

## **THE WEST RAND DURING THE ANGLO-BOER WAR**

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### **INTRODUCTION:**

The establishment of Krugersdorp in 1887 was the main factor influencing the social-cultural development of the West Rand. Two major events in the late nineteenth century lead to the establishment of the town, namely the First Anglo-Boer War and the discovery of gold. The Paardekraal Monument became the centre of cultural activities, especially of the Afrikaner on the West Rand. Krugersdorp was the only town on the West Rand at the time of the Anglo-Boer War.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The discovery of gold on the Witwatersrand in the early 1880's and the proclamation of public diggings on the farms Paardekraal, Vogelstruisfontein, Luipaardsvlei, Witpoortjie, Klipplaat, Heuningklip and Wilgespruit in 1886/1887 lead to the establishment of a stands township on the West Rand. This town was named after President Paul Kruger on request of his friend, Vaal Martiens Pretorius, on whose farm (Paardekraal) the town was established in 1887.<sup>1</sup>

The Krugersdorp Diggings were under the jurisdiction of a Mine Commissioner, Robert Gerrit Ockerse.<sup>2</sup> Two clerks assisted him with the administration of the gold fields. Act No. 8 of 1889 authorised the mine commissioner to control and manage all matters related to a specific gold field, which included the issuing of licenses and the collection of license fees.<sup>3</sup> The authority of the Mine Commissioner was restricted to mining related matters of a specific gold field only and not related to a town or district.<sup>4</sup> Ockerse was in charge of more than fifty mines and diggings on the West Rand at the beginning of the Anglo-Boer War.

A Special Magistrate with authority to deal with criminal and legal matters was appointed for each gold field. As in the case of the Mine Commissioner, the authority of the Special Magistrate was restricted to the given gold field and not related to matters outside the jurisdiction of the gold field. J.C. Human was the first Special Magistrate for the Krugersdorp Gold Fields.

The influx of people to the newly proclaimed diggings necessitated the proclamation of a Stands Town, Krugersdorp in 1887. The first 200 stands in Krugersdorp were sold on a public auction on 31 October 1887 under a 99-year leasehold. The condition of the leasehold stated that the lessee could "own the property for 99 years as long as his payment of stand fees was not in arrears."<sup>5</sup>

The newly established town only serviced matters related to the gold fields and mining. People from the surrounding farms had to go to Pretoria, Rustenburg, Potchefstroom or Heidelberg for their administrative, military and legal matters.<sup>6</sup> The need for an independent district and town to attend to local matters leads to the proclamation of the Krugersdorp District Town in 1894.<sup>7</sup> A magistrate, assisted by a justice of the peace and clerks, was responsible for all matters related to the district, which included the management and administration of the District Town. The District Town was established opposite the Stands Town, northwest of the Paardekraal Monument. The first 309 “burgher” stands of approximately 400 square Cape rood ( $\pm 39.65424^2\text{m}$ ) each was allocated to qualifying burghers in 1896.<sup>8</sup>

Forthcoming from the establishment of a District Town was the establishment of separate offices for the management and administration of the District Town. By implication, Krugersdorp was serviced at the time by two magistrates, namely J.C. Human as Special Magistrate for the gold fields and H. Hugo as the District Magistrate. Separate Health Committees were responsible for health matters and the general hygiene of the two townships. The amalgamation of the administration of Krugersdorp only happens after the Anglo-Boer War with the establishment of the Krugersdorp Municipality in 1903.

The original layout of the abovementioned towns did not make any provision for the accommodation of people of colour. Black people working on the diggings were usually housed in mine kampongs. The families of these people and other Blacks squatted on the south-western periphery of the white settlements in an unmannerly way. The general conditions of the people were poor. Little attention was given to housing and health matters at the time. The Black settlement was proclaimed as a “location” in 1905.

The first Indians came to Krugersdorp in 1897. They settled in the area between the Black settlement and the new township for poor white people called Burgershoop. The government established the Burgershoop Brickfields in 1896 to accommodate white farmers whom had flogged to the diggings for a living after the runder pest of that year.<sup>9</sup> The settlement of the Indians next to the poor Whites and the Black people is striking of the settlement pattern of Indian traders of the time, namely to be near their clientele where they provided goods on credit to the poor in competition to the established White traders in town.

The early development of Krugersdorp was overshadowed by the political turmoil and influx of foreigners from all over the world to the gold diggings. The character of Krugersdorp was since its inception very cosmopolitan with the development of social clusters based on income, the nature of labour and where the people stayed. During this period Lt. Frederick Tossel from the local police excelled with capturing South Africa’s first bank robber and the young and later famous Danie Theron started his practice as attorney in Ockerse Street. The

so-called foreigners dominated the economic, political and social scene of the day, e.g. Abner Cohen as hotel owner, Joseff Seehoff and Harvey Greenacre as General Dealers and the Hartley's from Hekpoort. The majority of the people however depended on a self-sustainable livelihood, whether as digger, water car-driver, brick maker or vegetable grower. Opportunities for employment were very scarce.

### **JAMESON RAID:**

The Jameson Raid into the ZAR of 1895/96 was the result of a conspiracy between the Gold Landlord from Johannesburg, the so-called Reform Committee, and Cecil John Rhodes.

The discovery of gold had brought unknown prosperity to the ZAR, but also an influx of foreigners. The political turmoil over the political rights of the many foreigners on the Witwatersrand opened the door for Cecil John Rhodes to approach the Reform Committee with his imperialistic ideas.<sup>10</sup> With the help of his friend, dr. Leander Starr Jameson, he planned with the Reform Committee a raid in which Jameson will overthrow the ZAR government as a dead of humanity.<sup>11</sup>

Various factors contributed to the failure of the Reform Committee to muster the necessary support for their conspiracy. The result was that they were forced to call the Raid off, but contradicting reports and the stubbornness of Jameson to ignore the telegram instructing him to call the Raid contributed to the failure of the Raid.<sup>12</sup>

Jameson, gathered with his force of Rhodesians at Pitsani on the border between the ZAR and Betchuanaland (Botswana), crossed the border on 29 December 1895 and marched in the direction of Krugersdorp where the Reform Committee was supposed to have met him for his march into Johannesburg. His advance towards Krugersdorp was unhindered until he reached the vicinity of the town. Jameson demanded the surrender of Krugersdorp or else he will bombard the town, notwithstanding assurances that the Raid was of a friendly nature.<sup>13</sup> In reaction hereto the Krugersdorp Commando stopped him in a fierce battle at the Queens Battery Gold Mine west of the town.<sup>14</sup> Jameson was forced to retreat. He then decided to cross the railway line between Krugersdorp and Randfontein in an attempt to reach Johannesburg via the Potchefstroom-Johannesburg road, but soon realised that Boer commandos under the command of General Piet Cronje flanked him. After the Battle of Doornkop, Jameson was forced to surrender to Cronje on the farm Vlakfontein south of Krugersdorp on 2 January 1896.<sup>15</sup>

The defeated raiders were marched to Krugersdorp where they were kept "under rough consideration" on the Market Square,<sup>16</sup> while General Cronje prepared his report to the President. However, on the arrival of the battle hunger Waterberg Commando, Cronje was

forced to send his prisoners of war to Pretoria on the same day. Historians like Hole<sup>17</sup> foisted the total failure of the raid on the impetuosity of Jameson and his failure to listen to reason and the advice of his officers.

A Captain Garraway was responsible to attend with the help of ten soldiers to the wounded and dead. A temporary hospital under dr. A.G. Viljoen<sup>18</sup> was set up for the wounded in the shop of Harvey Greenacre.<sup>19</sup> Oral history relates that Jameson was kept in the cells behind the Magistrate's Court, but it is unlikely that he could have been there for more than a couple of hours. Garraway and his troopers were however kept there overnight after attending to the wounded and marched to Pretoria on the next day.

Oral history relates various legends to Krugersdorp interweaving the truth and fiction to a great extent. One of the stories relates how the women and children were gathered for their own safety in the Court Room, but that they left the shelter later due to boredom and the excessive heat. The inhabitants were told that Black people raided them.<sup>20</sup>

The contradicting reports on the raid urged Lt. Sarel Eloff, a grandson of President Paul Kruger in command of the local Zouth African Rydende Police (ZARP) to approach Jameson during a scouting expedition at Boon's shop on the farm Rietfontein. Eloff allowed him to be captured by the raiders and in an interview with Jameson, questioned the latter on his intentions and purpose of the raid. Jameson assured him of his friendly intentions and set Eloff free on condition that he remains at Boon's shop for two hours before alerting the commando's, but Eloff's scouts already alerted Field cornet Piet Steenkamp, who had mobilised the commando immediately.<sup>21</sup>

The Jameson Raid did not resolve on the demands of the foreigners although the government had made some minor concessions to their demands. The Raid however prevented any future attempts for a peaceful establishment of a federation of states in Southern Africa. More significant to that is that the position of people of colour in the ZAR remained unresolved: They were seen as a source of cheap labour for the mines with minimum rights and little attention to their living conditions and quality of life.<sup>22</sup>

## **ANGLO-BOER WAR:**

The relationship between the ZAR and her enemy, the British Empire, worsened after the Jameson Raid. As a result the ZAR prepared for a possible war by equipping its burghers with modern weapons.<sup>23</sup> The ZAR passed an ultimatum on 4 October 1899 to the British government to stop hostilities on its border. Failure to do that will be considered to be an act of war. The British did not respond to the ultimatum and the Anglo-Boer War started on 11 October 1899. The war ended in 1902 with the signing of the Peace Treaty of Vereeniging.

Traditional historical accounts of the Anglo-Boer War cite the war as a conflict between the Afrikaners (Boers) and the English (Britons) and that it is why it is called the Anglo-Boer War. Further to that, historians concentrated mainly on the military offensives, neglecting the struggle for survival of non-combatants on farms and in towns and in the concentration camps. Recent accounts with a more holistic approach of the war, cites the involvement and suffering all the people in the ZAR and the Republic of the Orange Free State. The involvement of the Black and Coloured people, supporting both armies, and their suffering in concentration camps received also attention in more recent accounts of the war.

Krugersdorp was no exception to circumstances elsewhere in the ZAR during the War. Historians related the victorious and heroic deeds of the Krugersdorp Commando under General Ben Viljoen, Jan Kemp, Jan Cilliers and Sarel Oosthuizen, as well as that of Commandant J.C. Bodenstein and the famous scout Danie Theron.<sup>24</sup> Jan Kemp was probably the most famous of the four generals, while the Krugersdorp Centenary Album describes Viljoen as a colourful leader.<sup>25</sup>

## **KRUGERSDORP COMMANDO:**

The Krugersdorp Commando was established in 1898 with the War against Magato and Mpefu in the now Limpopo Province. The commando was known during the Anglo-Boer War for their dogged resistant, while "The Times History of War in South Africa" describes it as the backbone of the Boer forces under General De La Rey in the Western Transvaal.<sup>26</sup>

In Natal the commando was always in the thick of things. They were a brave rearguard at Dundee, and a bulwark at Elandslaagte against the Gordon Highlanders. In the crucial Battle of Modderspruit, which determined the encirclement of Ladysmith, the Krugersdorpers stormed a hilltop and, with murderous mauser fire, stopped an out-flanking movement under General French's Fifth Lancers. Later, in an armoured train engagement near Escourt, Krugersdorp men took Winston Churchill, a war correspondent, prisoner.

Krugersdorpers also played a great part in capturing General Buller's artillery in the fine victory at Colenco. Then came the Battle for Pietershoogte and the finest feat of arms in the commando's history. The men from Krugersdorp and Rustenburg stood firm against three fiery Irish regiments, the Inskillings, the Dublin Fusiliers and the Cornaughts, beating them twice back with superhuman courage and backed by the biggest artillery barrage of the war. After seven days of fighting they were finally overwhelmed by massive forces and bayoneted, as they stood upright in their trenches, stubbornly firing to the last.

Under the leadership of General Jan Kemp the Krugersdorp Commando defended their country in the Western Transvaal at the Battles of Vlakfontein (30 May 1901), Moedwil (30 September 1901), Driefontein (24 October 1901), Yzerspruit (25 February 1902) Tweebosch (7 March 1902), Boshult (31 March 1902 and Roodewal (11 April 1902). Notwithstanding the depressing defeat they suffered at Roodewal, the Krugersdorp Commando told their spokesperson, General Kemp, to vote against accepting the British peace terms. They were still in the field and resolved to die rather than lose their independence. But despite of a defiant speech by Kemp, only six of the 60 Boer delegates voted at the Peace Meeting to continue the fight. Peace came on 31 May 1902.

Various bigger and smaller skirmishes were fought in the Krugersdorp District. The exceptions are the Battle of Dwarsvlei (7 July 1900) and the Battle of Nooitgedacht (13 December 1900). Major-General H.A. Smith-Dorien was en route to Hekpoort with his army consisting of Gordon Highlanders, Shopshire Light Infantry, Imperial Yeoman, Royal Scottish Fusiliers and the 7<sup>th</sup> Battery Royal Field Artillery when his advance was stopped on the farm Dwarsvlei by a contingent Boers under the command of General Sarel Oosthuizen. Smith-Dorien decided the return to Krugersdorp with the main contingent of his force, but left a battalion of Royal Scottish Fusiliers under the command of Captain Trenchard to cover his back and to protect a battery of guns. During the following skirmishes Trenchard was seriously wounded.<sup>27</sup> General Sarel Oosthuizen was fatally wounded and a Captain Younger killed in the fight for the possession of the battery of guns. Oosthuizen died three days later from his wounds. Captain Younger (posthumously) and Captain William Gordon from the Gordon Highlanders received the Victoria Cross for Bravery for saving the battery of guns and attending to wounded at the Battle of Dwarsvlei.

The long guerrilla struggle followed, with the Battle of Nooitgedacht in the Krugersdorp District as a notable victory. Unfortunately the Boer Armies under Generals Kemp, De La Rey, Smuts and Beyers lost the initiative when they started to plunder the abandoned British camp instead of pursuing and capturing the running British soldiers under the Command of Major-General Clements. A total of 78 burghers and 332 British soldiers were killed at the Battle of Nooitgedacht.<sup>28</sup>

The Battle of Nooitgedacht could have been the biggest victory on the Boer side should the Boers followed through and captured Clements with his whole army. The Boers however lost the initiative due to their “loosely organised armies and ill disciplined and ill-coordinated conduct”.<sup>29</sup> The undisciplined conduct of the Boers and the ransacking of the camp cost them the war. Henceforth the war was in the hands of the British, the Boers were forced to the fight and run tactics of guerrilla warfare.

### **BRITISH OCCUPATION OF KRUGERSDORP:**

After the capturing of General Piet Cronje at Paardeberg on 27 February 1900, the British High Command, Lord F.S. Roberts was certain that the capturing of the Boer capitals would strike the final blow in the Boer's resistance. The British flag was raised in the Free State capital on 4 April 1900, while the main army resumed their march to Pretoria. The Army crossed the Vaal River on 27 May 1900 and on 4 July 1900 Lord Frederick Sleigh Roberts proclaimed that the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republic (ZAR) has been conquered by Her Majesty's Forces and that the ZAR is annexed to and form part of the British Dominions. He renamed the territory and called it the Transvaal Colony.

On their way to Pretoria the British troops under Major-general Archibald Hunter, occupied Krugersdorp without opposition from the town's people in June 1900. Magistrate J.C. Human handed over the administration of the town to the British command. Martial Law was declared and the Union Jack was hoisted on the Government Building at a salute ceremony in front of the Old Magistrates Court in Commissioner Street. Krugersdorp was under British military administration.

The British garrison had established their headquarters in Krugersdorp, according to oral history, in the District Town (Krugersdorp North) in the house known as Kilmarnock House, at the corner of De Wet and Begin Streets.<sup>30</sup> A blockhouse was built on the Monument hillside to oversee the town. Seven soldiers and four natives who acted as servants and watchman manned the blockhouse.

The movement of all the people in the Transvaal Colony were restricted under Martial Law. Public meetings and gatherings were prohibited. No persons, except railway officers, were allowed on the platform of a railway station unless they were in the possession of a travelling permit. All travellers by all means also had to carry permits.<sup>31</sup>

Information on the conditions in Krugersdorp during the Anglo-Boer War is limited. Archival documentation relates primarily the military offensives. However, the town's people were not spared from the distress and misery of the War. The town experienced a shortage of essential provisions and food. The closing of shops at the beginning of the War aggravated the

shortages. A few of the bigger shops, e.g. Hompes and Seehoff, Harvey Greenacre and McCloskie and Te Water reopened after the British occupation of the town and rendered an invaluable service to poor. The majority of the town's people who suffered during the war were diggers who previously made a living in the Krugersdorp Gold Fields. The closing of all mining activities aggravated the need of the people.<sup>32</sup> The Krugersdorp Women's League therefore started with poor relief through a feeding scheme<sup>33</sup> and medical support.<sup>34</sup> With the establishment of the Krugersdorp Concentration Camp they extended their work also to include the inhabitants of the camp.

A Health Committee was established in October 1901 to take over the administration of public health in the town. The Health Committee functioned under the same regulations and authority that existed prior to the war. Under Proclamation 21 of 1900 it was expedient in the interest of public health to report all cases of infections or contagious diseases in order to prevent the spread of such diseases. Medical practitioners were entitled to a fee of twenty cents for each case notified. By Proclamation 10 of 1901 it became the duty of the Resident Magistrate to hold inquests on any person who died suddenly, or was found dead, or is supposed or suspected to have come by his death by violence or otherwise than a natural way. All births and deaths had to be registered.<sup>35</sup>

All the Burghers (people) of the ZAR became British subjects with the annexation of the Old Republic. Under Martial Law the Town's people were prohibited to communicate or support the Boer commandos. A permit was issued to each household in town according to an audit of their belongings to prevent the people from the town to support the commando's with food or other provisions. Notwithstanding this regulation, a few old gentlemen, namely J.C. Human, M.W.P. Pretorius, S. van Blommenstein, A. Vorster. A te Water and D. Grundlingh, succeeded to pass on crucial information with regard to the movements of British soldiers and provisions to the Krugersdorp Commando.<sup>36</sup> As a result of this Magistrate J.C. Human was put under house arrest by the British soldiers, which did not prevented him to continue passing on information be obtained in town.<sup>37</sup>

General conditions in the town were hard. Town's people suffered immense hardship and degrading. Nobody earned a sustainable income and no money was exchanged for trading purposes. Daily survival was depending on the ability to sustain oneself with limited resources. No child received any formal education at the time. The local NG Church School closed at the beginning of the War. The British however opened an English medium school in 1901. In response hereto J.H. Grundlingh, a patriarch of the town, opened a private school with 100 learners at the time. He employed two Dutch-speaking teachers, Miss. F. van Binnedyk and H. Putten at five pounds per month to teach the children in Dutch.<sup>38</sup>

#### **KRUGERSDORP CONCENTRATION CAMP:**

In an attempt to isolate the fighting Boers forces from food resources the British soldiers under the command of Lord Kitchener, who succeeded Roberts as High Commissioner, started with the destruction and burning of farms and crop. This aggravated the suffering of dependents of commando fighters. Civilians, both white and black, were removed from the devastated countryside and interned in concentration camps, where a dreadful loss of life occurred. At the end of the War more than 11600 Whites and 115000 Blacks were interned throughout the two Republics in these camps.<sup>39</sup>

Although one of the smaller camps, circumstances in the Krugersdorp Concentration Camp did not differ from that in any other of the camps. The Krugersdorp Concentration Camp was situated against the Monument hill approximately at the site of the current Yussaf Dadoo (Paardekraal) Hospital.<sup>40</sup> The camp housed more than 6000 women and children at the end of 1901. Many of the inhabitants perished under the over-crowded, unsanitary and ill-organized camp.<sup>41</sup> Water pollution was a major health risk, as well as starvation and under-nourishment.<sup>42</sup> The general unsanitary condition of the camp together with exceptionally severe epidemics of measles, pneumonia and dysentery contributed to the high number of deaths the camp experienced in October and November 1901. The more than 1800 graves in the Old Krugersdorp Cemetery, Burgershoop, are witness to suffering of the women and children in the Krugersdorp Concentration Camp. The following table reflects the situation in the Krugersdorp Concentration Camp at the time.

Death of Children October – November 1901 Krugersdorp Concentration Camp								
Month	Measels	Gastric Fever	Pneumonia	Emaciation	Whooping-cough	Epileptic	Other ailments	Total
October	48	6	10	3	1	1	1	70
November	25	3	2	1	0	3	1	35
<b>Totaal</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>105</b>

Numerous observers pointed out serious shortcomings in the administration of the camp. The mortality rate decreased remarkably after the administration was transferred from the military to civilian authority under the command of a Mr. Tomlinson and dr. Aymard.<sup>43</sup> During this period the “Ladies Commission” who handled poor relief in town, extended their efforts to include also devastated families in the concentration camp, especially with regard to the improvement of food rations.

Food rations were classified into two categories. Class I rations were issued to the families of Boers who had surrendered or was in the employment of the British army. Class II rations were issued to families with men still fighting with the commandos. The following rations were issued per week.<sup>44</sup>

Food Rations: Krugersdorp Concentration Camp				
Description	Class I		Class II	
Meal	7 lb	Once per week	7 lb	Once per week
Coffee	6 oz	Once per week	4 oz	Once per week
Sugar	12 oz	Once per week	8 oz	Once per week
Salt	4 oz	Once per week	4 oz	Once per week
Meat	1 lb	Twice per week	1 lb	Twice per week

An additional ration of mealie meal was issued when available. Milk was issued to children under the age of two years. The number per family was not taken into consideration with the issue of rations with the result that hunger and malnutrition were rife amongst various families. The presence of foreign objects in the food was also reported.<sup>45</sup> Families were left to fend for themselves in the camp. Records of their struggle to obtain firewood or cow dung for cooking fires are available at the National War Museum of the two Republics. Some of the women had to work for the British soldiers, e.g. by doing the washing in order to secure a better life for their families in the camp.<sup>46</sup>

A big marquee tent in the middle of the camp served as church and school. This school was for many of the Boer children the first and only opportunity to receive formal education. Teaching in camp schools through medium of English form part of the British policy to anglicised the Afrikaner into British subjects. For this purpose English-speaking teachers were imported from various British colonies to run the camp schools. Many of these teachers remained in South Africa, including Krugersdorp, after the War to form the backbone of the early teaching fraternity in the Transvaal Colony.<sup>47</sup>

The repatriation of families in the concentration camp received priority after the signing of the peace treaty in May 1902. The Krugersdorp Concentration Camp was officially closed down in November 1902.

### **KRUGERSDORP NATIVE REFUGEE CAMP:**

The fact that Krugersdorp had one of the biggest Refugee Camps for Black people is not an acknowledged fact. At the end of July 1901 many Black people in the North West region (Western Transvaal) sought military protection from the British Imperial Army. It became clear to the British that the only way that the policy of removing Boer women and children to concentration camps would work, was to remove Black workers also from the farms. In view of this, a Native Refugee Camp was established on the farm Roodekranz No. 83 IQ near Krugersdorp.

When the policy of self-sustainment of Refugee camps by method of cultivation of land were implemented in November 1901, the Krugersdorp Native Refugee Camp was moved to the farm Waterval No. 74 IQ,<sup>48</sup> because of the water richness of the latter farm. The cultivation of crop on Waterval must have been a success as in September 1902 the Native Refugee Department negotiated with the original farm owner, Mr. A.H.F. du Toit, that only one-third of the crop on the land at that time will be transferred to Du Toit. The remaining two-thirds will go to the Native Refugee Department in return for the labour and expense incurred.<sup>49</sup>

A special Native Refugee Department was established in 1901 by the British High Commissioner to provide shelter to the wandering natives, but also to provide labour to the army and soldiers where and when needed. The Krugersdorp Native Refugee Camp housed 3382 people in December 1901. Of this number 1288 males were in the service of the British army, while two males, ten women and nine children worked in private households in Krugersdorp.<sup>50</sup>

Reports from various missionaries who visited the Native Refugee Camp in Krugersdorp stated that the living conditions of the refugees were as devastated as that of white women and children in the Krugersdorp Concentration Camp, if not worse. The mortality rate at the

Refugee Camp was the highest in the period November 1901 to January 1902. Reports on the mortality of refugees stated pneumonia, dysentery and measles as the main causes for death. Food rations in the Refugee Camp were limited. The conditions of the refugees can be summarised by the following statement of refugees noted on 23 November 1901 by Reverend Farmer: "We have to work hard all day, but the only food we can get is mealies and mealie meal, and this is not supplied to us free, we have to purchase some with our own money. Meat we are still not able to get at any price, nor are we allowed to buy anything in shops..."<sup>51</sup>

The Krugersdorp Native Refugee Camp was abolished in October 1902, five months after the signing of the peace treaty. Some of the camp inhabitants did not want to return to the Boer farms after the closure of the camp, because they hoped for a better living under the British administration of the Transvaal Colony. The general situation among Black people in the Transvaal was so worse that conditions of famine prevailed. Many districts suffered a severe shortage of food for Black people. In view of this situation, the grain depot in Krugersdorp was retained by the new Department of Native Affairs to provide in the need of the devastated communities.<sup>52</sup>

#### **THE AFTERMATH OF THE WAR IN KRUGERSDORP:**

The war changed society on all spheres in Krugersdorp. The Assistant Resident Magistrate, Lt. Phillips, took over the military administration of the town. The repatriation of the families in the concentration camp and the returning prisoners of war took up the first six months after the signing of the peace treaty. The return to ruined farms with limited provisions forced many farmers into an impoverished economic position where they lived from the hand to the mouth.

A commission under the chair of the Assistant Resident Magistrate attended to the applications for compensation from returning Boers. The commission was responsible that proper compensation be given on the basis of damage to property as a result of the war. According to Esterhuizen<sup>53</sup> was the compensation given in accordance to the extent of the damage classified into three groups, namely:

- Those burghers whom had lost everything and needs immediate help;
- Those that did not lost as much and can restart without assistance; and
- Those that did not own anything before the war and thus also did not qualify for any compensation.

Food and farm implements were available on credit from the Colonial Government. Several impoverished Boers accumulated vast amounts on credit, which enhanced their devastated and impoverished situation.

Many of the impoverished Afrikaners settled in Krugersdorp, mainly at the Burgershoop Brickfields where they tried to make a living. The general survival of the families was depending on their ability to sustain themselves with limited resources. The extend of the devastated situation in Krugersdorp at the time can be observed through the high mortality of babies under the age of one year in the period 1903/1904.<sup>54</sup>

<b>MORTALITY OF BABIES IN KRUGERSDORP</b>	
<b>1903-04</b>	
<b>GROUP</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
Whites	66,6%
Blacks	88,7%

As apposed to the devastated situation amongst the returning Boer families, influential traders and professional people settled in the Districts Town where they were held in respect as community leaders and for their management of town matters. They introduced a new British Colonial lifestyle and social order. The Afrikaner was only able to come into their own right as community leaders in the late 1920's and 1930's.

Living conditions amongst people of colour after the Anglo-Boer War remained poor in Krugersdorp. No special provisions were made to better the situation. They were considered to be a source for labour with no political rights.

#### **CLOSURE:**

Krugersdorp did have all the elements necessary characteristic for a town, namely cultural, administrative and economical functions, physical structures (buildings, streets, etcetera) and an orderly settlement pattern. The development of the town however only happened after the establishment of the Krugersdorp Municipality in 1903 and the election of a Town Council. At the time Krugersdorp did have 19483 inhabitants, of which 3224 people were under the age of fifteen and 16259 above the age of fifteen. The total population is reflected in the table below.<sup>55</sup>

<b>Krugersdorp: Population Statistics 1903</b>			
<b>Ethnic group</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Total</b>
Whites	3 982	2 675	6 657
Blacks	11 307	784	12 091
Coloured / Indians	500	235	735
<b>Total</b>	<b>15 789</b>	<b>3 694</b>	<b>19 483</b>

Poor social conditions, poverty, unemployment and the lack of proper housing persisted in Krugersdorp amongst the majority of its inhabitants until late in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

## ENDNOTES:

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- <sup>1</sup> Library, Krugersdorp, Africana Collection: Information file K57, *Krugersdorp: Oorsprong van naam*, wd.
- <sup>2</sup> TAB, Pretoria, ZAR, band 24: *Executive Council resolutions 1886-1889*, Resolution, Executive Council, 26 April 1887, Art.327; Resolution, Executive Council, 5 June 1888, Art. 305.
- <sup>3</sup> TAB, Pretoria, ZAR, band 26, J.G. Kotze, *Locale Wetten en Volksraadbesluiten der Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek 1886-1887, Art.24, Act. No. 8 of 1885*, p.67
- <sup>4</sup> M.A. Schutte, *Die geskiedenis van Krugersdorp ...*, p.12
- <sup>5</sup> M.A. Schutte, *Die geskiedenis van Krugersdorp ...*, p.20
- <sup>6</sup> Library, Krugersdorp, Africana Collection: Information file K13, *Krugersdorp, vroeë geskiedenis*, wd.
- <sup>7</sup> M.A. Schutte, *Die geskiedenis van Krugersdorp ...*, pp.24-32; Library, Krugersdorp, Africana Collection: Information file K24, *Krugersdorp, Akte van Transport*, wd.
- <sup>8</sup> TAB, Pretoria, MKR, band 2/3/1/119, Correspondence G9, *Konsep dorpsbeplanningskema*, Maart 1939.
- <sup>9</sup> Library, Krugersdorp, Africana Collection, *Mayor's Minute for the year ending 31 October 1908*, p.24
- <sup>10</sup> TAB, Pretoria, ZAR, band 92, pamphlet, W. Harcourt, *Een banier dragger der geregtigheid*.
- <sup>11</sup> TAB, Pretoria, ZAR, band 92, vol.2, *Telegram No. 61*, pp.44-46. See also H.M. Hole, *The Jameson Raid*.
- <sup>12</sup> TAB, Pretoria, ZAR, band 92, vol.2, *Telegram No. 24*, p.8; *Telegram Nr. 37*, p.12.
- <sup>13</sup> H.M. Hole, *The Jameson Raid*, p.180.
- <sup>14</sup> TAB, Pretoria, ZAR, band 92, *Telegram No. 29-34*, pp.10,11.
- <sup>15</sup> TAB, Pretoria, ZAR, band 92, *Telegram No. 46-48*, p.15.
- <sup>16</sup> TAB, Pretoria, ZAR, band 92, *Telegram No. 49*, p.16.
- <sup>17</sup> H.M. Hole, *The Jameson Raid*, p.174; T.V. Bulpin, *Lost trails of the Transvaal*, p.353; Library Krugersdorp, Africana Collection, J.H. Zeederberg, "The Jameson Raid changed S.A. history", *The Star*, 10 Dec. 1965.
- <sup>18</sup> C.N.J. du Plessis, *Uit die geskiedenis van de Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek e van de Afrikaanders*, pp.168-170; TAB, Pretoria, ZAR, band 92, *Telegram No.50*, p.36.
- <sup>19</sup> M. Hole, *The Jameson Raid*, p.191
- <sup>20</sup> Library, Krugersdorp, Africana Collection, Information file K20, "A women pioneer's early recollections: Mrs. Honora Wiltshire's impressions of Krugersdorp", *The Standard and West Rand Review*, 17 September 1937.
- <sup>21</sup> H.M. Hole, *The Jameson Raid*, pp.166-176.
- <sup>22</sup> T. Cameron & S.B. Spies, *Nuwe geskiedenis van Suid-Afrika in word en beeld*, p.192.
- <sup>23</sup> A.J.H. van der Walt, "Vier jare van spanning", A.J.H. van der Walt, e.a. *Geskiedenis van Suid-Afrika*, Derde bygewerkte uitgawe, Tweede druk, p.406.
- <sup>24</sup> J.M.H. van Aardt, *Die aandeel van die Krugersdorp kommando aan die Tweede Vryheidsoorlog, 1899-1902* (unpublished M.A.-thesis, PU for CHE, 1950); J.G.C. Kemp, *Vir vryheid en vir reg*.
- <sup>25</sup> W. de Klerk, *Krugersdorp 100 jaar/years*, pp.61,62.
- <sup>26</sup> J.M.H. van Aardt, *Die aandeel van die Krugersdorp kommando aan die Tweede Vryheidsoorlog, 1899-1902* (unpublished M.A.-thesis, PU for CHE, 1950)
- <sup>27</sup> Trenchard became later, during the First World War, the first commander of the British Royal Air Force.
- <sup>28</sup> The names of the fallen soldiers appear on a memorial stone in the Krugersdorp Cemetery.
- <sup>29</sup> T. Pakenham, *The Boer War*, illustrated edition. Pp.242-243.
- <sup>30</sup> M.A. Schutte, *Die geskiedenis van Krugersdorp ...*, pp.92-119.
- <sup>31</sup> Library, Krugersdorp, Africana Collection, Information file A14, *Anglo-Boer War*, wd.
- <sup>32</sup> M.A. Schutte, *Die geskiedenis van Krugersdorp ...*, pp.92-119; Library, Krugersdorp, Africana Collection, Information file A14, *Anglo-Boer War*, wd
- <sup>33</sup> Library, Krugersdorp, Africana Collection, Information file A14, *Anglo-Boer War*, wd.
- <sup>34</sup> M.A. Schutte, *Die geskiedenis van Krugersdorp ...*, pp.110-112.
- <sup>35</sup> Library, Krugersdorp, Africana Collection, *Mayor's Minutes for the year ending 25 October 1904*, p.3.
- <sup>36</sup> The possibility exist that they made use of dogs to carry messages to burghers in the veldt as British soldiers were instructed to shot all dogs found in the veldt. No proof of this assumption could however be found.

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- <sup>37</sup> TAB, Pretoria, PM, band 6, ref.429, Report Lt. Col. H.T. Hicks (Krugersdorp)-Provost Marshall, 1 Des. 1901.
- <sup>38</sup> J.H. Dippenaar, *Onderwys van Blankes in Krugersdorp, 1887-1939*, pp.101-102.
- <sup>39</sup> T. Pakenham, *Die tweede Anglo-Boereoorlog*” ..., p.214.
- <sup>40</sup> Library, Krugersdorp, Africana Collection, Information file C13, *Coronation Park*, wd.
- <sup>41</sup> Library, Krugersdorp, Africana Collection, Information file C13, *Coronation Park*, wd.
- <sup>42</sup> National War Museum of the Boer Republics, Bloemfontein, band OM 5890/89, Letter: C.S.E. Ackerman – Organizers of Memorial Celebrations, Krugersdorp Concentration Camp, 1982.
- <sup>43</sup> Library, Krugersdorp, Africana Collection, Information file C20, *Concentration Camp*, wd.
- <sup>44</sup> Library, Krugersdorp, Africana Collection, Information file C20, *Concentration Camp*, wd.
- <sup>45</sup> National War Museum of the Boer Republics, Bloemfontein, band OM 5890/89, Letter: C.S.E. Ackerman – Organizers of Memorial Celebrations, Krugersdorp Concentration Camp, 1982.
- <sup>46</sup> National War Museum of the Boer Republics, Bloemfontein, band OM 5890/89, Letter: H.J. van Jaarsveld – Organizers of Memorial Celebrations, Krugersdorp Concentration Camp, 1982.
- <sup>47</sup> F.C. Symington, *Die konsentrasiekampskole in die Transvaal en Oranje-Vrystaat*, pp.44-72.
- <sup>48</sup> Library, Krugersdorp, Africana Collection, Information file C20, *Concentration Camp*, wd.
- <sup>49</sup> TAB, Pretoria, LTG, band 124, ref. 115/31, Letter: Secretary, Attorney general – Secretary Lieutenant-governor, 24 October 1902.
- <sup>50</sup> TAB, Pretoria, SNA, band 59, ref. 2097/01, Report De Lotbinière – High Commissioner, December 1901.
- <sup>51</sup> Library, Krugersdorp, Africana Collection, Information file C20, Newspaper clipping: *Die Beeld*, 3 Jul. 1990; P. Warwick, *Black people in the South-African War, 1899-1902*, p.156.
- <sup>52</sup> Library, Krugersdorp, Africana Collection, Information file C20, *Concentration Camp*, wd.
- <sup>53</sup> S.J. Esterhuizen, *Die ekonomiese en maatskaplike toestande na die Anglo-Boereoorlog*, p.70.
- <sup>54</sup> Library, Krugersdorp, Africana Collection, *Mayor’s minute for the period ending 25 October 1904*. p.30.
- <sup>55</sup> Library, Krugersdorp Africana Collection, *Mayor’s minute for the period ending 25 October 1904*. p.2.