

BERMUDA:

Mourning Cover from PRETORIA to BERMUDA with 3 x ZAR adhesives opt'd VRI tied by a Pretoria cds dated 24 OCT 1901 with black triangular Pretoria censor cachet on the front with manuscript "Not Darrells" in pencil. The reverse shows a Bermuda arrival strike dated DEC 7 1901.

The cover is addressed to SIMON PETRUS RIEKERT (RICHARDS) Prisoner No 20285 aged 29 years from the farm ZUSTERSTROOM district PRETORIA who was captured at ELANDSRIVIER on the 20th May 1901 serving with the Zusterstroom Commando and who was sent to Bermuda via Tin Town at Ladysmith. (Ex Griffiths).



ON THE WAY TO BERMUDA.

The photograph represents one of the numerous family of Thorne, seized for breaking the oath of allegiance. It is clear that he is on good terms with the men who are responsible for his safety.

BERMUDA: CENSOR MARK VARIETY:

A postcard from DOESBURG dated 22nd May 1902 via Queenstown with 5 c QW tied by a Doesburg cds of even dated addressed to PIETER FRANCOIS DE BRUYN TENBERGEN Prisoner No 20464 aged 34 years from DOESBURG, GELDERLAND, HOLLAND who was captured at ZWARTWATER on the 9th June 1901 and who was sent to BERMUDA from Ladysmith. In the last month of the War, May 1902, the figure "4" was deleted from its ornate rectangle. Colin Benbow in his book "BOER POWs IN BERMUDA" suggests that the relevant censor had departed and his number "4" removed to free the handstamp for general use as shown on the postcard above. It is the last know mark on mail from BERMUDA.



A cover from HAMILTON to HOLLAND with a franking strip of 3 x 1d QV cancels of HAMILTON dated DE 28 1901 with blue POW censor cachet addressed to the Director of Education to the ZAR in AMSTERDAM and re-directed to UTRECHT. The sender JACOBUS BOTES Prisoner No 20787 aged 22 years from the farm KLIPDAM district WOLMARANSSTAD who was captured at TAFELKOP on the 28th June 1901 and who was sent to Bermuda via Ladysmith.



BERMUDA: COVER FROM PEARSTON TO HAWKINS ISLAND:

A Cover roughly opened with 2 x 1d CGH and 1 x1/2d adhesives tied an illegible Pearston cds addressed to MATHEUS JOHANNES GREEF Prisoner No 24725 aged 25 years from the farm BUFFELSHOEK district SOMERSET EAST(a Cape Rebel) who was captured at PAARDEFONTEIN on the 5th September 1901 serving with the Middelburg (Cape) Commando . His brother PHILIPPUS JACOBUS GREEF Prisoner No 24726 aged 21 years was also captured here both being Rebels were sentenced to penal Servitude for Life .They were sent to Bermuda on the MONTROSE and were held in St Georges and Hawkins.



The reverse of the Cover shows a Type 34 British Censor Seal applied at PEARSTON together with a faint triangular Pearston Censor cachet over the seal. This seal is found in three sizes on white paper measuring from 133x 137x 35 mm to 38 mm. It had a long life from 28th May 1901 to 5th July 1902 and is found used in many places in the cape. This the first recorded use in Pearston. The letter arrived in Hamilton 9th June 1902 after Peace had been declared.



BERMUDA INCOMING POSTCARD FROM MILWAUKEE USA:

An inbound Official USA Postcard from MILWAUKEE to DARRELL'S ISLAND with Milwaukee machine despatch cds dated JAN 6 1902 with NEW YORK for BCH cds dated JAN 7 1902 transit strike. The postcard written in German is addressed to RICHARD KARSTEN (DR) Prisoner No 11295 aged 54 years of ROODEPOORT then district KRUGERSDORP who was captured at ROODEPOORT together with his son WILLEM FREDERICK KARSTEN Prisoner No 11296 aged 24 years on the 26th August 1900, both serving with the Roodepoort Commando. The son was sent to Diyatalawa on the CATALONIA while the addressee was sent to BERMUDA on the 29th May 1901 on the ARMENIAN.



Reverse of postcard with message in German:



BERMUDA: INTER CAMP CORRESPONDENCE: **BURGHIER CAMP BELFAST**

Scarce cover from BERMUDA to BELFAST CONCENTRATION CAMP re-directed to PEARSTON with 1d QV Bermuda adhesive tied by a Hamilton cds dated JA 2 1902 with blue circular PRISONERS OF WAR / PASSED CENSOR / BERMUDA cachet with violet double oval serrated **BURGHIER CAMP / 10 MAR 1902 / BELFAST** censor cachet and two violet triangular censor cachets on the front with Type 7D British Censor Seal applied over the back flap at Pearston and that tied by a violet censor cachet and initialled with Pretoria transit strikes dated 7 Mar 02 and 11 MAR 02 and Pearston arrival strike dated MR 17 02

The cover is addressed to Mrs W.F. STEENKAMP at BELFAST from her husband WILLEM FRANCOIS STEENKAMP Prisoner No 20412 aged 27 years from the farm KLIPFONTEIN district ERMELO who was captured at TYGERSPRUIT on the 27th May 1901 serving with the NO 2 Ermelo Commando who was sent to BERMUDA via TIN TOWN, LADYSMITH.



17. "The Lion's Den" with Taylor, the proprietor, standing at the right.

BERMUDA: INTER CAMP CORRESPONDENCE KLERKSDORP CONCENTRATION CAMP:

Cover from BERMUDA to KLERKSDORP CONCENTRATION CAMP franked with 1d QV Bermuda adhesive tied by a Hamilton Bermuda cds dated JA 9 1902 with blue PRISONERS OF WAR / PASSED CENSOR / BERMUDA cachet with oval black Johannesburg censor cachet on the front with POW No 12980 written by sender on back flap with Johannesburg arrival strike dated 21 FEB 02 .the cover is addressed to MRS CATHARINA J/D. COETZER Tent H 1'6 No 2 Camp KLERKSDORP CONCENTRATION CAMP from her husband ABRAHAM JOHANNES COETZER Prisoner No 12980 aged 28 years from the farm ELANDSFONTEIN BOKSBURG the district GERMISTON who was captured at BARBERTON on the 13th September 1900 when General French arrived in Barberton. Ex General Schoeman and 80 British soldiers were liberated and about 2800 Boer refugees and a vast amount of stores fall into British hands. He was sent to Bermuda via Tin Town Ladysmith on the 29th February 1901.



A photo of POWs at the "Sportsman's Café" at BERMUDA:



18. "The Sportsman's Café" on Darrell's.

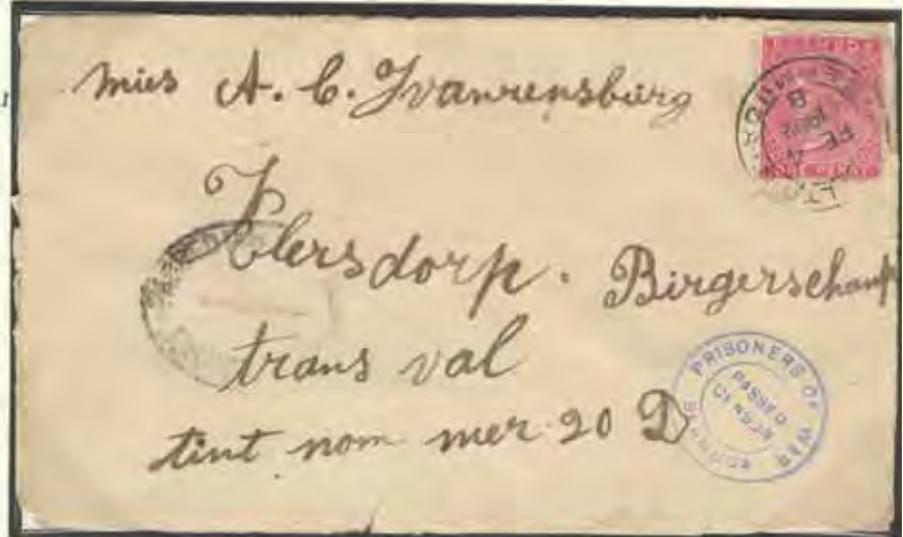
BERMUDA: INTER CAMP CORRESPONDENCE:

Inter camp cover from BERMUDA to the KLERKSDORP franked with 1d QV Bermuda adhesive tied by a HAMILTON cds dated NO 28 1901 with blue PRISONERS OF WAR / PASSED CENSOR / BERMUDA cachet and black oval Johannesburg censor cachet with arrival strike on reverse. The cover is addressed to Mrs S.D.J. OPPERMAN at "OU DORP" KLERKSDORP from her husband sender O.C. Opperman - OCKERT CORNELIS OPPERMAN Prisoner No 21308 aged 43 years who was captured on his farm DOORNPAN on the 2nd August 1901 district WOLMARANSSTAD serving with the No 1 Wolmaransstad Commando, together with his brother RUDOLF JOHANNES OPPERMAN Prisoner No 21309 aged 45 years and his son PHILIPPUS ALBERTUS OPPERMAN Prisoner No 21310 aged 19 years all of whom were sent to BERMUDA.



Cover from BERMUDA to KLERKSDORP CONCENTRATION CAMP franked with 1d QV Bermuda adhesive tied by a HAMILTON Bermuda cds dated FE 4 1902 with usual blue PRISONERS OF WAR / PASSED CENSOR / BERMUDA cachet on the front with black oval Johannesburg censor cachet on the front. The cover addressed to Mrs A.C.JANSE VAN RENSBURG in tent 202 KLERKSDORP CONCENTRATION CAMP from her husband PIETER NICHOLAS JANSE VAN RENSBURG Prisoner No 20262

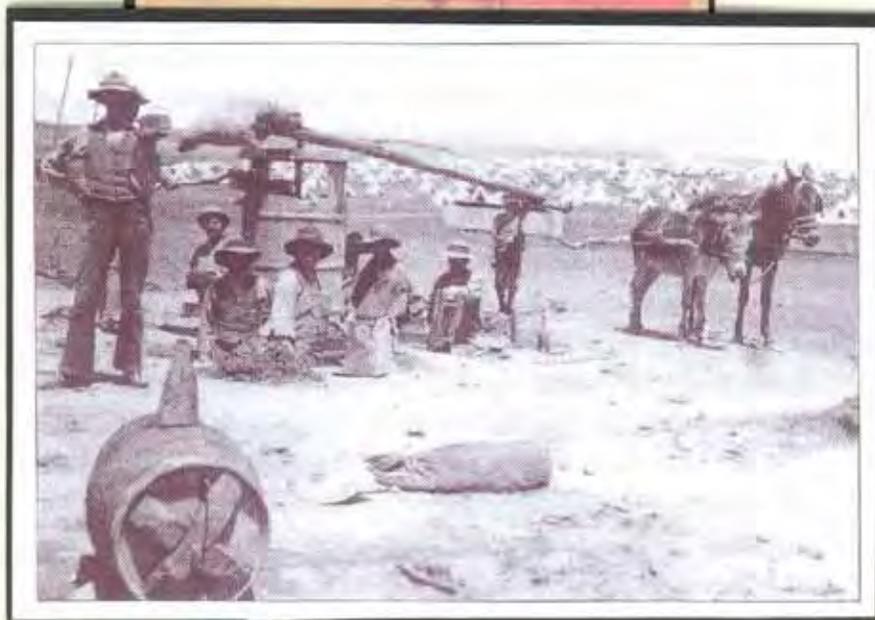
aged 44 from the farm KAREEBOSKUIL district KLERKSDORP who was captured at KOEDOESDRAAI on the 24th May 1901 together with his sons JACOBUS FREDERIK JANSE VAN RENSBURG Prisoner No 20261 aged 14 years and ANDRIES JACOBUS JANSE VAN RENSBURG Prisoner No 20263 aged 14 years all serving with the Wolmaransstad Commando all of whom were sent to BERMUDA via TIN TOWN LADYSMITH.



INTER CAMP IRENE CONCENTRATION CAMP TO BERMUDA:

Inter camp cover from PRETORIA to MORGAN'S ISLAND BERMUDA franked with a 1d Transvaal adhesive tied by a RETORIA cds dated 2 MEI 1902 and tied over the backflap with a British Censor Seal Type 36 applied at IRENE BURGHER CAMP with BURGHER CAMP / Censored / IRENE over the seal and that in turn tied over by a Pretoria cds dated 2 Mei 02 and a Hamilton arrival strike dated JU 9 02 on the reverse.

The cover is addressed to DIRK JACOBUS PRETORIUS Prisoner No 20204 aged 23 years from the farm WITFONTEIN district-PRETORIA who was captured at ZANDERFONTEIN on the 15th May 1901 serving with the STEENKAMP COMMANDO and who was sent to BERMUDA via Tin Town Ladysmith.



BERMUDA: INTER CAMP CORRESPONDENCE:

Cover from TUCKER'S ISLAND to KLERKSDORP CONCENTRATION CAMP with 1d QV Bermuda adhesive tied by a Hamilton cds dated MR 7 1902 with two circular blue PRISONERS OF WAR / PASSED CENSOR / BERMUDA cachet on the front with black oval Johannesburg censor cachet over the adhesive on the front with Klerksdorp arrival strike on the reverse with manuscript of the sender "Jacobus Botha Bermuda Tucker's Eiland" in R corner the letter addressed to Mrs GERTRUIDA SUZANNA BOTHA from her husband JACOBUS BOTHA Prisoner No 19540 aged 50 years from the farm PALMIETFONTEIN district WOLMARANSSTAD who was captured at KOEDOESDRAAI on the 24th May 1901 serving with the Wolmaransstad Commando who was sent to BERMUDA via TIN TOWN CAMP at LADYSMITH.,



Cover from BERMUDA to KLERKSDORP CONCENTRATION CAMP with 1d QV Bermuda adhesive tied by a HAMILTON cds dated OC 2 1901 with blue circular PRISONER OF WAR/ PASSED CENSOR / BERMUDA censor cachet with oval black JOHANNESBURG censor cachet on the front with APO KLERKSDORP dated DE 1 01 on the reverse. The Cover addressed to Mrs JOHANNA MORRYS (MES JOOHAN MORREIZ) at the KLERKSDORP "REFUGEE" (Reivelloei kamp) from her husband (clearly not well educated) NICOLAAS MORRYS Prisoner No 1553 aged 39 years from the farm RÓODEPOORT district POTCHEFSTROOM who was captured at PAARDEBERG on the 27th February 1900 serving with the Boven Schoonspruit Commando who was sent to BERMUDA on the MANILLA on the 18th July 1901.

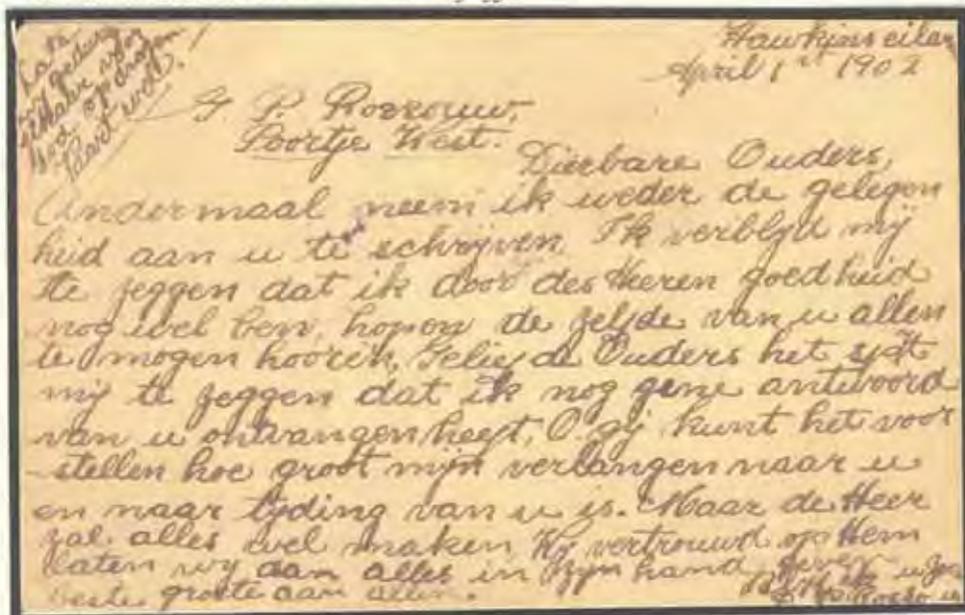


BERMUDA: HAWKINS ISLAND TO NEL'S POORT:

A Bermuda 1/2d Postal Stationery Card underpaid with pre-stamped 1/2d adhesive tied by a Hamilton cds dated AP 9 02 and endorsed Taxed ID (T) in circle applied 1 Hamilton with blue black Tyoe 2 censor cachet Bermuda on the front and double balck oval Censir cachet applied at Beaufort West with beaufort West transit strike dated MY 14 02 ad Nel's Poort Arrival strike dated 15 MY 02 on the front the card is from DANIEL PETRUS ROSSOUW Prisneor No 26300 aged 22 years from the farm POORTJE District MURRAYSBURG (Cape Rebel) who was serving with the VAN DER MERWE Commando and who was captured at DRIEFONTEIN on the 1st September 1901 who was sentenced to Penal Servitude for Life at Graaff Reinett and sent to Hawkins Island Bermuda. DRIEFONTEIN was a farm situated near Laingsburg at the foot of the Swartberge. At the time of capture Rossouw and others of the Masan commando took shelter in the thatched roofed farmhouse due the inclement weather where they were captured by Marshall's Horse under the command of Col. Corbett. Rossouw and twenty others were tried at Graaff Reinett initially sentenced to death but which sentence was commuted to Penal Servitude for Life. In 1903, after being held at Tokai Prison the sentence was uplifted by Royal decree and Rossouw and others set free.



The reverse of the card dated 1st April 1902 with message to his parents that he was well and believed his outcome rested with God and that he was longing for them.



INTER CAMP: SCARCE & RARE TYPE 37 CENSOR SEAL : BARBERTON CAMP TO BERMUDA.

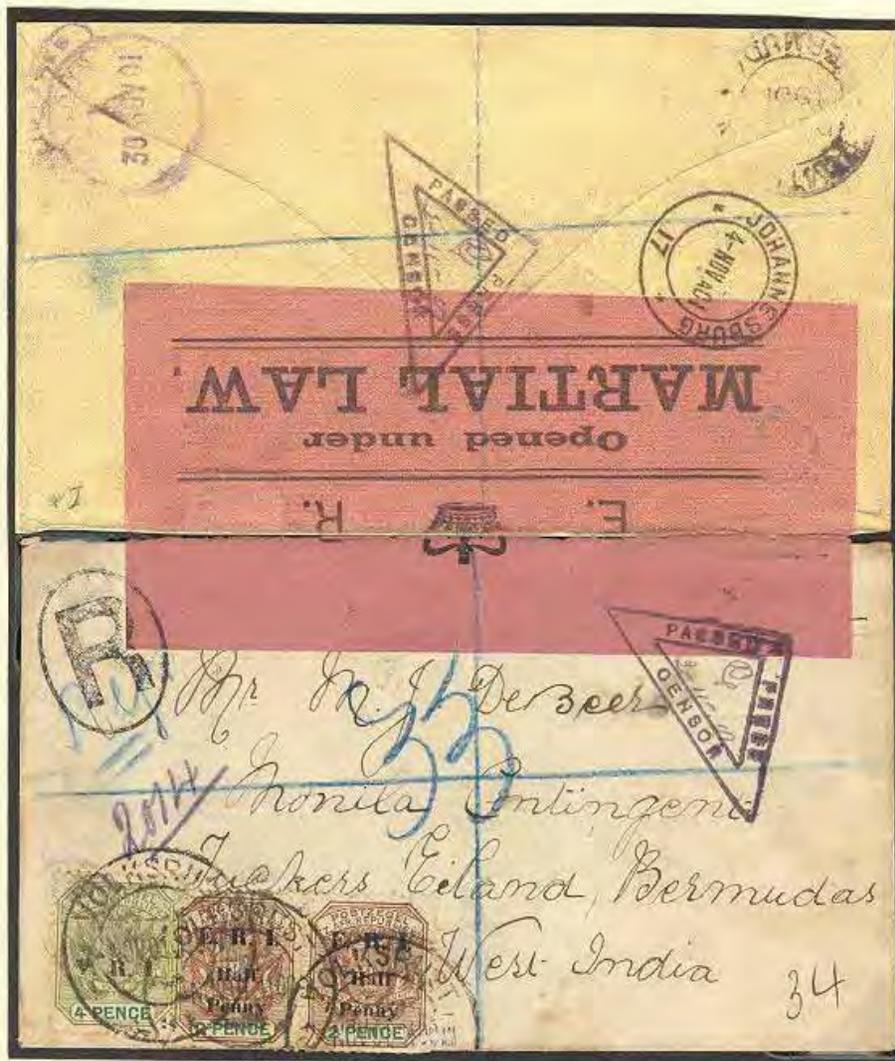
Cover from BARBERTON CAMP to BERMUDA franked with 2X 1d ZAR adhesives dated 5 July 1901 tied by a Barberton cds dated 1 JUL 1901 rejected as valid postage by postal authorities as being stale and illegal and marked as such with blue crayon and taxed with octagonal Taxed mark 10 Centimes with violet double oval "PASSED CENSOR/ BARBERTON censor cachet initialled in red ink the cover is tied over the L side with a British Type 37 Censor Seal being a strip cut from the Boer Post Office circular perforated at the foot and handstamped in red " ON H MAJESTY'S SERVICE" being one of three retained. (This cover is the one shown on p3.42- The Censor Seals of the Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902 - ex Derek Heyworth). The reverse shows a Pretoria transit strike dated 5 JUL 01 with a Hamilton arrival strike dated AU 2 01. The cover is addressed to JOACHIM JOHANNES CHRISTOFFEL POTGIETER Prisoner No 201861 aged 34 years from the farm "GELUK" district LYDENBURG who was captured at NELSPRUIT on the 4th May 1901 serving with the Lydenburg Commando and who was sent to Bermuda via Tin Town Ladysmith. The cover is most probably from his wife held in the Barberton Camp.



INTER CAMP CORRESPONDENCE: VOLKSRUST CAMP TO BERMUDA: TUCKERS ISLAND:

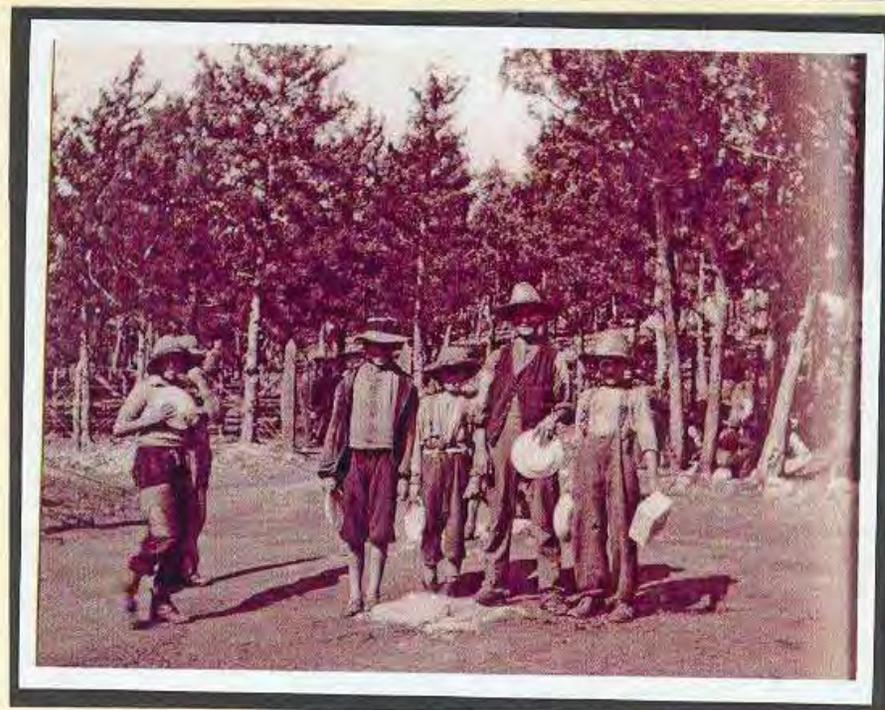
A *scarce* and very fine registered Cover from VOLKSRUST to TUCKERS ISLAND, BERMUDA with ZAR adhesives to value of 5 d the adhesives opts VRI and ERI respectively and tied by a Volksrust cds dated 2 NO 01 with blue crayon markings in blue 33 and "Reg" and numbered 2104. The cover is tied over the top by a British Censor Seal Type 33 in use from 29 April 1901 to 5 July 1902 used from amongst other places at Volksrust, Durban, Harrismith, Johannesburg, Ladysmith, Maritzburg and Stranderton. The seal is tied over the front with a violet triangular censor cachet applied at Volksrust initialled and dated 2/11/01 and a similar on the reverse with a Johannesburg transit strike dated 4 NOV 01, a Hooded London Registered strike dated 30 Nov 01 and Hamilton Bermuda arrival strike dated DE 17 1901.

The cover is addressed to MATTHYS JOHANNES DE BEER Prisoner No 19478 aged 31 years from the farm SCHUURKLIP district HARRISMITH who was captured at DRIEHOEK on the 9th June 1901 serving with the MEULENRIVIER (MILL RIVER) Commando and who was sent to Bermuda via TIN TOWN < LADYSMITH.



INTER CAMP CORRESPONDENCE FROM DIYATALAWA CAMP TO BERMUDA:

A scarce cover from DIYATALAWA CAMP Ceylon to BERMUDA with a 6 cent QV Ceylon adhesive tied by a Diyatalawa cds with RED markings : "NOT HAWKINS" , "NOT BURTS" with a violet E.J.B.(Baumann) censor cachet applied at Diyatalawa Camp on the front. The reverse shows a Colombo transit strike dated MR 12 /02 and a Bermuda arrival strike dated AP 16 02 The cover is addressed to CHRISTOFFEL PIETERS(PIETERSEN as shown in the records) Prisoner No 20146 aged 16 years (Penkop) from the farm KLEINTJIESKRAAL district BLOEMFONTEIN who was captured at THABA N'CHU on the 10th June 1901 serving with the Bloemfontein Commando and who was sent to BERMUDA via Ladysmith Tin Town Camp. The letter is from his father CHRISTOFFEL PETRUS FREDERIK PIETERS Prisoner No 10000 aged 50 from the same farm who was captured at FOURIESBURG on the 30th July 1900 serving with the Boven Modder Rivier Commando and who was sent to Diyatalawa Camp.



Young Boy POWs on Bermuda

SOUTH AFRICA.

PETITION

FROM

BOER PRISONERS OF WAR AT BERMUDA.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
January, 1902.



LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, LTD., 34-40, BACON STREET, E.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.,
and 32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.;
or OLIVER & BOYD, EDINBURGH;
or E. PONSONBY, 116, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN

1902.

[Cd. 921.] Price $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

SOUTH AFRICA.

P E T I T I O N

FROM

BOER PRISONERS OF WAR AT BERMUDA.

To His Excellency the MILITARY GOVERNOR, Bermuda.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

Tucker's Island, September 24, 1901.

WE have the honour to bring to Your Excellency's notice the following facts:—

That we have, during the last month, with the consent of the military authorities, gathered to this camp those prisoners of war who were anxious to co-operate in bringing to Your Excellency's knowledge our views and desires as set forth in the hereinafter following paragraphs:—

That we are fully aware of the impossibility of the Boers retaining the independence of the late Republics.

That we are averse to those men still in the field continuing hostilities. We do not sympathise with them, for we consider they are the cause of all the misery and suffering to which our families are subjected, and also the cause of our further detention as prisoners of war. They are mostly rebels, or men who have either broken parole or the oath of neutrality, or otherwise incriminated themselves to such an extent that they remain in the field simply with a view of evading punishment or deportation in case they should fall in the hands of the British.

That we are all practically ruined by the war, and we are anxious to adopt measures that will enable us to make provision for the future.

That we feel justified, and consider it our duty to participate in any movement that might tend to bring an early termination to the war.

That we are anxious to be reconciled with the British Government, of whose well-founded constitution, liberality, justice and leniency towards their subjects we have now sufficient knowledge to take the oath of allegiance without fear of compromising our prospects in the future, and without fear of later repentance.

That a great number of men in this camp have voluntarily surrendered; and we are able to guarantee at least 300 men who are willing to take the oath of allegiance, the rest being willing to take the oath of neutrality.

Should Your Excellency, therefore, condescend to give these facts your kind consideration, and should the British Government see their way clear to allow us, on our

taking the oath of allegiance, to return to South Africa, it would be our object and ambition, everyone to the best of his ability, to do that which would promote the interest of the British Government in South Africa, and, in particular, that which would assist them in bringing the war to a close.

We have the honour to be,
Your Excellency's obedient servants,
F. W. CHONKEN,
Burgher Commandant.

Line Captains,

- JOS. J. HENNING.
- W. A. BARCLAY.
- A. VENTER.
- Y. G. DU PLESSIS.
- D. C. UYS.
- D. ROURKE.
- P. A. BOTHMA.

To His Excellency the Military Governor, Pretoria.

Trooper's Island, September 24, 1901.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,
We have the honour to bring to Your Excellency's notice the following facts:—
That we have during the last month, with the consent of the military authorities, returned to this camp the prisoners of war who were anxious to co-operate in helping to Your Excellency's knowledge our views and desires as set forth in the following paragraphs:—

That we are fully aware of the responsibility of the Boers retaining the independence of the late Republic.

That we are aware of the fact that all in the field containing military authorities with the exception of the Boers are the cause of all the misery and suffering which has befallen our country during the last year. We are also aware of the fact that the Boers are the only ones who have remained loyal to the British Government and that they are the only ones who have not taken any part in the war. We are also aware of the fact that the Boers are the only ones who have not taken any part in the war.

That we are all heartily rejoicing at the end of the war, and we are confident that the Boers will be the first to be numbered for the future.

The Boers are the only ones who have remained loyal to the British Government and that they are the only ones who have not taken any part in the war.

We are all heartily rejoicing at the end of the war, and we are confident that the Boers will be the first to be numbered for the future.

The Boers are the only ones who have remained loyal to the British Government and that they are the only ones who have not taken any part in the war.

We are all heartily rejoicing at the end of the war, and we are confident that the Boers will be the first to be numbered for the future.

THE PENKOP : GUERILLA PERIOD OF THE WAR:

Captain James Seely had ridden all night with 20 Imperial Yeomanry to capture a Boer named GREYLING near HOOPSTAD on strength of a report made by a spy. On approaching the farm Seely saw three Boers gallop away. On confronting the inmates of the farm house he found JAPIE GREYLING then 11 years old, his mother and two sisters. Questioning the boy Seely demanded to know where his father had gone. Refusing to speak other than to say: " Ek is die seun van my vader vir wie julle nie kan vang nie" (I am the son of my father whom you will not catch) Seely, determined to break Japie set up a firing squad, stood him in front of it and threatened to shoot- despite all Japie refused to betray his father. Seely broke and shaking the boy's hand he told his terrified mother that she had a son to be proud of and one he had been privileged to meet. He then mounted up and rode away. Seely in later years wrote: " As long as I live, I shall never forget that wonderful moment when love of father, home and country triumphed over certain death. Never shall I forget the expression on the face of that Boer lad when lifting his head, he said to me with glistening eyes: "I shall not tell." As a young boy I knew Japie Greyling who then lived in Bethlehem - he was a friend of my father. He lies buried in the Cemetery at Moredig Bethlehem in grave no 2322. A gentleman unto death he was.

A picture of penkop JAN ADRIAAN LOGGERENBERG 13 years old who surrendered at POTCHEFSTROOM in June 1902 with the rest of the Boer forces after the signing of the peace accord in Vereeniging. He had spent 3 years in the veldt.



DIYATALAWA CAMP CEYLON:

A fine cover front from ALIWAL NORTH CONCENTRATION CAMP to DIYATALAWA CAMP in CEYLON with a 1d CGH adhesive tied by an Aliwal North cds dated NO 5 01 and tied over the top by a Type 7D British Censor seal applied at Aliwal North and that tied by a violet triangular censor cachet initialled "Alfe"

The cover is addressed to JAN HENDRIK HAVENGA Prisoner No 9746 aged 33 years from the farm TYGERHOEK district ROUXVILLE who was captured at FOURIESBURG on the 30th July 1900 serving with the Lower Caledon River Commando and who was sent Ceylon on the BAVARIAN.



A Fine cover front from EAST LONDON to DIYATALAWA ,Ceylon with a 1d CGH adhesive tied by an EAST LONDON cds dated MR 7 and another MR 8 02 adjacent and tied over the L. side with a Type 7D British Censor Seal applied at East London and that in turn tied over by a violet double Oval "PRESS CENSOR * 7 MAR 1902 * EAST LONDON" censor cachet. The cover is addressed to JOHN LAMONT Mc HARDY Prisoner 5889 aged 18 years (Penkop) from BLOEMFONTEIN TOWN who was captured at JACOBSDAL (wounded held in the Church there) on the 22nd February 1900 serving with the Bloemfontein Commando and who was sent to Diyatalawa Camp Ceylon on the CATALONIA. His Brother ALEXANDER WILLIAM Mc HARDY Prisoner no 21198 aged 19 years (Penkop) was the Secretary to the Pres. Steyn of the O.F.S. and who was captured at REITZ on the 11th July 1901 (roving Executive) and who was sent to BERMUDA via TIN TOWN CAMP at LADYSMITH.



COVER FROM BLOEMFONTEIN: 12th OCTOBER 1900 TO GREEN POINT CAMP
WITH TYPE 2B BRITISH CENSOR SEAL APPLIED AT BLOEMFONTEIN; PENKOP POST:

Cover from BLOEMFONTEIN (CONCENTRATION CAMP ?) to GREEN POINT with 1d OFS optd VRI tied by a Bloemfontein cds and marked **TAXED 2 d** with red manuscript "Prisoner of War" and in black Tent 66 with black POW censor cachet applied at Green Point on the front The letter tied over the bottom by a British Type 2B Censor seal applied at Bloemfontein. The cover addressed to DAVID JOHANNES GOOSEN Prisoner No 5491 aged 18 (Penkop) of the farm WAAIHOEK district BLOEMFONTEIN who was captured at PAARDEBERG on the 27th February 1900 serving with the Bloemfontein Commando who was sent to ST. HELENA on the BAVARIAN.



A father
and his
"Penkop"
sons at St.
Helena.



PENKOP CORRESPONDENCE: POWS TAKEN AT PAARDEBERG:

Cover from LADYBRAND to GREEN POINT CAMP with 1d OFS optd VRI tied by "Killer" Type 17 cds applied at Ladybrand with Ladybrand cds dated AUG 9 00 adjacent with blue black POW censor cachet applied at Green Point on the front and Black Pen manuscript "Censored" and initialled JGM with red manuscript "Prisoner of War" on the front. The cover is addressed to HENDRIK BERNARDUS COETZEE Prisoner No 6920 aged 20 years (Penkop) from LADYBRAND TOWN who was captured at PAARDEBERG on the 27th February 1900 together with his father HENDRIK BAREND COETZEE Prisoner No 6921 aged 43 years both serving with the Ladybrand Commando and who were sent to DIYATALAWA CAMP in Ceylon.



Cover FROM BULTFONTEIN to GREEN POINT CAMP with 1d OFS adhesive optd VRI tied by a BULTFONTEIN cds dated JY 9 (00) and another adjacent with blue black POW censor cachet applied at Green Point Camp on the front with red part manuscript Prisoner in red and pencil manuscript Number 185. The reverse shows the letter from Mrs Botes Hamanschaal Brandfort. The cover is addressed to ROELOF PETRUS SWANEPOEL Prisoner No 6519 aged 21 Years (Penkop) from the farm WONDERFONTEIN district WINBURG who was captured at PAARDEBERG On the 27th February 1900 serving with the VETRIVIER COMMANDO and who was sent to DIYATALAWA CAMP in CEYLON.



KRUGERSDORP CAMP:

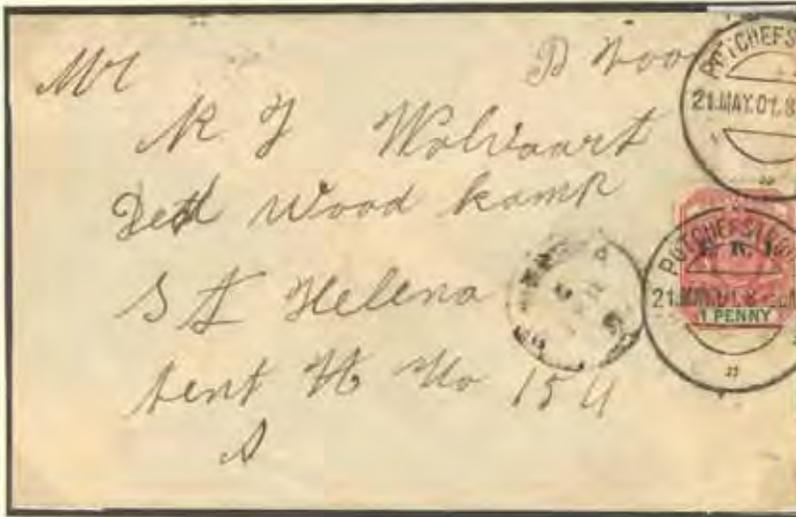
This camp like all the others Dr Otto describes was started to cause suffering for the women and children and thus induce the Burgers to surrender. This camp was established to take the overflow and to alleviate the overcrowding in the Potchefstroom Camps. During August 1901 this camp lost 179 of which 58 were from Measels and the rest from respiratory infections. Up to the 10th July 1901 641 deaths occurred in the Transvaal Camps.

Cover from KRUGERSDORP CAMP to BROAD BOTTOM CAMP with reverse of cover showing violet double oval Burgher Camp Krugersdorp P.H. TOMLINSON Censor cachet applied at the camp. The cover is addressed to ABRAHAM JOHANNES PETRUS DE WET Prisoner No 2512 aged 16 years (Penkop) from the farm BULTFONTEIN district POTCHEFSTROOM who was captured at Paardeberg on the 27th February 1900 serving with the Boven Mooirivier Commando.



PENKOP CORRESPONDENCE:

Cover from POTCHEFSTROOM to ST HELENA with 1d ZAR adhesive optd ERI and tied by Potchefstroom cds dated 21 MAY 1901 with St Helena arrival strike on the front censored at Potchefstroom with straight line censor cachet on reverse in violet and Johannesburg transit strike dated 21st MEI 1901. The cover is addressed to ROELOF JOHANNES WOLFAARDT Prisoner No 4390 aged 17 years (Penkop) from the farm KERKSKRAAL district POTCHEFSTROOM who was captured at Paardeberg on the 27th February 1900 serving with the D. Van Graan Commando and who was sent to St. Helena.



Cover front from MARIBOGO (Bechuanaland) RR to GREEN POINT with 1d CGh tied by Maribogo cds dated AP 3 00 with black POW censor cachet applied at Green Point. The cover is addressed to NICHOLAS JACOBUS DU PLESSIS Prisoner No 14717 aged 18 years from the farm DUPREEZFONTEIN district FAURESMITH who served under the Van Zijlspruit Commando who was captured together with his father ISAAC JACOB DU PLESSIS Prisoner No 14716 aged 55 years on their farm on the 25th October 1900. Farmers on the Western front, like those on the Basutholand border moved their stock into Bechuanaland to prevent them being destroyed.



KRUGERSDORP CONCENTRATION CAMP:

The concentration camp system had already been started during Robert's command and it was not only surrendered Boers who proposed an extension of the measure. On the 24 November 1900 the District Commissioner in Krugersdorp wrote to the Provincial Secretary: "... The District is very hostile to us...and as far as I can see the best way to deal with the inhabitants is to bring in the women and children and destroy all sources of supply and to starve them into subjection...". This camp was also known for the loss in lives during 1901.

Cover from KRUGERSDORP CAMP to BROADBOTTOM CAMP St Helena the cover showing 1d ZAR adhesive optd ERI and tied by a Krugersdorp cds dated 8 FEB 02 tied over the bottom by British Censor Seal Type 36 applied at Krugersdorp (Not mentioned at Krugersdorp by Snowden & Heyworth) and that tied over by violet double oval "Burgher Camp Krugersdorp" "P.H. TOMLOINSON" censor cachet on the reverse. The cover is addressed to GIDEON JACOBUS ROSSOUW Prisoner No 1882 aged 16 years (Penkop) from POTCHEFSTROOM TOWN who was captured at Paardeberg on the 27th February 1900 serving with the Douthwaite's Commando.



Reverse of Cover:



PENKOP CORRESPONDENCE:

Mourning Cover from CAPE to ST HELENA with 1d CGH tied by Cape cds dated JA 22 02 with Type 34 British Censor Seal applied over the top and that tied by a violet triangular censor cachet duly initialled 22/1/02.

The cover is addressed to JOHANNES JACOBUS SMITH Prisoner No 6448 aged 18 years from the farm JAKKALSFONTEIN district KROONSTAD who was captured at Paardeberg on the 27th February 1900 serving with the Kroonstad commando and who was sent to Deadwood Camp at St. Helena.



PENKOP CORRESPONDENCE:

Cover from POTCHEFSTROOM to ST HELENA with 1d ZAR opt ERI tied by Potchefstroom cds dated 7 AUG 01 with black oval Censor cachet applied at Johannesburg on the front with a double oval violet censor cachet applied at Potchefstroom on the reverse.

The cover is addressed to JOHN THOMAS TALJAARD Prisoner No 2253 aged 21 years(Penkop) from POTCHEFSTROOM TOWN who was captured at Paardeberg on the 27th February 1900 together with his father JOHANNES JOACHIMUS TALJAARD Prisoner No 2252 aged 44 years both serving with Douthwaite's Commando both of whom were sent to St Helena on the Bavarian on the 21st January 1901.



PENKOP CORRESPONDENCE:

ENTIRE from KRANTZKOP to DEADWOOD CAMP St. Helena with 1d QV Natal adhesive tied by a Krantzkop cds dated NO 27 1900 with violet POW censor cachet on the front applied at St. Helena/ Green Point. The reverse shows Greytown transit strike dated NO 28 1900, Pietermaritzburg and Durban transit strikes. The cover is addressed to WILLIAM HERBERT EDWARD SCHULTZ Prisoner No 16763 aged 17 years(PENKOP) from HEIDELBERG town who was captured at Paardeberg serving with the Harrismith Commando and who was sent to St. Helena. Mrs Newmatch writes to "Willie" asking him a favour to post her some St. Helena, Free State and Transvaal stamps with VRI on them.



Handwritten text on the reverse of the letter cover, including a date stamp 'Jan 26 1900' and a request for stamps: 'I am writing you with no doubts to request that you will send me some of the stamps of your country that are in use at St Helena. I have been on letters in your country, also any Transvaal or Free State stamps, with VRI on them.'

PENKOP CORRESPONDENCE: ST. HELENA:

Mourning Cover front with 1d GB Lilac QV adhesive tied by FPO 45 situated at WINBURG dated MY 25 01 (scarce usage from Winburg) and another adjacent with St. Helena arrival strike dated JU 11 01. The cover is addressed to ROELOF JOHANNES WOLFAARDT Prisoner No 4390 aged 17 years (Penkop) from the farm KLERKSKRAAL district POTCHEFSTROOM who was captured at Paardeberg serving with the D. Van Graan Commando and who was sent to Deadwood Camp, St. Helena.



Proving Cover front from RIEBEECK WEST with 1d CGH tied by the scarce BONC 4 with Riebeeck West cds adjacent dated SP 27 01 with triangular violet censor cachet on the front. The cover is addressed to EGBERT ERNEST VAN BART Prisoner No 4322 aged 20 years and ARIE (ARIE) HERBERT VAN BART Prisoner No 4321 aged 19 years from the farm LANGLAAGTE district HEIDELBERG who were captured at ELANDSLAAGTE on the 21st October 1899 serving with the J. Pienaar Commando and who were sent to St Helena. Their brothers WILLEM HENDRIK VAN BART Prisoner No 29438 aged 17 years and EDWARD VAN BART Prisoner No 29439 from the same farm were captured at NOOIGEDACHT on the 20th February 1902 serving with the Heidelberg Commando and were sent to India on the 6th March 1902.



PENKOP CORRESPONDENCE:

Cover from JAGTERS BOSCH (RRR) to ST HELENA with 1d CGH tied by Jagters Bosch cds dated FE 2 02 with double oval violet Censor cachet applied at Port Elizabeth? Reverse shows Jagters Bosch cds dated FE 2 02, Humansdorp cds transit strike dated FE 3 02 and Port Elizabeth transit strike dated 6 FE 02. The cover is addressed to DAVID SEVENSTER Prisoner No 6426 aged 21 years from the farm VANZIJSFONTEIN district SENEKAL who was captured together with his father WILLEM HENDRIK SEVENSTER Prisoner No 6425 who were captured at Paardeberg on the 27th February 1900 serving with the Ouder Wittenbergen Commando. The former was sent to St. Helena and the latter to Simonstown.



Cover from POTCHEFSTROOM to ST HELENA with 2 x 1d ZAR optd VRI tied by Potchefstroom cds dated 15 MEI 01 with St. Helena arrival strike on the front. The reverse shows a straight line Censor cachet Potchefstroom applied at the Potchefstroom Concentration Camp. The cover is addressed to JOHN PETER SHAW Prisoner No 15501 aged 21 years from POTCHEFSTROOM TOWN who was captured at Potchefstroom on the 26th October 1900 serving with the Potchefstroom Commando.



PENKOP CORRESPONDENCE:

Cover from GRIQUA TOWN to BELLEVUE with 1d CGH tied by Griqua Town cds dated NO 17 00 with blue black POW censor cachet with initial 'mg' and manuscript "Not Reply Yet". The reverse shows FS Snow censor cachet? in violet. The cover is addressed to CORNELIS JOHANNES VAN DER WESTHUIZEN Prisoner No 7313 aged 21 years (PENKOP) from the farm EERSTE GELUK district KROONSTAD who was captured on his farm on the 30th June 1900.



Cover from CAPE to ST. HELENA with 1d CGH tied with cds ? dated MR 22 01 with violet POW censor cachet applied at St. Helena with St. Helena arrival strike dated MY 8 01 with blue manuscript number 150 - the number of the Transport ship to which the post for St. Helena was allotted. The cover is addressed to MARTHINUS CHRISTOFFEL VAN DER WESTHUIZEN Prisoner No 4353 aged 21 years (PENKOP) from KLERKSDORP TOWN who was captured at JACOBSDAL on the 16th February 1900 by Methuen's advancing Army while he was serving with the F. Roos Commando and later sent to St. Helena.



PENKOP CORRESPONDENCE:

Cover from HOWICK CAMP to DEADWOOD CAMP with 1d QV Natal tied by Howick cds dated JU 14 01 with triangular pyramid "PBC Censored HOWICK" censor cachet and pencil manuscript "13 Juni" on the front. The cover is addressed to GERRIT HENDRIK JOOSTE Prisoner No 3894 aged 16 years (PENKOP) from HEIDELBERG TOWN who was captured together with his brother NICOLAAS JOHANNES JACOBUS JOOSTE Prisoner No 3895 aged 25 years at Paardeberg serving with the H. Smit Commando both of whom were sent to Deadwood Camp at St. Helena.

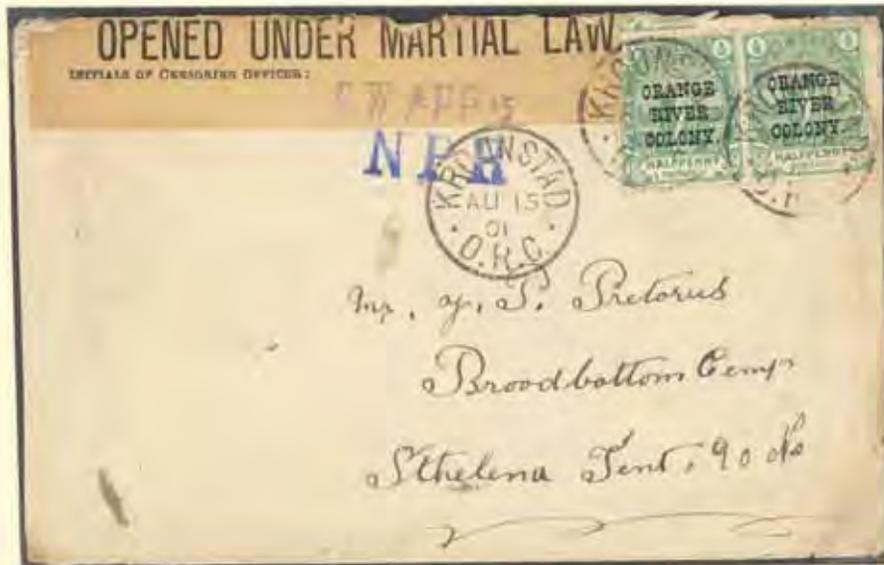


Cover from PRINCE ALBERT to BROAD BOTTOM CAMP St. Helena with 1d CGH tied by Prince Albert cds dated SP 5 01 with violet triangular Censor cachet applied at Prince Albert and initialled HS with pencil manuscript "31" on front. The cover is addressed to PETRUS JOHANNES MARX Prisoner No 1473 aged 20 years (PENKOP) from the farm RIETFONTEIN district POTCHEFSTROOM who was captured together with his father and 4 brothers all of whom were sent to St. Helena.

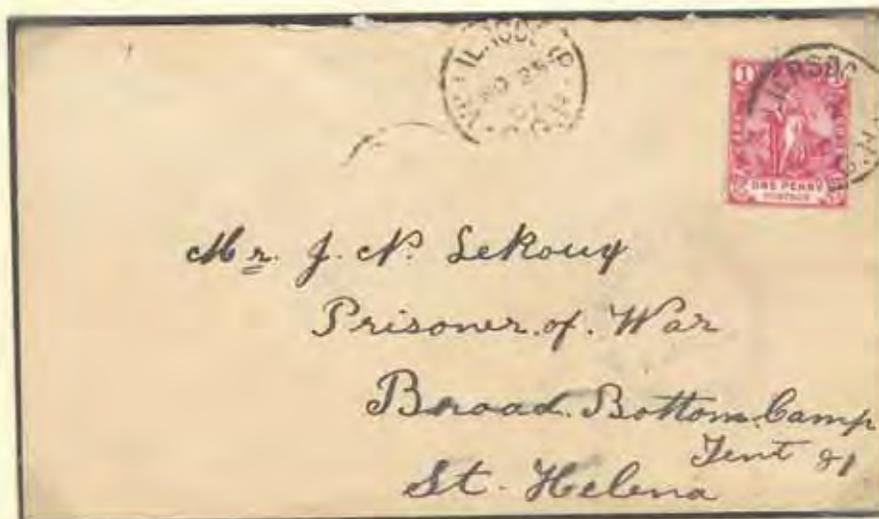


INCOMING MAIL BROADSBOTTOM :

Inter Camp cover from KROONSTAD with 2 x ½ of ORC adhesives tied by single circle Kroonstad cds dated AU 15 01 and another adjacent with Yellow British Censor Seal Type 35 initialled CW AUG 15 in violet and NPR (Richards) censor cachet applied at Bloemfontein in blue. Reverse shows Bloemfontein transit strike dated AU 16 01. The Cover is addressed to JOHANNES PETRUS PRETORIUS Prisoner No 6226 aged 18 years (PENKOP) from the farm ZAAIPLAATS district Kroonstad who was captured with his brother PIETER MARTHINUS PRETORIUS Prisoner No 6225 aged 28 years both from the same farm, at Paardeberg serving with the Kroonstad Commando.



Cover from VILLIERSDORP with 1 of CGH tied by Villiersdorp cds dated NO 25 01 and another adjacent and faint Broadbottom censor Type 2 cachet. The cover is addressed to JOHANNES NICOLAAS LE ROUX Prisoner No 6364 aged 19 years (PENKOP) from the farm WEKGESTREDEN district LADYBRAND who was captured at Paardeberg serving with the Ladybrand commando and who was sent to St Helena on the Bavarian on 1st January 1901.



ST. HELENA:

Cover front from PLETTENBERGS BAY to ST. HELENA with 1d CGH tied by STO (Small Triangular Obliterator) with Plettenbergs Bay cds dated (O) C 30 01 with violet triangular DEADWOOD Censor cachet on the front and Censor's blue crayon note that the letter contained a Postal Order of f 1/10/00. The cover is addressed to JAN JACOBUS VAN ROOYEN Prisoner No 1932 aged 21 years (PENKOP) from the farm ONRUST district BLOEMHOF who was captured together with his father THEODORUS CORNELIS VAN ROOYEN Prisoner No 1931 aged 59 years from the same farm both of whom were captured at Paardeberg on the 27th February 1900 serving with the Ward3 (Bosman) Commando.

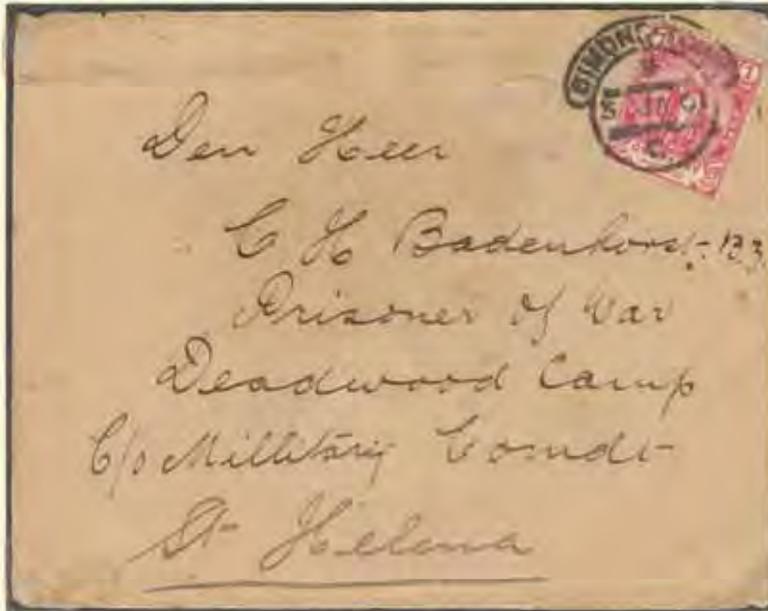


Cover front from POTCHEFSTROOM with embossed 1d GB envelope with the embossed stamp tied by a Potchefstroom cds dated MR II 01 and tied over the top with the remnants of a British Censor Seal and having a St Helena arrival strike dated AP II 01 on the front. The use of the British envelope is uncommon. The cover is addressed to JACOBUS JOHANNES STANDER Prisoner No 2090 aged 24 years from KLERKSDORP town district POTCHEFSTROOM who was captured at Paardeberg serving with the Onder Schoonspruit Commando and who was sent to St. Helena.



INCOMING MAIL DEADWOOD CAMP:

INTER CAMP MAILS: From BELLEVUE with 1d CGH tied by Hooded Arc Simon's Town cds dated 3 JA 01 and POW Censor cachet in blue black. The sender was JOHANNES THEODORUS CLAASEN Prisoner No 861 aged 21 years from WOLMARANSSTAD captured at Paardeberg serving with the Ward 2 Kruger Commando. The addressee was CASPER HENDRIK BADENHORST Prisoner No 656 aged 18 years (PENKOP) from the farm GROOTLAAGTE district BOSHOF who was captured with his brothers CORNELIS JOHANNES BADENHORST Prisoner 654 aged 21 years, NICOLAAS PETRUS BADENHORST Prisoner No 655 aged 26 years and JAN HENDRIK BADENHORST Prisoner No 657 aged 33 years all from the same farm and who were serving with the Ward 1 Nieuwouf Commando.



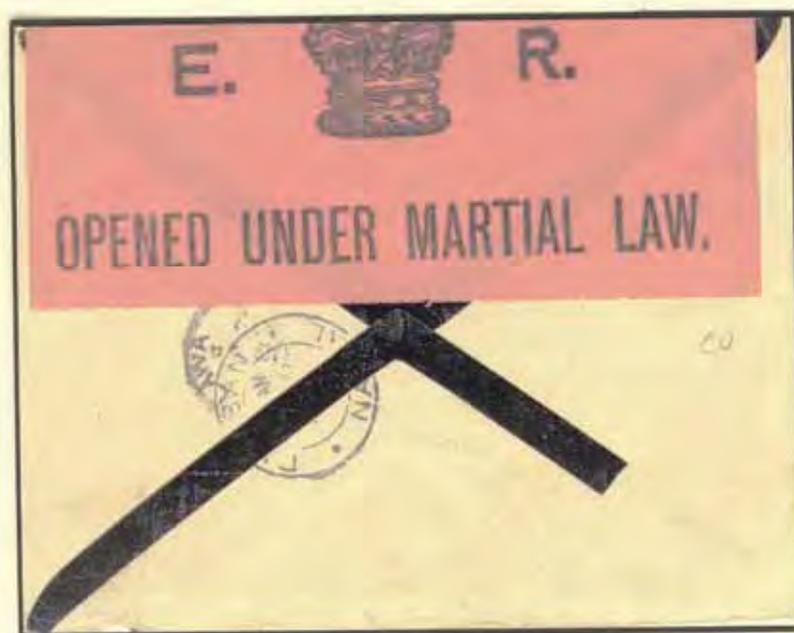
Cover from GREEN POINT camp with 3x 1d CGH tied with Green Point cds the sender is J.F. Van Pletzen (Joh van Pletzen) Prisoner No 10009 58 years of age from the farm WINKELFONTEIN district Rouxville who was captured at Fouriesburg on 30th July 1900 serving with the Lower Caledon Commando. He was sent to Diyatalawa in Ceylon where he had a thriving business. The addressee is JOHANNES HENDRIK VAN REENEN (REENAN) Prisoner No 6291, 38 years of age who was captured at Paardeberg serving with the Ladybrand Commando.



MINORS POST:

Mourning Cover from JOHANNESBURG to DIYATALAWA shows 1d ZAR optd ERI and tied by Johannesburg cds dated 4 May 1902 with black oval Johannesburg Censor cachet on the front tied over the bottom with a British Type 25 Censor seal which was in use from 30 March 1901 to 30 June 1902 and was applied at Diyatalawa. The reverse shows Durban and Diyatalawa strikes.

The cover is addressed to CHARLES FREDERICK VAN DER HOVEN Prisoner No 13138 aged 21 years (Penkop) from JOHANNESBURG who was captured at KOMATIPOORT serving with the Johannesburg Commando (ZARPS) on the 3rd October 1900 and who was sent to Ceylon.



PENKOP CORRESPONDENCE:

Cover front from PIETERMARITZBURG to DIYATALAWA with 1d QV Natal tied by BONC 1 and having Type D 3 F.R.N.F.(Franklin) censor cachet applied at Diyatalawa. The cover is addressed to GEORGE TRUTER ROBERTSON Prisoner No 2898 aged 20 years from PRETORIA who was captured at ELANDSLAAGTE on the 24th October 1899 (Three days after the Battle) serving with the Pretoria Commando and who was later sent to Diyatalawa Ceylon.



Cover front from HEIDELBERG to DIYATALAWA with 1d ZAR optd VRI tied by Heidelberg cds dated 22FEB 01 with remnant of Type 7D British Censor Seal applied over the top and tied by a violet double oval censor cachet dated 23 FEB 1901 applied at the Heidelberg Concentration Camp. The cover is addressed to PIETER DANIEL JACOBS Prisoner No 28026 aged 19 years from the farm DRIEFONTEIN district HEIDELBERG who was captured at EDENSKOP on the 25th January 1901. According to records he was sent to India on the 13th February 1902.



PENKOP CORRESPONDENCE:

Cover front from THABA N'CHU to DIYATALAWA with 1d OFS opt VRI tied with Thaba N'Chu cds dated OC 18 00 with red "Prisoner of War" manuscript and NPR (Richards) cachet in blue with three straight line censor cachet "Censored Thaba N'Chu ORC" cachet.

The cover is addressed to JACOBUS PETRUS BADENHORST Prisoner No 7902 aged 19 years from THABA N'CHU district MAROKA who was captured at Fouriesburg on the 30th July 1900 serving with the Maroka Commando and who was sent to Diyatalawa Camp in Ceylon on the DILWARA.



Cover front from the OFS to GREEN POINT with 1d OFS optd VRI and tied by illegible cds with straight-line censor cachet "CENSORED" and black POW censor cachet applied at Green Point. The top is tied over by Type 35 British Censor Seal remnant. The cover is addressed to JACOBUS PAULUS LESSING Prisoner No 5825 aged 18 years from the farm VRIEFONTEIN district DEWETSDORP who was captured at Paardeberg on the 27th February 1900 serving with the Dewetsdorp Commando. He was sent to St. Helena.



PENKOP CORRESPONDENCE:

Cover front from BLOEMFONTEIN to DIYATALAWA with 1d OFS optd VRI tied by Bloemfontein dated JY 26 01 and Censor cachet O. Hansen (OH) applied at Diyatalawa and NPR (Richards) censor cachet applied at Bloemfontein. Manuscript note by addressee that the letter was received on 31.8.01. The cover is addressed to ROBERT C. SPILLER Prisoner No 10191 aged 19 years from LADYBRAND TOWN who was captured at Fouriesburg on the 30th July 1900 serving with Van Blerk's Commando who was sent to Diyatalawa Camp Ceylon in the Bavarian.



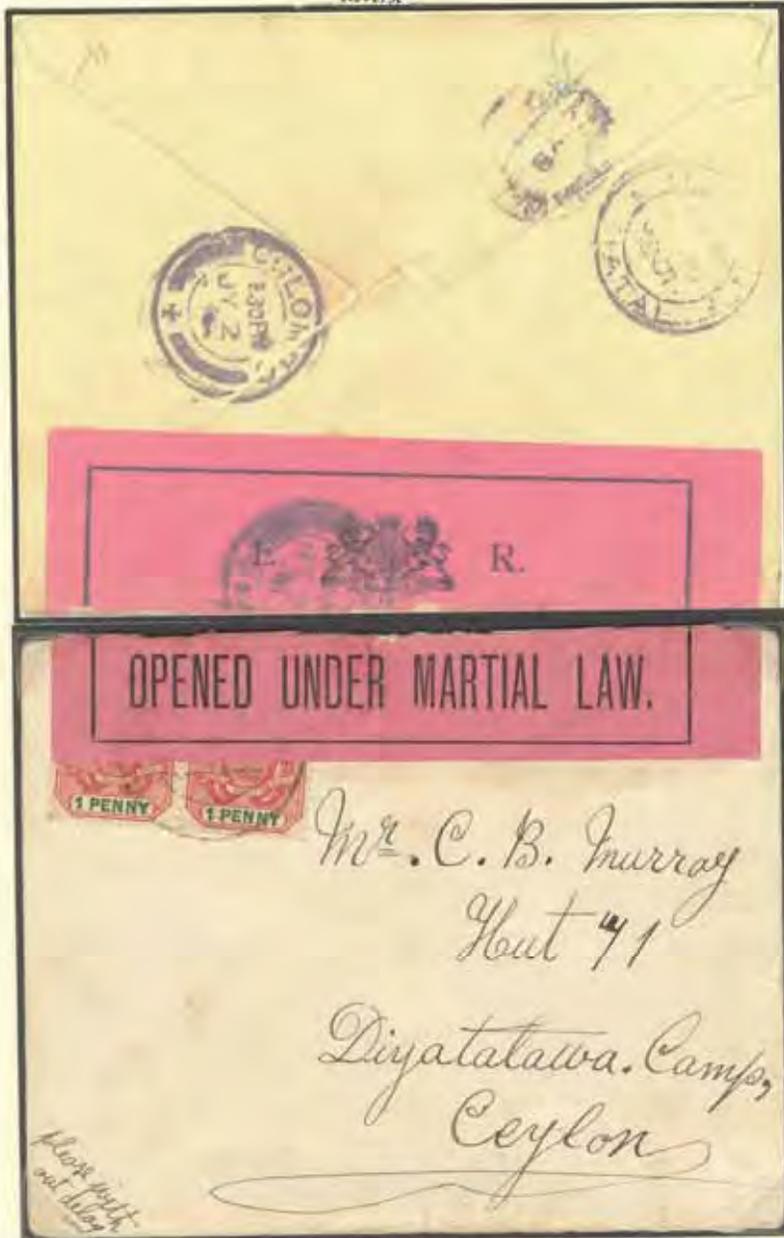
Cover front from LADY GREY to DIYATALAWA with 1d CGH tied by BONC and single circle Lady Grey c/s dated JU 9 01 and Type D1 POW censor cachet. The cover is addressed to BAREND JOHANNES SMIT Prisoner No 6447 aged 18 years from the farm VLAKSPRUIT district WINBURG who was captured together with his brother JOHANNES JACOBUS SMIT Prisoner No 7034 aged 17 years who died at Green point on 21st April 1900, at Paardeberg on the 27th February 1900 serving with the Verrivier Commando. The former was sent to Diyatalawa on the CATALONIA.



DIYATALAWA: "PENKOP MAIL" (MAIL TO MINORS):

Cover from POTCHEFSTROOM with 2 x1d ZAR optd VRI and tied over the top by British Censor Seal Type 27 applied at Pretoria and recorded in use from 6th March 1901 to 6th May 1902. The reverse shows that it was censored "G" Gezien by the Censor Grindley Ferris. The cover is addressed to CHARLES B. MURRAY Prisoner No 2827 aged 19 years the son of WILLIAM THOMAS DONALDSON MURRAY Prisoner No 1590 aged 53 years from POTCHEFSTROOM both of whom were captured at Paardeberg serving with Douthwaite's Commando. The reverse shows transit strikes of DURBAN and COLOMBO JY 2 00 and DIYATALAWA arrival dated JY 3 00.

Reverse



PENKOP CORRESPONDENCE:

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Cover from WITTEDRIF (PLETTENBERG BAY) to DIYATALAWA Ceylon with 1d CGH tied by Wittedrif cds dated 21 NO 00 with Type D1 Diyatalawa censor cachet on the front. The reverse shows partial Knysna and Plettenberg's Bay transit strike dated NO 21 00. The cover is addressed to JACOB JAN WILLEM BARRY Prisoner No 8712 aged 17 years (PENKOP) from the farm APRIKOOSKOP district FICKSBURG who was captured at FOURIESBURG on the 30th July 1900 serving with the Ficksburg Commando and who was sent to Diyatalawa Camp in Ceylon on the MONGOLIAN. He must have acquired Typhoid en route to Ceylon for he died+ at Diyatalawa on the 24th December 1900 of Typhoid. Did he ever receive this letter? Copy of names of some of those that died in Ceylon.

Krygsgevangenes in Ceylon			Krygsgevangenes in Ceylon		
Albani, Martinus	4884	23.11.02	47	Dierckx	1047-000
Kudrinski, Adriaan Theodor	7889	29.09.01	37	Macleod, Alexander	1048-000
Barry, Jacob Jan Willem	8712	24.12.00	17	Edwards, Thomas	1049-000
Reinhardt, Leopold	9231	23.11.00	20	Ullrich, Johannes	1050-000



Cover front from KLAARSTROOM (near Prince Albert) at the entrance to Meiringspoort formerly called Pietersburg) With 1d CGH tied by Klaarstroom cds dated 3 SP 00 and another adjacent with blue black POW censor cachet applied at Green point. The cover is addressed to PAULUS PETRUS H. WEINGARTZ (WEINGARD) Prisoner No 7063 aged 20 years (PENKOP) from BRANDFORT, then district BLOEMFONTEIN, who was captured at JACOBSDAL on the 15th April 1900 serving with the Midde Modderrivier Commando.



DIYATALAWA INCOMING MAIL:

Two incoming Entires from WITTE DRIFT to DIYATALAWA with 1d CGH adhesives the first dated 3 JY 01 with British Type 7D Censor Seal tied over the top with red double triangular censor cachet initialled in blue and dated 3/7/1 with letter enclosed with Knysna, Plettenbergs Bay and Colombo transit strikes and Diyatalawa arrival strike AU 01.

The second entire with 1d CGH tied with a Witte Drift cds dated 15 DE 01 with small violet double oval censor cachet E.J.B. (Baumann) Diyatalawa and tied over the bottom with a Type 35 British Censor Seal applied at Diyatalawa with Knysna, Plettenbergs Bay and Colombo transit strikes and Diyatalawa arrival strike dated 26 FE 02 with manuscript of recipient "26 Feb 1902" on the reverse.

The letters are from ELIZA VAN HUUSTEEN addressed to JACOBUS PETRUS THERON Prisoner No 7103 aged 20 years (Penkop) from the farm MODDERPAN district BLOEMFONTEIN who was captured on his farm on the 11th May 1900 together with CHRISTIAN GABRIEL THERON Prisoner No 7104 aged 37 both of whom were sent to Diyatalawa in Ceylon.



DIYATALAWA: HOSPITAL POST:

There were two hospitals at Diyatalawa. Commercial Cover from KANDY DRAPERY STORE to DIYATALAWA BOER HOSPITAL shows reverse of cover with 6 cent QV Ceylon adhesive tied by Kandy cds with British Censor Seal Type 26 tied over the top and D Type 2 Censor cachet in violet on the front. The cover is addressed to RICHARD WRIGHT VON MOLTKE Adjutant Prisoner No 5987 aged 20 years (Penkop) from the farm VIERFONTEIN district KROONSTAD who was captured at COLESBERG on the 27th February 1900 serving with the Kroonstad Commando. He was as assistant in the Boer Hospital and did business ordering and selling gravestones for the POWs who had died in the hospital.



DIYATALAWA INCOMING POST:

Postcard from AMALIENSTEIN Cape Province dated 22 SE 01 describing mail torn up by Boers. This must have been in reference to the Commando of Jan Theron brother of Danie Theron who was active in the area at the time. He was part of the Scheepers Commando who was active in the small Karoo. The card shows a pre-stamped 1d CGH tied by an Amalienstein cds dated SP 23 01 on the front with Ladismith transit strike of even date, a Colombo transit strike dated NO 12 01 and Diyatalawa M.O. & S.BK. arrival strike dated NO 13 01 and a Type D3 censor cachet.

The cover is addressed to JOHANNES GOTTFRIED TRAUOGOTT PROZESKY Prisoner No 13398 aged 21 years a telegraphist to the ZAR forces who came from PRETORIA and who was captured at BARBERTON serving with the PRETORIA Commando on the 13th September 1900 and who was sent to Ceylon and who was sent to Ceylon on the RANEE. The card is from his Cousin Issie.



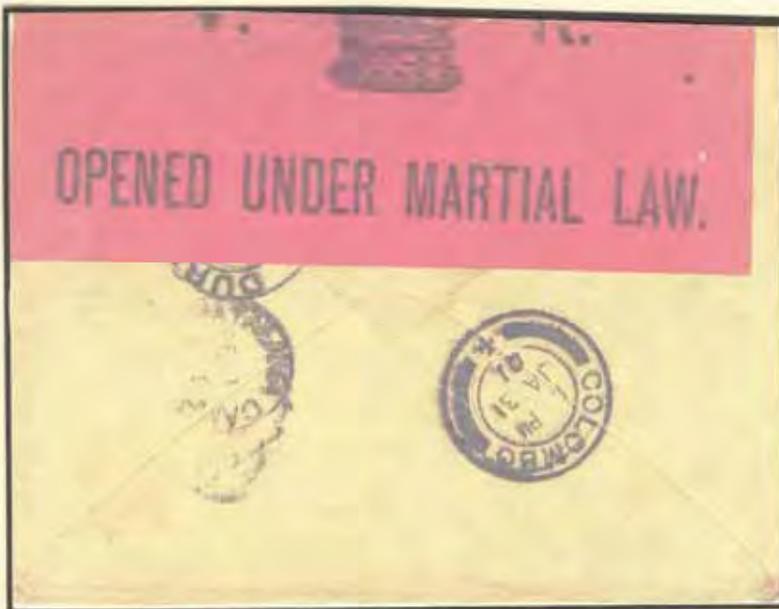
Reverse of Card:

Amalienstein, Sunday evening 22.9.01
 My dear Cousin
 By the time this reaches you which I hope it shall you may have received the postcard I sent off the other day. Please then give disclosure that I want to see you on your birthday pretty soon, and would like to see you very much indeed for that day. I dare say it shall not be a very happy birthday, so far away from all your dear ones, but may you feel the blessed presence of our Parents doubly present on that day, and may He richly bless you, dear Cousin. We are not home from you for some little time, and I only hope there was no letter from you among those which were taken out of the bag at the station up to base the other day. Between Ladismith and Lampyris. We in the beginning of the war we certainly did not expect to witness battles operations in this quiet neighbour hood, but within the last few weeks several British Columns have passed here, & stayed over for a bit. Oh! may peace soon reign in the country once more. Don't worry, only pray for us. Hope you are very well. Mother and father not quite well these past few days. We are and please name later. Once more love good wish for your birthday from your Cousin Issie.

INCOMING MAIL:

Cover from MELMOTH (Zululand) to DIYATALAWA shows 1d QV Natal tied by Melmoth cds dated JA 7 01 with Type D1 censor cachet on the front. The base tied over with a British Censor Seal Type 22 with transit strikes of Durban and Colombo and Diyatalawa Camp arrival strike. This a rare cover originating from Zululand.

The cover is addressed to EDWARD ALBERT LIVERSAGE Prisoner No 11737 aged 20 years (Penkop) from HARRISMITH who was captured at HARRISMITH serving with the Harrismith Commando and who was sent to Diyatalawa.



DIYATALAWA INCOMING POST:

Postcard from PORT SHEPSTONE with pre-printed 1/2d adhesive tied by Port Shepstone cds dated May 6 02 with same day transit strike Durban with NO CENSOR mark.

The card is addressed to JOHANNES GOTTFRIED TRAUOGOTT PROZESKY Prisoner No 13398 aged 21 years from PRETORIA a telegraphist with the ZAR forces (Pretoria Commando) who was captured at BARBERTON on the 13th September 1900 and who was sent to Ceylon in the RANEE. It would appear that he had failed to get away over the Komati River into Mocambique timeously and was caught.



Reverse of card:

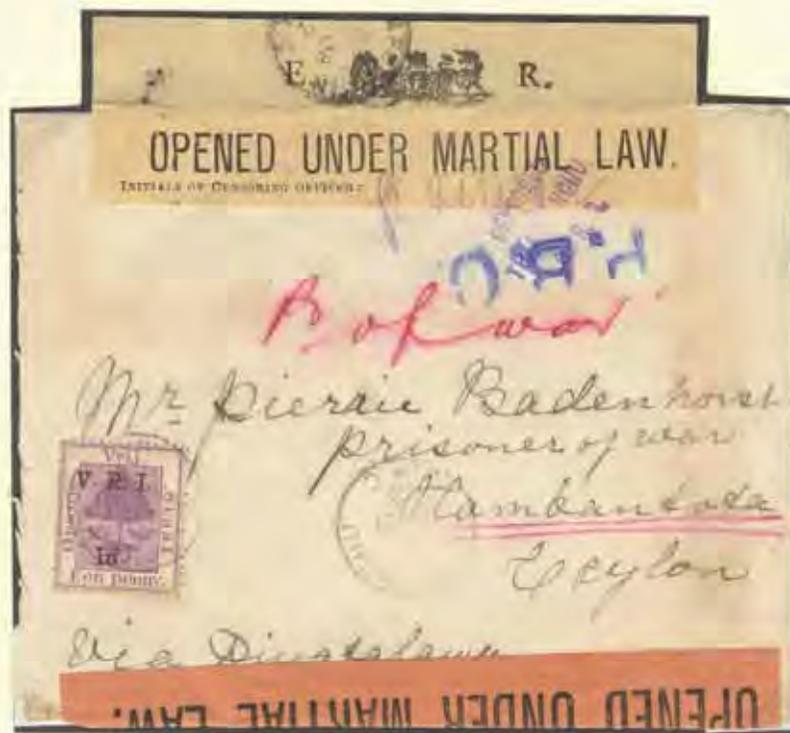


HAMBANTOTA CAMP: PENKOP CORRESPONDENCE:

Cover from THABA N' CHU with 1d OFS optd VRI and tied by a Thaba N'Chu cds dated JA 12 02 and another adjacent with Red pen manuscript "P of War" with blue PBC censor cachet applied at Bloemfontein and tied over the top with Type 35 British censor seal applied over the top and reverse at THABA N'CHU duly initialled JA 21/1/02 with violet "Censored Thaba N'Chu ,O.R.C." censor cachet applied over the seal, which it is reported by Snowden and Hepworth was used exclusively at Bloemfontein, but here proving its use at Thaba N'Chu .

The seal is tied over the reverse by a Bloemfontein transit strike of even date, a Durban transit strike dated JA 28 02 and Diyatalawa Camp arrival strike dated MR 1 02. The cover is tied over the bottom and reverse by an ORANGE Type 25 British Censor Seal applied at Diyatalawa where the letter was censored prior to delivery to HAMBANTOTA CAMP.
Ex Griffiths.

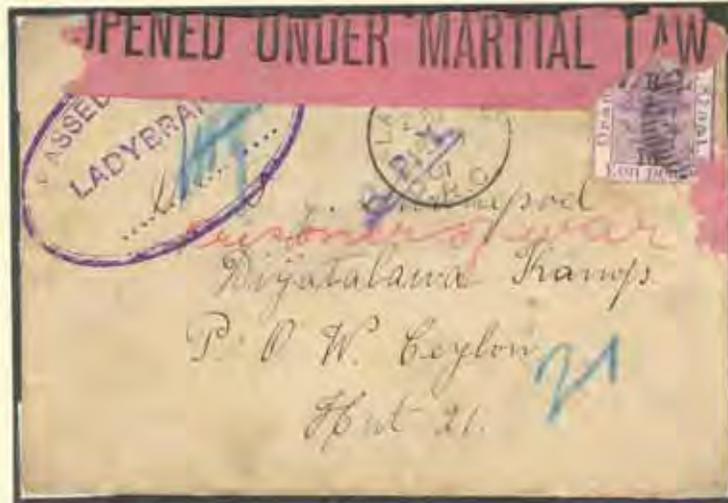
The cover is addressed to JACOBUS PETRUS (PIERRE) BADENHORST Prisoner No 7902 aged 19 years (PENKOP) from THABA N'CHU TOWN district MAROKA who was captured at FOURIESBURG on the 30th July 1900 together with his brother PIETER LOURENS JOHANNES BADENHORST Prisoner No 7904 aged 21 years (PENKOP) both of whom were serving with the Thaba N'Chu Commando and who were sent to Diyatalawa Camp on the DILWARA.



DIYATALAWA CAMP: PENKOP CORRESPONDENCE:

Cover from LADYBRAND with 1d OFS adhesive optd VRI tied by "17" Killer strike of Ladybrand with Ladybrand cds dated JU 7 01 adjacent with blue crayon mark 21 and violet double oval Ladybrand Censor cachet initialled in blue by H.H. J (Jones the local censor) with red penned manuscript "Prisoner of War" and tied over the top and reverse with a Type 26 British Censor Seal applied at Diyatalawa with back flap absent and Diyatalawa Camp arrival strike on the reverse.

The cover is addressed to: PIETER JACOBUS SWANEPOEL Prisoner No 7825 aged 18 years (Penkop) from the farm RUSTPLAATS district (Dewetsdorp) BLOEMFONTEIN who was captured at FOURIESBURG on the 30th July 1900 together with his father DIRK JOHANNES SWANEPOEL Prisoner No 7824 aged 51 years of the same farm both of whom were serving with the DeWetsdorp Commando and who were sent to Diyatalawa Camp Ceylon on the RANEE.



Cover from ZASTRON with 1d OFS optd VRI and tied by a Zastron cds dated SP 25 01 and another adjacent with violet triangular censor cachet with initial within applied at Zastron with indistinct Colombo and Diyatalawa strikes on the reverse.

The cover is addressed to Veldcornet JOSIAS JOHANNES SWANEPOEL Prisoner No 10251 aged 21 years (Penkop) from the farm PISGOEDKRAAL district ROUXVILLE who was captured together with his brother HERMANUS PHILIPPUS SWANEPOEL Prisoner No 10250 aged 17 years (Penkop) at FOURIESBURG on the 30th July 1900 both serving with the LOWER CALEDON Commando and who were sent to Diyatalawa Camp in Ceylon on the BAVARIAN.



DIYATALAWA CAMP-PENKOP CORRESPONDENCE:

Cover from PRETORIA to DIYATALAWA with 4 x 1d ZAR adhesives optd ERI tied by a Pretoria cds dated 6 Mei 01 with violet Type 1 Diyatalawa censor cachet on the front. The reverse and bottom front tied over with a British Censor Seal Type 26 with an indistinct Diyatalawa Camp arrival strike.

The cover is addressed to: PHILIPPUS JOHANNES PETRUS CROUKAMP Prisoner No 11210 aged 19 years from Struben Street PRETORIA who was captured at PRETORIA on the 9th August 1900 serving with the ZARPS of Pretoria and who was sent to Diyatalawa Camp Ceylon on the CITY OF VIENNA on the 3rd September 1900.



Cover from BETHULIE CAMP to DIYATALAWA with 1d OFS adhesive optd VRI and tied by a Bethulie cds dated OC 28 01 with double oval violet Censor cachet applied at Bethulie with red pen manuscript "P of War" on the left and a blue NPR (Richards- Chief Censor at Bloemfontein) censor cachet applied at Bloemfontein. The reverse shows a Bloemfontein transit strike dated 26 OC 01 and a Diyatalawa arrival strike dated NO 24 01 and the reverse and bottom front tied by a pink British Type 26 Censor seal which was applied at Diyatalawa.

The cover is addressed to NICOLAAS WILLEM DE KLERK Prisoner No 9794 aged 21 years (PENKOP) from BETHULIE TOWN who was captured at FOURIESBURG on the 30th JULY 1900 serving with the Bethulie Commando and who was sent to Diyatalawa on the BAVARIAN.



DIYATALAWA CAMP: PENKOP CORRESPONDENCE:

A mourning cover from LADYBRAND to DIYATALAWA with 1d OFS adhesive optd VRI tied by a Ladybrand cds dated OC 22 01 and over it a violet double oval Ladybrand censor cachet initialled HHJ(Jones) 22/10/01 with red ink manuscript "Prisoner of War" and blue NPR (Richards -Chief Censor Bloemfontein) censor cachet on the front. The reverse shows a Bloemfontein transit strike dated 24 OC 01 ,Durban 1 NO 01 and Diyatalawa MO @ SBK arrival strike dated NO 2 01.

The cover is addressed to HERCULES P.FERREIRA Prisoner No 9620 aged 20 years (PENKOP) from the farm PLEASANT VIEW district LADYBRAND who was captured at FOURIESBURG on the 30th July 1900 serving with the Meyer Commando and who was sent to Diyatalawa on the BAVARIAN.



A cover from ZASTRON to DIYATALAWA with 1d OFS optd VRI and tied by a Zastron cds dated JU 2 01 and another adjacent with double violet triangular censor cachet applied at Zastron on the front. The reverse shows a Durban transit strike dated 30 JU 01 with triangular violet censor cachet applied at Durban, a Colombo transit strike dated MY 22 01 and Diyatalawa Camp arrival strike dated MY 23 01.

The cover is addressed to CORNELIS FRANCOIS GOUWS Prisoner No 7570 aged 19 years from the farm BETHEL district WEPENER who was captured at FOURIESBURG on the 30th February 1900 serving with the Wepener Commando and who was sent to Diyatalawa on the RANEE.



DIYATALAWA CAMP: PENKOP CORRESPONDENCE.

Cover from LADYBRAND with 1d OFS optd VRI tied by a Ladybrand cds dated DE 9 01 and another adjacent with Type 35 British Censor seal applied over the top at Ladybrand with Ladybrand violet double oval censor seal over this and initialled HHJ (Jones) 8/12/01 proving that although this seal was used exclusively in Bloemfontein a number were used elsewhere. Also on the front the fancy red "Prisoner of War" cachet used at Ladybrand. The Type 35 seal appears to have been again tied by NPR at Bloemfontein (below the Type 26 applied at Diyatalawa). The transit strikes of Durban and Colombo dated JA 7 02 and portion of the Diyatalawa arrival strike dated JA 9 02 covered by the type 26 British censor seal applied over the bottom and reverse of the cover at Diyatalawa.

The cover is addressed to ROELOF JOHANNES LOUW Prisoner No 9009 aged 15 years from the farm BRANDENBERG district LADYBRAND who was captured at FOURIESBURG on the 30th July 1900 serving with the Ladybrand Commando and who was sent to Diyatalawa Camp Ceylon in the MONGOLIAN.



Cover from GREEN POINT CAMP with 1d CGH tied by a Green Point cds dated AP 15 01 with violet POW censor cachet on the front and tied over the bottom and reverse with a Type 26 British Censor Seal with transit strikes of Colombo and Diyatalawa on the reverse.

The cover is addressed to MARTHINUS JACOBUS OOSTHUIZEN Prisoner No 9965 aged 21 years (Penkop) from the farm LANGVLEI district BETHULIE who was captured at FOURIESBURG on the 30th July 1900 serving with the Grootrivier Commando and who was sent to Diyatalawa Camp Ceylon on the BAVARIAN.



DIYATALAWA CAMP: PENKOP CORRESPONDENCE:

Cover from ST GEORGE'S STREET CAPE TOWN with a 1d CGH adhesive tied by square circled St George's Street cds date NO 29 00 with a violet double oval Type 1 Diyatalawa censor cachet with Colombo transit and Diyatalawa arrival strike dated JA 5 01 on the reverse.

The cover is addressed to PHILIPPUS ALBERTUS MOSTERT Prisoner No 9068 aged 17 years from the farm SPITSKOP district WINBURG who was captured at FOURIESBURG on the 30th July 1900 serving with the Onder Wittenbergen Commando and who was sent to Diyatalawa Camp Ceylon on the MONGOLIAN.



Inter Camp Cover from GREEN POINT CAMP with 1d CGH tied by a Green Point cds dated OC 26 00 with violet POW censor cachet applied at Green Point Camp on the front with censor marking. The reverse shows a Durban transit strike dated 29 OC 00, Colombo transit strike dated NO 25 00 and Diyatalawa Camp arrival strike dated NO 26 00.

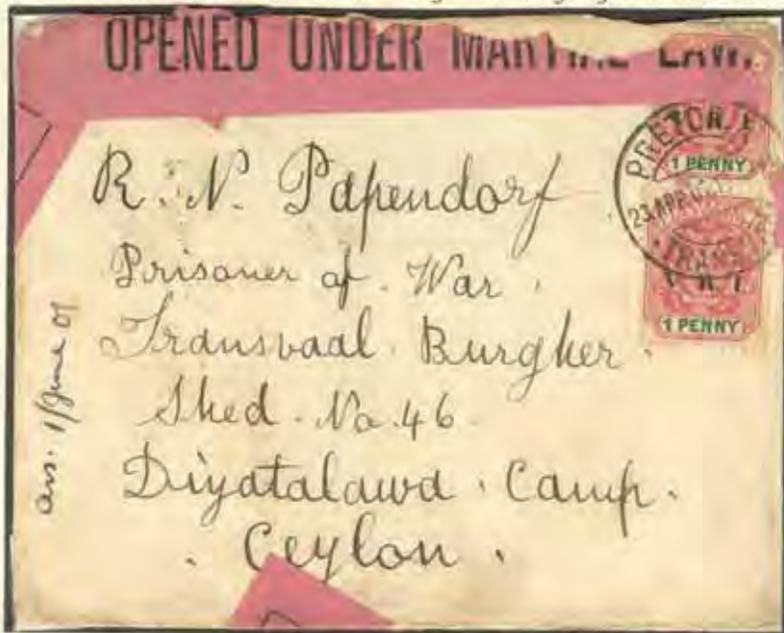
The cover is addressed to CASPER HENDRIK JACOBUS MAREE Prisoner NO 9026 aged 18 years from the farm MOOIVLEI district WINBURG who was captured at FOURIESBURG on the 30th July 1900 serving with the Taaitboschspruit Commando and who was sent to Diyatalawa Camp in Ceylon on the MONGOLIAN.



DIYATALAWA CAMP: PENKOP CORRESPONDENCE:

Cover from PRETORIA with 2 x 1d ZAR adhesive optd VRI tied by a Pretoria cds dated 23 APR 01 over the bottom and side with a Type 27 British Censor Seal applied at Pretoria with blue pencil "G" "Gezien" censor mark on the reverse and tied over the top with Type 26 British Censor Seal applied at Diyatalawa with backflap missing with partial Durban and Colombo strikes on the reverse.

The cover is addressed to ROBERT NORRIS PAPENDORFF Prisoner No 3175 aged 20 years (Penkop) from the GOVERNMENT PRINTER'S OFFICE, PRETORIA who was captured at WITKOPPIES on the 30th May 1900 serving with the Pretoria Commando and who was sent to Diyatalawa Camp Ceylon on the MOHAWK.



Mourning cover from PRETORIA with 1d ZAR optd ERI tied by a Pretoria cds dated 24 AUG 01 with red triangular Pretoria censor cachet from P.P. Pistorius with transit strikes of Durban 27 AU 01, Colombo and arrival strike of Diyatalawa dated SP 19 01 on the reverse.

The cover is addressed to HENDRIK GEORGE PISTORIUS (Given as PRETORIUS in the records) Prisoner No 3181 aged 20 years (Penkop) from the farm KAFFERSKRAAL district RUSTENBURG who was captured at JOHANNESBURG on the 30th May 1900 with the Hex Rivier Commando and who was sent to Diyatalawa on the ORIENT. His relatives, all of the Hex Rivier Commando also captured, were CARL WILLEM FREDERIK THEODORE PISTORIUS Prisoner No 13345 aged 29 years on the farm KAFFERSKRAAL on the 10th October 1900 who was sent to Green Point, GEORGE FREDERIK THEODORE Prisoner 14708 aged 32 years at KAFFERSKRAAL on the 23rd October 1900 who was sent to Diyatalawa on the CATALONIA and FREDERIK WILLEM THEODORE Prisoner No 3314 aged 21 years at RUSTENBURG on the 30th May 1900 who was sent to DIYATALAWA on the RANEE on the 7th August 1900.



CORRESPONDENCE TO PENKOPPE:

A Cover from what appears to be LADYSMITH to DIYATALAWA Ceylon with 2 x 1d QV Natal adhesive tied by an illegible cds and tied over the top with a British censor seal applied at Diyatalawa with a large violet oval Diyatalawa Censor cachet on the front. The cover is addressed to PAUL HENDRIK DE VILLIERS Prisoner No 11899 aged 20 years (Penkop) of Harrismith who was captured at Harrismith serving with the Harrismith Commando and who was sent to Diyatalawa.



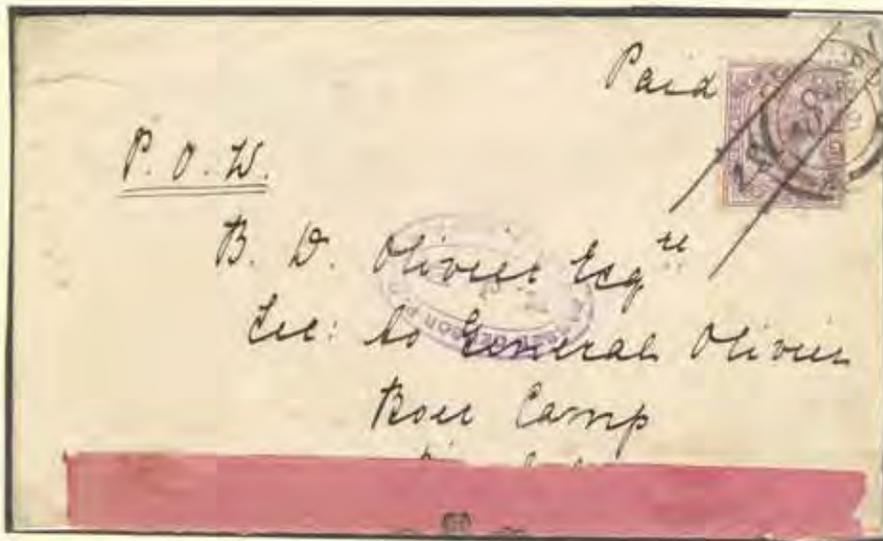
A Cover from WINDSORTON to BELLEVUE CAMP with a 1d CGH adhesive tied by a Windsorton cds dated OC 15 00 with blue black Bellevue Censor cachet on the front. The cover is addressed to ABRAHAM JACOBUS GRIESEL Prisoner No 9674 aged 21 years from the farm SPRINGBOKFONTEIN district BETHULIE who was captured at FOURIESBURG on the 30th July 1900 while serving with the Grootrivier Commando and who was sent to Ceylon on the Bavarian.



DIYATALAWA CAMP: PENKOP CORRESPONDENCE: SECRETARY TO GENERAL OLIVIER:

Internal cover from COLOMBO with 5 cents QV Ceylon adhesive tied by a Ceylon cds dated AU p 01 and that ruled through with black parallel lines and re-dated 28-08-01 and marked "Paid" with small oval violet censor cachet of E.J.B.(Baumann) on front with Type 26 British Censor Seal tied over the bottom and the reverse with Diyatalawa arrival strike dated 31 AUG 01.

The cover is addressed to the: SECRETARY TO GENERAL OLIVIER, BOER CAMP DIYATALAWA - BAREND DANIEL OLIVIER Prisoner No 11571 aged 18 years who was captured by Brabant's Forces (dressed like Boers) near WINBURG on the 27th August 1900 together with his father, GENERAL JAN HENDRIK OLIVIER Prisoner No 11569 aged 52 years and his brother JAN HENDRIK OLIVIER JNR Prisoner No 11570 aged 29 years all from the farm OLIPHANTSBEEN district ROUXVILLE who were serving with the Vecht kop Commando and who were sent to Diyatalawa on the CITY of VIENNA on the 3rd September 1900. JAN H JNR was paroled on the 30th November 1900. It is recorded that General Olivier was under the impression that his own men were playing a joke on him when taken into custody -not believing that he was actually apprehended by General Brabant's men who had been commanded to apprehend Gen Olivier at all costs on account of him(Gen Olivier) manhandling a wounded Colonial soldier of Brabant's forces in the field. It is said Gen Olivier did not trust any Boer after this and led a secluded life in detention at Diyatalawa Camp in Ceylon.



GREEN POINT: "PENKOP" POW MAIL:

Cover from BULFONTEIN to GREEN POINT with 2 x ½ d OFS adhesives optd VRI and tied by a Bulfontein cds dated JU 11 (00) with violet POW censor cachet on the front. The reverse shows a Bloemfontein transit strike dated JU 12 00 with manuscript: " Censored L.R. SLATER Lieut 57 I.Y."

The cover is addressed to NICOLAAS JOHANNES DAVIS Prisoner No 5321 aged 19 years (Penkop) from the farm WINKELSDAM district BOSHOF who was captured at KOEDOESRAND on the 18th February 1900 serving with the Boshof Commando and who was sent to St Helena on the BAVARIAN on the 1st January 1901.



Cover from BLOEMFONTEIN to GREEN POINT with a 1d OFS adhesive optd VRI tied by a Bloemfontein cds dated OC 22 with remnant of Type 2A British Censor seal applied over the top with red manuscript:

"Prisoner of War" and violet POW censor cachet on the front and that tied over with scarce straight line "CENSORED" cachet not often seen. The cover is addressed to JAN HAREM LESSING Prisoner No 5824 aged 20 years (Penkop) from the farm FOUCHESFONTEIN district DE WETS DORP who was captured at PAARDEBERG on the 27th February 1900 serving with the Dewetsdorp Commando and who was sent to St Helena on the BAVARIAN on 1st January 1901.



BELLEVUE & GREEN POINT POW MAIL:

A miniature cover from BLOEMFONTEIN to GREEN POINT with 2 x 1/2d OFS adhesives optd VRI and tied by a Bloemfontein cds with POW censor cachet on the front.

The cover is addressed to WILLEM CORNELIUS MOSTERT Prisoner No 5991 aged 18 years (Penkop) from the farm KROMSPRUIT district HOOPSTAD who was captured at PAARDEBERG on the 27th February 1900 together with his father JACOB DAVID MOSTERT Prisoner No 5989 aged 53 years and his brother HERMANUS LORIES MOSTERT Prisoner No 5990 aged 21 years from the same farm. They were sent to St. Helena on the BAVARIAN on the 1st January 1901.



Cover from BLOEMFONTEIN to BELLEVUE with 1d OFS adhesive optd VRI tied by a Bloemfontein cds with a blue black POW censor cachet and violet HPY (Young) and a straight line violet "PRISONER OF WAR" cachet. The cover is addressed to GERT CORNELIS VAN ROOYEN Prisoner No 10953 aged 20 years (Penkop) from the farm MARAKABI district LADYBRAND who was captured at FOURIESBURG on the 30th July 1900 together with his brother ANTONIE MICHAEL VAN ROOYEN Prisoner No 10952 age 27 years both of whom were sent to BERMUDA on the ARMENIAN.



INCOMING "PENKOP" MAIL TO DIYATALAWA AND BERMUDA:

Cover from PRETORIA to DIYATALAWA with 1d ZAR adhesive opt'd ERI tied with a Pretoria cds dated 7 MAR 02 with black triangular Pretoria censor cachet on the front and tied over the top with a Type 25 Orange British Censor Seal applied at Diyatalawa. The cover is addressed to STEPHANUS JACOBUS BENJAMIN SMITH Prisoner No 7781 aged 20 years from ELANDSFONTEIN district PRETORIA who was captured at MOSELIKATZESNEK on the 30th July 1900 serving with the Pretoria Commando. He was sent to Diyatalawa on the RANEE.



Cover from PRETORIA re-directed to LADYSMITH with 1d ZAR adhesive tied by a Pretoria cds dated 28th DEC 01 with another adjacent and tied over the bottom with a Type II British Censor Seal applied at Pretoria with two black triangular Pretoria censor cachets and blue re-direction manuscript "Ladysmith" on the front. The cover is addressed to JOHANNES PETRUS NEL Prisoner No 20077 aged 18 years from the farm EDINBURGH district PIET RETIEF who was captured at WEBER on the 9th June 1901 together with his brothers JACOB LOUIS POPLenburg NEL Prisoner No 20075 aged 23 and PHILIP JACOBUS NEL Prisoner No 20076 aged 27 years, all serving with the Piet Retief Commando and all of whom were sent to BERMUDA via Tin Town Ladysmith.



PENKOP CORRESPONDENCE: DEADWOOD CAMP : ST. HELENA:

A Cover from POTCHEFSTROOM with 1 d ZAR adhesive tied by a large single circle Potchefstroom cds dated FE 18 01 with a St Helena arrival strike dated 12 MA 1901 on the front. The reverse shows double line black: "PASSED BY CENSOR / POTCHEFSTROOM" and pencil manuscript "Received on am 15th February" which must have been when the letter was received by the Censor for censoring. The cover is addressed to ABRAHAM FAURE Prisoner No 1027 aged 17 (Penkop) from the farm EZELSPOORT district POTCHEFSTROOM who was captured together with his brother PETRUS JOHANNES FAURE Prisoner No 1026 aged 21 years at PAARDEVERG on the 27th February 1900 and who were sent to ST. HELENA.



A Cover from CERES to DEADWOOD CAMP with 1d CGH adhesive tied by a Ceres cds dated AP 24 01 with violet POW censor cachet and St Helena arrival strike dated MY 8 01 on the front. The cover is addressed to GEORGE SEBASTIAAN WOLFAARDT Prisoner No 10405 aged 19 years (Penkop) from the farm KORANNAKLOOF district ROUXVILLE who was captured together with his brother HERMANUS STEPHANUS WOLFAARDT Prisoner no 10416 aged 26 years at FOURIESBURG on the 31st July 1900 serving with the Lower Caledon Commando and who was sent to St Helena



PENKOP CORRESPONDENCE : CAPTURED AT PAARDEBERG: GREEN POINT.

Cover from HOOPSTAD to GREEN POINT with 1d OFS adhesive optd VRI and tied by a Hoopstad O.V.S. cds dated JU 28 (00) with another adjacent with a blue black POW censor cachet applied at Green Point.

The cover is addressed to WILLEM PETRUS VAN NIEKERK Prisoner No 6069 aged 17 years (Penkop) from the farm BOTHASHOEK district BOSHOF who was captured at PAARDEBERG on the 27th February 1900 and who was sent to St. Helena on the BAVARIAN on the 1st January 1901.



Boys were frequently among the prisoners taken in the guerrilla stages of the war. These, photographed at Madras in India, had been captured in the eastern Transvaal in December 1901 and January 1902 (After Pretoria).

PENKOP CORRESPONDENCE: TAKEN CAPTIVE AT PAARDEBERG: 27th FEBRUARY 1900:

A cover from ZASTRON to GREEN POINT CAMP with 1d OFS adhesive optd VRI (placed upside down as a mark of disrespect/hate of the British control) tied by a ZASTRON ,OVS cds dated JU 29 (00) and another adjacent with blue censor initials JMH and another cds adjacent with a red line through the front. The cover is addressed to JAN (JOHN) LOMBAARD(T)Prisoner No 5842 aged 18 years from the farm CAGHALARIA district ZASTRON who was captured at PAARDEBERG on the 27th February 1900 serving with the Zastron Commando.



A Cover from BLOEMFONTEIN to GREEN POINT CAMP with 1d OFS adhesive optd VRI and tied by a Bloemfontein cds and another dated SP 13 00 on the front with a black POW censor cachet and red manuscript "PRISONER OF WAR/ GREEN POINT" on the front. The cover is addressed to JOHANNES STEFANUS MIENNIE Prisoner No 27223 aged 19 years from KRUGERSDORP who was captured at KRUGERSDORP on the 18th December 1901 serving with the JERICHO COMMANDO and who was sent to St Helena.



PENKOP CORRESPONDENCE: CAPTURED AT PAARDEBERG.

Cover from BOSHOF to GREEN POINT CAMP with 1d OFS adhesive optd by a VRI and tied by a Boshof cds dated AU 24 00 and another adjacent with a red crayon mark and blue black POW censor cachet applied at Green Point Camp. The reverse shows a Kimberley transit strike dated AU 25 00 and a Cape Town arrival strike dated AU 27 00. The cover is addressed to DANIEL PETRUS JACOBS Prisoner No 5688 aged 18 years (Penkop) from the farm VLAKFONTEIN district BOSHOF who was captured at PAARDEBERG on the 27th February 1900 serving with the Boshof Commando and who was sent to St. Helena on the BAVARIAN on the 1st January 1901.



THE WAR.

ANNIVERSARY OF MAJUBA.

Cronje Surrenders

UNCONDITIONALLY.

We have received the important news that Field-Marshal Roberts has succeeded in crushing the redoubtable Cronje. We believe the very first intimation of the good news was the following telegram this morning from our correspondent at Grahamstown —

"There are great rejoicings here at the surrender of Cronje. This is a very British place.

On the strength of this we have made inquiries, and find that absolute certainty has been received that Cronje with all his forces has surrendered unconditionally at Paardeberg this morning.

Official intimation of the fact was made in Capetown this morning, and we shall probably receive the same during the afternoon.

PENKOP CORRESPONDENCE: TAKEN CAPTIVE AT PAARDEBERG: 27th FEBRUARY 1900:

A cover from BRANDFORT to GREEN POINT CAMP with 1d OFS adhesive optd VRI tied by a ZASTRON .OVS cds dated OC 1 (00) with a Black POW censor cachet applied at Green Point. The cover is addressed to JOHANNES JACOBUS CORNELIS KLAASEN Prisoner No 5743 aged 16 years from the farm ZOETFONTEIN district BRANDFORT who was captured at PAARDEBERG on the 27th February 1900 serving with the Brandfort Commando and who was sent to St. Helena on the BAVARIAN on the 1st January 1901.



A Cover from PETRUSBURG to GREEN POINT CAMP with 1d OFS adhesive optd VRI and tied by a Petrusburg cds and another dated JY 13 00 on the front with a black POW censor cachet and red manuscript "PRISONER OF WAR/ GREEN POINT" on the front. The cover is addressed to BAREND NICOLAAS LUBBE Prisoner No 5869 aged 19 years from the farm JEREMIAHS FONTEIN district BLOEMFONTEIN who was captured at PAARDEBERG on the 27th February 1900 serving with the BOSHOF COMMANDO and who was sent to Broad Bottom Camp St Helena. His brother GERHARDUS FRANCOIS LUBBE Prisoner No 5868 aged 32 years was captured at the same time.



PENKOP CORRESPONDENCE: TAKEN CAPTIVE AT PAARDEBERG: 27th FEBRUARY 1900:

A cover from BLOEMFONTEIN to GREEN POINT CAMP with 1d OFS adhesive optd VRI tied by a BLOEMFONTEIN ,OVS cds dated SP 25 (00)with a Back POW censor cachet applied at Green Point with red manuscript endorsement: " PRISONER OF WAR" on the front.

The cover is addressed to FRANCOIS JACOBUS JOUBERT Prisoner No 5722 aged 21 years from the farm BOESMANSKOP district BLOEMFONTEIN who was captured at PAARDEBERG on the 27th February 1900 together with his brother PETER JOHANNES ARNOLDUS JOUBERT Prisoner No 5721 aged 27 years both serving with the BOVEN MODDER RIVIER Commando and who were sent to St. Helena on the BAVARIAN on the 1st January 1901.



A Cover from HOOPSTAD to GREEN POINT CAMP with 1d OFS adhesive optd VRI and tied by a Hoopstad cds and another dated JY 700 on the front with a black POW censor cachet and red manuscript "PRISONER OF WAR" on the front. The cover is addressed to NICOLAAS JOHANNES DE KOCK Prisoner No 1284 aged 20 years from the farm TURFLAAGTE district BLOEMHOF who was captured at PAARDEBERG on the 27th February 1900 together with his father MICHEL JOHANNES SERVAAS DE KOCK Pr No 1282 aged 65 years and his brother HENDRIK STEPHANUS DE KOCK Pr 1283 aged 22 all serving with the WARD 2 COMMANDO and who were sent to St Helena.



DEADWOOD CAMP: ST HELENA PENKOP CORRESPONDENCE.

Cover front from JOHANNESBURG to DEADWOOD CAMP with 1d ZAR adhesive (not optd VRI invalid as postage) tied by a Johannesburg cds dated 24 Apr 01 with a POW censor cachet applied at St Helena and a St. Helena arrival strike dated MY 9 01 on the front. The cover is addressed to CHRISTOFFEL JOHANNES SMIT Prisoner NO 4288 aged 21years(Penkop) from the farm KLIPRIVIER district HEIDELBERG who was captured at PAARDEBERG on the 27th February 1900 serving with the J.G. MEYER Commando and who was sent to Deadwood Camp, St. Helena.



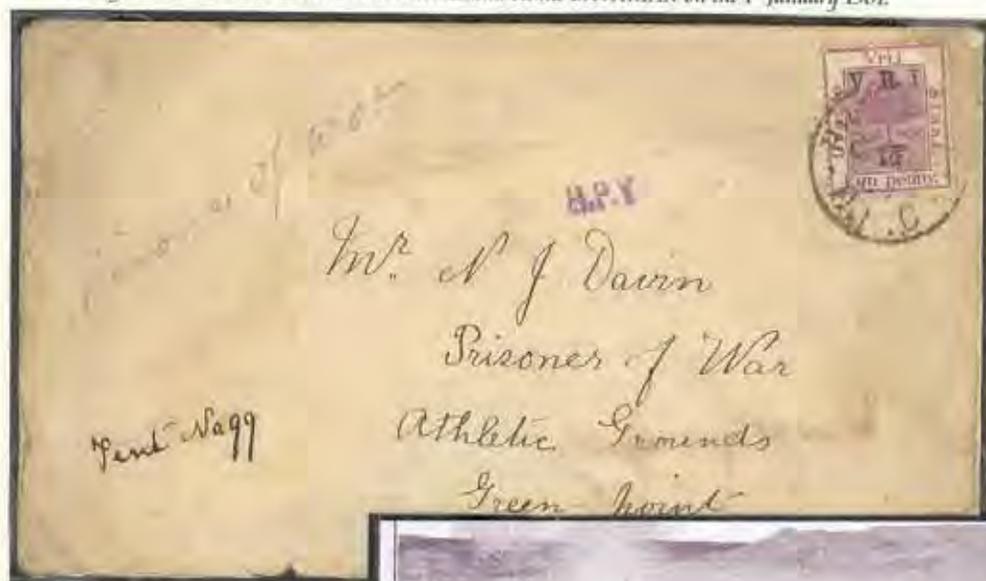
Cover front from POTCHEFSTROOM to DEADWOOD with 1d ZAR optd ERK tied by a Potchefstroom cds dated 8 APR 02 with a remnant Type 36 British Censor Seal over the top at . The cover is addressed to L. Erwald (unknown) c/o WILLEM HENDRIK PHILIPS Prisoner No 1758 aged 19 years (Penkop) from POTCHEFSTROOM TOWN who was captured at PAARDEBERG on the 27th February 1900 serving with the Douthwaites Commando and who was sent to DEADWOOD CAMP, St. Helena.



PENKOP CORRESPONDENCE: BATTLE OF PAARDEBERG: 18th FEBRUARY 1900:
KOEDOESRAND.

Lord Kitchener was appointed by Roberts who is indisposed in Jacobsdal to take command and to commence his attack on the Boers to the displeasure Luit. Gen Kelly Kenny. At 3.00 am Luit Hannay is ordered to attack from the east with a sunrise bombardment on Cronje's wagons setting fire to some. Various British units attacked but both Hannay and Stephenson's mounted forces were distracted by TOLLIE DE BEER'S forces of the BOSHOF COMMANDO on KOEDOESRAND of which Davin was one, as well as the forces of General Ferreira's commando that had crossed Koedoes Drift to the south. In a day of vicious fighting at about 5.00 pm the Vanguard of the Third Cavalry Brigade which arrived from KIMBERLEY engaged DE BEER to the east of KOEDOESRAND forced DE BEER to retreat. The heavy fighting on the day results in the highest British casualties for a single day namely 303 killed including Luit Colonels Hannay and Aldworth plus 906 wounded which included Maj. Gen Knox, Hector Mac Donald & Luit Col. Banfield with 61 troopers taken captive. The Boer forces lost 50 killed and wounded and 6 killed in Cronje's Laager and 14 wounded and a few taken prisoner among them NIKOLAAS JOHANNES DAVIN from De Beer's, De Wet, Steyn and Ferreira's commandos.

A cover from BRANDFORT to ATHLETIC GROUNDS GREEN POINT with 1d OFS adhesive tied by a Brandfort cds dated DE 17 00 with a small violet H.P.(Young) censor cachet applied by Young Censor in Bloemfontein with red manuscript "Prisoner of War" on the front. The reverse shows a Bloemfontein transit strike dated DE 18 00 and Green Point arrival strike dated DE 27 00 with a pencil manuscript of the addressee dated "27 Desember 1900". The cover is addressed to NIKOLAAS JOHANNES DAVIN Prisoner No 5321 aged 19 years (PENKOP) from the farm WINKELDAM district BOSHOF who was captured at KOEDOESRAND on the 18th February 1900 serving with the Boshof Commando and who was sent to St. Helena on the BAVARIAN on the 1st January 1901.



The Third Cavalry Brigade
rushing from Kimberley :



INTER CAMP COVERS TO ST. HELENA: PENKOP CORRESPONDENCE:

An Inter - Camp cover from BELLEVUE CAMP to BROAD BOTTOM CAMP, ST. HELENA with 1d CGH adhesive tied by a Hooded Arch Simons Town cds dated 1 AU 01 with blue BELLEVUE censor cachet and NO 9 in blue on the front (assumed to be the Transport ship No 9 which would take the post from Cape Town to St Helena) The cover is addressed to STEPHANUS JOHANNES PETRUS MYBURGH Prisoner No 6002 aged 33 years from the farm KOELLENHOF district LADYBRAND who was captured together with his brother ANDRIES STEPHANUS MYBURGH Prisoner 6001 aged 23 years at PAARDEBERG serving with the Ladybrand Commando and who were sent to ST HELENA on the BAVARIAN. The cover is most probably from his brother CORNELIS HENDRIK MYBURGH Prisoner No 10805 aged 21 years from the same farm who was captured at FOURIESBURG on the 30th July 1900 serving with the Meyer Commando who was sent to Diyatalawa Camp Ceylon via Bellevue Camp at Simons Town.



Inter Camp Cover from BLOEMFONTEIN CONCENTRATION CAMP to BROAD BOTTOM CAMP St. Helena with 1d OFS adhesive optd VRI and violet POW censor cachet on the front with small H.P.Y(oung) censor cachet applied at Bloemfontein and NO 24 in Blue indicating as stated above the nominated transport taking the post to St Helena. The cover is addressed to JACOBUS OCKERT OOSTHUIZEN Prisoner No 6127 aged 25 years from BLOEMFONTEIN TOWN who was captured at PAARDEBERG on the 27th February 1900 serving with the Bloemfontein Commando and who was sent to St Helena.



PENKOP CORRESPONDENCE: DIYATALAWA CAMP: CEYLON:

A mourning cover front from BETHULIE CONCENTRATION CAMP to DIYATALAWA with 2 x 1d OFS adhesives optd VRI with red manuscript "PRISONER OF WAR" with a P.B.C. violet censor cachet applied at Bloemfontein with a manuscript note: "MIT SPOET" from the writes: She must have been advising that someone had died.

The cover is addressed to JOHANNES JACOBUS CHRISTOFFEL SMAL (L) Prisoner No 8488 aged 16 years from the farm GANSPOORT district SMITHFIELD who was captured at FOURIESBURG on the 31st July 1900 while serving with the Slikspruit Commando and who was sent to Diyatalawa camp, Ceylon on the DILWARA.



Internal post cover front usage IN CAMP with 5c QV Ceylon adhesive tied by a censor cachet used as a post canceller by E.J.B. (BAUMANN) censor at DIYATALAWA CAMP. The cover is addressed to DAVID HERMANUS MYNHARDT Prisoner No 9922 aged 20 years (PENKOP) from the farm WONDERKOP district MOROKA, THABA N 'CHU who was captured at FOURIESBURG on the 31st July 1900 with his father TOBIAS JOHANNES MYNHARDT Prisoner No 9920 aged 49 and his brother CHRISTIAN FREDERIK MYNHARDT Prisoner No 9921 aged 25 years all of whom were sent to Diyatalawa Camp, Ceylon on the BAVARIAN.



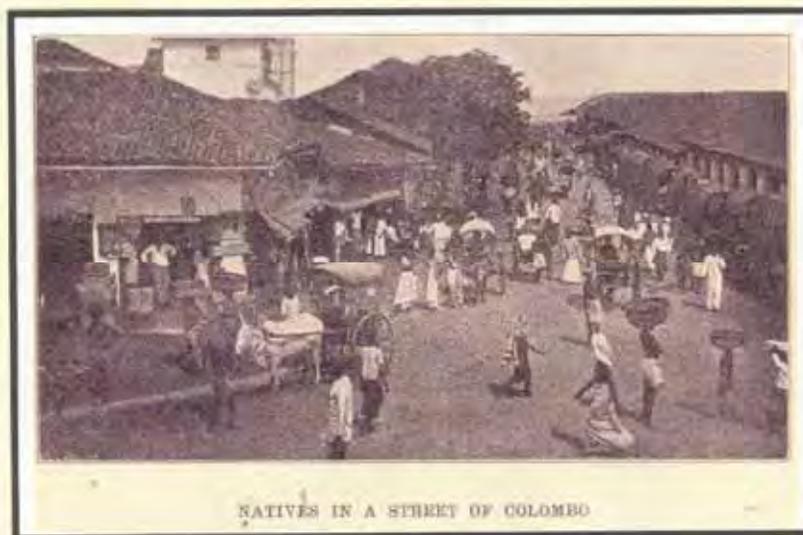
PENKOP CORRESPONDENCE: DIYATALAWA CAMP CEYLON:

A cover front from CRAIG RENNIE to DIYATALAWA CAMP with a mint 1d CGH adhesive with a CRAIG RENNIE cds dated AU 4 01 adjacent with a violet PASSED CENSOR P.O.W. * F.R.N.F.(Frindlay)* DIYATALAWA cachet.

The cover is addressed to CHRISTOFFEL RICHARD BECK Prisoner No 7910 aged 21 years from the farm "THE PRAIRIE" ,LADYBRAND who was captured at FOURIESBURG on the 30th July 1900 serving with the Korannaberg Commando and who was sent to Ceylon on the DILWARA.

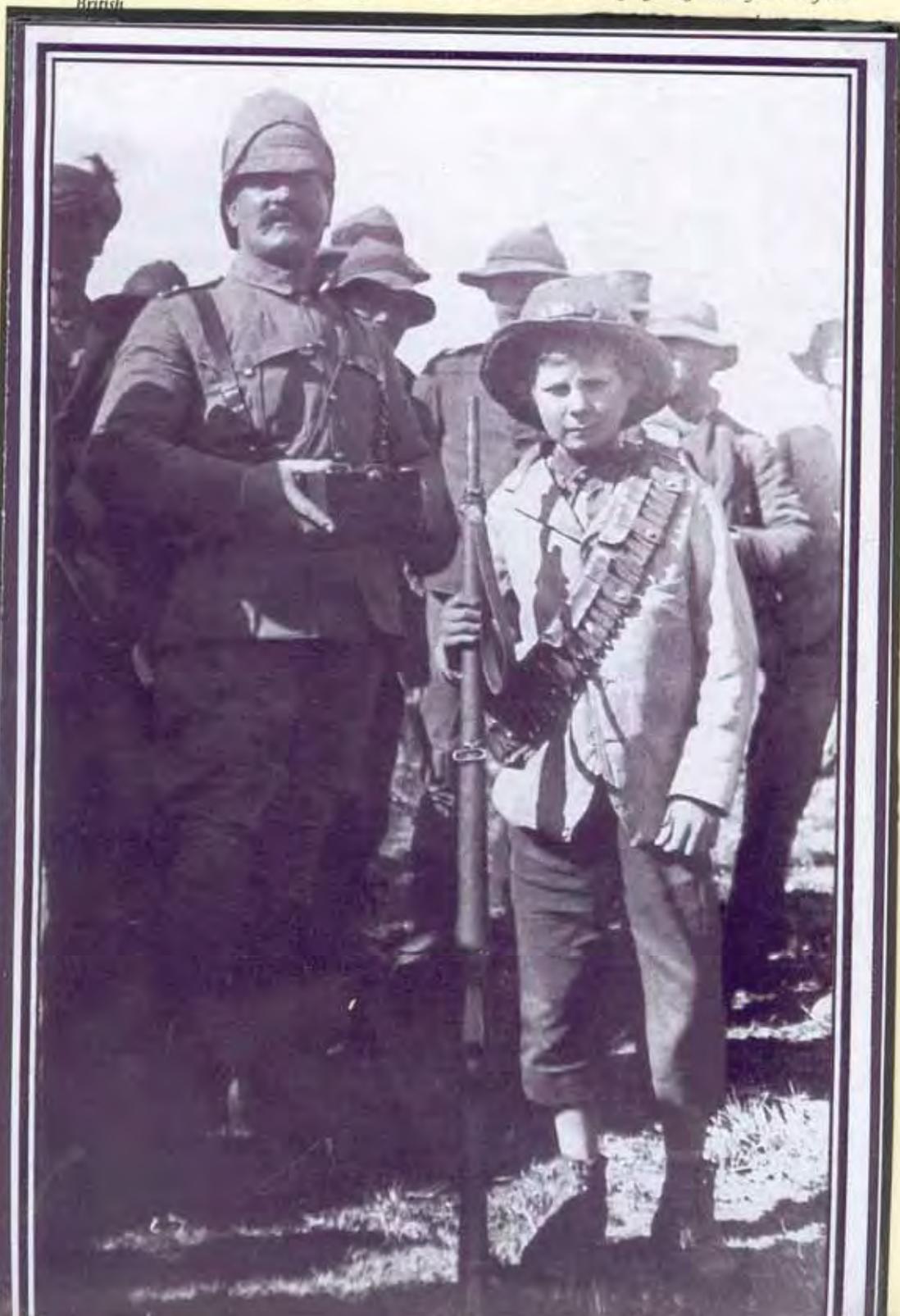


A picture of a street scene in COLOMBO near DIYATALAWA CAMP at the time:



PENKOP IN THE WAR:

Many young boys accompanied their fathers on campaigns during the War. Some went looking for their fathers who were absent from the farms. The photo shows a young boy (Penkop alluding to a young buck with short horns still learning life- they were those who were under the age of 21 years) captured by the British.



BOER WAR: PENKOP CORRESPONDENCE: BERMUDA: MAIL TO TRANSPORTS: ORANGE RIVER
CONCENTRATION CAMP: SWAZILAND ZARPS:

A scarce cover from ORANGE RIVER (CONCENTRATION CAMP) to TIN TOWN , LADYSMITH to a member of the SWAZILAND ZARPS BOER CORPS franked with a 1d CGH adhesive and tied by an Orange River cds dated DE 12 01 with a black triangular censor cachet applied at Orange River with a blue censor crayon mark and endorsed in red ".GREEN POINT CAPE TOWN" with manuscript: "MET SPOET". The cover endorsed in violet with cachet: " MONTROSE BERMUDA" and on arrival endorsed in red ink " NOT BURTS"; "NOT HAWKINS" and in blue: " NOT DARRELLS"; "NOT TUCKERS".

The cover is addressed to DAVID SCHALK BOTHA Prisoner No 19529 aged 33 years from BREMERSDORP, SWAZILAND a member of the ZARPS Swaziland Commando who was captured at HOODJE on the 14th June 1901 together with a number of his relatives all members of the Swaziland ZARPS being: SYBRANDT BOTHA Prisoner No 19528 aged 29 years; THOEDORUS ERNST BOTHA Prisoner No 19530 aged 18 ; THEUNIS LOIUS BOTHA Prisoner No 19531 aged 42 years .David Schalk Botha was sent to Tin Town Ladysmith with the others but from there he was sent to BERMUDA on the Montrose. (With acknowledgement to Argyll Etkin Sale September 2007 as example not in my collection).



PENKOP CORRESPONDENCE: FREE STATE FORCES:

Cover front from ZASTRON to GREEN POINT CAMP with 2 x OFS adhesives opt'd VRI and tied by a ZASTRON c/s dated SP 27 (00) and another adjacent and tied over the top by the remnants of a British type 28 Censor Seal with a blue/black POW censor cachet applied at Green Point.

The cover is addressed to GERRIT CORNELIUS OLIVIER Prisoner No 6107 aged 20 years (Penkop) from ZASTRON TOWN who was captured at PAARDEBERG on the 27th February 1900 serving with the Zastron Commando and who was sent to ST HELENA on the BAVARIAN on the 1st January 1901.



A Cover front BETHULIE to GREEN POINT with a 1d OFS adhesive opt'd VRI and tied by a Bethulie c/s and marked in red manuscript "P of War" with a red Bethulie Censor cachet on the front. The cover is addressed to HENDRIK HERMANUS STEYN Prisoner No 7810 aged 18 years from Wepener Town who was captured at FOURIESBURG on the 30th July 1900 serving with the Wepener Commando and who was sent to DIYATALAWA CAMP, CEYLON on the RANEE.



PENKOPPE ON BERMUDA:

A Photograph of Penkoype on Bermuda.



Kinders op Darrells-Eiland.



PENKOPPE: ON BERMUDA:

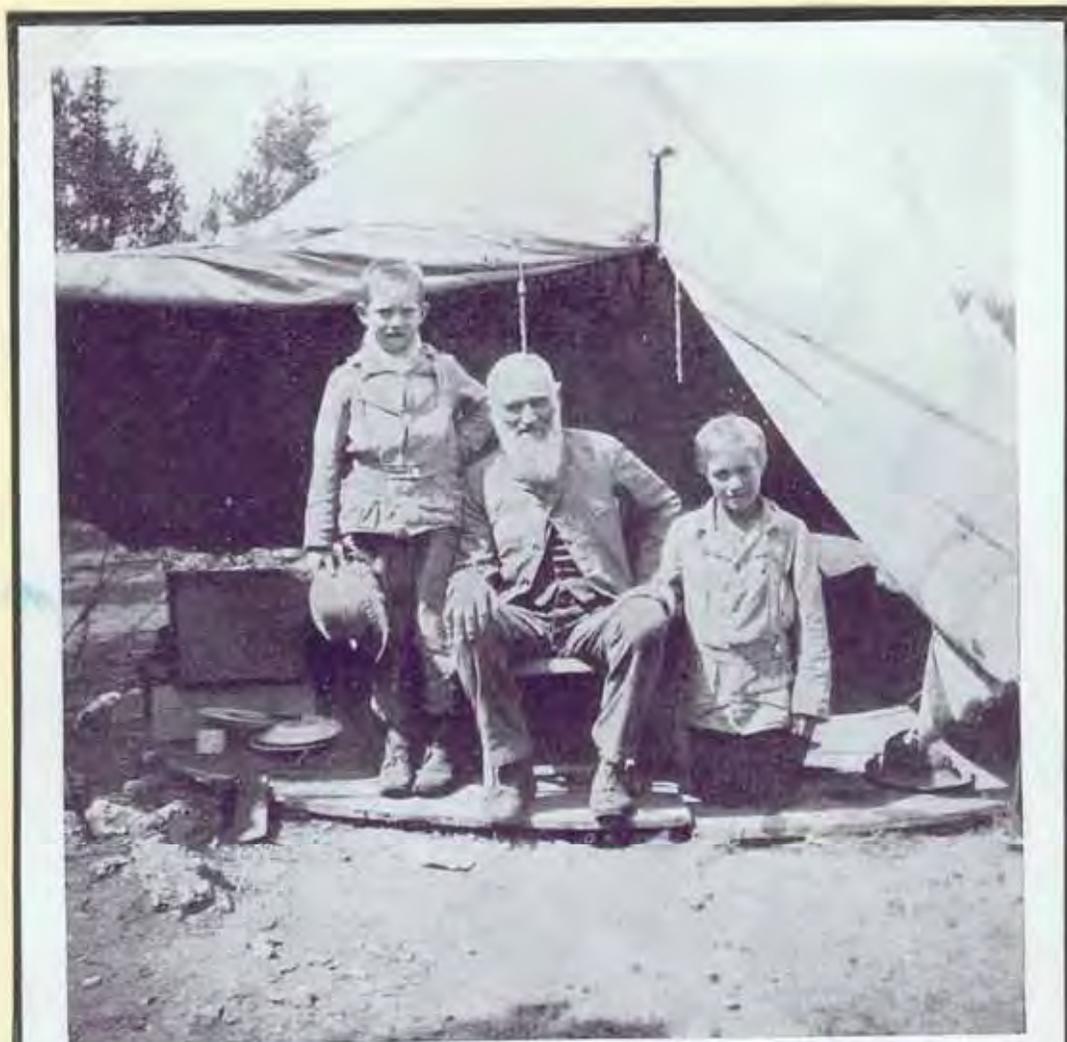
A photograph of the Schoolmaster ALBERTUS WILKLEM BESTER Prisoner No 25500 aged 22 years from the farm SACHIETFONTEIN district PRETORIA who was captured at SANDRIVIERPOORT on the 16th November 1901 serving with the Pretoria Commando who was sent to BERMUDA with two young Penkoppie he adopted whilst there.



PENKOPPE: ON BERMUDA:

A photograph of the eldest and the youngest Prisoners of War on the Bermudas. Van Brakel was the oldest. He was known to have hidden in his clothing an amount of 500 Pounds which helped him recover after the War. The photo was taken about 2 years after he was captured.

HERMANUS CHRISTIAN VAN BRAKEL Prisoner No 25571 aged 77 years from the farm BULTHOEK district BETHLEHEM was captured together with his son ADRIAAN JOHANNES VAN BRAKEL Prisoner No 24560 aged 50 years and his grandsons HERMANUS CHRISTIAN VAN BRAKEL JNR POW No 24561 aged 16 years and HENDRIK JACOBUS VAN BRAKEL POW No 24562 aged 14 years at FANNY'S HOME on the 11th November 1901 all serving with the Bethlehem Commando and all of whom were sent to BERMUDA.



Die oudste (79) en die jongstes (8) op Darrells-Eiland, Bermuda
Die ou heer is mnr. Van Brakel.

PENKOP CORRESPONDENCE:

Mourning Cover from CAPE to ST HELENA with 1d CGH tied by Cape cds dated JA 22 02 with Type 34 British Censor Seal applied over the top and that tied by a violet triangular censor cachet duly initialled 22/1/02.

The cover is addressed to JOHANNES JACOBUS SMITH Prisoner No 6448 aged 18 years from the farm JAKKALSFONTEIN district KROONSTAD who was captured at Paardeberg on the 27th February 1900 serving with the Kroonstad commando and who was sent to Deadwood Camp at St. Helena.



A PHILATELIC HISTORICAL CAMEO OF THE “PENKOPPE” IN THE ANGLO BOER WAR.

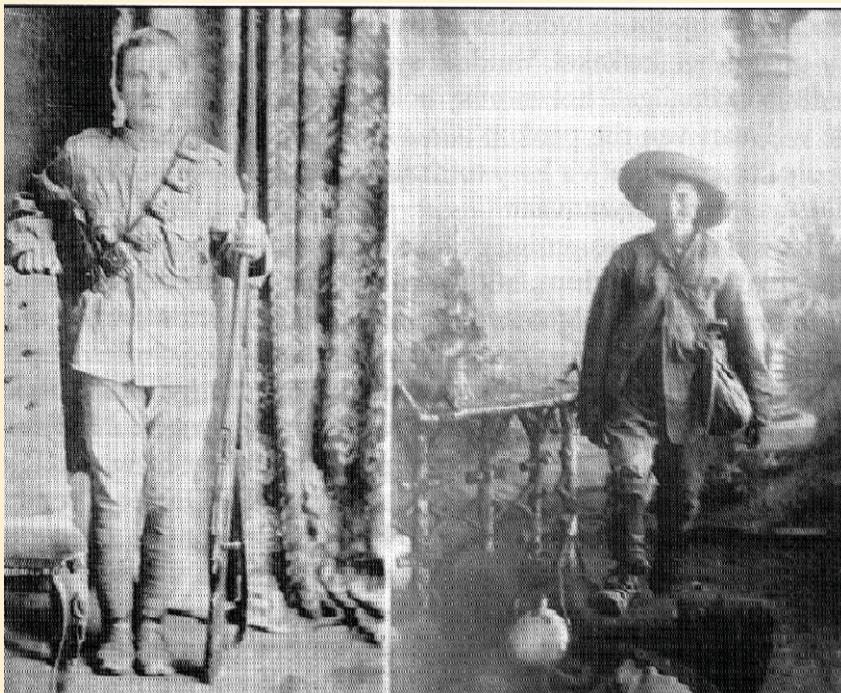
Boer Commando's consisted of able - bodied fighting men between the ages of 13 and 80 years.

The minors who actively took part in the War were called Penkoppe, alluding to a young wildebeest buck with penlike horns showing that it was still in the process of growing up and not yet mature, boisterous and fearless.

Many young boys from the ages of 8 joined their fathers on commando initially as horse hands and helpers but due to the fact that they were good shots they inevitably found themselves taking part in active warfare. They had to convince their peers that they were able to fight. Many left home without consent to join the commandos.

At Fourteen Streams boys of the age of 12 years were found amongst the Boer Commandos. In Natal the same phenomenon occurred. In many instances they were left at home to protect the family while the head of the household went on commando.

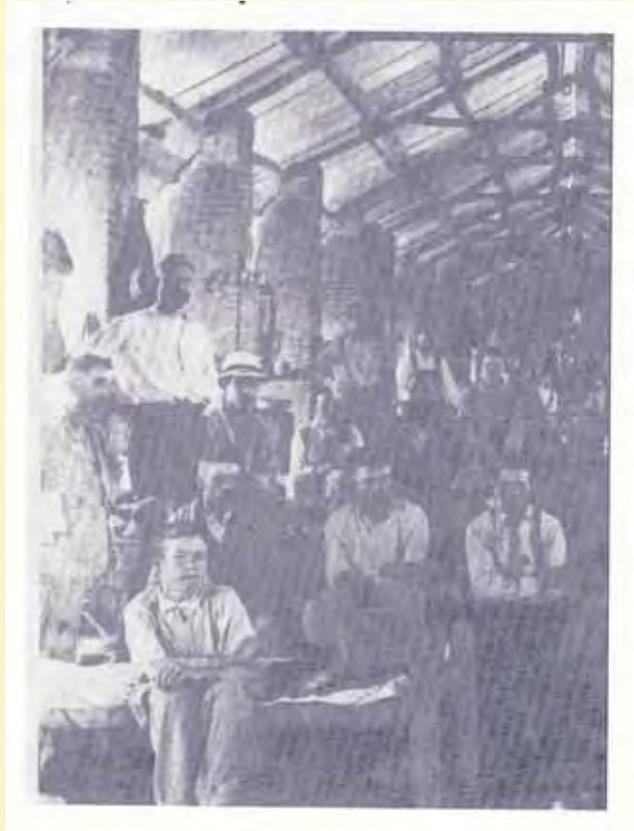
According to the Constitutions of the ZAR and Orange Free State burghers between the ages of 16 and 60 were conscripted and accordingly it became accepted practice to consider a “penkop” a boy under the age of 16 years. This however was not rigorously applied as boys up to the age of 20 years were considered to be penkoppe.



PENKOPPE IN PRISONER OF WAR CAMPS:

They were captured and taken to camps like Diyatalawa in Ceylon, St Helena, Bermuda and India.

DIYATALAWA CEYLON:



INDIA:



IN ACTIVE SERVICE:

The well known Reitz boys Jack 12 , Arnt 16, Deneys 17 and Hjalmar 20 all took an active part in the war.

Commandant Gideon Scheepers had a large group of penkoype in his ranks. They were from the Karoo districts of Aberdeen and Graaff - Reinett. They were renowned for their bravery and were a thorn in the flesh of the British. Scheepers was only 22 years old when he was captured. His Adjutant was Kareljtjie Lehmkuhl aged 16 years. The members of Scheepers commando were recognised by their white headbands.

CONCENTRATION CAMPS:

Concentration Camps could not prevent youngsters escaping to join the Boer forces. Pietie de Wet escaped from a temporary camp in Rouxville to join the commandos. After spending some days in the mountains near Zastron he joined the Boer commandos where they threatened to return him to the camp. He protested against the pain of death and against proving he was a good shot, he was allowed to remain. He joined the Commando of Willem Diederik Fouche in November 1901. Fouche's commando consisted of mainly 200 to 250 penkoype and young men who would rather have been shot than not have fought the British. They were recognised by their yellow headbands while the commando of Wynand Malan was known by its blue head bands.



*Fouche Commando with Pietie De Wet his Adjutant in the second row.
He was the son of Commandant Gideon De Wet.*

PENKOPPE IN NATAL:

There was not a theatre of war where these boys were not active. They entered Natal with the Boer forces, they were in the front lines with the Siege of Ladysmith, the Battles of Colenso, Spioenkop, Pieters Hill, the siege of Mafeking, on the western front and in the invasions of the Cape Colony and the siege of O'Kiep.

They were mostly attached to their fathers or other family members in the various battles. They died with heir fathers or on their own if unaccompanied on their fight for freedom.

Many proved to be excellent scouts and were part of Theron's Verkenners Korps and other units. Deneys Reitz accompanied General Smuts on his invasion of the Cape and was active at the battle of Spioenkop.



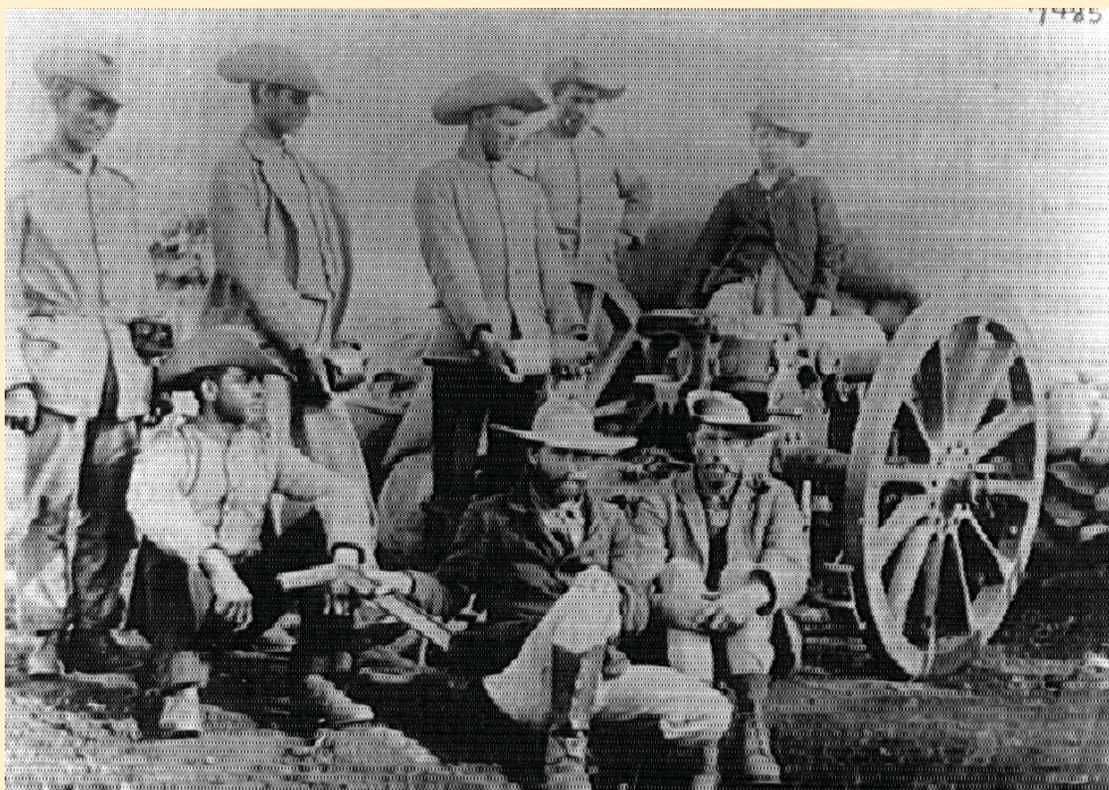
penkoppe at Ladysmith.



PENKOPPE AT STORMBERG:



Penkoppe with Howitzer (most probably Natal).



PENKOP COMMANDO UNITS:

The penkoppe formed their own units in certain areas of the country and assumed names for their small fighting forces. Amongst there were the following:

1. "The Penkop Regiment".

This group consisting of seven members were active in the bushveld between Brits and Rustenberg under the leadership of Izak Meyer with the knowledge of General De La Rey. Five of them were known as the "Vyf Vuurvreters" (Five Fire-eaters), they were : Izak Meyer, Apie, Jan and Piet Bezuidenhout and Piet Badenhorst. They were fearless and on their own attacked a British patrol taking ammunition and stores required. Four British soldiers were killed and seven injured.

Later Piet Badenhorst formed the :

2. "Transvaal Brigade".

This unit consisted of 60 members which operated as an independent unit. They were known for their action at Frederickstad station. Fritz Breytenbach their leader was killed here, to be replaced by Piet Badenhorst. They were in action at Magatosnek where they fought against Methuen's forces.

3. The "Royal Turks".

This group of 17 boys assumed the above name under the leadership of Japie Barry as a sub group of the Roelof van der Merwe Corporalship. They were active in November 1899. They took part in the siege of Wepener and were active until about July 1900 when the group was captured with the surrender of General Prinsloo on the 29th /30th July 1900 in the Brandwater Basin. They were sent to Ceylon.

4. The Izak Malherbe Corporalship .

This unit had a substantial number of penkoppe in its midst being part of the Pretoria Suunyside Commando which included Deneys and Joubert Reitz. They were active around Ladysmith, Spioenkop and Pieters Hill where this corporalship was annihilated by the British.

5. The "Africander Cavallerie Corps":

This unit was active in and around the Vet River in the Free State and consisted of 150 members led by Commandant Abraham Malan. Deneys Reitz returned to the Free State after the battle of Spioenkop and joined this unit. They were involved in many skirmishes with the British which eventually led to seven of their number and their leader being killed. Reitz left this group and rejoined the Pretoria Commando.

6. The "Ryk Seksie" or "Dandy Fifth"

This group was a Transvaal group, all under 20 years, with the exception of Jack Borrius who was 28 years of age all of whom came from Potchefstroom. Reitz joined this group which consisted of Benjamin Coetzee, Nicolaas Swart, Cornelius Vermaas, Percy Wyndall, Edgar Duncker, Fritz Balogh, Jan van Zijl, Piet de Ruyt and Henry Rittenberg. Wyndall and Duncker were English speaking while Fritz Balogh was an Austrian from Pretoria and Piet de Ruyt a Hollander. They were all under 20 years of age.

They were of a neglected appearance wore tattered clothes and were devoid of any money or valuables and as a result assumed the name of "Die Ryk Seksie" (The Rich Section) and "The Dandy Fifth."

“DANDY FIFTH” contd:

Four of this group were sentenced to death by the British and six were captured or wounded. They formed part of Smuts's Commando and his invasion into the Cape Province. They took part in scouting and various skirmishes. By December 1901 only three remained that were able to fight. They were assumed into Commandant Ben Bouwer's Commando with the exception of Ben Coetzee who despite an injured and splint-set leg rode off to join Commandant Manie Maritz at Calvinia.

7. *The “Gravett se Tarentaalkoppe” (Gravett's Guinea fowl heads):*

This was a group of young Boksburgers under led by one Gravett. Gravett was killed. It is unknown what became of this group.

8. *The “Tiende Legioen”:*

This was a group under control and command of General Ben Viljoen in the Eastern Transvaal which did reconnoitring and other missions. Roland William Schikkerling aged 19 years, known as Napoleon, was a member of this group.

9. *The “Vlieende Kommando” (The Flying Commando):*

This group was active around Kimberley and Modder River.

10. *The “Die Rustenburgers”:*

This was a group of boys in the Rustenberg area who lived in caves in the area repairing saddles. They supplied rieme (leather straps) and other requirements to the fighting Boers.

11. *“Die Kinders”:*

This was a group of 25 boys under Veldcornet E.F. Rohm which did espionage and reconnoitring for De Wet during February 1901 with his second invasion into the Cape. They were active between Springkaans Nek, Ladybrand and Winburg. They were held up at Klipnek against a British Blockhouse but broke through.

They were used to cut the wire entanglements during the dragnets conducted on Kitchener's instructions to try and capture De Wet.

They had amongst them Rooi Flip Snyman who single-handedly took a group of British prisoner despite having been bayoneted in the face. Eight days later he was fighting bandaged and all at the Battle of Slangfontein. He was killed with two of his mates in an ambush.

Thys van Tonder was also a member of this group which tracked and undermined British advances. He was known to have taken a wagon load of Tommies prisoner at Springfontein single handedly under a ruse that “his” commando would shoot them dead if they did not obey his commands. He persuaded them to lay down their arms only to be released and commanded to walk back to camp stripped and unarmed.

During the entire war there were reports of bravery and heroism by the penkoppe. Many a victory was as a result of their deeds.

WESTERN TRANSVAAL:

Cornelius Eloff was 12 years old and his brother Salie 10 years old when they took part in their first encounter with the British in the Western Transvaal.

During November 1901 Veldcornet Kemp and his men were captured by General Plumer and his Australian force in the Pongola bush. It is clear that some were mere children.



In the winter of 1901 Commandant Kritzingher invaded the North Eastern Cape. He encamped on the farm Wildefontein in the ravine of the Karrigmelkspruit where he was routed by the columns of Col. Harry Scobell. A number of British were wounded amongst whom was one Gibbons.

A number of burghers were captured of which three were chosen to be tried for treason and murder, among which was a 16 year old Johannes Petrus Coetzee who came from the farm Paardekraal district Cradock. He was captured with Cornelius Johannes Claasen (22 years) and Frederick Abram Marais (32 years).

Coetzee was tried for Treason and the murder of one Gibbons who died of wounds in the aforementioned encounter. He was found guilty at a sham trial held in Dordrecht on the 24th June 1901 and taken to Cradock where he appeared on the town square in public where he was sentenced to death (just like the others at their hometowns). He denied murdering anyone. He was taken to the local gaol where, on the morning of the 13th July 1901, he was hanged in the presence of "undesirables" of the community, being those, the authorities considered Boer sympathisers.

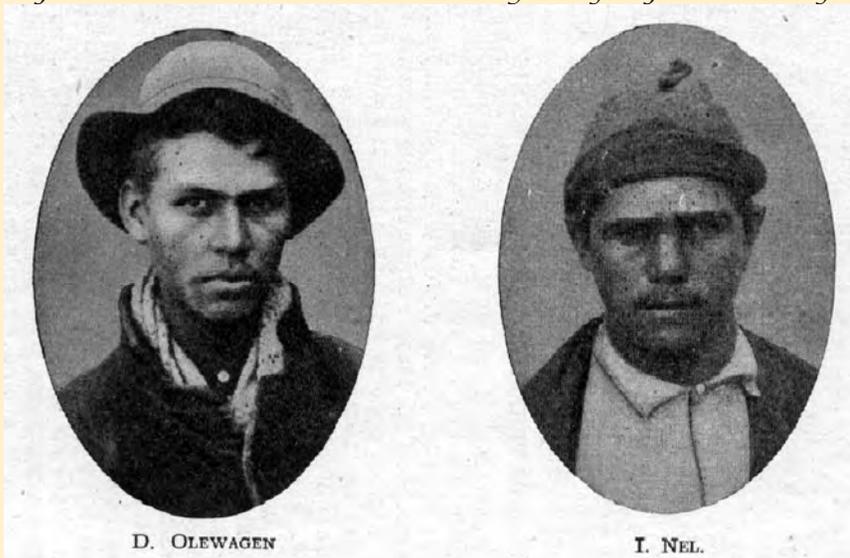
The trial of the youngster was criticised in the British Newspaper "The Morning Leader" in which it was stated he was found guilty by a court "which had only the most elementary notions of evidence. There was obviously no adequate evidence on which to convict him. He was a very strong young man, neither ruffian nor brigand and certainly in no sense a ringleader. His hanging was quite indefensible unless we are resolved to hang all rebels as such".

SENTENCING A PENKOP TO DEATH IN PUBLIC:



Johannes Petrus Coetzee and his appearance on the town square Cradock to hear his sentence of death. Source "Hoe Zij Stierven" and "After Pretoria" Wilson.

On the 12th July 1901 Scheepers's commando was entrapped on the farm Onbedacht . After a fight with the forces of Col Harry Scobell 35 burghers were captured among which were 27 Cape rebels. Three boys of this group had the death sentence imposed upon them for allegedly being part of a group which had fired on a British patrol. Daniel F. Ohwagen aged 18 years and Ignatius W. Nel 17 years and one Van Vuuren were tried and found guilty on the 2nd August 1901.



D. OLEWAGEN

I. NEL.

D.Olewagen of Graaff-Reinet

Ignatius Nel of Bulkraal Graaff-Reinet.

PENKOPPE EXECUTED AT GRAAF REINET:

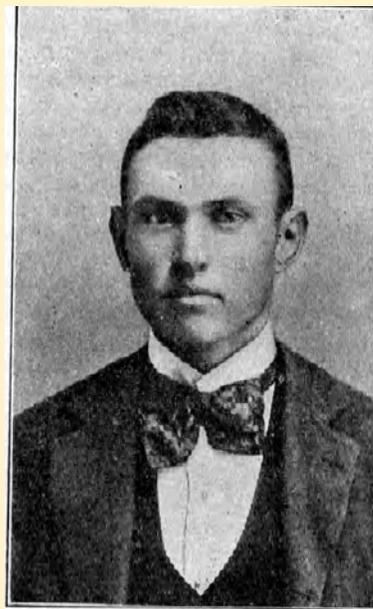
Ohwagen and Nel were executed by firing squad of The Coldstream Guards at De Krans, Graaff-Reinet on the 26th August while Hendrik Petrus Van Vuuren (27) of Willowmore, was sent to Colesberg to be executed together with Frederick Toy(of Sweden) and Hendrik Johan Veenstra (22)of Amsterdam.

The reason for this was apparently to send a message to instil fear in foreigners fighting with the Boers, showing what they were in for, should they be captured.

Nel was a horse groom and had no notion of what his trial and sentence meant. He did not even know that the appearance in the town square was his last appearance to hear the death sentence imposed upon him. He was mentally retarded.

Hendrik Petrus van Vuuren.

Many other Penkoppes were captured, tried, sentenced and some executed – some held in gaol until the end of the war – some sent to Prisoner of War camps. Just to mention a few:



JOHANNES HERMANUS ROUX

Source: "So Het Hulle Gesterf" Jordaan.

TRIALS OF PENKOPPE:

1. *Johannes Hermanus Roux: (18 years) from the farm Jordaanskraal Grahamstown district. Born on 8th August 1883, he joined commando on the 12th March 1901 and was captured on the 8th August 1901 at Ventershoek in the Steynsburg district. He stood accused of being "active in arms" and despite surrendering to Luit. Barber he was found guilty on the 30th August 1901 of the additional charge of attempted murder on the Luit. and sentenced to death. He was paraded on the market square at Graaff- Reinett and advised of his impending death sentence which was carried out by a firing squad on the Spanduaskop road outside Graaff-Reinett on the 7th October 1901.*

SENTENCING ON THE PLAIN: GRAAFF REINET:



PENKOPPE SENTENCED:

Among those Penkoppes mentioned above in the "Die Ryk Seksie" or the "Dandy Fifth" were Piet de Ruyt, Henry Rittenberg and later Cornelius Vermaas, Arrie Van Onselen and John Alexander Baxter.

They eventually joined Smuts's commando when he made his incursion into the Cape.

After reaching the Tarkastad district after a harrowing and epic trek through the Free State and the Stormberge in the Eastern Cape they were almost spent. They had endured rain, snow and the very worst of bad weather and had escaped capture by good fortune and their ability to withstand the privations placed upon them due to their exuberance of youth and the inspirational leadership of Jan Christiaan Smuts, their General. They were in rags and tatters clothed in blankets, bags and skins and emaciated for the want of provisions. Their horses were spent.

Providence guided them to the ravines of the Elands River on the 17th September 1901 where they had the initial fortune to overwhelm the 17th Lancers of Colonel Harry (Henry J) Scobell and take with them ammunition, horses and khaki uniforms to clothe themselves. The last act led to their execution as General French had passed a Proclamation unbeknown to them, that all burghers captured wearing British Khaki uniforms were to be executed.

CAPE MIDLANDS:

The Smuts Commando continued into the Cape Midlands hotly pursued by Colonel Scobell whose wrath had been entertained as his men had been killed and suffered ridicule at the hands of some junior penkop force under the command of General Smuts.

SCOBELL'S FORCES IN THE CAPE:



Members of Scobell's forces. They were from the CMR and blacks and coloureds recruited from the area around Graaff Reinet.

In August 1901, Lieut- Col Harry Scobell , 42, of the Scots Greys was ordered by General French to round up the various rebel commandos active in the Cape Midlands. There were various units he had to focus on, amongst others :

- 1. Kritzingers Commando.*
- 2. Scheepers's Commando.*
- 3. Lotter's Commando.*
- 4. Smuts's Commando.*

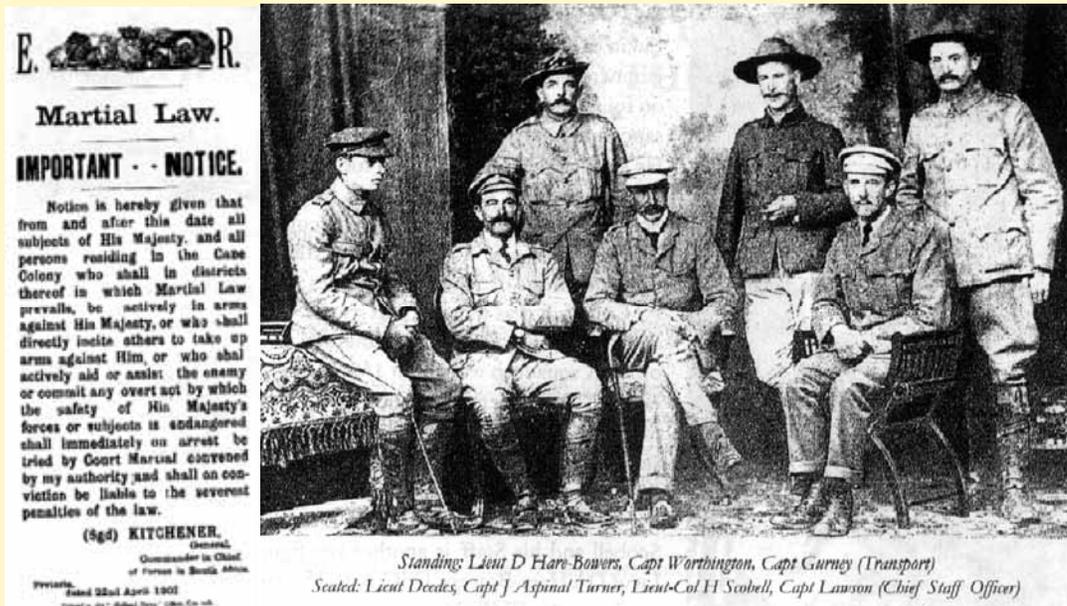
Scobell was an outstanding horseman and was able to envisage the routes and actions the Boers would take which was the basis of his successes.

General French was stationed at Middelburg which he made his Headquarters and from where he commanded operations up and down the Midland Railway line. French was determined to quash the rebel uprising and had no mercy for what he considered "the illegitimate belligerents" who had to be treated as harshly and effectively as possible even if it meant the summary execution of youngsters without trial or compunction.

SCOBELL AND THE PENKOPPE:

Scobell's columns acted out of Graaff - Reinet where the Military Court was held and from where the greater number of "rebels" were sent to their executions. He rigorously enforced the Proclamation of General Kitchener dated the 22nd April 1901.

MARTIAL LAW:



Source: Commandant Johannes Lotter and his rebels: David & Taffy Shearing.

PIET DE RUYT was the first of the burghers to be captured wearing Khaki clothes. He was captured in a Hotel room in the Bedford district where he and his friends had been on a drinking spree the night before. His friends left him at the Hotel in a drunken stupor where he was captured wearing a khaki uniform taken off the 17th Lancers. He was summarily executed near the spot where he was captured on the road to the Baviaanspoort outside Bedford.

Hotel ruins where De Ruyt was executed. Source : "So Het Hulle Gesterf"



SUMMARY EXECUTIONS OF PENKOPPE:

CORNELIUS VERMAAS (20) HENRY RITTENBERG (20) and ARIE VAN ONSELEN (22) members of Smuts's commando were captured while reconnoitring around the Osberg near the Sundays River at Kriega station on the 2nd October 1901. They were instructed to check the area round Glenconnor en route to the coast when they were overrun by a Colonial Flying Column still dressed in their khaki uniforms taken off the 17th Lancers .Their summarily execution on the 3rd October near Gelconnor was confirmed by General French. Initially they were buried at the foot of the Osberg in one grave. Vermaas's remains were reburied in Uitenhage while Van Onselens and Rittenberg's remains were re- interred in the small graveyard at Kariega's Halt.

CORNELIUS VERMAAS:

On Vermaas's grave in Uitenhage the inscription reads:

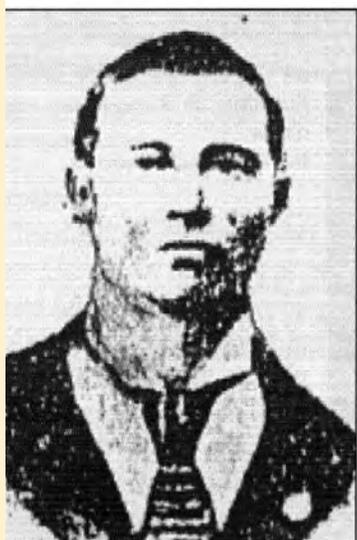
*"Hier Rust Onze CORNELIUS. Hij stierf den heldendood op zijn verjaarsdag den 2de Oktober 1901. Met hom sneuwelde zijne makkers Henry Rittenberg en Arie van Onselen".
He was formerly from Losberg in the Transvaal.*

On the graves of Arie van Onselen and Henry Rittenberg the inscription reads:

*"Hulle het gesterwe sodat ons vryheidsideaal kan lewe."
Cornelius Vermaas :*



Arie van Onselen:



Graves at Uitenhage and Kariega station :

Source: Huisgenoot supra /Dr J de Swardt/So Het Hulle Gesterf: Joost & Oosthuizen.



JOHN (JACK) ALEXANDER BAXTER (22) years although not considered a Penkop is dealt with under this heading as he was also one of General Smuts's commando together with those mentioned above. Baxter was executed at Aberdeen on the 13th October 1901 after inadvertently riding into Colonel Scobell's column which he mistook to be his own commando. He suffered from weak eyesight.

He was born in Newcastle Natal. At the age of 16 he started work in the telegraph office in Johannesburg but later worked at the customs and excise offices at Elandsfontein (Germiston) from where he went to Pretoria Head Office. Due his weak eyesight he was refused entry into the commandos at Pretoria. He resigned and joined the forces of General Liebenberg at Klerksdorp who was active in the Gatsrand area where he came upon the "The Ryk Seksie" or "The Dandy Fifth" and the "Vyf Vuurvreters" formed by Izak Meyer. They were active around Syferfontein koppies north of Potchefstroom.

When General Smuts regrouped his forces "The Transvaal Brigade" under Fritz Breytenbach , was seconded to General Piet Liebenberg to whom they referred to as "generaal AGTEROM" as he never committed himself to direct attack but always went "agterom". The group became disenchanted for the lack of action and broke away and became embroiled in action at Frederikstad, derailed trains, attacked convoys and took action against Methuen. At Frederikstad Breytenbach was killed. He was replaced by Piet Badenhorst.

Due to them failing to take orders from General "Agterom" Liebenberg, a Court Martial was held before Generals Smuts and De La Rey where they stood accused of insubordination. They were all summoned to appear at Schoonspruit. They appeared ,and after evidence was led by Liebenberg, they were given the opportunity to pose questions which they did . Piet Badenhorst calmly asked Liebenberg how many trains he had derailed, how many times he had confronted the enemy as opposed to what "The Transvaal Brigade" had done. Liebenberg was furious. Smuts conceded that they had been insubordinate to Liebenberg, but allowed them to continue as a separate unit. Later they came under Smuts's wing when he left for the Cape Colony and that is where Jack Baxter entered the scene.

Jack Baxter, as in the case of the others had taken a khaki uniform from the 17th Lancers.

Colonel Scobell held a Court Martial, found Baxter guilty and sentenced him to be summarily shot on the same day he was captured.

BAXTER:

Scobell said of him:

“ The prisoner was dressed in Khaki. He was a nice, smart looking young chap by name Baxter and I am sure an Englishman(his grandfather was an English minister), though he declared that he was German. He was an extraordinary good plucked chap. Never even changed colour when I told him his sentence, just asked for paper and a pencil and wrote letters all the time. I saw the job through as he sat on a box to be shot, I couldn't help shaking hands with him, telling him how sorry I was and how much I admired his bravery. He said: “ I am alright. Don't bother about me. We are both soldiers and have to die sooner or later. I am not afraid to die.” Thirty seconds later he was dead.

Baxter wrote letters to his parents which were subsequently handed over. They were concise explaining that he had been condemned to death for wearing khaki clothes and that it was the will of God. He advised that his will was with H.S. in Klerksdorp.

General Smuts never forgave Scobell for the cruel and sadistic action taken against these youngsters. He refused to shake his hand at the Peace Conference at Vereeniging and even later when appointed Minister of Defence Smuts refused to meet with or talk to Scobell who was then Commanding Officer of the British troops in the Cape. Scobell blamed Smuts for failing to advise his troops of the danger of wearing khaki clothes.

Baxter's grave in Aberdeen:



CAPTURED PENKOPPE:

The following are a few of the many who were captured :

1. *Barend Jacobus Bester POW no 24502 aged 17 years from the farm Leliekloof Cradock captured with Lotter's commando tried on 20th September 1901 and sentenced to death commuted to Penal Servitude for life on Bermuda for High Treason reduced to two years.(No 7 on photo)*
2. *Jacobus Daniel Marais POW 24925 18 years from the farm Zamenkomst Cradock same as above.(No 6 on photo)*
3. *Enger Brazelle POW 24562 aged 18 years same as above. (No 15 on photo)*
4. *Stephanus Francois Marais POW 24923 from the farm Langkloof Cradock aged 18 years same as above (no 22 on photo)*
5. *Stephanus Cornelius Schoeman POW aged 17 years tried 17th Sept 1901 guilty of being active in arms and murder sentenced to death by hanging commuted to imprisonment for the duration of the war and 20 lashes.(No 24 on photo)*



Source: Commandant Johannes Lotter and his Rebels: Taffy and David Shearing.

BERMUDA:

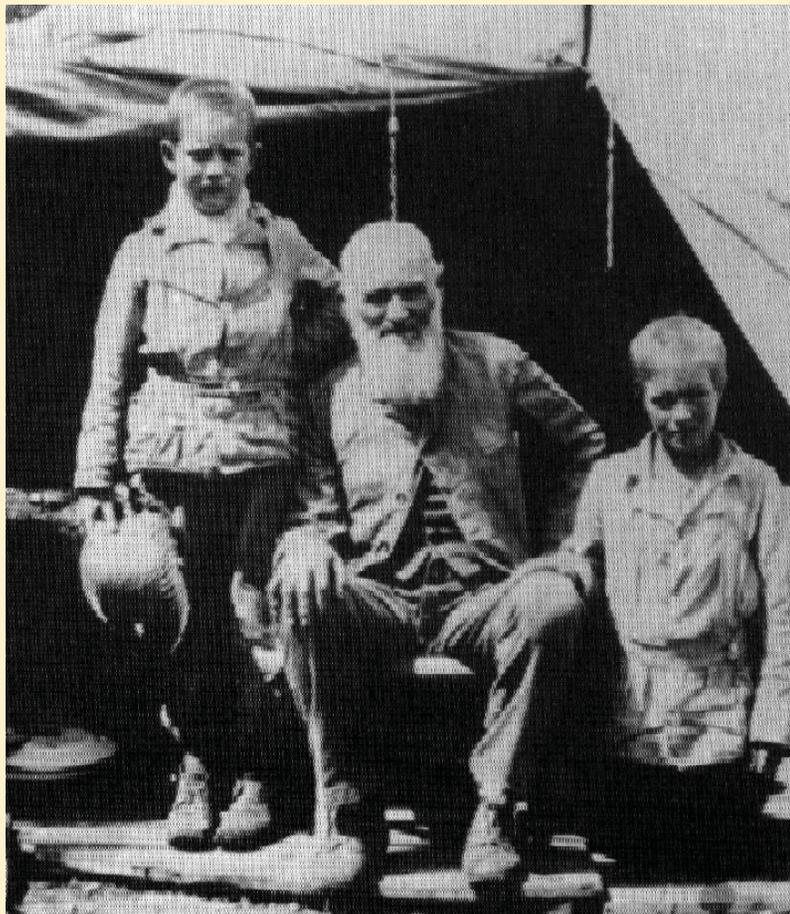
Children Prisoners of War landed up in the Overseas and local Concentration camps as is clearly shown in the following:

Children Prisoners on Darrel's Island Bermuda.



BERMUDA:

The oldest and youngest Boer Prisoners of war 80 years and 8 and 9 years respectively.



PENKOPPE IN THE CONCENTRATION CAMPS:



The contribution of the Penkoppe to the Boer war- effort was immeasurable. They were the icons for the Boer cause.

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Commandant Johannes Lotter and his rebels: Taffy & David Shearing.

Prepared and compiled at Stillbay on the 16th January 2002.

B.L. Du Plessis.

They May Not Be Forgotten.

