he died on 6 February 1900; his funeral is not recorded in the Cemetery register.

LIEBENBERG AJ D CA68

The memorial records that Liebenberg lost his life on one of the Natal battlefields on 3 January 1900; he lies buried elsewhere in the cemetery. Longland's Directory records three Liebenberg families living in Pretoria in 1899; AP Liebenberg (Audit office); CJ Liebenberg (Post Office dept) and DP Liebenberg (Mining dept).



LLOYD ETHEL BEATRICE

A nursing sister from a London hospital who died in Pretoria on 24 April 1901.

LLOYD MARION

Died December 1901. Superintendent of the Welsh Hospital in Pretoria during the British occupation.

LOTTERING WJJ

A member of the Boer forces during the Second Anglo-Boer War; he died on 17 March 1900 from illness contracted while on commando; his name appears on the Burgher memorial in the cemetery. The Cemetery register does not record his funeral and it is not known if he was related to the two families of this name living in Pretoria in 1899.

LUTTIG HJ D GA16

The Burgher memorial records that HJ Luttig died of illness on 9 May 1900. Some five months before his death he was a member of the Boer commando stationed on what was later called 'Surprise Hill' which was stormed by British troops killing the gunners and spiked the howitzer; in the ensuing battle Jan Luttig was seized by some soldiers and there was a hand-to-hand scuffle in which he was stabbed with a bayonet and clubbed on the head with a rifle-butt, when we heard his cry for help and ran up, his assailants were gone. When daylight came, a grim scene met our eyes. Before us, within a radius of less than twenty-five yards, lay over sixty dead and wounded English soldiers.

The memorial date of his death was 9 May 1900, his tombstone records his burial on the 12 May 1900.

He was possibly the father of Jan H Luttig who died in a prisoner of war camp after his capture at the Battle of Spioenkop, or JN Luttig, both employed in the Surveyor-General's office.

Jan H was responsible for surveying amongst others, the farms along the Daspoortrand and for naming the two 'Uitval' portions, Broekskeur and Kopkrap.

MALHERBE JP D: DB28

The Burgher memorial bears the legend 'Spioenkop' 6-1-1900.

From Reitz's commando we read "Five brothers, Isaac, the eldest was chosen as Corporal and the group was known as "Isaac Malherbe's Corporalship". His brothers were brave men too, but he stood head and shoulders above us all.

Of Pieter's Heights (Hill) battle John Selby in "The Boer War" writes "The three hills north to south were: Pieter's Hill, Railway Hill and the partially occupied Terrace (Hart's) Hill. Buller planned to assault them in sequence starting in the north on Pieter's Hill.

....Their (Boer) morale broke and they rolled back in utter confusion In the early hours of 28 February the great retreat began Most of the men of Deney's Reitz's corporalship were destroyed in the battle for Pieter's Hill.

Reitz continues "of our Pretoria men who had been on the ridge not one came back. They had been holding an advanced position on the right of the Bethal section, and had been overwhelmed. They stood their ground until the enemy was on them, and they were bayoneted or taken to the last man. Thus our corporalship was wiped out, with its leader, Isaac Malherbe, the bravest of them all.

In Preller's Talana, we read, "Isaak Malherbe, and later Jan Malherbe came and lay next to me and began shooting, but not long after, (see Robert Reinecke) I saw that Jan Malherbe had a big bullet wound in his forehead and dies shortly afterwards."

MANCE AW C FA52

Alfred (William): a member of the Boer forces during the Second Anglo-Boer War, killed in action at Ladysmith on 6 January 1900, at the age of 29 years old. His name appears on the Burgher memorial in the cemetery.

BATTLE OF PLATRAN 8th January 1900.

At a Boer Council of War held on the 2nd January 1900 General Joubert finally agreed that the Boers should launch a full scale attempt to storm Ladysmith. To the south east of Ladysmith lay a plateau of high ground called the Platrand and part of the Boer plan was to capture this in order to be able to attack Ladysmith without any other main obstacles in their way. The Platrand is a succession of three hills running in a reasonable straight line, and flat topped. Part of the plan was to attack simultaneously these three hills, namely Wagon Point, Wagon Hill and Caesar's Camp. The British forces on the Platrand were well entrenched having established a series of small forts which they had constructed mostly at night when the activity could not be easily seen by the enemy.

At sunset on the 5th January 1900 General Joubert issued orders for the attack on the Platrand to commence at dawn on the 6th January. The battle that took place was one of ferocity and determined on both sides. Casualties were heavy on both sides but the British retained their hold on the Platrand. A severe storm hindered movements on both sides until finally after sixteen hours of fighting the Boer forces retired and the attempt to take Ladysmith failed.

The Mance family are pioneers of the Moot area of Pretoria, Mance Avenue is found in Mayville.

MANSVELD

Died whilst serving in the Boer forces during the Second Anglo-Boer War and was buried on 13 January 1901.

His name appears on the Burgher memorial in the cemetery. No family of this name was found in Pretoria in the 1890's and his funeral was not registered in the Cemetery register.

MASIS D GA23

A member of the Boer forces during the Second Anglo-Boer War who died 21 November 1900; no further information is available; his name appears on the Boer memorial in the cemetery. This name is not found in Pretoria in the 1890's.

MAYS

Died on active service with the Boer forces during the Anglo-Boer War; no further information is available; his name appears on the Burgher memorial in the cemetery.

MEYER CH (GERT) D GH63

A member of the Boer forces during the Second Anglo-Boer War, who died in Pretoria on 9 September 1901; his name appears on the Burgher memorial in the cemetery. No information regarding the commando he served in or if he was a relative of the Meyer families living in Pretoria during the 1890's was found.

MOODIE BW

Benjamin William 15 June 1874 – 16 June 1900; his epitaph on the tombstone reads “In loving memory of eldest and beloved son of Donald and Helen Moodie of Groot Vadersbosch, Swellendam, who died fighting bravely in his country’s cause; from Officers and men of G Squadron of a distinguished South African family of 1820 stock. Lt Donald Moodie, a son, was a surveyor and gold mining pioneer in the Transvaal; Moodies Reef, better known as Moodies Concession at Barberton in Mpumalanga, bears his name. Thomas Moodie settled in the Orange Free State and in 1892 led a party including their families in a wagon-trek to settle in the then Rhodesia (Zimbabwe), where his cousin, Dunbar Moodie, preceded him with the original pioneers. The area where they settled was called Melsetter, after their ancestral home.

MORANT HH C BA65

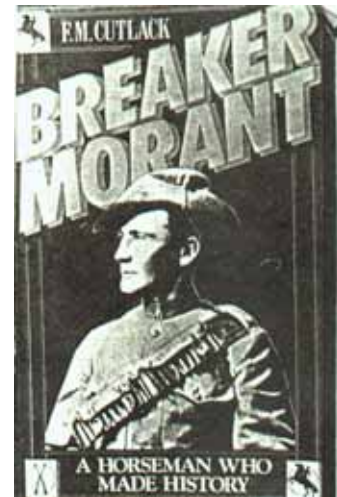
Henry (Harry) Harbord Morant, died 27 February 1902. ‘The Breaker’, a brilliant horseman, gambler, drunkard and womaniser; his birth and early background is vague and dark, even the riddle of his name could not be unravelled.

No matter his origins, he was known across Australia for his riding and horse-breaking, hence his nickname “The Breaker”, and he was a writer of verse, more than sixty of his works were published under his nickname.

Morant enlisted for service in South Africa for service in the Anglo-Boer War in South Africa and sailed as a Lance-Corporal in the South Australian Mounted Rifles. Arriving in the Cape in February 1900 and did excellent service during his contractual year.

After a period of leave in England, he returned to South Africa and enlisted in the newly formed Bushveldt Carbineers (BVC) in 1901 and became Lieutenant.

The BVC operated in the Spelonken area of the Northern Transvaal and up to the time of his arrest, he and Handcock (buried in the same grave) were connected with 21 killings of Boer prisoners, one of his own men, even children and a German missionary, named Hesse. At the Court Marshall that followed, Morant and Handcock received a double death sentence and were executed by firing squad.



NEL O

A member of the Boer forces during the Second Anglo-Boer War; this name does not appear in the Cemetery register and no further information was found; his name appears on the Burgher memorial in the cemetery.

NIEMEYER JOHN D FA4



John Charles died at the age of 31 years when he was killed in action at Ladysmith, Natal on 11 December 1899.

The Battle of Tugela took place on the 11th December 1899 and three other Pretorians, DT de Villiers, Harry Spanier and EL van Zyl who lost their lives in that battle lie buried in Church Street cemetery.

John Niemeier in partnership with HC Marais were general agents having offices on Church Square west.

OLIVIER SJP D GA12

Died 26 January 1900; A member of the Boer forces during the Second Anglo-Boer War who was killed in the Battle of Spioenkop. His name appears on the Burgher memorial in the cemetery.

Field-Cornets Piet Uys and Thys Pretorius led 40 Pretoria men the morning they attacked Spioenkop. While crossing an open gap Schalk (Piet) Olivier was seriously wounded. Bresler had his horse shot from under him; he took Olivier's horse to continue the battle, and some men carried Olivier to a Red Cross point where he died.



OOSTHUIZEN CJ D DA47

A member of the Boer forces during the Second Anglo-Boer War who died of illness on 21 March 1901; his name appears on the Burgher memorial in the cemetery.

POTGIETER

A member of the Boer forces during the Second Anglo-Boer War; his name appears on the Burgher memorial, but no further information about him is available.

PRINCE CHRISTIAN

Prince Christian Victor of Schleswic Holstein, Queen Victoria's grandson, died, as many thousands of his fellow comrades, of typhoid fever, prevalent throughout the Orange Free State and Transvaal during the Second Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902. The Prince died at the Imperial Yeomanry Hospital established in TW (Tom) Beckett's residence, 'Merton Keep', in Arcadia.

The Prince was born on 14 April 1867; after completing his studies, he entered the Royal Military College and later saw service in India, Ashanti and the Sudan. He joined General Hilyard's staff in 1899 and was a pall-bearer at the funeral of Fred Roberts (VC), son of the Commander-in-Chief of British forces in South Africa, who died saving the guns at Colenso.

In Pretoria in August 1900, he was appointed to Lord Roberts' staff and a few weeks later was stricken with fever; he died after a relapse on 29 October 1900.





Military headquarters made arrangements to have his body sent back to England, but his wish was, that if he was to die, that he be buried amongst his comrades. His last wish was honoured.

With black-draped drums and with the sad funeral dirge of a military band, Pretoria witnessed the burial of Prince Christiaan.

Princess Christian, his mother, visited his grave in 1904 and planted an oak sapling from Queen Victoria's gardens in the open ground opposite the cemetery that has since then been called Prince's Park. During her stay, the Princess laid the foundation stone of the old age home at that time adjoining the cemetery, which was named after her.

The building was later taken over by the municipality and a new home was built in Nieuw Muckleneuk, the original foundation stone was transferred there and is still called Princess Christian Old Age Home.



REDMOND, P

A member of the British forces serving in the Second Anglo-Boer War who, with ten other troopers were killed when an armoured train fell over an embankment at Daspoort on 9 June 1901.

REINECKE RR

Robert Roderick, a member of the Post Master General's staff who served in the Boer forces during the Second Anglo-Boer War. He was killed in action at the Battle of Spioenkop on 24 January 1900; his name appears on the Burgher memorial in the cemetery.

Deneys Reitz in Commando has the following to say about Reinecke:-

“After a week or two (at Bell's Kop), tents were served out, and my brother shared one with five good friends of our corporalship with whom we had kept company ever since leaving home. They were Charles Jeppe, a mine-surveyor, Robert Reinecke, Walter de Vos, Frank Roos and Samuel van Zyl, Civil servants, but they were all killed before long.

During an attack on the Red Fort at Ladysmith towards the end of November 1900, a Burgher named Anderson was shot through both legs, and Robert Reinecke pluckily carried him back to the spruit on his shoulders, the English firing all around him, until they realised that he was helping a wounded comrade, after which they left him to go in peace and allowed him to return, without a shot fired.

One of our Pretoria men galloped up with a message that the British had captured Spioenkop. The Burgher force below was reinforced and a counter-attack by eight or nine hundred men climbed the

hill in face of close-range fire from the British troops, many of our men dropped. Dead and dying men lay all along the way, and there was proof that the Pretoria men had gone by for I soon came on the body of John Malherbe, our Corporal's brother, with a bullet between his eyes; a few paces further lay two more dead men of our commando. Further on and not far off, L de Villiers of our Corporalship lay dead. Yet higher up was Krige, another of Isaac's men with a bullet through both lungs, still alive, and beyond him, Walter de Vos of my tent shot through the chest, but smiling cheerfully as we passed.

Apart from the Pretoria men there were many other dead and wounded, mostly Carolina burghers from the Eastern Transvaal.



*Monument erected to the Boer soldiers who were killed
Or died of wounds during the Battle of Spioenkop*

RIECK J D GB26

A member of the Boer forces during the Second Anglo-Boer War who died on 14 January 1901. No family of the name is registered in a Pretoria directory of 1899, and no other information was obtained about this person.

ROOS FJ D GA11

Francois J, a member of the State Secretary's staff who served in the Boer forces and was killed in action at Ladysmith on 6 January 1900 aged 30 years.

Deneys Reitz writing of the battle relates that Roos was killed during the second attack on the Red Fort at Ladysmith 1901. Those of us with Isaac (Malherbe) escaped annihilation because we were out of the direct line of fire and were able to regain protection before the soldiers had time to turn their attention to us, but we did not go quite unharmed, for Frank Roos, my tent-mate, fell dead amongst us with a bullet through his heart.



Later in the day our dead were fetched in by wagon under truce, we carried poor Frank Roos to our tent, and for the second time in three weeks my companions and I sat by the body of a mess mate.

SCHULTZ ACH G AB21

A member of the Boer forces during the Second Anglo-Boer War who died of illness contracted on commando on 13 January 1901; his name is commemorated on the Burgher memorial in the cemetery.

SPANIER (L) HARRY (HENRY) H HA87

A member of the Boer forces killed in action at the Tugela on 11 December 1899, other Pretorians, killed during this battle were DT de Villiers, John Niemeyer and EL van Zyl. Spanier was of the Jewish faith and lies buried in the Jewish section of the cemetery. His name appears on the Burgher memorial. Longland's Directory of 1899 does not record a family of this name as being resident of Pretoria.

STEYN JJ

A member of the Boer forces serving in the Second Anglo-Boer War who died in Pretoria from wounds received in battle on 11 July 1900; his name appears on the Burgher memorial in the cemetery.

The Times History of the War records four engagements with the Boers within a radius of thirty miles of Pretoria.

Early on the 11th, Gen FA Grobler made a determined attack on Col Lowe's 7th Dragoon Guards with four guns at Onderstepoort who were driven back to Wonderboom having eighteen casualties.

At Zilkats Nek, De la Rey attacked a British force of 240 men causing 17 killed, 55 wounded and 134 were taken prisoner.

British forces under Generals French and Hutton attacked Tigerpoort.

STRYDOM

Strydom was a member of the Boer forces during the Second Anglo-Boer War; no Strydom family resided in Pretoria in the 1890's and no other information regarding Strydom was found; his name appears on the Burgher memorial in the cemetery.

UPTON RC

Renier Christiaan (1867-1901); A Boer civilian during the British occupation caught as a spy; he was court-martialled on 13 August 1901 and found guilty of espionage for the Boers and executed on 21 August 1901.

According to Longland's Directory, no family of this name resided in Pretoria during 1899 and his name is not recorded in the cemetery register. His name appears on the Burgher memorial in the cemetery.

VANDELEUR CFS

Cecil F Seymour; Died at the age of 32 years on 31 August 1901.

Lt-Col CFS Vandeleur joined the Scots Guards in 1889; he served in the Unyoro Expedition in 1895, Nandi in 1896, Niger, Nile and Sudan in 1897/98.



He was on special service in the Second Anglo-Boer War in charge of military transport.

A train carrying supplies and civilian passengers escorted by 45 men of the West Riding Regiment



under command of Vandeleur was en route from Pretoria to Pietersburg when the train was blown up by Jack Hindon's commando in a cutting just north of Waterval (now Petronella) railway station, the blast killing many of the escorting soldiers.



Vandeleur ordered the women passengers to lie down flat between the seats to save their lives, and as he was leaving the compartment to join his men, he was killed by a shot through his heart. Total casualties were 13 men and 3 civilians dead or wounded.

The troopers were buried on the spot, whilst Vandeleur's body was brought to Pretoria and buried with full military honours; He was described as one of the youngest and ablest colonels in the British army.

The War Graves Board created a Garden of Remembrance at the site of the attack, and it bears the remains of the inmates of the Waterval prisoner-of-war camp and other British soldiers who fell in battle in that area.

VAN ENDEN C



Died 22 November 1901; his epitaph reads "A Trooper, Died in the National Scouts for King and Empire."

This is an unusual epitaph. The National Scouts was formed by the British military authorities from Boer ranks dissatisfied with the duration of the war, or those that sympathised with the British cause; they were referred to by the loyal Burghers as the "Handsappers"; after the war they were ostracised by the communities and the Church.

VAN REENEN, FO D D849

The Burgher memorial in the cemetery records that van Reenen died in Pretoria on 1 March 1900. No recording is found of military action in Pretoria or environs on date recorded. He was not recorded as being a Pretorian in 1899 and no information regarding his background was found.

VAN RENSBURG HO D GB27

A member of the Boer forces during the Second Anglo-Boer War; he died 2 February 1901; he was not residing in Pretoria in 1899; his name appears on the Burgher memorial in the cemetery.

VAN ZYL EL D GB9

A member of the Boer forces during the Second Anglo-Boer War who died of wounds received at Ladysmith on 11 December 1899.

Van Zyl's Helde Album records "on the night of 7 December 1899, 600 British troops attacked the Boer's position on Gun Hill and damaged a Long Tom and a howitzer with dynamite and on 10 December Col Metcalf's forces attacked Vaalkop (Surprise Hill) north-west of Ladysmith and blew up two Krupp cannons. On their return they were awaited by Isaac Malherbe's Pretoria commando that inflicted severe casualties, during the fight Egbert (Sampie) van Zyl was mortally wounded.

Reitz's Commando mentions Samuel van Zyl, a civil servant in private life and, "as we were going, a soldier, lying concealed in the grass on the bank above us, thrust over the muzzle of his rifle, and fired point-blank into us. My tent-mate Samuel van Zyl (Zijl), was walking immediately in front of me and I had my hand on his shoulder to steady myself on the uneven path. The bullet struck him full in the throat, and so near was the range, that the discharge scorched his face, and set fire to his beard, which flared up for a moment like a fuse.

Later I returned to see how Samuel van Zyl was faring. He was just alive, and he asked me in a faint voice to turn him on his side to ease the pain, but as I did to I felt his body stiffen, and then go limp in my arms, and when I laid him down he was dead.



VENTER NT

Venter, Krause and Delpont were surprised by a British military police patrol whilst they were trying to break out of Pretoria. Krause fired on the patrol, the three were court-martialled and sentenced to death. Delpont, being under age, was deported and Krause and Venter were executed by firing squad on 11 June 1901. (See Krause PR)

VON STROLMAN BC W EC76

Lt Boris von Strolman, a former Russian naval officer joined the Ermelo commando and with four other Russians served in Danie Theron's Scout Corps. They were killed in a battle near Lindley in the Orange Free State on 26 June 1900.

Von Strolman came to South Africa and was befriended by Karel Roos's family in Pretoria North; his mother requested that his remains be reinterred in Pretoria and that a tombstone be erected on his grave.

WAGNER FW D GB11

His name appears on the burgher memorial in the cemetery stating that he died in action at Ladysmith on 6 January 1900; it is recorded that the Boers attacked Wagon Hill and Caesar's Camp (Ladysmith) at 02h45 and that losses on both sides was terrible.

It is possible that he was the son of FW Wagner who was headmaster of the State Model School.



A granite memorial on the Platrand honours the Rev John Daniel Kestell who, on the 6th January 1900, through sixteen hours of fighting, moved among the dying and wounded of both sides, giving comfort and first aid. Father Kestell was an outstanding Christian, and he lies buried at the Women's Memorial in Bloemfontein. The monument was erected at the request of British soldiers. Rev Kestell died on the 9th February 1941.

WELGEMOED DJ

A member of the Boer forces during the Second Anglo-Boer War, the Burgher memorial in the cemetery records his name and has his date of death as 13 January 1901. No Welgemoed family was resident in Pretoria in 1899 and no record was found in which commando he served or anything pertaining to his origin.

WERNDLE A D GB11

A member of the Boer forces during the Second Anglo-Boer War who died from illness contracted whilst on commando on the 15th May 1900; his name appears on the Burgher memorial in the cemetery, nothing else is known of his background.

WESSELS JJ D GA21

A member of the Boer forces during the Second Anglo-Boer War, wounded in action and died in Pretoria on 18 September 1900. His name appears on the Burgher memorial in the cemetery. No record was found in whose commando he served or in which action he was wounded. Wessels was not a Pretoria resident in the late 1899.

WILLEMSE JC D GB10

Deney's Reitz in his book *Commando* writes "The Red Fort at Ladysmith was attacked for a second time on 6 January 1901. The Burgher force of some 300 men were brought to a standstill by heavy firing from the fort defenders, while the Field Cornets were discussing the situation, a man named



Willemse intervened. He was a member of President Kruger's bodyguard, a tall fellow in police uniform. He was not a member of the commando, he was visiting a relative and volunteered when he heard of the attack.

He made an eloquent appeal to them to proceed, his words creating such an impression that we started for the fort at a run. Willemse leaped out from behind an embankment with

about a dozen or fifteen men at his heels. A single volley flamed along the port-holes and the attack withered away. We saw the men go down in a heap, either dead or wounded.

The man who still faced the enemy was Willemse, and he, undeterred, ran up to the fort and tried to scale the wall. Bayonets were thrust at him which he parried with his rifle until a revolver was fired point-blank into him. He sank below the wall, his head resting on his knees as if in great pain, and then another bullet found him, for he suddenly pitched forward on his face. Willemse and six of his band lay dead.

ZIETSMAN JZ D GA25

A member of the Boer forces during the Second Anglo-Boer War who died of illness contracted on commando and died on 4 November 1900; his name appears on the Burgher memorial in the cemetery.