

The Genocide of the Boers



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*Frontispiece: Burning of Commandant Fourie's farmstead, Perzikfontein,
in the Orange Free State.
Sketch by Richard Caton Woodville, British War artist, 1900.*

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Without knowledge of the past, we will lose the future. Gaelic proverb

The GENOCIDE *of the* BOERS

A Pictorial History & the Role Rothschild Greed Played in the Crime

THE SECOND ANGLO-BOER WAR (1899-1902) remains unique in the annals of modern history. For the first time in the modern era, war was deliberately waged by a supposedly civilized nation on innocent women and children. Not only were Dutch settler (Boer) homes destroyed by the British forces by means of a scorched earth policy, but the Boer women and wee ones were then herded into deplorable concentration camps. Women and children whose menfolk were still in the battlefield were subjected to starvation rations, which resulted in widespread disease and death. At the heart of the conflict was the desire of the Rothschild banking dynasty to control the mineral wealth of regions inhabited by the Dutch pioneers who had tamed the wild lands of southern Africa. To fund the unending British atrocities, the Rothschilds dug deep.

By Stephen Mitford Goodson

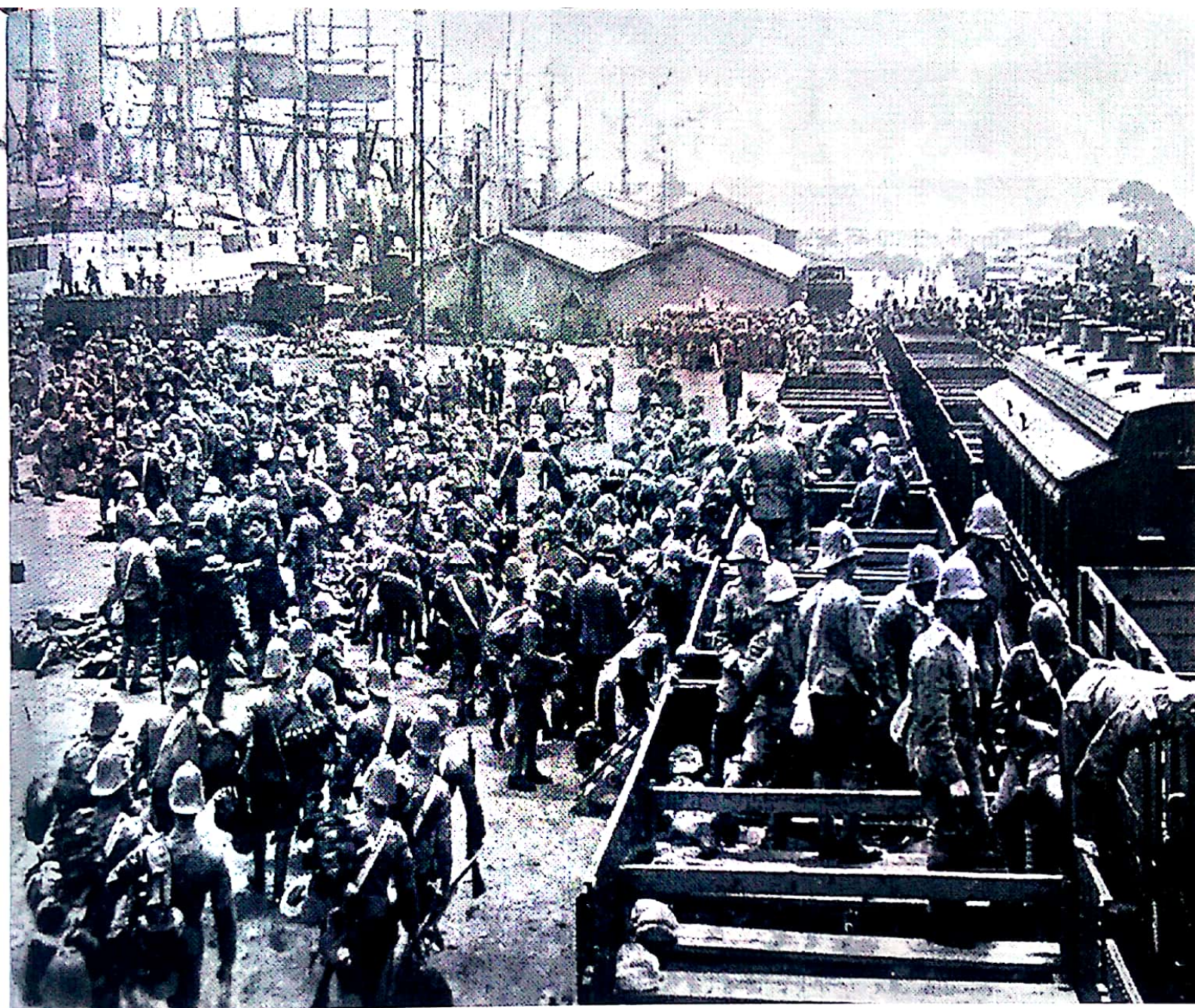
Although the British had signed, on July 29, 1899, the Hague Convention, which strictly forbade the mistreatment of civilians in combat theaters, they were egged on by the rapacious Rothschilds to contravene every one of the convention's articles in the latter's maniacal pursuit for complete control of the gold mines of the Transvaal, as this article will show.

The men who implemented this cruel and immoral method of subjugation were the secretary for the colonies, Joseph Chamberlain, the high commissioner for South Africa, Alfred Milner, and field marshals Frederick Roberts and Horatio Herbert Kitchener. Their barbaric policies and atrocities eventually became widely known, and were condemned not only in

continental Europe, but also by large sections of the British and Irish populations. However, conditions were not ameliorated, as the Rothschilds ruled (and still rule) the roost not only in Britain, but throughout most of the world through their control of the banking system, which is based on debt and usury.

Cecil John Rhodes, who was one of the principal schemers of the Second Anglo-Boer War and a faithful servant of the Rothschilds, frequently claimed that the Brits were the finest and most honorable race in the world. As the reader will discover in the following pages, this was not their finest hour.

Note that, during the rule of the National Party (1948-94), the concentration camps were omitted from school history syllabi. On Prime Minister Hendrik Verwoerd's instructions, research on the camps was not permitted at Afrikaner universities. This policy was adopted in the



DISEMBARKATION OF BRITISH TROOPS: Some of the hundreds of thousands of British troops who disembarked from Durban Harbor during 1899-1902 to fight comparatively small Boer civilian forces.

interest of promoting unity between the Afrikaans- and English-speaking peoples. The author disagrees with that approach and believes that awareness of what had happened would have promoted greater respect and sympathy amongst English speakers for Afrikaners.

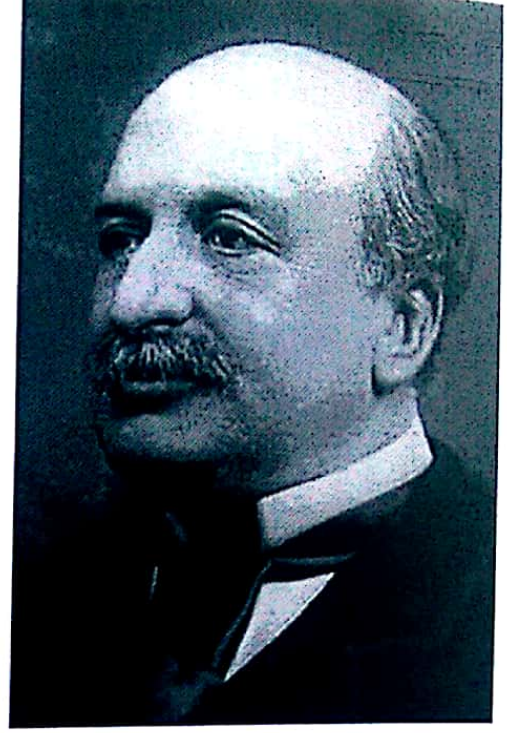
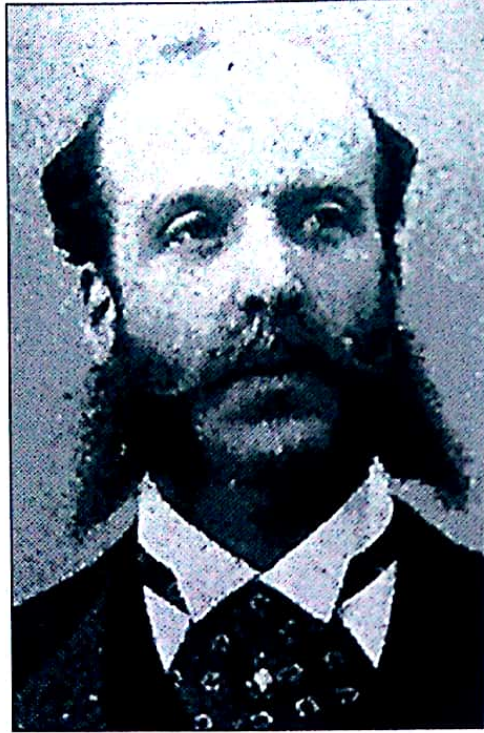
EARLY HISTORY OF SOUTH AFRICA

The Dutch¹ ruled the colony of the Cape of Good Hope from 1652 to 1795. Thereafter it was occupied by the British, until it was finally granted to them with the signing of the Anglo-Dutch Treaty of August 13, 1814. The following year, after the French lost the battle of Waterloo on June 18, 1815, Nathan Rothschild secured

ownership of the Bank of England. This enabled him to control the money supply and finances of Great Britain and her empire,² of which the Cape Colony constituted one of its territories. In 1843 Natal, which is situated on the east coast of South Africa, was added to the empire and by extension to Rothschild's domains.

Many of the Dutch settlers were dissatisfied with British rule for the following reasons:

- The Dutch settlers had received inadequate compensation³ for their slaves after slavery was abolished.
- Land was becoming scarce after the arrival of 5,000 British settlers in the eastern Cape in 1820.
- Anglicization of their culture and in particular the downgrading of their mother tongue, Dutch.



All three of these Rothschild kin were great-grandsons of the founder of the Rothschild dynasty, Mayer Amschel Rothschild, partners in N.M. Rothschild & Sons and close friends of King Edward VII. Together, they helped wield the financial might of the Rothschilds to fund the British war effort in southern Africa and destroy the tenacious Boer republics. **Above left: Lord Nathan Mayer Rothschild (1840-1915). Center: Alfred Charles de Rothschild (1842-1918).** Alfred was the first Jewish man to be appointed a director of the Bank of England (1868), but was sacked in 1889 for his involvement in inappropriate behavior. **Right: Leopold de Rothschild (1845-1917)** was a prominent breeder of thoroughbred racehorses.

- Lack of British support in containing the conflict with the Xhosa tribes on the eastern frontier.
- Criticism and interference by many of the Christian missionaries.
- The elevation of the colored people to equal status with whites.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BOER REPUBLICS

Between 1835 and 1837 the Dutch settlers, better known as Voortrekkers, trekked northward and by 1854 had settled in the two Boer republics of the Orange Free State (OFS) and Transvaal. On January 17, 1852 the Sand River Convention, which guaranteed the Boers the right to govern themselves, was signed by the Transvaal Boers and the British government. Two years later on February 24, 1854 at the Convention of Bloemfontein, the British abandoned all claims to the OFS and guaranteed her future independence.

On February 12, 1869, the Treaty of Aliwal was signed between the OFS and Britain, which renewed British pledges and guarantees of non-interference and independence. One month later an 83-carat diamond was discovered in the southwestern region of the OFS. A Griqua chief, Nicolaas Waterboer, at the behest of the British, claimed the area, using the latter as his advocate. A farcical arbitrament was set up under the lieutenant

governor of Natal, Robert Keate, who, in an act of naked aggression, awarded the territory to the British on October 17, 1871. British troops were sent in to occupy the territory immediately.

In 1876, the president of the OFS, Johannes Brand, took the British government to court, and, although the British judge agreed that the annexation had been unlawful, he declared that it was too late to return the territory to its rightful owners, as the population was now British. He offered £90,000 in compensation for the richest diamond mine in the world. As the historian James Froude has written: "This transaction [was] perhaps the most discreditable in the annals of English colonial history."⁴

ANNEXATION OF TRANSVAAL

On April 12, 1877, the British government, using a fictitious pretext based on false rumors spread by certain missionaries that slavery was being practiced in the Transvaal Republic and that it was too weak to maintain law and order, issued a proclamation that permitted its annexation.

Then-Vice President Paul Krüger led delegations to London in May 1877 and April 1878 demanding the return of their independence, which had been solemnly granted by the British at the Sand River Convention in 1852, but

he was snubbed.⁵

Toward the end of 1880 the Boers decided to take matters into their own hands and attacked various garrison towns. There were four main engagements in which the British were defeated. At the final, incredible battle of Amajuba (Majuba Hill) on February 27, 1881, a 2,000-foot-high mountain occupied by Maj. Gen. Sir George Pomeroy Colley and 560 men was stormed by 100 Boers. The Brits lost 226 dead and wounded, and Colley was killed. The Boer losses were one killed, five wounded. This was the only war which the British lost in the nineteenth century.

REESTABLISHMENT OF TRANSVAAL REPUBLIC

On March 6, 1881, an armistice was declared, and the country was returned to the Boers on August 3, 1881 after the signing of the Convention of Pretoria. The London Convention of February 27, 1884 removed British suzerainty over Transvaal. The only restriction was contained in Article IV, which prohibited the Transvaal from signing treaties with foreign states, the only exception being the Orange Free State.

The discovery of gold on the Witwatersrand in June 1884 irrevocably changed the prospects of the Transvaal Republic existing peacefully. This "reef" and its extensions in both westerly and easterly directions contained over 47,000 tons of gold, which is the amount that was extracted between the years 1886 and 2004.

As the gold mines developed and became more profitable, pressure increased on the Boers to accommodate the imperialist designs of the British and their ultimate controllers, the Rothschild banking syndicate.



QUEEN'S SOUTH AFRICA MEDAL: The Queen's South Africa Medal, a service decoration, was issued with the years 1899-1900 engraved on it, as it was anticipated that the war would be over in a few months. The first batch of 50,000 medals had to be withdrawn and have the dates machined off.



COMPLIMENTS CARD: In December 1901 the Rothschild brothers provided "their" troops in the field with a Christmas hamper containing sweets, some stationery, a portion of tobacco, a pipe, 12 packets of cigarettes, a book, a chocolate cake, a plum pudding and a deck of cards.

BRITISH AGITATION FOR THE FRANCHISE

By the early 1890s streams of foreign workers and speculators had arrived in the country, and they soon started to outnumber the Boers. Some of them were British, but an even larger number consisted of "mostly Russian, Polish and German Jews, with roving propensities and no strongly rooted attachment to an old country."⁶ The gold mine owners were almost entirely Jewish. The leading company was the Eckstein group, named after its managing director, Hermann Eckstein, one of the few non-Jewish mine owners. This combination included Consolidated Goldfields and S. Neumann & Co. Prof. John Atkinson Hobson writes in *The War in South Africa: Its Causes and Effects* in 1900 that "Rothschild has a controlling interest in Goetz & Co." and that, "Rothschild stands for the Exploration Company, which is in effect Wernher, Beit and Rothschild."⁷ Furthermore he adds that the dynamite monopoly and "the rich and powerful liquor trade, licit and illicit, is entirely in the hands of the Jews"; "the stock exchange, is, needless to say, mostly Jewish," and "the press of Johannesburg is chiefly their property."⁸

In January 1896, after the abortive Jameson Raid, which tried to overthrow the Transvaal government, the South African League was set up as a front of the Rothschilds in order to agitate for the granting of voting rights to the *witlanders* or foreigners. However, this agitation was nothing more than "a sham grievance."⁹

Capt. L. March Phillips writes in *With Rimington* as follows:

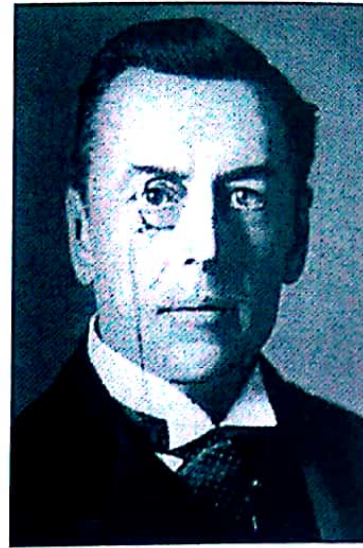
As for the *witlanders* and their grievances, I would not ride a yard or fire a shot to right all the grievances they ever invented. The mass of the *witlanders*, i.e. the miners and working-men of the



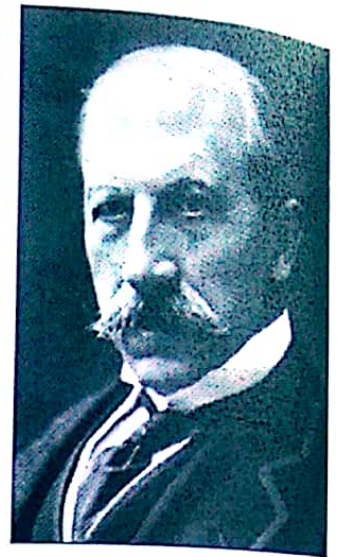
PAUL KRÜGER



MARTINUS STEYN



JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN



ALFRED MILNER

Stephanus Johannes Paulus Krüger was president of the Transvaal Republic (1883-1900). The discovery of gold eventually placed his country in jeopardy and resulted in the British seizing it on behalf of the Rothschilds. Martinus Theunis Steyn was the sixth president of the Orange Free State (1896-1902). When war broke out he said that he "would rather lose the independence of the Free State with honor than retain it with dishonor." He was a "bittereinder" (bitter ender), and on several occasions when the Transvaalers were considering surrender, he intervened and urged them to fight on. Joseph Chamberlain was secretary of state for the colonies (1895-1903). He was arrogant, ruthless and much hated. He deceived the Boers into believing that he was sincere in his efforts to reach a settlement regarding the voting rights of the *uitlanders* (foreigners). Capt. J.J. McCord has remarked that, "No man has stood more completely condemned of blood guilt than Chamberlain . . . and as the cause of endless strife in a country." Lord Alfred Milner was high commissioner for southern Africa (1897-1901) and thereafter was appointed as administrator of the Boer republics. He hated the Boer people and tried to eliminate them as a separate race and culture by forcing them to anglicize—a policy in which he failed.

Rand, had no grievances. I know what I am talking about, for I have lived and worked with them, I have seen newspapers passed from one to another, and roars of laughter roused by *The Times* telegrams about these precious grievances. We used to read the London papers to find out what our grievances were, and very frequently they would be due to causes of which we had never even heard. I never met one miner or working-man who would have walked a mile to pick the vote up off the road, and I have known and talked with scores and hundreds.¹⁰

In a similar vein, E.B. Rose writes in *The Truth About the Transvaal* as follows:

I could take every one of the numerous grievances which we *uitlanders* were alleged to be suffering under, and could show in much the same way how hollow were the pretenses, how flimsy were the grievances which had any basis in fact at all, and how in the main these so-called grievances were simply part and parcel of the crusade of calumny upon the Boers, having for its object eventual British intervention and destruction of Boer independence, an object which has now only too successfully been accomplished.¹¹

In order to protect their status, the Boers would only grant the franchise after a period of 14 years of residence. On May 30, 1899, at a conference held in Bloemfontein, the capital of the Orange Free State, President Paul Krüger of the Transvaal Republic, offered to reduce the period of residence to seven years, but this major concession was not accepted. In August 1899 an offer was made to reduce the period of residence to five years. The British high commissioner, Sir Alfred Milner, remained unmoved and held to his point of view that it was "reform or war."¹²

CIVILIZED STATE

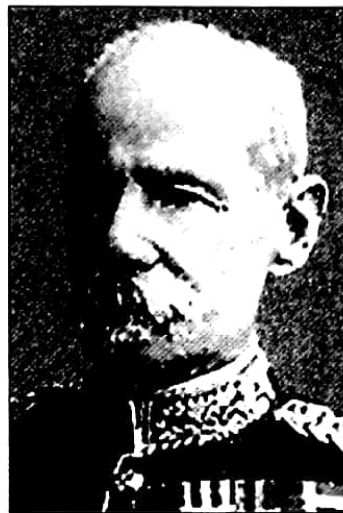
It needs to be observed that, by 1899, the Transvaal Republic had developed into a democratic and progressive state. A local government system was in place with municipalities having elected councilors. Pretoria and the Witwatersrand had railroad links to the ports of Delagoa Bay (Maputo), in Mozambique, Durban and Cape Town. The first tramways were constructed in 1889. A postal delivery service was established in 1870, a telegraph service was introduced in 1887, and a telephone service was installed in 1894. There was an extensive grid of piped water, the first gas mains were laid in 1892, and electricity was also provided. A hospital board was



GEN. KOOS DE LA REY



GEN. C.R. DE WET



FREDERICK ROBERTS



H. HERBERT KITCHENER

General Koos de la Rey (1847-1914), also known as the "Lion of the Western Transvaal," was one of the strongest military leaders of the Transvaal Republic. He excelled in guerrilla fighting and defeated the British in numerous engagements. Gen. Christiaan Rudolph de Wet (1854-1922) was a formidable general who continually evaded capture by the British. He was one of the "bittereinders," who argued against signing the Treaty of Vereeniging on May 31, 1902. Lord Frederick Roberts preceded Kitchener as a commander-in-chief of the British army. After his son, Frederick, was killed at the Battle of Colenso on December 17, 1899, he became increasingly embittered toward the Boers and on June 16, 1900 instituted the policy of scorched earth. Lord Horatio Kitchener was a misogynist, sadist and pervert who was impervious to the death and destruction he inflicted on the Boer people.

established, and foodstuffs, water and liquor were subject to inspection and analysis. There was an independent judicial system, and the Volksraad or parliament had 24 members.

As a result of the mining development taking place in the Transvaal, it rapidly became industrialized. This was anathema to the British government, whose policy was to import raw materials from the colonies and to retain all production in the mother country and oblige its colonies to import all their manufactured requirements at an immense profit.

There was no income tax, and the gold mines were not taxed on their profits, and no levies were imposed. There were only a few insignificant taxes, such as a nominal tax of 10 shillings per morgen (1.6 acres) on an original claim, prospectors' licenses and diggers' licenses. The state derived most of its revenue from customs duties, a 4% duty on the transfer of land and a poll tax.

SECOND ANGLO-BOER WAR

In September 1899 the British secretary of state for the colonies, Joseph Chamberlain, continued to deceive the Boers by intimating to them that a settlement would shortly be agreed upon, but, at the same time, British troop reinforcements were being secretly dispatched to South Africa. An ultimatum sent on October 9, 1899 that her majesty's government cease "the constant bringing up of troops to the borders of the

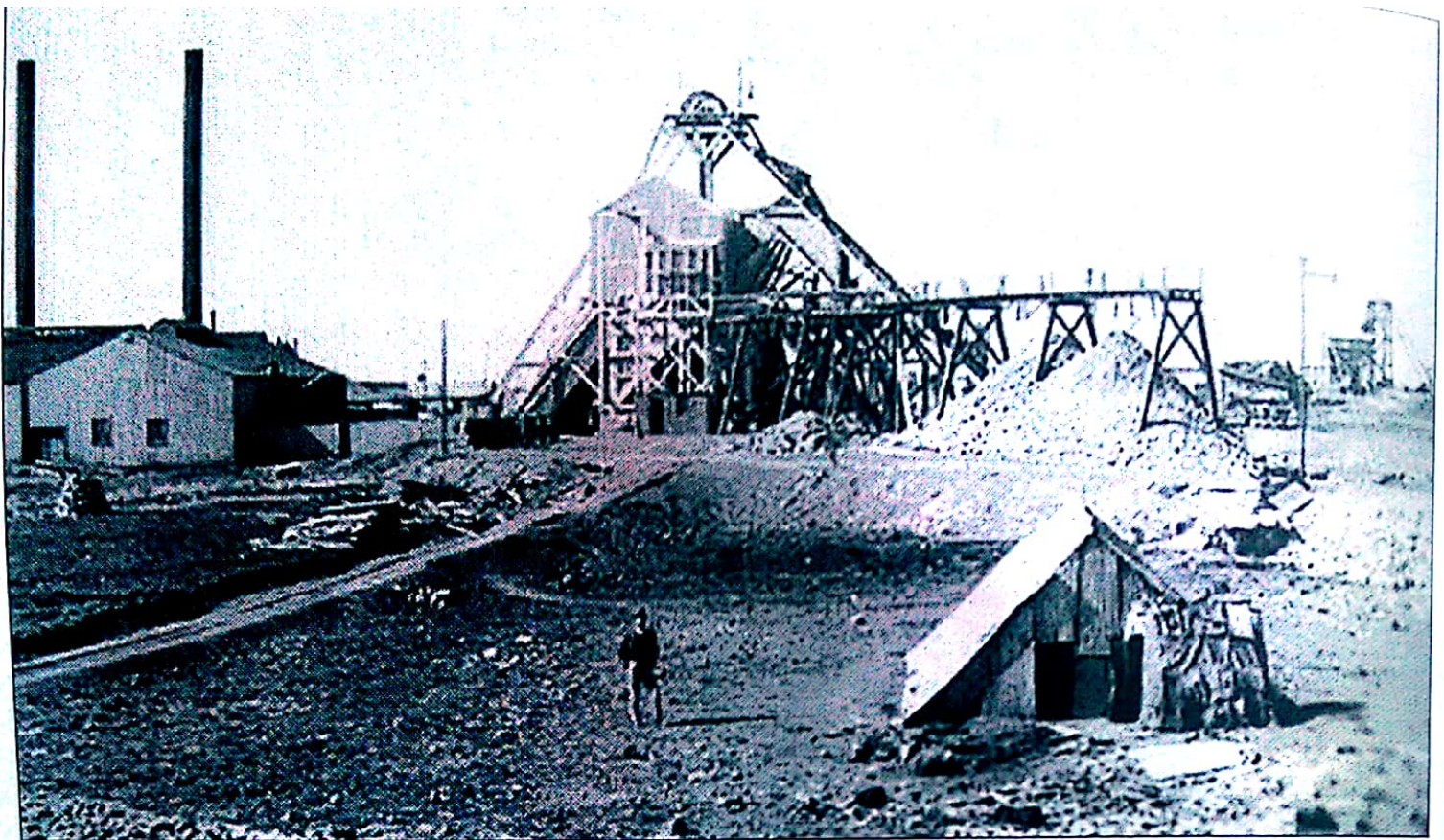
republic, and the sending of war reinforcements from all parts of the British empire"¹³ was ignored. Two days later war broke out.

The overconfident British expected a brief campaign or tea-time war that would be over by Christmas. In anticipation thereof they issued the Queen's South Africa Medal, a service decoration, with the years 1899-1900 engraved on it. These dates had to be removed when it transpired that they were opposed by a formidable foe, and instead the war lasted for two years and eight months, from October 11, 1899 to May 31, 1902. [See photo of the medal on page 7.—Ed.]

Although the Boers had only a part-time army of mounted horsemen, they enjoyed stunning successes in the initial phases of the war. They were the first combatants to introduce trench warfare, which later became the preferred way of fighting in World War I. However, they were ultimately outgunned, outnumbered and, in some instances, poorly led.

After the capture of the capital cities of the Orange Free State and Transvaal, Bloemfontein and Pretoria¹⁴ respectively, in March and June 1900, the Boers resorted to guerrilla warfare. A tiny force of never more than 6,000 active Boers was able to frustrate and tie down 448,725 troops of the world's largest empire.

[Even brilliant Confederate guerrilla tacticians Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest, Col. John S. Mosby and Gen. John Hunt Morgan would have to admit this was an absolutely amazing feat.—Ed.]



CROWN REEF GOLD MINING COMPANY LIMITED: Crown Reef Gold Mining Company Limited was the first mine to be established on the Witwatersrand with a capital of £70,000.

GUERRILLA WARFARE & SCORCHED EARTH

As the British were unable to defeat the Boers in the field, from June 16, 1900 onward they resorted to a scorched earth policy. The purpose of this policy was to prevent the Boer commandos from obtaining food, horses and other supplies. By placing the Boer women and children in concentration camps, the British hoped to undermine their fighting capacity and to lower their morale and thereby hasten their surrender. This policy, to wage war on women and children, was in complete contravention of the Hague Convention on July 29, 1899 with Respect to the Laws and Customs of War on Land, to which convention Great Britain was a high contracting party, and thus broke all the rules of war.

SECTION II, HAGUE CONVENTION

On Hostilities

Chapter I, Article 25: The attack or bombardment of towns, villages, habitations or buildings which are not defended, is prohibited.

Article 28: The pillage of a town or place, even when taken by assault, is prohibited.

SECTION III

On military authority over hostile territory

Chapter V, Article 46: Family honors and rights,

individual lives and private property, as well as religious convictions and liberty, must be respected.

Private property cannot be confiscated.

Article 47: Pillage is formally prohibited.

The Boers were a cultured people. Many of them possessed beautifully crafted furniture, well stocked libraries, and almost every home had a piano or pump organ. When British troops entered their homes, they were only allowed 10 minutes to clear out their personal possessions. All the contents of the homesteads were destroyed, including children's toys and bibles. The British would then smash everything in sight that had not been removed. Windows were shattered, and window frames, doors and flooring were ripped out and then piled up with the furniture and set alight. Besides the homesteads, stables and out buildings were burnt. A Boer woman related her experience as follows: "When the troops had gone I had nothing to eat, and all the objects on the house had been thrown about. When I begged one of the officers to leave a little food for my children, he hit me with his fist so that I nearly fell to the ground."¹⁵

All farming equipment, such as plows, wagons and carts, were wrecked, while all crops, including bales of wool, were destroyed. Vegetables, and even flower beds, were dug up, and orchards were chopped down.¹⁶ The

Rothschilds' troops showed unbelievable cruelty toward animals. If sheep and cattle were not bayoneted or shot, they would be herded into a kraal (corral) and then dynamited, and the badly mauled would be left to die. On other occasions sheep would be rounded up, the surrounding grass would be set alight, and they would be roasted alive. In some instances, the tendons of the animals were cut—to save ammunition—and they were left to die an agonizing death. All of these horrific events would be witnessed by the distraught women and children.

At night the sky was reddened with the glow of burning homesteads.¹⁷

HARDSHIPS OF THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Women and children were carted away on overcrowded wagons. Family photographs and portraits would be deliberately thrown off the wagons by the soldiers and crushed by the rolling wheels. A Mrs. H.P. van Bruggen-Oosthuizen recorded that: "You can crush the portraits into little pieces, but the spirit of the Boer nation will live as long as there is a Sun shining in the sky. This old farm will one day be witness to your barbarism."¹⁸

The first wagon would be used to carry women, children and elderly people, while the second one would

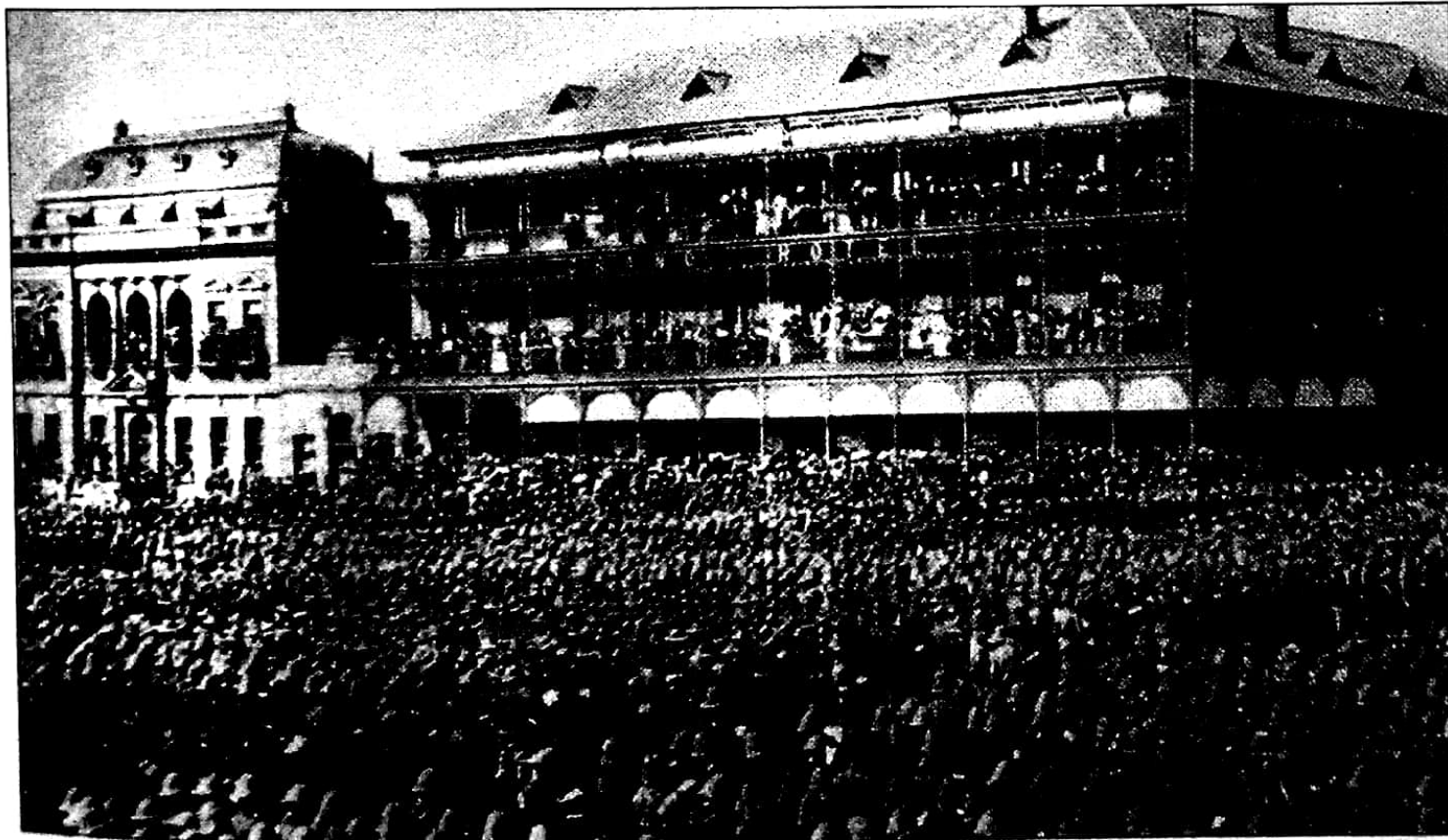
convey their needs in the concentration camp, such as food, clothes, medicines and blankets. As soon as the convoy started, the Brits would invariably set the second wagon alight.¹⁹ When there were no oxen available, the women would have to pull the wagons.

Deaths were common while traveling. If conditions were not safe and the British believed they were being tracked by Boer commandos, requests to bury a dead child were refused, and the child was flung into a ditch. When a Boer woman had to give birth, she was dumped in the veld with a blanket. Boer commandos frequently found women and their infants lying dead, and in winter completely frozen.²⁰

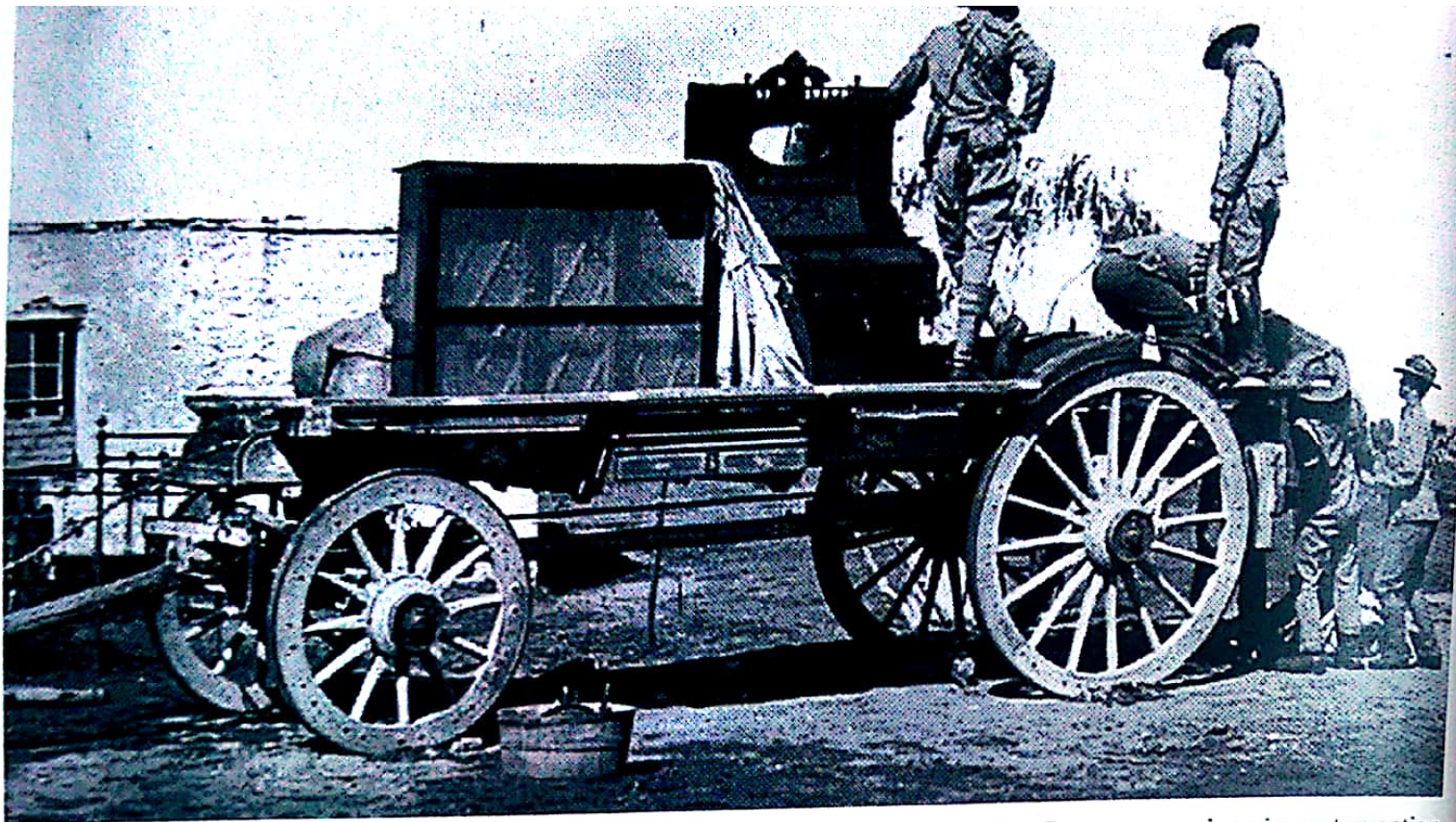
Women and children were also transported in open and closed railway cars. They were packed like sardines and traveled day and night for up to 72 hours without any sanitation and in some cars had to sit on wet cow dung.²¹ Usually only one stop per day was allowed. 155,000 women and children—or almost two-thirds of the Boer population—were imprisoned in these extermination camps.

LIFE IN THE CAMPS

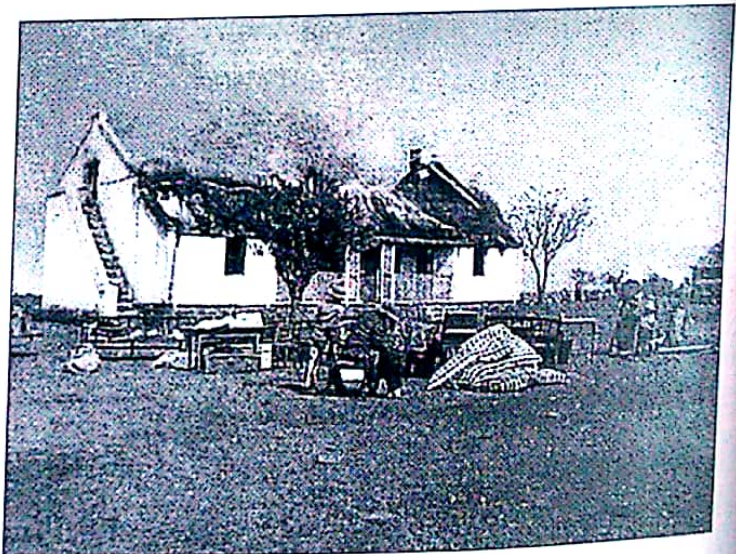
The Boers were not allowed to bring their own thicker tents, but were accommodated in thinner single-layer Bell tents. The tents were grossly overpopulated, and the



GRAND HOTEL: The Grand Hotel, Johannesburg, after occupation by the overwhelming British forces, May 31, 1900.



ABOVE: BRITISH SOLDIERS LOOTING BOER POSSESSIONS: British soldiers looting Boer possessions in contravention of Article 47 of the Hague Convention prior to the destruction of a homestead. The piano and harmonium may have been used or broken up for firewood, as there was a great shortage of wood on the highveld. **BELOW:** Boer homesteads go up in flames, just two of the 32,000 homesteads destroyed by British troops.



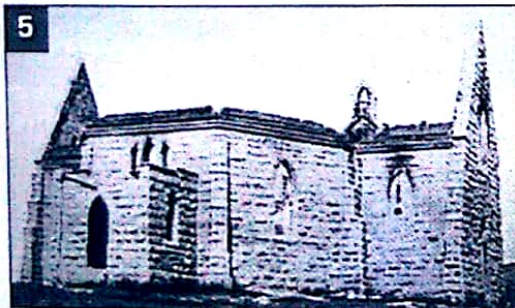
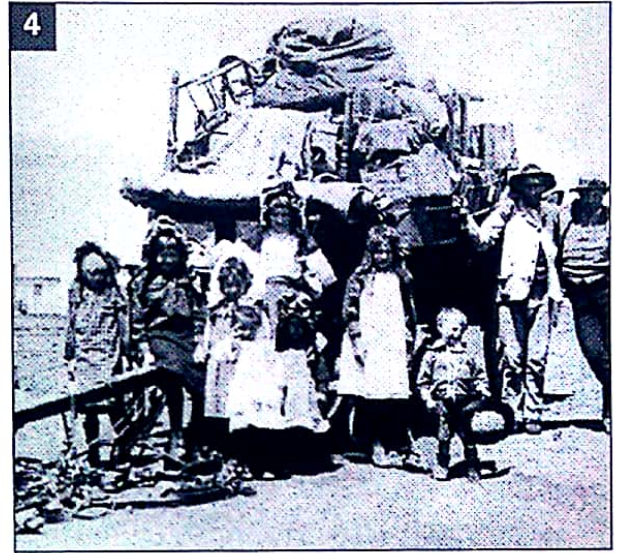
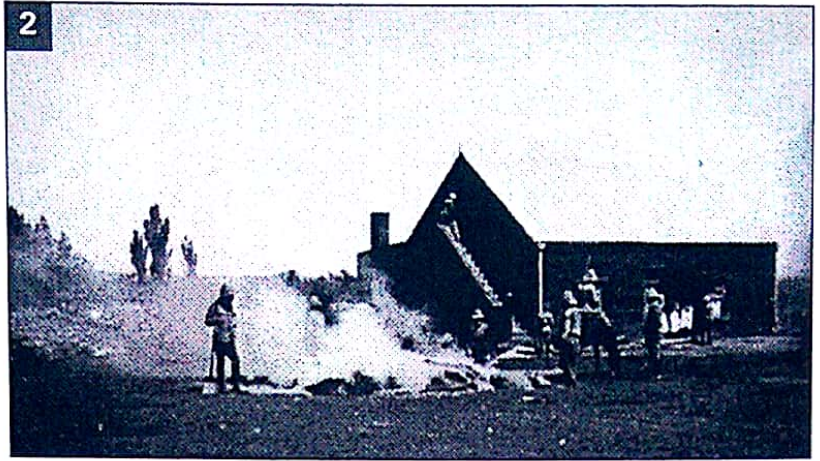
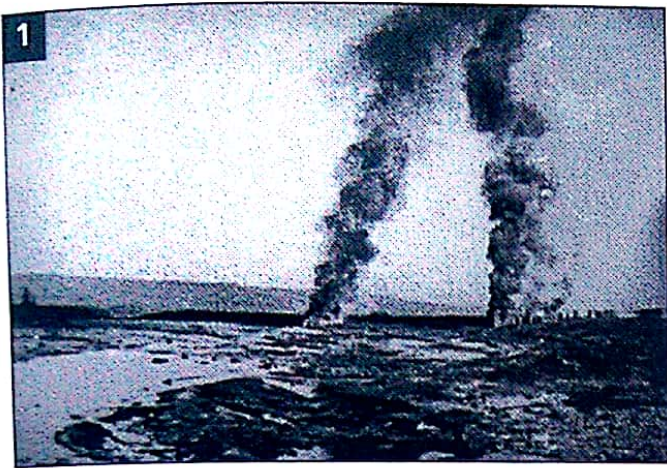
inmates, who had previously slept on feather or straw beds, had to sleep on the ground, as there were hardly any mattresses and no beds. The tents leaked, and there were never enough blankets. In summer the heat was unbearable, while in winter temperatures often fell below freezing.²²

Candles were scarce, and soap was virtually unavailable. All candles had to be out by 8:30 p.m. Mothers with dying children had to experience their deaths in pitch darkness, and, if a light was found on, a fine would be imposed or the already scanty rations withheld.²³ When a mother wished to attend the funeral of her child, permission was often denied, and the child would be

dumped in a wagon and carted away somewhere.

Anyone who complained about the conditions was deemed a troublemaker and immediately had his or her rations halved. When a few women in the Standerton camp complained about some rotten meat which had been served, the response of the camp commander was: "As your punishment for your brutality to dare to complain, you will receive no meat for eight days!"²⁴

The men's toilet was a long ditch covered by canvas or rolling logs through which children often fell. Young boys who did not adhere to the rules of the toilet were thrown into the sewerage. By way of example, at the Aliwal North camp there was one latrine for every 177

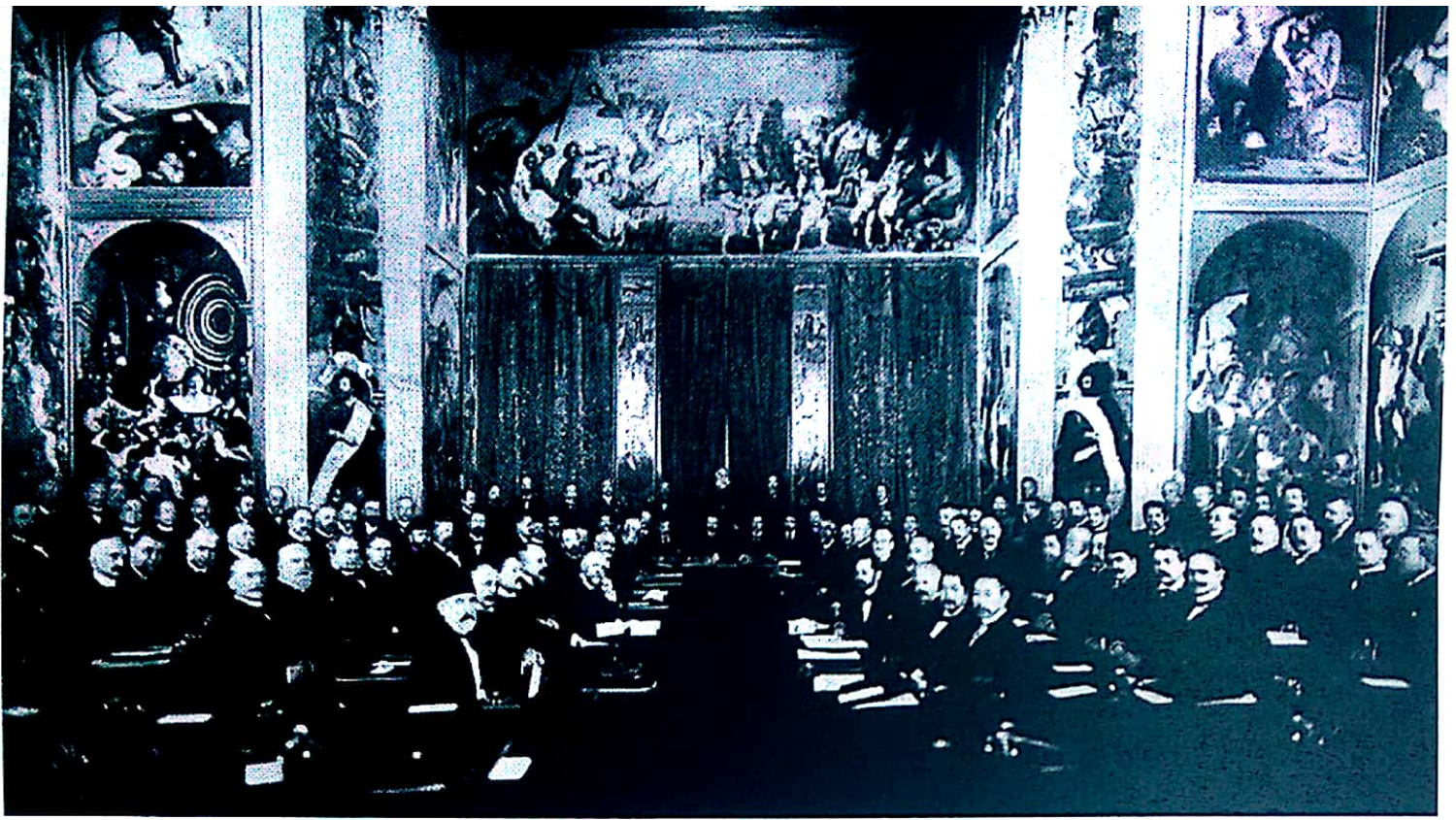


SCENES OF CARNAGE: 1. Boer farmhouses burning. At night the sky was reddened with the glow of blazing Boer homesteads. 2. Sacks of grain are set on fire at a Boer homestead. 3. Women and children being transported in open railroad cattle cars. They were forced to travel day and night for up to 72 hours without any sanitation. In some cars they had to sit on wet cow dung. 4. A Boer family loads up a wagon with all of its worldly possessions. It is doubtful any of their draft animals were left alive by British troops to pull the wagon. 5. Church in Carolina, eastern Transvaal, destroyed by British soldiers. It was fully restored after the war. 6. Sheep and cattle in a kraal shot and left to rot by British troops.

women and children, while at the Merebank camp, outside Durban, one bath house served 5,154 people.²⁵

Women and children whose menfolk were still fighting for their freedom and independence had their meager rations cut in half. William (Wickham) Thomas Stead, a famous London journalist and editor of *Review of Reviews*, who later drowned on the *RMS Titanic* on April 15, 1912, helped launch the "Stop the War Campaign." In January 1900 he wrote:

When the helpless women and children were incarcerated in these prison camps, a careful difference was made between those who had husbands, brothers and fathers still on commando and those whose male relatives were already killed, captured or had surrendered. Those in the last category were provided with what was called "full rations." . . . Then it was decided to subject the women and children of those men and fathers



THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL PEACE CONFERENCE AT THE HAGUE: The First International Peace Conference at The Hague held during May-June 1899, where Great Britain, one of the high contracting parties, solemnly undertook not to wage war on women and children and to respect their individual lives and private property. (Section III, Chapter V, Article 46.)

who were still obedient to the orders of their government to systematic starvation. (They received only half rations.)

We could not kill or capture the burghers who were still in the field, but we could capture their women and helpless little children. And when we had caught them, we could crowd them into our substitute of the Spanish Inquisition, the prison camps, where, instead of stretching them on the rack, or using thumb screws and the red hot iron on the soles of their feet, we achieved the same object through the refined and terrible torture of hunger. Under that treatment, the children grew ill and were reduced to living skeletons.

Each one of these children that died thus, as a reduction of rations by half to bring pressure upon their relatives in the field, was deliberately murdered.²⁶

On Alfred Milner's instructions the women and children had to wait up to five months after the end of the war before they were released.²⁷ During this period the death rate remained high.

OVERSEAS PRISONER OF WAR CAMPS

Captured Boer soldiers and officers, who numbered 25,630, were transported to the distant islands of

Bermuda, St. Helena and Ceylon (Sri Lanka) under inhumane conditions. They were confined to grossly overcrowded and lice-infested lower decks.²⁸ Two or three buckets were usually provided in a corner for the seasick men.

Besides the captured soldiers, old men of up to 90 years of age, who were non-combatants, and boys as young as eight years old were also sent to these prisoner of war camps. In Bermuda, approximately 300 boys aged between 10 and 16 years were forcibly removed and separated from their family members and settled on separate islands, where they were indoctrinated with English culture. Those boys who declined to go were threatened with starvation.²⁹

Some of the boys on Hinson Island, Bermuda refused to be intimidated and continued to sing their national anthem and patriotic songs. They were punished at nighttime by having their arms and legs extended and tied down with iron pegs and were expected to sleep in this position with only a thin blanket covering them. The following morning, they would be stripped naked, strung across a barrel and given 15 to 20 lashes.³⁰

These boys were also told that they would be given "woodwork" lessons. Instead they were provided with spades and made to dig trenches. If this work was not properly done or if they rested under a tree, they were mercilessly flogged.³¹ These boys never cried, but eventually the sergeant who administered this

punishment broke down and refused to carry out the sentences any longer.³²

Rebels from the Cape Colony who had joined their kith and kin as freedom fighters received the worst treatment and were treated not as prisoners, but as criminals. From early morning until sunset they were forced to do hard labor in the quarries of Long Island (near Kuboes) under the watchful eye of soldiers with drawn bayonets. Even men with crutches were made to lie on their sides and compelled to crush the heavy stones with hammers. These prisoners were prohibited from writing or receiving letters, and when mail arrived for them, it was burnt in front of their eyes.³³

EXECUTIONS

During the latter stages of the war, the Boer soldiers were desperately in need of clothing and took to wearing the clothing of captured British soldiers. Lord Kitchener then issued a proclamation that any Boer found to be wearing any part of a British uniform was to be executed by firing squad.³⁴

Dutch-speaking citizens living in the Cape Colony who had volunteered to assist the Boers in their freedom struggle were treated as rebels. They were charged not only with treason, but for "barbarous acts contrary to the custom of war" or "disgraceful conduct of a cruel kind."³⁵—the very acts which the British had adopted in their policies of concentration camps and scorched earth.

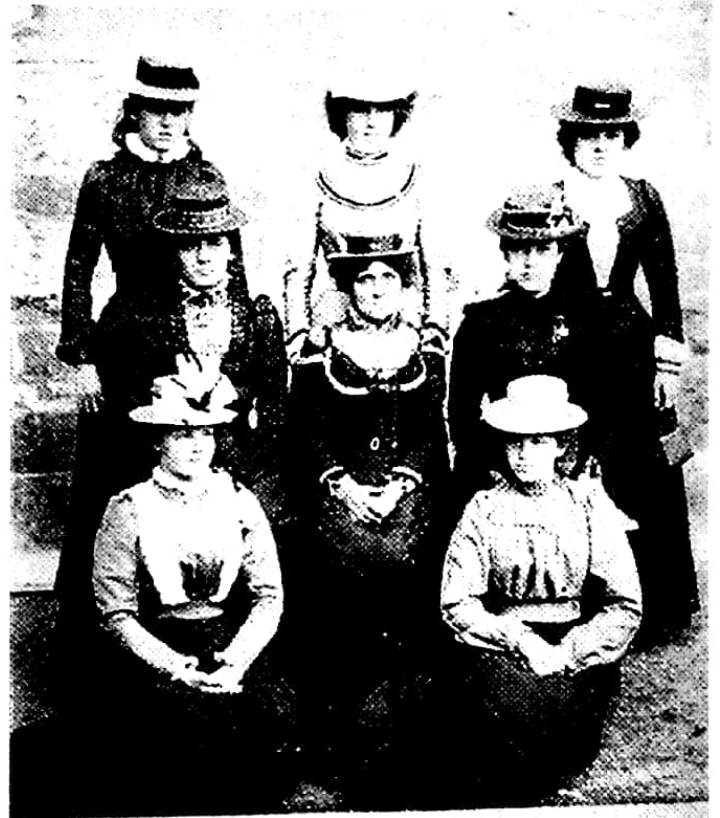
Forty-four "rebels" were executed in the Cape Colony and 46 in the Boer republics, of whom 24 were executed without trial, and five were between the ages of 16 and 20. On Kitchener's orders, these men were hanged in public in their home towns in front of their friends and relatives.

Unarmed boys who had been tending horses of the Boer cavalymen were sentenced to death for "attempted murder."^{36, 37} After the hanging of 16-year-old Johannes Petrus Coetzee, his father was not allowed to take his son's body, which was dumped onto a "Scotch cart" by four convicts and buried in an unknown grave.

The British authorities treated these public hangings as festive occasions. Military parades were held, and a triumphant march would be struck up by the band, including such frivolous ditties as "More Work for the Undertaker."³⁸

After Willie Louw, a nephew of the famous preacher Rev. Andrew Murray, had been sentenced to death in a grossly unjust trial, Ramsay MacDonald, a future prime minister of Great Britain, stated: "Willie Louw has been shot upon the verdict of a court which did not understand the first elements of justice and had not the faintest idea when a statement was proved."³⁹

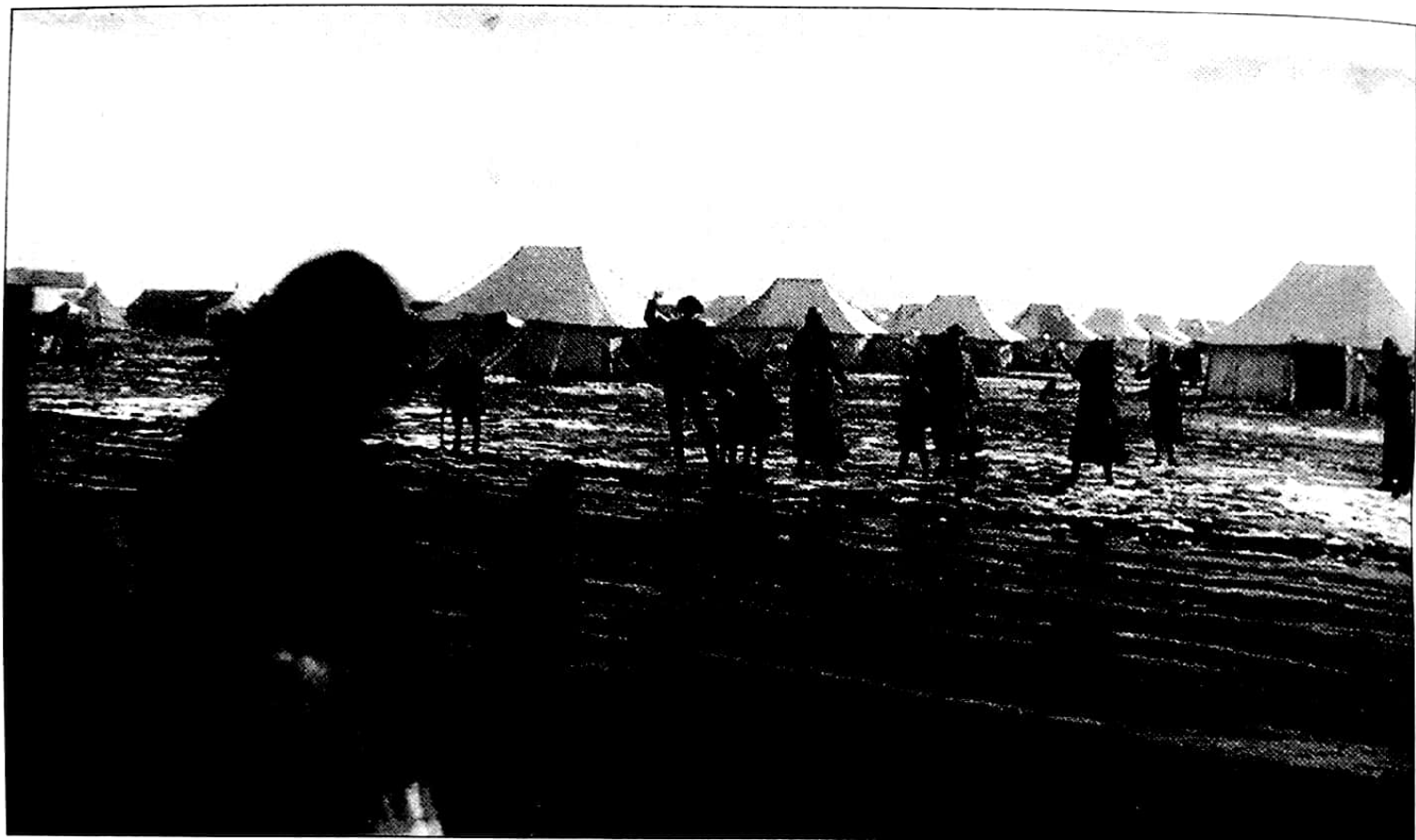
These public executions caused a storm of protest in the British Parliament, which requested Kitchener to desist



BOER WOMEN: These Boer women were jailed for cheering a commando of Boer rebels arriving in their town. When the British forces arrived later, they were locked up without trial for the rest of the war.



Commandant Gideon Scheepers was executed by the British on trumped-up murder charges on January 18, 1902.



ABOVE: Plucky inmates holding snowballs pose for a photo after a snowstorm at Springfontein concentration camp on the Orange Free State. Inmates often had to endure sub-zero temperatures in winter while living in tents. **BELOW:** The mortuary at Kroonstad concentration camp, 1902.



immediately.⁴⁰ Kitchener⁴¹ studiously ignored their pleas and continued with his sadistic annihilation of the Boer people.

One of the more egregious cases was that of Commandant Gideon Jacobus Scheepers, head of the Heliograph Section of the Orange Free State, who was born in the Transvaal and thus a non-British subject. He was severely ill with food poisoning when he was captured on October 12, 1901 near Prince Albert Road in the Cape Colony and should have been treated as a prisoner of war. Instead he was nursed back to health and put on "trial" and charged with 16 bogus offenses and not allowed the defense, dating back to Roman law, of *tu quoque* (thou also). After his conviction, Scheepers was tied to a chair, shot and then buried in an unknown place. The well-known authoress Olive Schreiner was moved to write of one of South Africa's finest heroes as follows: "A deed so black, so steeped in cowardly shame that we, thy British subjects o'er the seas, must weep hot tears of bitter self-contempt."⁴²

PEACE

At the end of April 1902 the British once again offered peace negotiations⁴³ to end this financially crippling war. The commandos from the Orange Free State, including President Steyn and Gen. Christiaan de Wet, also known as the *bittereinders*, wanted to fight on. With the summer rains, which would provide grazing and increased foliage for cover only four months away, they believed that the British would eventually capitulate from sheer exhaustion and the poor morale of their soldiers.⁴⁴

However, the legal adviser of the Transvaal delegation (and suspected British secret agent), Jannie Smuts, prevailed upon the delegates to accept peace.

The war had been an unmitigated disaster for the Boers; 32,000 farm houses were razed to the ground, some by cannon fire, others by dynamite. Wells were poisoned, their cattle slaughtered, and thousands of women were raped.⁴⁵ Twenty-five towns and their contents and 20 villages, including all their churches, were destroyed.⁴⁶ The countryside was turned into a desert. In financial terms the Boer losses were estimated at £80 million.⁴⁷

At the signing of the peace treaty held in Melrose House, Pretoria, on May 31, 1902, Gen. Louis Botha predicted that this British form of total war, involving the whole population, would become the norm of the future.⁴⁸ By the end of the war 72% of the Boer population were either dead or incarcerated in a prisoner of war camp or a concentration camp.⁴⁹ About 34,000⁵⁰ or 22% of the inmates of the concentration camps died, of whom 27,540 or 81% were under the age of 16; 9,908 Boer soldiers lost their lives. The total losses of the Boers were

THE CHIVALRY OF THE BOERS

The Boers were always chivalrous toward the enemy when wounded, unlike the British who would invariably bayonet a wounded man to death.

On March 7, 1902, after the British had been heavily defeated at the Battle of Tweebosch by commandos led by Gen. Koos de la Rey, Kitchener's right hand man, Lord Paul Methuen, was captured. Instead of putting him on trial and executing him for the horrendous crimes which he had committed against the Boer people, De la Rey granted the wounded Methuen, who had injured his thigh after falling off his horse, his freedom, and allowed him to travel by ambulance to Klerksdorp where he could be nursed by his own people. Before he departed, De la Rey's wife, Nonnie, provided Methuen with some roast chicken and rusks.



ZONDERWATER POW CAMP: A STUNNING COMPARISON

The Zonderwater prisoner of war camp 27 miles east of Pretoria hosted over 100,000 Italian prisoners of war from April 1941 to January 1947. It was largest and best-run Allied POW camp in the world. Housed in red brick barracks, the POWs were fed a nutritious diet and provided with 15 schools, a 3,000-bed hospital, 17 theaters, libraries and a vast range of sporting facilities, including a Graeco-Roman wrestling ring. A symphony orchestra of 86 musicians was formed, and a brass band of 65 instrumentalists.

During World War II the Italian POWs built substantial engineering projects such as roads through the mountain passes of Sir Lowry's Pass and Du Toits Kloof and an irrigation scheme at Upington; 25,000 Italians were also employed in agriculture. The Italians had the highest respect for their captors, and, when the war ended, over 90% of them requested permission to remain in South Africa.

PHOTO ABOVE: Italian prisoners march before engaging in an athletic competition.



BOER CHILDREN PLAYING A GAME OF MARBLES in a British POW camp in Hinson, Bermuda, 1901: Children as young as eight years old were deemed to be potential guerrilla fighters and were sent to prisoner of war camps, some as far away as the broiling Caribbean.

17.6% of their estimated prewar population of 250,000. The British also suffered high losses with 21,942 being killed (35% in battle, 65% from disease) and 22,829 being wounded.

The bankers achieved their principal aim of obtaining full control of the gold and other mineral resources of South Africa. They had financed the war in the amount of £222 million and thereby added a further £132 million to Britain's national debt. For the Rothschilds the Second Anglo-Boer War was a consummate victory. ♦

ENDNOTES:

1 The colony was founded by the *Vereenigde Oostindische Compagnie* or Dutch East Indies Company. There were 60 directors, who had to hold a minimum number of shares. The controlling body was *De Heren Zeventien* or "the Seventeen Gentlemen," who represented the chambers of commerce in Holland, of whom 14 were Jews. Their prime focus was on maximizing profits, and instead of encouraging migration of Dutch settlers to the Cape, they imported slaves from the East Indies and Mozambique. See M. Van Bart, *Kaap van Slawe*, Historical Media cc, Tokai, South Africa, 2012, 204 pp.

2 Nathan Rothschild's famous boast reads as follows: "I care not what puppet is placed upon the throne of England to rule the empire

on which the Sun never sets. The man who controls Britain's money supply controls the British empire, and I control the British money supply."

3 On December 1, 1834 the practice of slavery was officially ended after the promulgation of the Abolition of Slavery Act of 1833. \$20 million was allocated to the slave owners in the British colonies. The Cape owners should have received \$3,041,290 for their 35,745 slaves, but were apportioned only \$1.25 million. Furthermore, this compensation was payable only in British government bonds, which had to be collected in London. As a result, many slave owners were forced into bankruptcy, and an economic slump ensued.

4 McCord, J.J., *South African Struggle*, J.H. De Bussy, Pretoria, 1952, 56.

5 Peacock, J.J., *The Heel of the British Boot: The Deeper Meaning of the Second Anglo-Boer War*, self-published, Cape Town, 2001, 9. On February 7, 1881 the U.S. House of Representatives expressed the hope "that there will be no more bloodshed, and that her majesty may see fit to accord independence to Transvaal if it should be found that the people have no desire for annexation to Britain."

6 J.A. Hobson, *The War in South Africa: Its Causes and Effects*, James Nisbet & Co., Limited, London, 1900, 70. Hobson mentions on page 12 that in the Johannesburg Directory of 1899, 24 Joneses, 53 Browns and 68 Cohens were listed.

7 *Ibid.*, 193. See also R. Rudman, *England under the Heel of the Jew*. This 21-page pamphlet was extracted from the book of the same title written in 1918 by Dr. John Henry Clarke, a physician, and was published by C.F. Roworth in London. It provides a graphic account of the conspiracy by the "randlords" to overthrow the Krüger government.

8 *Ibid.*, 193.

9 *Ibid.*, 66-70.

10 J.J. McCord, *op. cit.*, 150, cites L.M. Phillips, *With Rimington*, Arnold, London, 1901.

11 *Ibid.*, 150, cites E.B. Rose, *The Truth About the Transvaal*, self-published, London, 1902.

12 P.J. Pretorius, *Volksverraad*, Libanon-Uitgewers, Mosselbaai, 1996, 62.

13 M. Hugo, *Die Kruger Ultimatum*, Bienenfell Uitgewers, Pretoria, 93.

14 Prior to his advance on Pretoria, Lord Kitchener halted his army and set up a temporary headquarters at Germiston, nine miles (14km) southeast of Johannesburg. He occupied a house situated on the Primrose Hill which belonged to the author's great-grandfather Edward James Phillips, a prominent businessman and director of Simmer & Jack Mines.

15 A.W.G. Raath & R.M. Louw, *Vroueleed: die lotgevalle van die vroue en kinders buite die konsentrasie kampe, 1899-1902*, War Museum of the Boer Republics, No. 4 Concentration Camps, Bloemfontein, 1993, 70.

16 J.J. McCord, *op. cit.*, 295.

17 A.W.G. Raath & R.M. Louw, *op. cit.*, 127.

18 *Ibid.*, 32. These harrowing events are similar in many respects to the brutal Highland clearances, which took place in Scotland during the first half of the 19th century.

19 *Ibid.*, 32.

20 *Ibid.*, 35.

21 J.J. McCord, *op. cit.*, 303.

22 J.J. Peacock, *op. cit.*, 18.

23 P. Marais, *Die Vrou in die Anglo-Boereoorlog 1899-1902*, J.P. van der Walt en Seun (LAPA) (Edms.) Bpk., Pretoria, 1999, 123.

24 *Ibid.*, 157.

25 B. Roberts, *Those Bloody Women*, John Murray (Publishing) Ltd, London, 1991, 186-203.

26 J.J. McCord, *op. cit.*, 303

27 J.J. Peacock, *op. cit.*, 19.

28 C. Groenewald, *Bannelinge oor die Oseaan (Boerkrygsgevangenis 1899-1902)*, J.P. van der Walt en Seun (LAPA) (Edms.) Bpk., Pretoria, 2002, 19.

29 P. Marais, *Penkoppe van die Tweede Vryheidsoorlog, 1899-1902*, J.P. van der Walt en Seun (LAPA) (Edms.) Bpk., Pretoria, 1993, 174. *Penkoppe* were boys of 16 years of age and under who participated in the war. They were usually in the care of a father, brother or uncle.

30 C. Groenewald, *op. cit.*, 128.

31 P. Marais, *op. cit.*, 177.

32 C. Groenewald, *op. cit.*, 128.

33 *Ibid.*, 131.

34 D. Reitz, *Commando*, Jonathan Ball Publishers, Johannesburg, 1990, (First published in 1929), 229.

35 G. Jooste and A. Oosthuizen, *So het hulle Gesterf*, J.P. van der Walt en Seun (LAPA) (Edms.) Bpk., Pretoria, 2002, 26.

36 *Ibid.*, 26.

37 *Ibid.*, 43.

38 *Ibid.*, 43.

39 *Ibid.*, 105.

40 *Ibid.*, 54.

41 J.J. Peacock, *op. cit.*, 52. Kitchener was a cruel commander and a misogynist, who would not allow married men to be part of his personal staff. He kept a pet starling, and on one occasion when it escaped, he stopped all activities and ordered his men and officers to search for the bird. The villagers of Ballylongford, where Kitchener was born, refused to allow the erection of a statue in his memory.

42 *Ibid.*, 161-176.

43 T. Pakenham, *The Boer War*, Jonathan Ball Publishers, Johannesburg, 1979, 491. The terms were almost identical to the 10-point peace plan which the British had offered to Gen. Louis Botha at Middelburg on March 7, 1901.

44 J.J. McCord, *op. cit.*, 290. In a letter to Lady Edward Cecil dated 3 March 1901 Milner writes that "Kitchener affirms . . . that our soldiers can't be trusted not to surrender on the smallest provocation, and that consequently disaster is not even now impossible if the Boers stick to it."

45 J.J. Peacock, *op. cit.*, 11.

46 *Ibid.*, S.

47 \$8 million was worth \$8.8 billion in 2015.

48 J.J. Peacock, *op. cit.*, 12.

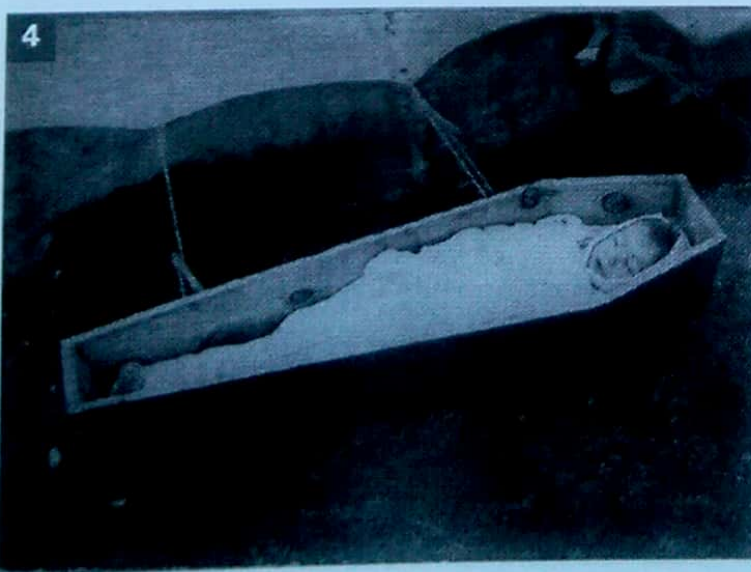
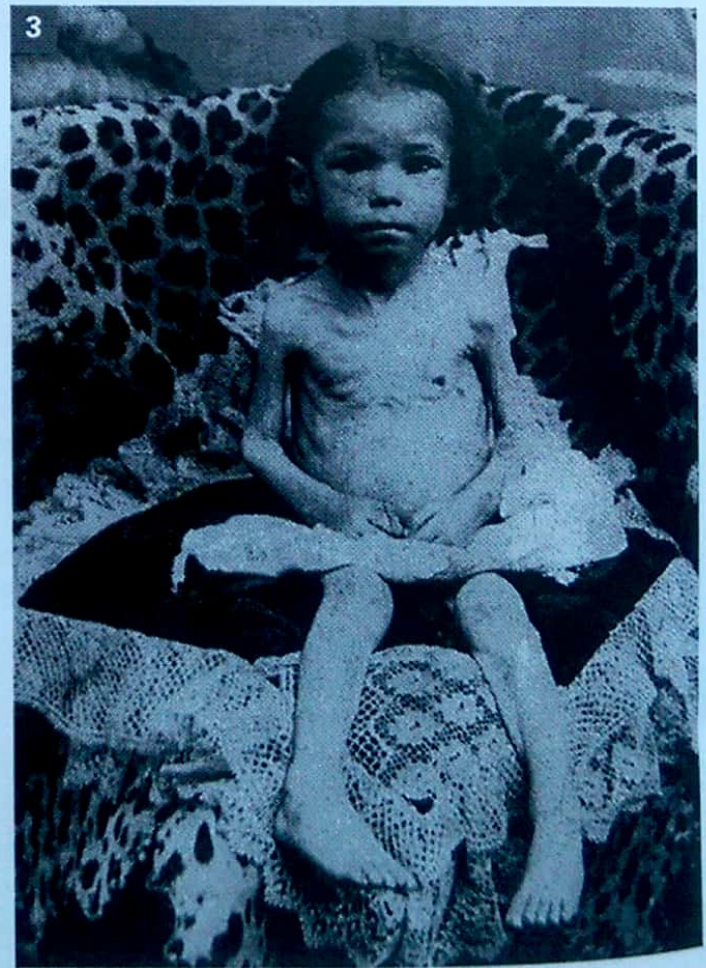
49 J.J. McCord, *op. cit.*, 315.

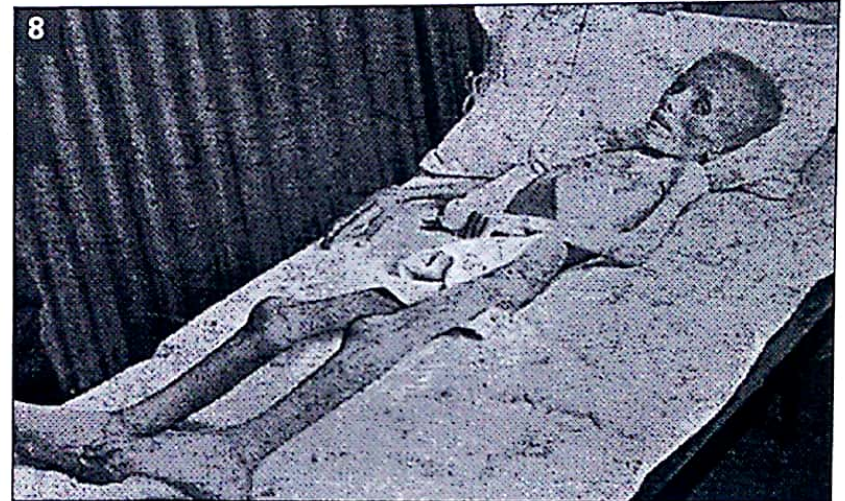
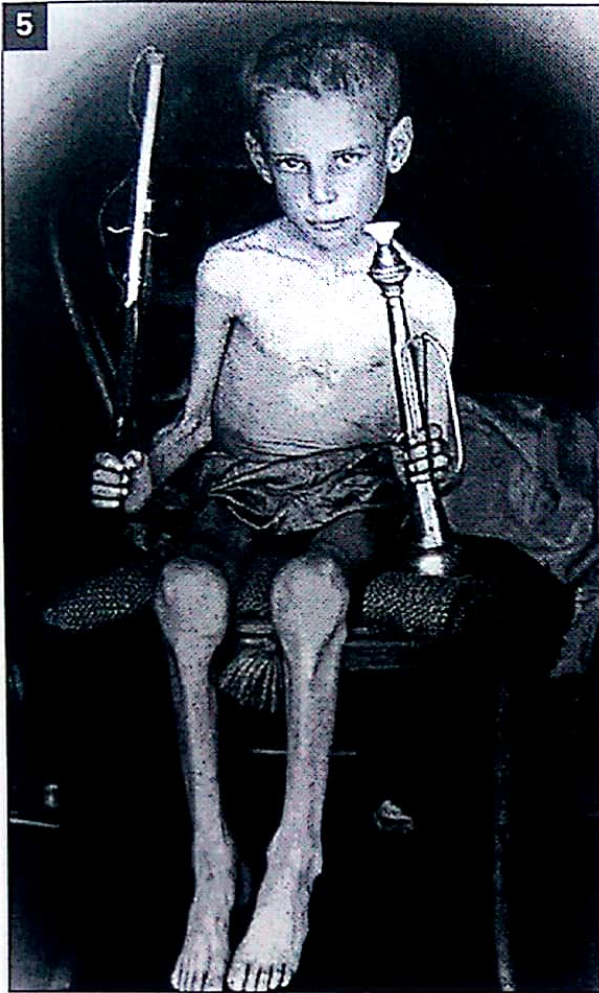
50 This revised figure has been provided to the author by the leader of the *Herstigste Nasionale Party*, Andries Breytenbach. There were an estimated 120,000 black Africans confined to 66 concentration camps, of whom 13,315 or 11.1% perished. This much lower mortality rate was the result of the better treatment that the black Africans received from the British. They were in a majority of instances permitted to retain their cattle and thus had access to fresh meat and milk.

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A Holocaust Against the Boers

Children in the British-Run Concentration Camps





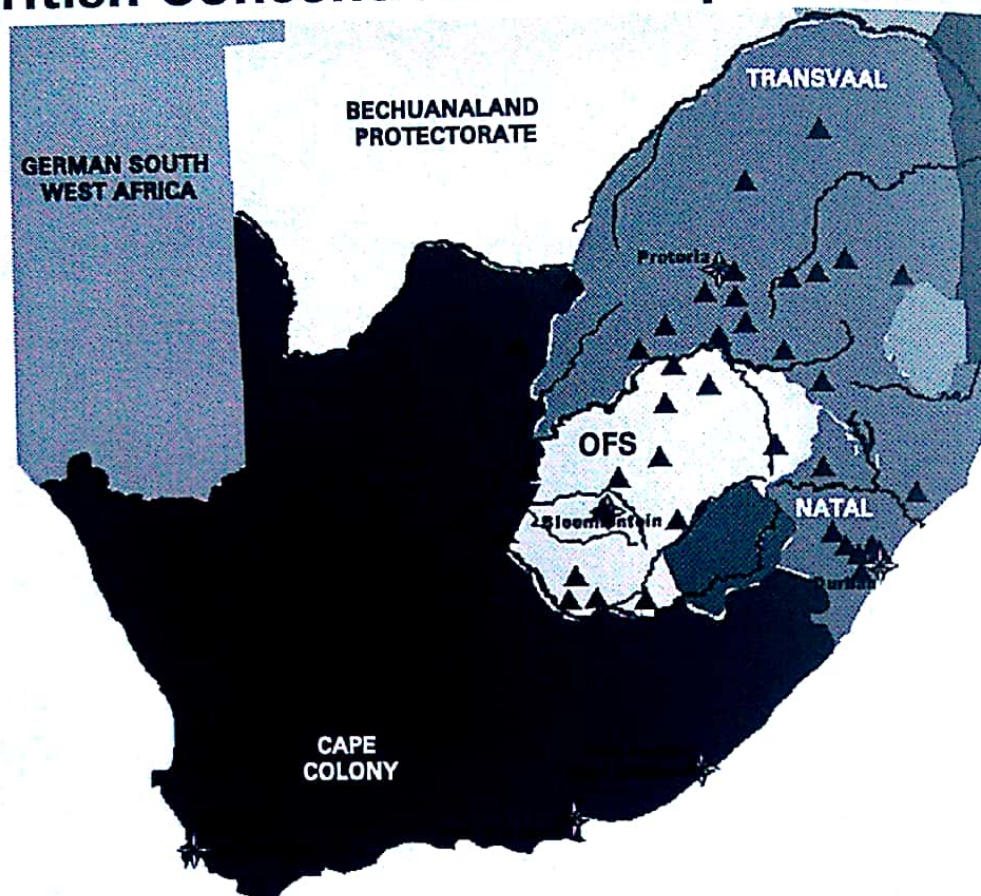
FACING PAGE: 1. A starving Carel Wessels sitting on his mother's lap, obviously suffering from malnutrition, shortly before he died. 2. A mother holds her dead child, a victim of starvation. She did not cry but looked far away into the horizon. Photograph taken by Emily Hobhouse in 1901. 3. War-hardened British photographers made fun of the emaciated children in British concentration camps. 4. The body of Japie van den Berg outside the tent where he died in the Bloemfontein concentration camp. He was one of the few inmates to receive a proper burial, as shortly thereafter the British authorities refused to give planks for coffins.

ABOVE: 5. Photograph of a starving Boer child at the Bloemfontein camp, 1901. He holds a little toy pop-gun in one hand and what appears to be a child-sized bugle in the other. He appears to be a little healthier than many of the Boer children in the camps, but may be displaying symptoms of rickets. He survived his ordeal. 6. Another child victim of brutal British internment policies. 7. This sweet angel succumbed to conditions at a British-run death camp for Boer families. 8. Emily Hobhouse writes: "Lizzie van Zyl, about 8 years old-one of our little skeletons. The legs are out of proportion. Several have been emaciated like this. I fancy the food doesn't suit them and the great heat of the tents. It is piteous to see the children." Lizzie is holding a porcelain doll given to her by Miss Hobhouse.

RIGHT: Emily Hobhouse. (1860-1926) was a British welfare campaigner, who is fondly remembered for exposing to the public the deplorable conditions inside British-run concentration camps for Boer women and children in South Africa. Hobhouse said, "I call this camp system a wholesale cruelty. To keep these camps going is murder to the children."



Main British Concentration Camps in South Africa

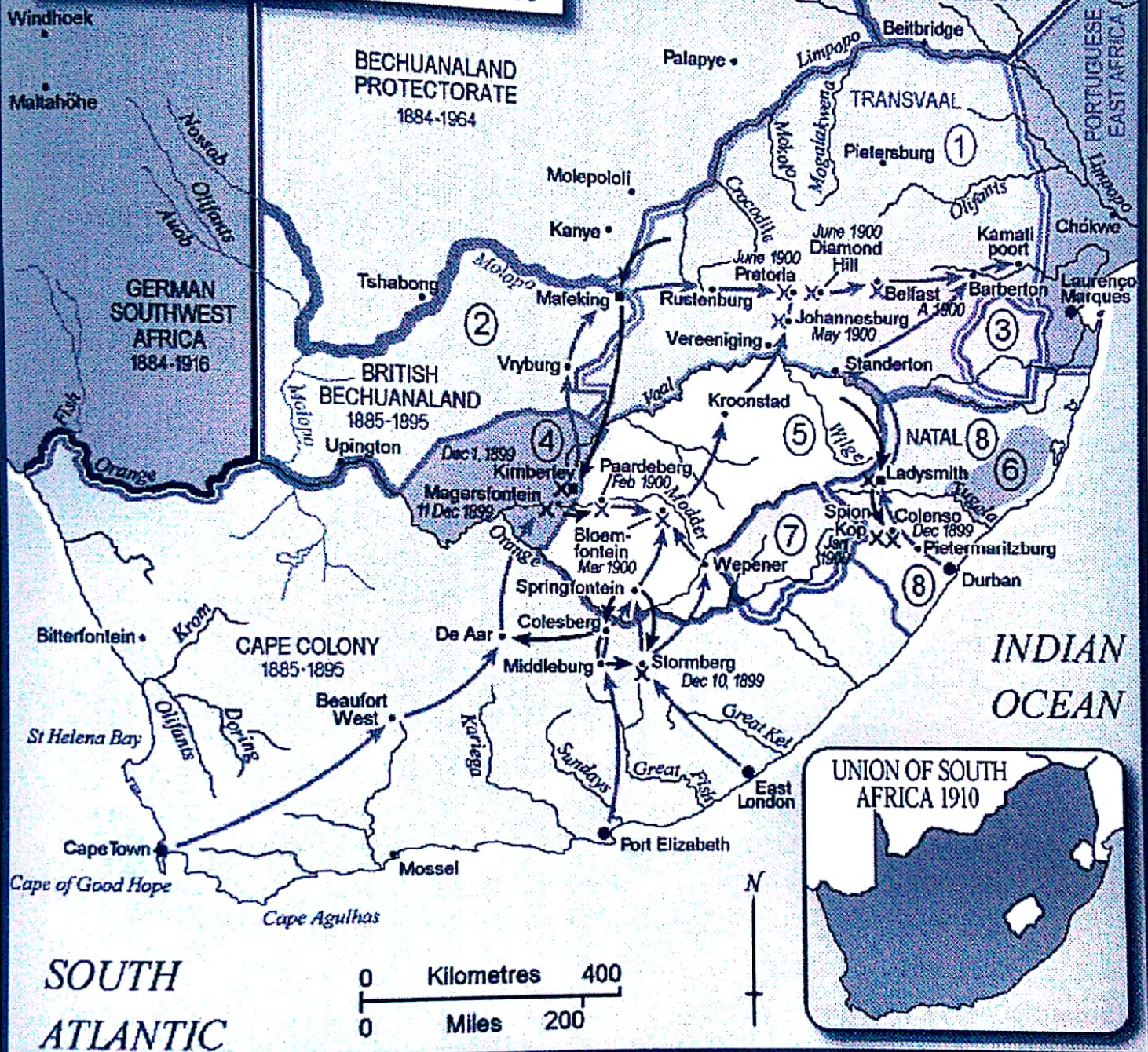


List of Concentration Camps in South Africa

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| Aliwal North | Ladysmith |
| Barberton | Mafeking |
| Balmoral | Merebank |
| Belfast | Meintjieskop |
| Bloemfontein | Middelburg |
| Bethulie | Norval's Pont |
| Brandfort | Nylstroom |
| Colenso | Orange River |
| East London | Pietermaritzburg |
| Eshowe | Pietersburg |
| Harrismith | Pinetown |
| Heidelberg | Port Elizabeth |
| Heilbron | Potchefstroom |
| Howick | Simon's Town |
| Irene | Springfontein |
| Jacobs Siding | Standerton |
| Johannesburg | Uitenhage |
| Kabusi | Van der Hoven's Drift |
| Kimberley | Vereeniging |
| Klerksdorp | Volksrust |
| Kromelleboog | Vredefort Road |
| Kroonstad | Vryburg |
| Krugersdorp | Wentworth |
| Ladybrand | Winburg |

SOUTH AFRICA 1899-1910

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- (1) Sth African Republic (Transvaal), annexed by British 1904
- (2) Annexed 1885, absorbed into Cape Colony 1895
- (3) Swaziland, British Protectorate from 1907 to 1967
- (4) Griqualand West, absorbed into Cape Colony 1880
- (5) Orange Free State 1854-1901, Brit Orange River Colony 1901-10
- (6) Zululand, annexed by British 1881, absorbed by Natal 1907
- (7) Basutoland, British Protectorate from 1884

- (8) Natal, annexed by British 1843, Crown Colony 1856-1910
- Towns under siege — Mafeking, Oct 1899 to May 1900
- X Boer victories — Kimberley, Oct 1899 to Feb 1900
- X British victories — Ladysmith, Nov 1899 to Feb 1900
- Boer troop movement or major offensive
- British troop movement or major offensive
- Stormberg Dec 10, 1899
- Approx date of engagement

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Grâce à la bonne organisation des camps de reconcentration l'abondance et la santé y régnerent. C'est un véritable plaisir de voir les enfants courir et jouer innocemment entre les tentes sous l'oeil souriant de leurs mères qui oublient ainsi un moment la mélancolie de leur position.....
.....Les mesures de précaution que nous avons prises ont abaissé la mortalité des enfants à 380 pour mille. (Rapport officiel au War office).

*Thanks to the good organisation of the concentration camps, abundance and health reign there. It is a real pleasure to see the children running and innocently playing between the tents under the smiling eyes of their mothers, who thus forget for a moment the sadness of their position
..... The precautionary measures we have taken have reduced the mortality of children to 380 per thousand. (Official Report of the War Office).*