

# THE POSTAL HISTORY OF BOER PRISONERS OF WAR ON BERMUDA

Book 12 in a series of 25

The B.L. du Plessis Philatelic Collection of Boer War Postal History

This includes the “PENKOPPE” correspondence and matters relating to the minors who were taken captive during the Boer War. The larger number of the minors taken captive ended up in Bermuda.



## **BERMUDA:**

After the internment camps in India were filled to capacity an alternative place overseas was to be found to house the Boer Prisoners of War captured during 1901 and towards the latter part of the War. At the end of 1901 there was about 160 000 of the Boer civilian population held in concentration camps making it necessary to accommodate men and boys captured under arms overseas. There was a ever increasing fear by the British that those incarcerated would escape and rejoin the War. To overcome this the POW's were shipped to overseas camps the last of which were the camps on the islands of Bermuda.

Preparation were afoot during April of 1901 to accommodate the Boer POW arrivals on Bermuda, which arrived on the 26th June 1901 on the S.S. Armenian. They were accompanied by a Company of the 2nd Battalion The Royal Warwickshire Regiment which had been withdrawn from service in South Africa. The POW's destined for Bermuda included a number of "Cape Rebels" who had been sentenced to life long penal servitude. They were easily distinguishable from the rest having a special prisoner outfit with chicken spoor markings and some who had been convicted of murder still wearing the marksman's heart target on their clothes. They were held in a separate barbed wire enclosure known as "Die Ramkamp" and "Special Enclosure". The Governor of the Islands Barker was not happy that he had these men amongst the POW's as the convict element was disturbing to him as he did not have the facilities for handling convicts. The majority of them (250) arrived on the Harlech Castle in December 1901.

The following is the analysis of the arrivals:

28th June 1901 S.S. Armenian.....	963 Darrell's and Burts Island
19th July 1901 S.S. Rane.....	518 Darrell's and Burts Island
1st August 1901 S.S. Manila.....	607 Tucker's Island
13th September 1901 S.S. Montrose.....	932 Tucker's and Morgan's Island
20th December 1901 S.S. Harlech Castle.....	340 Hawkins Island
17th January 1902 S.S. Montrose.....	1259 Hawkins Island
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>4619</b>

Darrell's and Burts Island were the first to be occupied while Hawkins held the largest concentration of POW's amongst whom were children from 6 years to the age of 80 years. Tucker's Island held those who were prepared to take the Oath of Allegiance known amongst their colleagues as "Handsuppers" or "Kahki Boers".

Miss Maria Outerbridge was well disposed towards the Boers. Her home was the rendezvous point for those who attempted to escape.

Bermuda was well known for the Boer artefacts made there, especially the walking sticks and other wooden which are highly collectible even today.

This exhibit is dedicated to the honour of COLIN BEMBOW who is well known for his study of the conditions under which the Boer POW's were held on Bermuda and some of his photographs and cover utilized by me in the preparation of the exhibits. It reveals the conditions under which the POW's lived on various Islands.

The Exhibit has had various accolades and is prepared on OPEN CLASS format.

Amongst the POW's on Bermuda were a great number of "PENKOPPE" or minors under the age of 21 years some of which were captured under arms fighting the Boer cause and which Penkop Correspondence is inserted herein showing postal history addressed to "PENKOPPE" as POW's in various camps.

The original CD's of this collection remain filed in the research section of the British Library, Philatelic Section, London.

BERNARD LEIGH DU PLESSIS.

STILL BAY.

2014.



BOER  
PRISONERS OF WAR  
IN BERMUDA.



1. *Introduction.*
2. *Arrival of Prisoners of War.*
3. *Life in the Camps on the Islands.*
4. *Rev. J.A. Van Blerk.*
5. *Correspondence to and from the Camps.*
6. *After the war.*

A VIEW OF THE ISLANDS:

Postcard depicting the view of the Islands from Belmont Manor overlooking the Sound of Bermuda.  
The second card is from Miss Anna Maria Outerbridge who was very well disposed to the Boers to her friend  
in the French Antilles.



*Introduction:*

*With the progress of the War the number of prisoners increased raising serious accommodation problems for the British. Large camps would place a heavy burden on the supply lines in a war that was being fought on a wide front and in addition the thought of escape and the possibility of an insurrection at the Cape forced the British to find a solution by sending the prisoners overseas.*

*Initially camps overseas were opened in St. Helena, then in Ceylon followed by India and finally in Bermuda. On the 29<sup>th</sup> April 1901 a communication from the War Office in London intimated that prisoners of war were to be sent to Bermuda. The British Government entered into leases for Darrel's Island and others from the Admiralty and the Seon family. By the end of May a detachment of Royal Engineers had been despatched to Bermuda to ready the islands for the arrival of the Boer Prisoners of War and some number of "Convicts" being Cape Rebels who had been found guilty of assisting the "enemy" and had been sentenced to penal servitude with hard labour. They were distinguished by the chicken- spoor marking on the back of their overall.*

*Picture of Cape Rebels entrained for shipment to Bermuda:*



*By the 26<sup>th</sup> June 1901 the Camp Commandants HQ on Ports Island was operational. The first group of POWs arrived on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 1901 aboard the SS Armenian accompanied by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. In all six shiploads of POWs were landed in the Bermudas from the 28<sup>th</sup> June 1901 to the 16<sup>th</sup> January 1902.*

*Picture of initial preparations on Darrell's Island.*



BERMUDA: PREPARATIONS FOR PRISONERS OF WAR FROM SOUTH AFRICA:

The final activation of Prisoner of War Camps was those determined for the Islands of Bermuda. During May 1901 Royal Engineers sailed from Chatham to ready the islands for the influx of POWs. On the 26<sup>th</sup> June 1901 the S.S. Armenian dropped anchor with a compliment of 963 Prisoners accompanied by a Company of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the Warwickshire regiment withdrawn from South Africa. On arrival the POWs were drafted to Burts & Darrells while trouble makers who had attempted to overpower the guards in Simons Town harbour were sent to the "Small Enclosure" or the "Ram Camp" on Tucker's Island.

A Picture of Convicts arriving at St Georges:



Tents ready for Occupation:





ARRIVAL :

Despite an attempt at mutiny in Simon's Town harbour the SS Armenian arrived with a large number of POWs who were mainly from those captured at Paardeberg with the surrender of General Cronje. On arrival and after medical checks the men were transferred to DARRELL'S and BURT'S islands. With the arrival of more transports these camps were filled by the end of July 1901.

Cover front from JOHANNESBURG with 1d ZAR adhesive optd ERI and tied with a Johannesburg cds dated 7 OCT 01 with oval black Johannesburg Censor cachet on the front. The cover is addressed to PETRUS JOHANNES ANDRIES VAN DEN BERG(H) Prisoner No 4358 aged 48 years from CHRISTIANA who was captured together with his son DAVID STEPHANUS VAN DEN BERG(H) Prisoner No 4359 aged 17 years at Paardeberg on the 27<sup>th</sup> February 1900 serving with the J. Bosman Commando both of whom were sent to Bermuda.



Picture of the arrival of the Prisoners of War:



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*A Picture of Convicts arriving at St Georges:*



*Tents ready for Occupation:*



**BOER PRISONERS OF WAR BERMUDA: MANUSCRIPT MARKS IN INK, PENCIL OR CRAYON: PENKOPPE:**

Registered Inter Camp cover from KLERKSDORP CONCENTRATION CAMP with 3 x 1d QV GB 1d K\Lilac adhesives tied by FPO 16 cds dated OCT 3 1901 with double violet Censor cachet dated 3 OCT 1901 Klerksdorp with usual blue crayon markings and black pen "R" marking on the front. The reverse shows London registered transit strike and Hamilton arrival strike. The use of British adhesives was accepted as common practice in the Klerksdorp Concentration camp but not from other camps. The cover is addressed to RENIER JANSEN VAN RENSBURG Prisoner No 25137 aged 17 years (Penkop) from the farm VOGELDRAAI district HEILBRON who was captured on the farm on the 31<sup>st</sup> October 1900 with pencil manuscript "Not Darrells" on the front.



Cover from ABERDEEN with backflap missing franked with a 1d CGH adhesive tied by an Aberdeen cds and that tied by British Censor Seal tied by a purple double oval Censor cachet dated 14 JAN 1902 and black circular Censor cachet applied at Cape Town. The reverse shows manuscript by the addressee giving his information and personal handstamp 'H.R. SCHOLTZ'. The front shows manuscript "Not Darrells". The cover is addressed to HENDRIK RUDOLPH SCHOLTZ Prisoner No 20345 aged 20 years (Penkop) from the farm UITKYK district WOLMARANSSTAD who was captured at ZWARTFONTEIN on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 1901 serving with the Lichtenburg Commando and who was sent to Bermuda from Ladysmith. There were more than 300 (penkoppe) youngsters held on the Bermudas.



PRISONERS OF WAR:

The last consignment of POWs arrived on the SS Montrose on the 16<sup>th</sup> January 1902 with well over a 1000 men. In total 4619 POWs arrived while a total of 34 died en route and were buried at sea. Mail was incoming from South Africa, from Overseas and from Overseas camps and outgoing to the same destinations. A large number of the POWs sent to Bermuda were from the Transvaal and were those POWs captured from mid 1901 to February 1902.

A picture of the S.S. MONTROSE which brought many of the Prisoners who were held at TIN TOWN in Ladysmith to Bermuda. On her last voyage she delivered 1259 POWs on the 17<sup>th</sup> January 1902 to mainly HAWKIN'S Island.



On her second voyage the S.S. MONTROSE had 5 deaths at sea. On her first voyage during August/September 1901 she had 23 deaths at sea. In all cases the dead were buried at sea.



Burial at sea on the way to Bermuda.

(Oorlogsmuseum photo)

LOCAL MAIL:

Inter person mail on the islands was almost non-existent. Nonetheless the occasional letter was sent conforming to existing postal regulations. They carried adhesives and were subject to Censorship and not easily come by.

Cover front from HAMILTON to DARREL'S with 1d QV Bermuda adhesive tied with a Hamilton cds dated MR 1 02 and blue type CMI censor cachet addressed to JURIE JOHANNES GELDENHUYS Prisoner No 17553 aged 53 years from the farm STRYDPOORT district VREDE who was captured at VREDE on the 9<sup>th</sup> October 1900 serving with the Klyprivier Commando.



Cover front from HAMILTON to DARREL'S but re-directed to BURT'S with 1d QV Bermuda adhesive tied with a Hamilton cds dated MR 11 1902 and blue Type CM 1 censor cachet applied at Hamilton addressed to SAREL SMIT Prisoner No 26385 aged 17 years (Penkop) from the farm STERKFONTein district BETHAL who was captured together with his father STEFANUS JOHANNES SMIT Prisoner No26384 aged 42 years, his brother STEFANUS JOHANNES SMIT (Jnr) Prisoner No26387 aged 11 years and his uncle JACOBUS PETRUS SMIT No 26386 aged 49 years at ROTTERDAM on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 1901 serving with the Bethal commando all of whom were sent to Bermuda via Tin Town Ladysmith and the MONTROSE.



"CONVICT MAIL":

The convicts were delegated to the limestone quarries where they were forced to do hard labour and when necessary were despatched to dig graves for those POWs who had died. When a Prisoner of War died he was buried with full military honours as opposed to the Rebels who were buried without ceremony and in the absence of friends or mates in the camp. They were disallowed mail or communications. Rev. Albertyn however gave news to individuals in sermons he gave to the convicts by inserting news into the sermon which was given in Hollands as follows per example: " Ons lees vanoggend n paar verse uit Psalm 23, n Psalm van David. De Heere is myn Herder.. Ben de Klerk, ek het n brief van jou vrou oopgemaak. Alles gaan goed. Hulle het mooi reens gehad. Sy en die kinders verlang na jou." And other like messages were given.

Cover from BLOEMFONTEIN to HAWKIN'S with 1d ORC tied by Bloemfontein cds and addressed to HENDRIK JOHANNES ALBERTYN Prisoner No 25445 aged 26 years from the farm "NIET - DE - NU" or DONKERHOEK district GRAAFF REINET who was wounded and captured serving with the Scheepers Commando at DRIEFONTEIN on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 1901. As a Cape Rebel he was tried and found guilty of Plunder, Arson, High Treason and Theft and was sentenced to lifelong Penal Servitude.



Rebels in the Graveyard on Long Island digging graves for the POWs who had died.



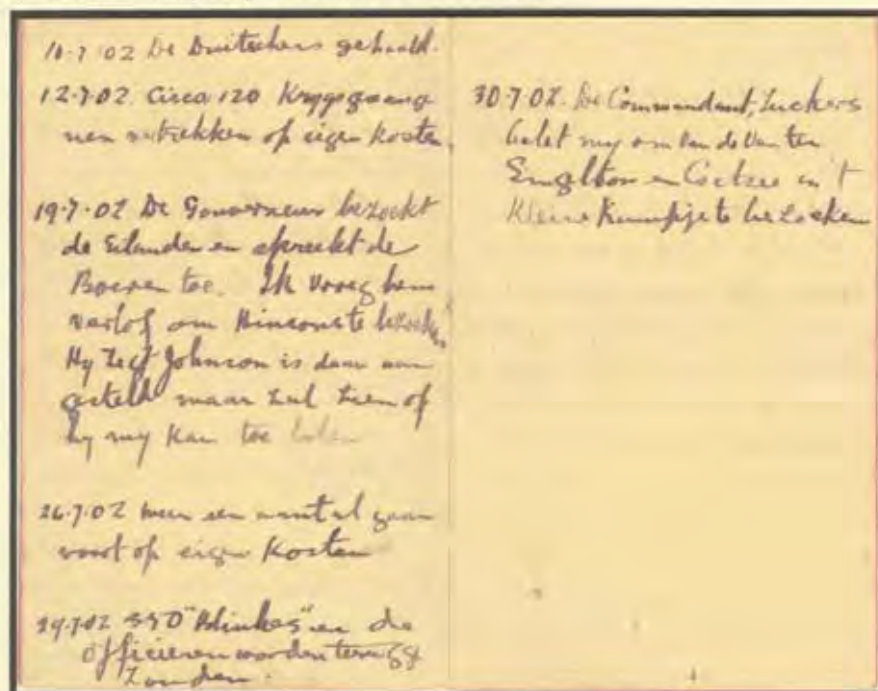
SPECIAL ENCLOSURE on TUCKER'S ISLAND : "DRAADKAMP" or "RAMKAMP":

Those who were involved in the abortive mutiny at Simons Town were sent to a special enclosure known as the " Draadkamp" or "Ramkamp" on TUCKER'S ISLAND. These mutineers and dissidents were treated harshly and were not allowed any privileges. They were treated as bandits and were held behind double rows of barbed wire fencing. They were allowed incoming mail only and were not allowed to correspond. The convicts were enforced to do hard labour from morning to night under strict control and enforcement by special ruthless guards.

Cover from New York addressed to Commandant W. L. VAN DEVENTER who was held on TUCKER'S The cover shows that he was held in the "SMALL ENCLOSURE" and that the letter had been endorsed "Not Tuckers", "Try Darrell's". The cover could have been from an escapee or a Benefit Society in Boston.



Rev. Van Blerk made a note in his notebook on the 30<sup>th</sup> July 1902 that the Camp Commandant of Tuckers prohibited him visiting Van Deventer, Singleton and Coetzee in the special enclosure which he refers to as "...in 't Kleine Kampje." He also writes that on the 29<sup>th</sup> July 1902 350 "Blinkes" and Officers were sent back to S.A. Here he was referring to those who had taken the Oath.



ST. GEORGE'S ISLAND: MILITARY PRISON:

On the 14<sup>th</sup> September 1901 the first 37 convicts arrived from South Africa on the MONTROSE troopship. They were accommodated in the Military Prison at St. George's where they received the same treatment as ordinary military prisoners. They remained at St. George's having no privileges until 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1902 when they were removed to the "SPECIAL" or "SMALL ENCLOSURE" on HAWKIN'S ISLAND. A Further compliment of 180 convicts arrived on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 1902 bringing their total to 255. Most of these convicts were Cape Colonialist Rebels although a few among them were foreigners. Many of them had been sentenced to death for High Treason but had had their sentences commuted to Penal Servitude for life. Their convictions arose from various offences committed against the Proclamations of War. After the War they were returned to South Africa and transferred to Tokai Prison where they were held until 1907 when their sentences were reprieved and they were set free.

Cover from PORT ALFRED with 1d CGH tied by Port Alfred cds dated JA 29 02 with CMI Censor cachet in blue applied at Hamilton addressed to St Georges Island but re-directed to "AAG P of War PROSPECT". The cover is addressed to Commandant HENDRIK LODEWIJK LOOTS Prisoner No 21164 aged 32 years from the farm WAPADSBURG district GRAAFF REINET, a Cape Rebel, who was captured at KLIPFONTEIN on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 1900 serving with the Graaff Reinett Commando. He was found guilty of attempted murder and High Treason and sentenced to Lifelong Penal Servitude. He was sent to Bermuda on the Montrose.





## CONVICTS:

The authorities were upset that "convicts" were being sent to the island together with POWs. They were unaware that the so-called convicts were Cape rebels and in many cases men who had been at war with the POWs but who had been sentenced to various sentences ranging from the death penalty to penal servitude for life as they were considered to be Cape Rebels and traitors to the Government of the Cape Colony. The convicts eventually numbered 250. The first 36 convicts arrived on the S.S. Montrose and the majority of the others 250 on the SS HARLECH CASTLE in December 1901. The convicts were clothed in a special uniform indicating a chicken spoor on their backs.

The convicts were treated as ordinary criminals and did not qualify for any privileges. GABRIEL PIETER GREEFF Prisoner No 25744 aged 34 years from the farm SLANGFONTEIN district BOETSAP or given as Border Siding TAUNGS was captured at Border Siding serving with the De Villiers Commando on the 29<sup>th</sup> July 1901 and sent to Hawkins. He was injured and despite being crippled like JACOBUS JOHANNES KRUGER Prisoner No19921 aged 43 years from the farm KLIPRIVIER district Vrede who was captured on the 21<sup>st</sup> May 1901 at Kliprivier serving the Kliprivier Commando they were put to do hard labour lying down and having crutches. Greeff in the photo infra.



The convicts held in the Special Enclosures were under close guard for fear of escape. They were treated harshly compared to the other inmates in the camps on the Islands.



The guard tower overlooking the convicts' enclosure. (Bermuda Archives photo)

REV. J.A. VAN BLERK:

A historical telegram sent from Dr. ANDREW MURRAY at KALK BAY on the 16<sup>th</sup> August 1901 to Rev. Van Blerk enquiring whether Van Blerk would go to Bermuda on Saturday and that he should contact Mr. C.P. SCHULTZ of the RELIEF COMMITTEE in CAPE TOWN immediately. Van Blerk was to go as additional Chaplain to Rev. ALBERTYN. Rev. Van Blerk accepted the calling and went off to Bermuda arriving there on the 21<sup>st</sup> October 1901. He did so at his own expense and went via Germany and New York.

**POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.**  
**CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.**

No. of Message  
.....

Date and Stamp of  
.....

If the necessity of this Telegram (being an Inland Telegram) is doubted, it will be repeated on payment of half the amount originally paid for its transmission; and, if found to be incorrect, the amount paid for repetition will be refunded. Special conditions are applicable to the repetition of Cablegrams. When the cost of a reply to a Telegram has been prepaid, and the number of words in the reply is in excess of the number so paid for, the sender of the reply must pay for such excess.

**N.B.—This Form should accompany any inquiry made respecting this Telegram.**

Charges to pay £ ..... s. ..... d.

CAPE UNIFORM TIME is observed throughout Cape Colony, Rhodesia, the Transvaal and the Orange Free State.

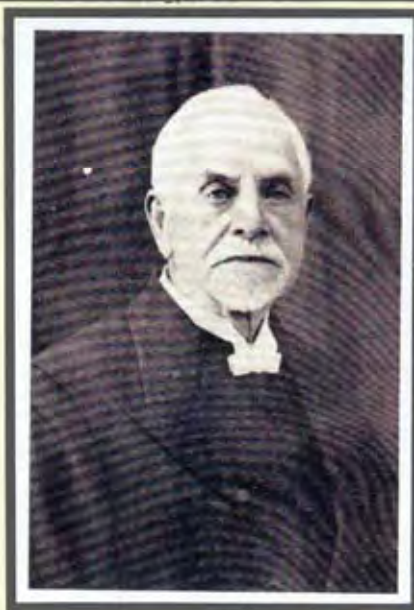
Handed in at Wellington at 8.40 M. Received here at 8.47 a

Delivering Office

FROM Murray TO Rev. Van Blerk

Would you go Bermuda  
Saturday see Schultz Cape Town  
immediately.

**KALK-BAY**  
**16 AUG 1901**  
**CAPE-COLONY**



SPIRITUAL SUPPORT:

After Rev. Albertyn and his wife were expelled from the camps Rev. Van Blerk was advised by military HQ that he was strictly to comply with the conditions on which he was granted permission to be on the islands, namely: 1. That he was granted permission solely for purpose of religious ministrations amongst the prisoners. 2. That he was not allowed to deliver or receive any letter or parcels from the prisoners. 3. That he was not allowed to discuss any political matters with the prisoners nor to influence them directly or indirectly against the authorities. To close any lines of illegal communication Rev. van Blerk was given a choice of one camp to continue his ministry and chose HAWKIN'S as the greatest number of prisoners were held there. He remained until 1903 where after he wrote "Op die Bermudas Beland" giving the story of the camp.

A beautiful and explicit postcard sent from Bermuda by REV. VAN BLERK to his fiancé Miss BESSIE VAN DER MERWE at the farm RIETFontein district RICHMOND Cape Colony. It shows him standing on DARRELL'S ISLAND sending her Christmas wishes on the 25<sup>th</sup> December 1901 which she receives in South Africa. It was most probably painted by one of the POWs for him.



BERMUDA:

Rev. Van Blerk's personal notebook which was started after the news of the Declaration of Peace was received in Bermuda. It contains a number of names and addresses. It also reveals the detention of Du Toit and Van Deventer in the "Small Enclosure".



Extracts from the notebook:

Reference is made to Peace being declared and later the escape of Duquesne and Du Toit. He makes mention of visiting Du Toit in the "Small Enclosure" Du Toit was placed there as his escape failed. He was handed over to the authorities by Miss Outerbridge.

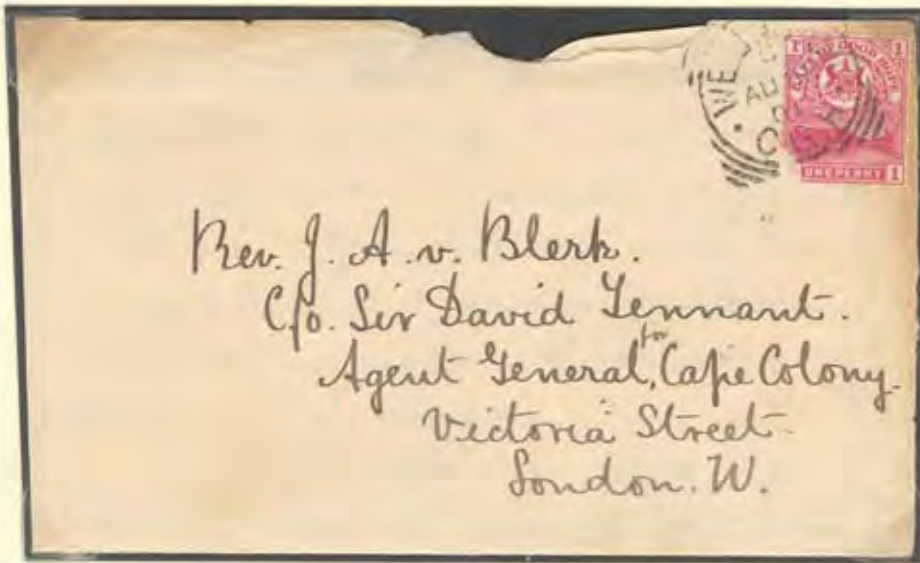
<p>1 Jan. Vredes tyding berisde ons</p> <p>3 Jun. Ik kryg meer een vrye pass om de eilande te bezochten behalve Annon.</p> <p>4. Ik bezoch Hamilton Baileys Bay.</p> <p>7. Receptie by de Gouverneur</p> <p>8. Ik kond deest of tuchter en bezoch den Toit in 't kleine Kamfje.</p>	<p>June</p> <p>25 Willie du Toit en de Duquesne ont en oppen een Buetts</p> <p>26 Abraham Mullen wordt of Darrells aangronch Kosten water wordt voor een dag ten ghouken</p> <p>28-29 Kost en water voor 60 uur terug ghouken omdat 5 Man niet wou den in vallen voor 'roll call'</p> <p>29. De oorowaarden van tenne gheen voor de ghang kan worden mee gedeeld</p> <p>2 Juli Gedrukte vort en de Versjes onderhandelingen wordt uitgegeven. Baklystas</p>
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REV. VAN BLERK:

An Entire from Rev. ANDREW MURRAY to Rev. J.A. VAN BLERK addressed c/o Sir DAVID TENNANT, Agent General for the Cape Colony in London. Correspondence directed to Rev. Van Blerk was sent via Sir David Tennant to ensure it was safely received. He writes about the shortage of Bibles for the approximately 4000 POWs expected to be on the Islands in Bermuda and that, he, (Van Blerk) is requested to contact the BIBLE SOCIETY in this regard.

Mrs. KOOPMANS DE WET advised Van Blerk: "Laat jou briewe stuur p/a Sir David Tennant, Agent-Generaal vir die Kaap Kolonie; hy is in die diens van ons Regering en is verplig om jou briewe agter jou aan te stuur, waarheen jy dit ook bestel" p 18 "Op Die Bermudas Beland" - Ds J.A. Van Blerk.

Rev. Van Blerk was on his way to Bermuda via Germany and London the letter addressed to him en route.



Contents of Dr Andrew Murray's letter to Rev. Van Blerk.

11 Aug 1901

Wants to know  
grote behoefte te versien  
dat u van de Kaap Kolonie  
Heer van Blerk dat het u het van  
zegen zal worden om onder de  
leiding van de Alkonden  
het om te doen  
Indien u degen mag hij  
tijde ontwaakt want u van  
de I. Kerk van het Brit  
- Nieuw Nieuw Nieuw Nieuw  
van u hem vragen om  
te een antwoorde te geven  
hij het genastichap in London  
de Alkonden schijft

in verband met de behoefte aan Bibles is  
te worden naar de Kaap Kolonie  
op het zamen volgen. In het alle  
nammen (op de 4000 menschen  
waren. Vraag in London of  
u met 1000 Bibles in het  
om te doen willen geven. Het zal  
u interessanter worden om het  
Nieuw Nieuw te versien  
Gij moet Eerw. H. B. van  
Secretaris van de Nieuw Nieuw  
ingezet vragen u van de  
de Alkonden om te geven u van de  
Nieuw Nieuw Nieuw in London  
dan, met verzoek om u  
van 1000 (1000) goedkope Bibles  
in Genastichap te helpen  
De Alkonden schijft over  
de behoefte daarvan, en de  
daar zij zullen het u versien

gauen geven. Indien u met  
zelf van Amsterdam want  
geen hebt u den lief van  
Zonden met u gane van  
u van adre  
De Kaap Kolonie een van  
vooropdag, u van de  
eigen onderscheidingal wat  
wonder is om van gelaige  
van Christus te versien, en  
u van de tot eenen u van  
zagen om de gongezien  
Van Blerk  
Andrew Murray

BERMUDA:

REV. J.A. VAN BLERK'S well preserved DIARY from the date of his departure from CAPE TOWN until the termination of his term of office in the Bermudas. It contains short notes of his daily activities.



Example of Rev. Van Blerk's notes within:

1st of June a day  
 of rain & wind  
 The weather is  
 very warm & the  
 sun is out with  
 some clouds  
 The water is  
 very calm & the  
 sea is very  
 smooth & the  
 wind is very  
 light & the  
 sky is very  
 clear & the  
 sun is very  
 bright & the  
 air is very  
 fresh & the  
 water is very  
 pure & the  
 land is very  
 fertile & the  
 people are  
 very kind &

2d of June a day  
 of rain & wind  
 The weather is  
 very warm & the  
 sun is out with  
 some clouds  
 The water is  
 very calm & the  
 sea is very  
 smooth & the  
 wind is very  
 light & the  
 sky is very  
 clear & the  
 sun is very  
 bright & the  
 air is very  
 fresh & the  
 water is very  
 pure & the  
 land is very  
 fertile & the  
 people are  
 very kind &

BERMUDA: Ex CORRESPONDENCE : Ds. J.A. VAN BLERK:

Mourning Cover on Official War Office Stationery undated and addressed to G. FLEETWOOD WILSON C.B. ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE WAR OFFICE LONDON. The entire makes mention of gifts for the Burghers on Bermuda from Miss Parker of the USA. A Scarce and interesting item reflecting the concern shown by the American Public for the well being of the Boer Prisoner of War on Bermuda.

G. Fleetwood Wilson C.B.  
Assistant Under Secretary  
of State  
War Office  
London

Thursday

Dear Mr. Albrighton,

Thank you for  
your note letting me that  
a Miss Parker of the United  
States of America has sent  
some gifts for the Burghers.  
I am addressed to Toffin.

This is the first I have heard  
of this lady's gift &  
presume that I shall be  
satisfied of this account  
when we talk it over at

REV. VAN BLERK: LETTERS FROM MRS. HULST: GRAND RAPIDS:

A number of letters from Mrs Henry Hulst of Grand Rapids to Rev. Van Blerk. Mrs Hulst arranged for necessities needed by the POWs to be sent to them. She makes mention that freight has been sent to them. In her letter of the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1902 she says she is glad to send some money to Rev. Van Blerk for the prisoners under his charge. " Young people of CILLA, IOWA who raised it in various ways and they send it to be spent for food, as you can add to the diet or provide for those who are in special need. I am sending also \$100 to the RELIEF COMMITTEE of which we have heard for use in the other islands."



88 Fountain St.,  
Grand Rapids, Mich.,  
Apr. 2, 1902.

My dear Rev. van Blerk,

I am very glad to be able to send you some money for the prisoners under your charge. It was contributed by some young people of Cella, Iowa, who raised it in various ways, and they send it to be spent for food, so you can add to the diet or provide for those





#### CULTURAL ASSISTANCE:

The monotony of life made the establishment of a Boer Relief Committee essential. It came into being under the direction of Miss ANNA MARIA OUTERBRIDGE, Capt. W.E. MEYER and Mrs SELMA RECHT which provided for the requirements of the POWs and had a strong German- American connection. At a later stage it was enhanced with REV. J.A. VAN BLERK, REV. J.R. ALBERTYN and his wife, Mr HERMAN RECHT and Mrs MEYER. Miss OUTERBRIDGE harboured escapees, obtained employment for others and arranged for the sale of curios made at the hands of POWs in the camps. Finished articles made by the POWs were sold by Miss Lough of the Women's Work Exchange.

Photo of The Relief Committee:  
Standing (l to r): Edwin Meyer,  
Rev. J.A. Van Blerk, Rev. J.R.  
Albertyn, Mr Herman Recht,  
and Captain Meyer. On the seat  
Mrs. Albertyn, Miss Outerbridge.  
Sitting: Mrs Recht and the Mrs  
Meyer.



The spiritual needs of the POWs was not neglected. Services were conducted twice daily in marquee tents or shacks. Rev. Albertyn came out on the SS Manila and was permitted to spend six months in Bermuda. Rev. Albertyn did ecclesiastical work while Mrs Albertyn taught the children. Rev. Albertyn preached to the men in the "stockade" or Ramkamp but was not allowed within the enclosure. He interspersed news in his sermons the guards who accompanied being unaware of the messages being sent. Mrs Albertyn assisted in the smuggling a letter from Joubert Reitz which appeared in the ROYAL GAZETTE resulting in the Albertyns being ordered back to South Africa in February 1902. They went to America where they advised the support groups of the situation in the camps. Letter to Mrs Rev. Albertyn from Mrs. Hulst of Grand Rapids. Mrs Hulst writes: " We have shipped to the Bermudas today three boxes and barrel full of clothes, paper, books etc and two boxes of soap 1870 lbs of freight.. We hope to be able to purchase some of the toys etc made by the prisoners.



**HOME INDUSTRY:**

Examples of Boer handiwork are rare today. Carving became a large industry in all the camps. Amongst the articles made were curios and brooches made from coins and bone. The manufacture of walking sticks, pen markers, and various other items took place under the auspices of the Industrial Association. The manufactured goods were sent to the Americas for sale and became sought after by collectors as they are today.



1. Using a lathe in Hawkins' camp.

*Curios made from ZAR Currency:*



**Brooches made from bone and coins.**

CANTEENS:

An enterprising HENRY WILLIAM TAYLOR Prisoner No 11052 aged 21 years from the farm PELHAM district LADYBRAND who was captured at FOURIESBURG serving with the Korannaberg Commando and who was sent to Bermuda on the Armenian started a coffee bar known as "The Lions Den" where the POWs gathered to discuss various matters and to enjoy a cup of coffee. It is believed that about 200 Pounds was generated per month at the canteen. He stands to the left of the tree in the photo.



Ginger Beer Canteen at Morgan's Island.



INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION:

When carving became a large scale industry the finished articles were sent to Hamilton for sale. Many items such as paperknives, penholders and carved bone brooches and silver items made from coins. The snake shoes are amongst the better known items. Items such as those displayed were made from Cedar wood and bone. They were sold in the Americas and funds so raised were used for the benefit of the makers and the inmates of the camps.



24. Members of the Bart's Island Industrial Association display their wares. A.C. Schulenburg (with wrist-watch) in the centre.

CHRISTELIJKE JONGELINGS STREVEN'S VEREENIGING:

Original founding Constitution of the Christelijke Jongelings Strevens Vereeniging at HAWKIN'S ISLAND  
of BERMUDA dated 16<sup>th</sup> February 1902.

Christelijke Jongelings Strevens Vereeniging  
onder de  
Krijgsgevangenen  
te Hawkins Eiland, Bermuda

Deze Vereeniging werd opgericht op den 16<sup>den</sup>  
Februari in het jaar onzes Heeren 1902.

Het doel dezer Vereeniging is een ernstig Christe-  
lijk leven en vriendschappelyk verkeer onder haer  
leden te bevorderen en hen meer bruikbaar maken  
in het werk des Heeren.

De Vereeniging bestaat uit 2 soorten leden: a  
Werkende leden en b mede leden. Werkende leden  
zijn jongelingen die belijden Christenen te zijn en  
van harte verlangen een ernstig leven na te wandelen.  
Medeleden. Alle jongelingen die van harte begeerig  
is den Heere te dienen, doch nog niet de vrijmoedig-  
heid hebben Hem te belijden, kunnen mede leden  
dezer vereeniging zijn.

Het bestuur bestaat uit een voorzitter, vice voor-  
zitter, secretaris en nog drie of meer andere leden.

De Vereeniging is een deel der Kerk, en de predikant,  
ouderlingen en diakenen zijn Ex-officio eereleden; zij

BOER PRISONERS OF WAR BERMUDA: MANUSCRIPT MARKS IN INK, PENCIL OR CRAYON:

Cover from JOHANNESBURG to GREEN POINT re-addressed to BERMUDA with 1d ZAR adhesive optd ERI and tied by a Johannesburg cds dated 2 APR 01 with blue POW censor cachet applied at Green Point with manuscript in blue crayon "Bermuda" with red pen manuscript "not Morgans" Pencil manuscripts "Not Camp 2", "Not Darrells", "Not Burtis". The cover is addressed to JOHN ADRIAN LOMBARD Prisoner No 16020 aged 30 years from Johannesburg who was captured with De Wets forces at BOTHVILLE on the 6<sup>th</sup> November 1900 serving with Johannesburg (ZARPS) Commando and who was sent to Bermuda from Green Point.



Cover from PRETORIA (with GB adhesive applied) 1d GB QV Lilac tied by a Pretoria cds date illegible with black triangular censor cachet applied at Pretoria. The cover is addressed to JACOBUS COENRAAD LOUW Prisoner No 19963 aged 33 years from the farm BUFFELSDOORN district Waterberg who was captured at WITKLIP on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 1901 serving with the Nylstroom Commando and who was sent to Bermuda via Ladysmith. The use of the British adhesives by Boers is unusual. It could perhaps be that this cover was from Irene Concentration Camp from his wife A.M. Louw. The front shows the various manuscript endorsements: "Not Burtis, Not Darrells, Not Tuckers, Not Morgans" Where was he then?



BOER PRISONERS OF WAR BERMUDA: MANUSCRIPT MARKS IN INK, PENCIL OR CRAYON:

Post re-directed at Bermuda was endorsed by hand indicating the rotation of prisoners between the various islands. This was done to prevent the POWs escaping and to prevent them forming bonds to create insurrection.

Cover from STELLENBOSCH with 2 X CGH adhesives tied with Stellenbosch cds dated 9 DE 01 with violet boxed censor cachet of Stellenbosch on the front with Hamilton arrival strike on the reverse. The front shows ink manuscript "NOT DARRELL'S" on the front. The cover is addressed to WILLEM BACHOFNER Prisoner no 19450 aged 38 years from ERMELO who was captured at KLIPFONTEIN on the 26<sup>th</sup> May 1901 and who was sent to Burts Island Bermuda.



Cover from PRETORIA (with GB adhesives applied) 2x 1d GB 1 Lilac tied by a Pretoria cds dated 12 DEC 01 with black triangular censor cachet applied at Pretoria. The cover is addressed to GERT DIEDERICK DE BEER Prisoner No 207 29 aged 24 years from the farm KJLIPKOP district Rustenberg who was captured at MAMPAS RIVER on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 1901 serving with the Rustenburg Commando and who was sent to Bermuda via Ladysmith.





PRISON HOSPITAL, DEATHS & BURIALS:

The prison hospital was opened at the beginning of July 1901 under Col. North RAMC. Three surgeons and small staff operated the 110 bed facility and treated 950 cases in the first six months. 35 Men died in captivity some 12 due to incurable diseases and one who was shot at the fence. No 16870 was the alleged culprit. He was FREDERICK HENDRIK BOSCH Prisoner No16870 aged 16 years from Skinner Street PRETORIA who was captured at PRETORIA on 5<sup>th</sup> June 1901 and who was sent to Bermuda on the Armenian. He was shot by a guard with whom he had "arranged" to escape on the 27<sup>th</sup> April 1902. On death of a POW or Convict an inquest was held at Ports Island. A convict was then detailed to prepare a gravestone marker on which only a number, in sequence appeared.

CAREL STEFANUS DE HAAS Prisoner No 21023 aged 50 years from the farm RUSTHOEK district WAKKERSTROOM was captured together with his son GERRIT PETRUS DE HAAS Prisoner No 21022 aged 19 years on their farm serving with the Wakkerstroom Commando on the 29<sup>th</sup> July 1901. Both were sent to Bermuda via Ladysmith Tin Town. C.S. de Haas died on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1901 from Pneumonia and is buried on LONG ISLAND grave no 8.

Convicts digging graves on Long Island:



The grave NO 8 of C.S. DE HAAS.



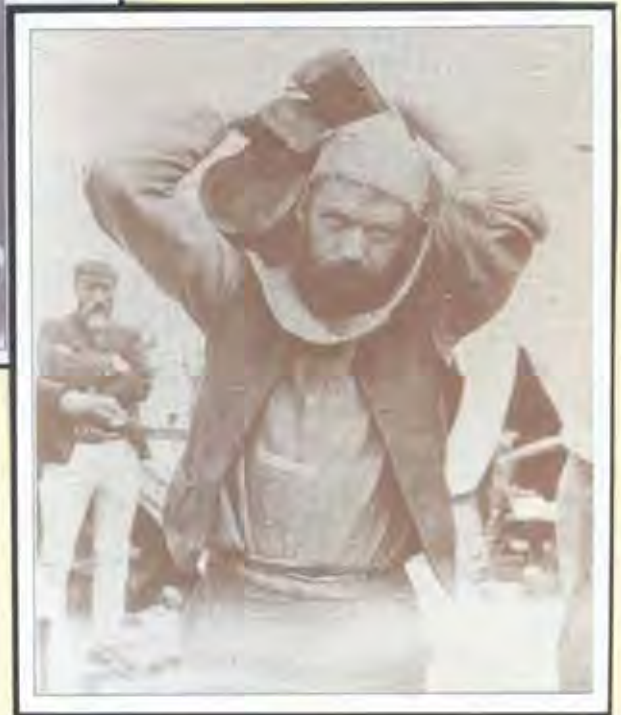
The grave of C.S.de Haas in the Long Island cemetery.

(Harry McHarg photo)

#### ATTEMPTS AT ESCAPE:

Not many POWs succeeded in escaping from Bermuda. The first attempt was by one of two brothers Du Plooy who had swum across the harbour to the S.S. Trinidad which sailed for New York. He was found when the vessel reached New York and initially held by Immigration authorities but later released. His brother was an irreconcilable in the camp. Later a trio escaped one of which was rounded up at Miss Outerbridge's gate he was HENDRIK INDEMAUR the others also found. They were sent to The Ramkamp in the TUCKER'S Island stockade. There were a number of other attempts at escape. ADOLPHUS DE WET sowed away to freedom as also a German named ALBRECHT who was mistaken as a stoker on the S.S. Trinidad. The New York Daily Tribune reported that he had arrived safely and was at liberty. BARON VON KAYNACH was collected from the home of Mr. Hernam Recht. On the 25<sup>th</sup> June 1902 FRITZ J DUQUESNE Prisoner No 24131 aged 23 years an American who was from Cape Town and NICOLAAS DU TOIT left BURT's illegally and made their way to Miss Outerbridge for assistance to escape. She agreed to assist one and by agreement to hand the other to the authorities. As Duquesne had already been proscribed he was sent to Capt. Meyer in St. George's where a ship was found for him making good his escape while Du Toit was handed over. Duquesne an Anglophobe became a master spy for Germany and a master at sabotage. He is believed to be the responsible for mining the H.M.S. HAMPSHIRE which caused the death of Lord Kitchner by drowning when the ship went down. He at last obtained retribution. A special reward was posted for his recapture. His escape is mentioned by Rev. Van Blerk herein. DU TOIT was treated extremely harshly on account of his dissident attitude. He was given extremely hard labour as the picture shows and was bound and handcuffed to his bed at night.

Picture of Nicholas Jacobus Du Toit Prisoner No 13579 aged 28 years from the farm Deeljan district Lichtenburg. Who was captured at Riefontein on the 27<sup>th</sup> September 1900 serving with the No1 Lichtenburg Commando and Who was sent to Bermuda on the Armenian on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 1901. He was a forceful dissident and was shackled and handcuffed by night. He was an inmate of the penal camp at Bermuda.



DAILY ROUTINE:

The inmates formed their own form of Government in the camps. The tents were arranged in lines of about 12 with 6 or 7 men to each. Each tent elected a "Foreman" who in turn chose a line "captain" who was responsible for the affairs and conduct of his men. The line "Captains" selected a camp "Commandant" who acted as spokesman for all the men with the Guard Commander. On Burt's, the first Commandant JAPIE (JACOB) HAUPTFLEISCH Prisoner No 18706 aged 25 years from Pretoria, a despatch rider with the Pretoria Commando who was captured at PUTFONTEIN on the 8<sup>th</sup> May 1901 serving with the Pretoria Commando, could not see eye to eye with Major Armstrong so LODEWIJK CHRISTIAN MARINUS WEGERIF Prisoner No 20671 aged 31 years from the farm WELTEVREDE district NYLSTROOM who was captured at SABIE RIVER on the 28<sup>th</sup> January 1901 serving with the NYLSTROOM Commando and who was sent to BURTS via Tin Town Ladysmith, was elected in his place. On Wegerif's resignation Captain RICHARD ALEXANDER KNIPE Prisoner No 19885 aged 39 years from the farm KAALSPRUIT district STANDERTON who was captured at Standerton on the 30<sup>th</sup> May 1901 serving with the Standerton Commando, was appointed the camp's final "Commandant". The chain of command worked well while internal discipline was maintained by the camp's "Landdrost." Roll Call was a daily routine.

Cover from BLOEMFONTEIN with 1d OFS Optd VRI and tied by Bloemfontein cds dated 15 OC 01 and NPR (Richards) Censor cachet applied at Bloemfontein and CMI Censor cachet in blue applied at Hamilton. The cover is addressed to LODEWIJK CHRISTIAN MARINUS WEGERIF abovementioned.



Cover from WELLINGTON with 1d CGH tied by Wellington cds dated Dec 22 01 with black circular Censor cachet applied at Cape Town and tied over the top with British Censor Seal and CMI Censor cachet on front addressed to RICHARD ALEXANDER KNIPE abovementioned.



OUTGOING MAIL TO CEYLON CAMP:

Postcard to DIYATALAWA with per-printed Bermuda QV 1d adhesive tied by Hamilton cds date MR 29 1902 with Colombo transit strike and Diyatalawa arrival strike and Violet Type CM 3 censor cachet applied at Hamilton. Also Type D3 censor cachet of Diyatalawa E.J.B. (Baumann) applied in Ceylon on front.

The card is addressed to Master GORDON SPRAGG TRIEGAARDT Prisoner No 9320 aged 16 years (Penkop) from the farm BLYDSKAP district FICKSBURG who was captured at FOURIESBURG on the 30<sup>th</sup> July 1900 serving with the Ficksburg Commando and who was sent to Diyatalawa on the MONGOLIAN. This censor cachet is scarce. The cover is from J.H. GROENEWALD at DARRELL'S Island.



A Photograph of Officers at DIYATALAWA CAMP about 10,000 miles away from BERMUDA all living in bondage.



INCOMING INTER CAMP MAIL:

Cover from MIDDELBURG CONCENTRATION CAMP dated 19 SEP 01 to GREEN POINT and Re-directed to Bermuda with 1d ZAR optd ERI and tied with Middelburg cds dated 19 SE 01 with black triangular Pretoria censor cachet and manuscript "Bermuda" in pencil on the front. The reverse shows the double serrated violet Burgher Camp Middelburg cachet and a Pretoria transit strike dated 23 SEP 01.

The cover is addressed to GERT J. STRYDOM (also known as STRIJTSMAN) Prisoner No 25281 aged 24 years from the farm ROOPLAATS district UNIONDALE, a Cape Rebel who was captured and found guilty of Attempted Murder and High Treason and sentenced to Lifelong Penal Servitude. He was sent to Bermuda on the Montrose 93 and committed to gaol as a convict at St. George's Bermuda. He was subsequently transferred to HAWKIN'S Island.



Reverse of Cover:



**BOER PRISONERS OF WAR ON BERMUDA:**

In the ABW Philatelist dealing with the POW camps overseas research states that four censors were employed at Ports Island between June 1901 and June 1902. Four handstamp censor marks have been recorded with a further two sub types. No censor seals were used on the islands. The first and the commonest censor mark is an un-numbered 24cm diameter double circle mark with "PRISONERS OF WAR/BEREMUDA" between the circles and "Passed/Censor" in the centre. It was applied from 16<sup>th</sup> July 1901 to the 13<sup>th</sup> June 1902. The mark numbered "2" is larger than type 1 consisting of a double bordered single circle 28mm in diameter with "PRISONERS OF WAR/BERMUDA" around the perimeter and in the centre "PASSES CENSOR" with line above and numeral "2" below. It appeared from 5<sup>th</sup> November 1901 to 27<sup>th</sup> June 1902. Many cover have manuscript endorsements "Not Dorells" "Not Tuckers" etc on the fronts indicating that the prisoners were rotated between different camps and that their post was re-directed. Cover from BRUSSELS Belgium (with one adhesive torn away) with 10 C adhesive tied by Brussels cds dated DEC 12 01 with Type 1 blue Censor cachet on the front. The cover is addressed to: MARIUS CORNELIUS SCHENER Prisoner No 21438 aged 24 years from Pretoria who was captured at BLOEDRIVER on the 29<sup>th</sup> July 1901 serving with the Pretoria Commando a Hollander who was sent to Bermuda via Ladysmith.



Cover from a POW on BERMUDA to GRONINGEN Holland and re-directed to Zivolle with 2 1/2 d QV Bermuda adhesive tied by a Hamilton cds dated AP 2 1901 with Bermuda Type 2 censor cachet and Groningen arrival strike dated 15 APR 02 on the front. The reverse shows Groningen transit and Zivolle arrival strike on the reverse.



**BOER PRISONERS OF WAR ON BERMUDA:**

Censor cachet Type 3 in the form of a triangle with point down containing "PRISONERS OF WAR/..Passed Censor 3 /...BERMUDA struck in violet was used from 5<sup>th</sup> November 1901 to 13<sup>th</sup> July 1902..The cover Inter Camp from MEREBANK P.O.A. 73 to Burt's Island Bermuda is addressed to WILLEM DE JAGER Prisoner No 19824 aged 31 from the farm UTTKOMST district ERMELO who was captured at WELGELEGEN on the 26<sup>th</sup> May 1901 and who was sent to BERMUDA via Ladysmith



Inter Camp postcard from BERMUDA to DIYATALAWA with pre-stamped 1/2d adhesive tied by Hamilton cds dated FE 25 1902 with Colombo transit strike dated MR 10 02 on the front with circular "T" and Rectangular black Taxed cachet "Amount to be collected "5" Centimes" with blue censor markings and Diyatalawa Type 2 E.J.B. Censor cachet E.J.B. (Baumann) censor cachet on the front. The cover is addressed to JAN JACOBUS LUDIK Prisoner No 27171 aged 12years (Penkop) from KLERKSDORP TOWN who was captured at TWEELINGSPAN on the 13<sup>th</sup> December 1901 serving with the Klerksdorp Commando and who was sent to Ceylon.



BOER PRISONERS OF WAR BERMUDA: MANUSCRIPT MARKS IN INK, PENCIL OR CRAYON:

Inter Camp Cover from GREEN POINT to TIN TOWN LADYSMITH re-directed to BERMUDA with 1d CGH adhesive tied by Green Point cds dated MY 25 01 with outgoing POW censored mail cachet "Green Point" with orange crayon manuscript "Bermuda" and manuscripts: "Not Morgan's, Not Darrells, Not Burts" on the front. The reverse shows Ladysmith arrival and transit strike as also Durban and Hamilton. The Cover is addressed to CAREL LODEWIJK VAN DER MERWE Prisoner No 18014 aged 36 years from the farm KRANSSPRUIT district KROONSTAD who was captured at Kroonstad on the 14th March 1901 serving with the Mid Valsch River Commando and initially sent to Green Point.



Cover from ROODEPOORT to BERMUDA with 1d ZAR opvd ERI tied by Roodepoort cds dated 27 JAN 02 with partial black Johannesburg censor cachet on the front with Johannesburg and Hamilton transit and arrival strikes on the reverse. The manuscripts "Not Darrells and Not Hawkins" in pencil manuscript appear on the front. The cover is addressed to JAN CHRISTOFFEL VAN GRAAN Prisoner No 11258 aged 34 years from ROODEPOORT TOWN district KRUGERSDORP who was captured at Roodepoort on the 26<sup>th</sup> August 1900 serving with the De Villiers Commando.





THE AGED and "THE PENNYBOYS"

HERMANUS CHRISTIAN VAN BRAKEL Prisoner No 25557 aged 77 years who was captured together with his son ADRIAN JOHANNES VAN BRAKEL Prisoner No 24560 aged 50 years and his grandsons HERMAN CHRISTIAN VAN BRAKEL Prisoner No 24561 aged 16 years and HENDRIK JACOBUS VAN BRAKEL Prisoner No 24562 aged 14 years from the farm BULTHOEK district BETHLEHEM at FANNY'S HOME on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 1901. They were sent to Bermuda via Ladysmith. The 79 year old VAN BRAKEL with 500 Pounds kept his worldly wealth in money in a belt strapped to his waist because he could never find anyone able to change a five pound note. He returned to South Africa with his life savings intact.

A Photograph of a number of aged held in Bermuda:



Some of the Prisoners of war were able to obtain employment in the camps or in Hamilton or with private people at a small wage. They did clerical work for 2/- p.d. while others provided unskilled labour for construction projects and for the off loading of coal at the rate of 1d per hour. They were called "Pennyboys".



10. "Pennyboys" working on construction.

INCOMING MAIL:

Cover from PRETORIA to BURT'S with 2x 1/2d ZAR optd VRI and tied by Pretoria cds dated 14 OCT 01 and marked "Not Darrells" with black triangular Pretoria censor cachet. The cover is addressed to SALDOOR JACOBUS HENRICO Prisoner No 19804 aged 30 years from the farm KLIPDRIFT district PRETORIA who was captured at RIETFontein together with his brother STEFANUS JACOBUS HENRICO Prisoner No 19805 aged 43 years from the same farm, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1900 serving with the Apiesriver Commando. Both sent via Tin Town holding camp in Ladysmith to Bermuda.



An original photograph of a group of Officers amongst others:

A. Kruger, Rocco de Villiers, General A.P. Cronje, Steyn, Joubert Reitz and A van der Merwe.



BERMUDA: PHOTOGRAPH PRISONERS OF WAR:

A photograph taken on Bermuda. From left to right:

JOSHUA PETRUS VILJOEN Prisoner No 19325 aged 21 years from the farm BEYERSVLEI district LICHTENBURG who was captured at PUTFONTEIN on the 8<sup>th</sup> May 1901 serving with the Lichtenburg Commando, centre JACOBUS JOHANNES VILJOEN Prisoner No 19323 aged 31 years from the farm JAKALSFONTEIN district BETHULIE who was captured at METZ on the 15<sup>th</sup> May 1901 serving with the Boschjesspruit Commando who had sent the photo to his wife SALIE M. VILJOEN at the Norval's Pont Concentration Camp as will appear from the notes on the reverse of the photo and on the right DAVID SCHALK VILJOEN Prisoner No 19324 aged 41 years from the farm VLAKFONTEIN district FAURESMTIH who was captured at METZ serving with the Fauresmith Commando, all of whom were sent to Bermuda via Ladysmith.

It is noted that JACOBUS JOHANNES VILJOEN is in mourning and that his brothers are supporting him. The photo below appears to be that of his young son who died in the Norval's Pont camp. The photographs were found together.



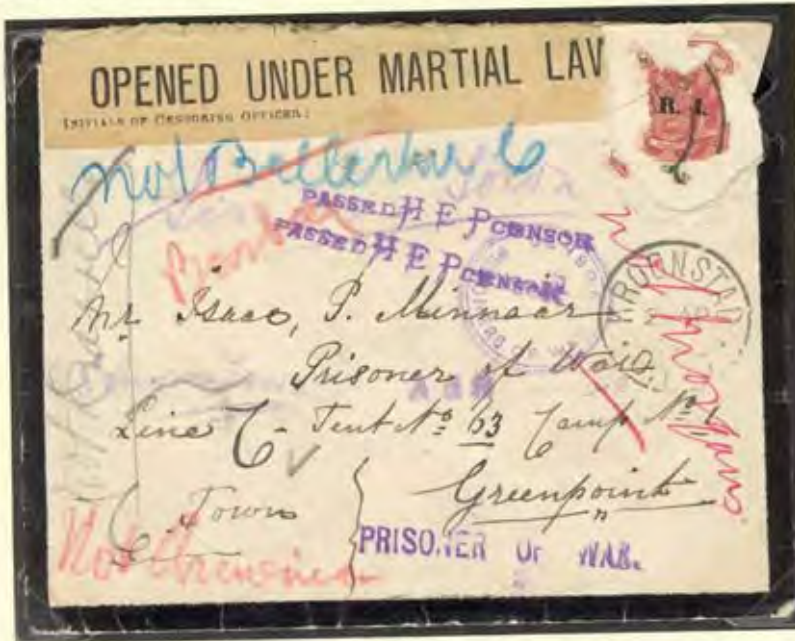
BERMUDA:

A photograph of Boer POWs under British Guard at St Georges. In the centre front DANIEL FRANCOIS BOTHA Prisoner No 20797 aged 21 years from the farm WILGEKLOOF district CRADOCK who was captured at RUIGTEVALEI on the 7<sup>th</sup> June 1901 serving with the CRADOCK COMMANDO, a Cape Rebel, sent to Hawkins Island, Bermuda via Ladysmith. He was put into penal servitude at St Georges. The other identified with chin in hands is MAX TEINERT Prisoner No 26491 aged 27 years, a German, from 45 Thiurgarten Strasse ,BRESLAU, GERMANY who was captured at PETRUSVILLE on the 8<sup>th</sup> September 1901 serving with the Malan Commando who was sent to Hawkins Island Bermuda where he was put into Penal Servitude.



RE - DIRECTED MAIL SENT TO BERMUDA:

Mourning Cover from KROONSTAD to GREEN POINT re-directed to SIMON'S Town marked "Not Bellevue" redirected to "The Armenian" marked "Not Armenian" to Bermuda marked "Not Darrell's", "Not Morgan's" reverse "Not Diyatalawa" and re-directed to Bombay from Ceylon.  
 The cover is addressed to ISAAC PIETER MINNAAR Prisoner No 29947 aged 36 years from MIDDELBURG TVL who was captured at NOOITGEDACHT on the 20<sup>th</sup> February 1901 together with his son DANIEL TAILLEFER MINNAAR Prisoner No 29946 aged 17 years who was sent to India with his father on the 6<sup>th</sup> March 1902.



Registered Incoming cover addressed to Rev. J.A. VAN BLERK at HAWKIN'S Island. By the time the letter had arrived he had left the Bermudas resulting in the cover being re-directed to New York and Chicago. It appears to have been advertised through the DLO Chicago?



REVERSE OF COVER



INCOMING MAIL:

Inter Camp from IRENE to MORGAN'S with 1d ZAR optd ERI tied by Pretoria cds dated 14 APR 02 with British Censor Seal on the reverse addressed to BAREND JOHANNES BOTES Prisoner No 32162 aged 22 years from the farm MOOPLAATS district PRETORIA who was captured at VAALKOP on the 10<sup>th</sup> January 1902 serving with the Pretoria Commando. The sender was his wife A.E. Botes in the Irene Concentration Camp.



Cover from ABERDEEN with 1d CGH tied by Aberdeen cds dated MR 7 02 with purple double oval PVM Censor cachet applied at Aberdeen on 7 Mar 1902 with pencil manuscript "KOLONIALER" indicating that he was a Cape Rebel. The cover is addressed to CHARLES JACOBUS KEMP Prisoner No 24821 (not 24970) aged 19 years from ABERDEEN town who was captured in the Cape, the date unknown. He was sent to HAWKIN'S.



OUTGOING INTER CAMP MAIL:

Cover to KROONSTAD CONCENTRATION CAMP with 1d QV Bermuda tied by Hamilton cds dated JA 8 1902 with Type CM 1 censor cachet in blue on front with black P.B.C. censor cachet applied at Bloemfontein. The cover is addressed to MRS C.J. DU PLESSIS at the Kroonstad Concentration Camp from her husband in Bermuda. He was CARL JOHANNES DU PLESSIS Prisoner No 21333 aged 30 years from the farm BUFFELSBOUT district FAURESMITH who was captured on his farm serving with the Fauresmith Commando on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1901.



Cover front from PIETER JACOBUS BOSMAN Prisoner No 5144 aged 45 years from the farm BULDERSBEKHOEK district HOOPSTAD who was captured at Modder River on the 27 February 1900 serving with the Hoopstad Commando and who was sent to Bermuda. The addressee is his relative JAN JACOBUS BOSMAN Prisoner No 5143 aged 22 years from the farm RIETKUIL district LADYBRAND who was captured together with his father LOUIS DANIEL BOSMAN Prisoner 104477 aged 50 years at Paardeberg both serving with the Korannaberg Commando. JAN was sent to Diyatalawa in the City of Vienna while his father was sent to Bermuda.



BERMUDA: INTER CAMP CORRESPONDENCE:

Cover from Bermuda to Klerksdorp with 2 x ½ d QV Bermuda adhesives tied by Hamilton cds dated FE 4 02 with black Oval Johannesburg censor cachet on the front and Johannesburg transit strike on the reverse addressed to Mrs S.D.G. Opperman at Ou Dorp Klerksdorp most probably from OCKERT CORNELIUS OPPERMAN Prisoner No 21308 aged 43 years from WOLMARANSSTAD who was captured together with his son PHILIPPUS ALBERTUS OPPERMAN Prisoner No 21310 aged 19 years and brother RUDOLF JOHANNES OPPERMAN Prisoner No 21309 aged 45 years from the farm DOORNPAN district WOLMARANSSTAD on the 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1901 serving with the No1 Wolmaransstad Commando all of whom were sent to Bermuda.



Cover from Bermuda to Mrs J.P. Badenhorst at No 3 Camp Klerksdorp with 1d Bermuda QV adhesive tied by Hamilton cds dated JA 24 1902 with No 2 Censor cachet Bermuda in blue and black oval Johannesburg censor cachet on the front .the reverse reveals London transit strike. The cover most probably from JAN HENDRIK BADENHORST Prisoner No 25458 aged 18 years (penkop) from the farm KLIPDRIF district KROONSTAD who was captured at JAGTERSHOEK on the 29<sup>th</sup> September 1901 serving with the Kroonstad Commando and who was sent to Bermuda.





INTER CAMP INCOMING REDIRECTED MAIL:

Cover from DIYATALAWA to HARWARDEN CASTLE Cape Town and re-directed to Bermuda with 6c QV Ceylon tied Diyatalawa cds dated AP 5 01 with Type 1 Diyatalawa Censor cachet on front showing Colombo transit strike and Durban transit strike on the reverse flap. The cover is re-directed to Bermuda with a blue inscription to this effect and is marked in pencil "Not Darrell's" Burt's".

The cover is addressed to JAN ANDRIES LOMBARD Prisoner No 10754 aged 39 years from the farm OLIEVENHOUTKOM district ROUXVILLE who was captured at FOURIESBURG on the 30<sup>th</sup> July 1900 serving with the Swanepool Commando. He was sent to Bermuda on the Armenian on the 29<sup>th</sup> May 1901.

His son CHRISTOFFEL WILHELMUS LOMBARD Prisoner No 7655 aged 21 years from the same farm was also captured with his father serving with the Rouxville Commando and was sent to DIYATALAWA on the RANEE. This letter was most probably from him to his father.



**BERMUDA:**

A cover from BERMUDA to FAURESMTIH but re-directed to UITENHAGE ( KABUSI?) with a 1d BERMUDA adhesive tied by a HAMILTON cds dated AP 2 1902 cds with violet Type 2 censor cachet on the front with the transit strikes of BETHULIE 17 MY 02 and arrival strike of UITEHAGE 29 MY 02 with octagonal black Uitenhage censor cachet on the front with red manuscript markings Uitenhage and PBC in red applied at Bloemfontein addressed to Miss Zia Venter of the farm BOSVARKFONTEIN district FAURESMTIH. The woman on farms in Fauresmith district were sent to camps in Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage.

The cover sent by HENDRIK TJAART VENTER Prisoner No 20535 aged 53 years from the farm BOSVARKFONTEIN ( Records erroneously refer to BOSCHWAARTFONTEIN) ,FAURESMTIH district who was captured at KRANTZHOEK on the 7<sup>th</sup> June 1901 serving with the Van Zylspruit Commando and was sent to BERMUDA via TIN TOWN, LADYSMITH.



A very scarce and rare unusual PICTURE POSTCARD of Boer Prisoners of War bathing in the sea at St. Lucia on their return voyage to South Africa after the War.



ST. LUCIA.—Boer bathing at Vicho, 1902.

BOER WAR: BERMUDA:

A cover to BERMUDA from AMSTERDAM with a Dutch Q Wilhelmina adhesive tied by an Amsterdam cds dated 28 MRT 1902 with a scarce violet POW / PASSED CENSOR 4 / BERMUDA censor cachet on the front with manuscript note "NOT DARRELS".

The card addressed to GERT HENDRIK JACOBUS KRUGER Prisoner No 19915 aged 22 years from PRETORIA an OFFICER in the ZAR Artillery who was captured at Pretoria on the 11<sup>th</sup> June 1901 together with his brother ANDRIES JACOB KRUGER Prisoner 19914 aged 29 years also an OFFICER with the ZAR Artillery both of whom were sent to Bermuda via Tin Town Ladysmith. The reverse of the cover shows a Hamilton Bermuda arrival strike dated AP 10 1902.



BERMUDA:

Inter Camp Cover from IRENE CAMP to MORGAN'S ISLAND , BERMUDA with 1d KEVII TVL adhesive tied by an IRENB cds dated 23 APR 1902 with a PINK British Type 36 tied over the back flap and that tied by an oval violet Irene Concentration Camp censor cachet and a Pretoria transit strike dated 23 April 1902 with a Hamilton arrival strike dated JU 9 02.

The cover is addressed to DIRK JACOBUS PRETORIUS Prisoner No 20204 aged 23 years from the farm WITTFONTEIN district PRETORIA who was captured at ZANDERFONTEIN on the 15<sup>th</sup> May 1901 serving with the Steenkamp Commando and who was sent to Bermuda via Tin Town , Ladysmith.



A cover from PRETORIA to TIN TOWN LADYSMITH re-directed to BERMUDA with 1d ZAR adhesive optd ERI and tied by a PRETORIA cds with Pretoria censor cachet .The cover is addressed to JOSEPHUS JOHANNES FOURIE Prisoner No 18662 aged 26 years from the farm ZUIKERBOSCHFONTEIN district Johannesburg who was captured together with his father JOSEPHUS FOURIE POW No 18661 aged 55 years at KOESTERFONTEIN on the 28<sup>th</sup> April 1901 serving with the Krugersdorp Commando both of whom were sent to Bermuda via Tin Town Ladysmith.



BERMUDA: INTER CAMP CORRESPONDENCE:

Inter Camp cover from Bermuda to Klerksdorp Concentration camp with block of four ¼ d Bermuda QV adhesives tied by Hamilton cds dated DE 15 1901 addressed to Mrs G.W. Roux with type 2 Bermuda Censor cachet in blue and oval black Johannesburg censor cachet on the front. The reverse shows Johannesburg transit strike dated 20 JAN 02. The cover is most probably from DAVID JACOBUS ROUX Prisoner No 21416 aged 66 years from the farm MIDDELFONTEIN district POTCHEFSTROOM who was captured at HOOIBEETJESFONTEIN on the 21<sup>st</sup> August 1901 with his son THOMAS JACOBUS ROUX both of whom were sent to Bermuda via Tin Town Ladysmith.



'n Groepie bejaarde krygsgevangenes op Morgans-eiland. (Foto: Uit die „dagboek“ van Rocco de Villiers).

INCOMING MAIL TO BERMUDA:

Registered incoming cover from HEILBRON CAMP to BURT'S with 2x 2d optd OFS & VRI and 2x 1/2d ORC all tied by Heilbron cds dated SP 30 1901 with scarce straight line "Passed Censor" censor cachet in blue and initialled and dated 31/10/01 applied at Heilbron, blue NPR (Richards) censor cachet applied at Bloemfontein and blue CMI Censor cachet applied at Hamilton usual registration marks and numbers in blue crayon and indelible pencil on front. The cover is addressed to STEPHANUS JOHANNES LOURENS LINDE Prisoner No 7117 aged 33 years from the farm BLESTOLFFONTEIN district HEILBRON who was captured at KROONSTAD on the 17<sup>th</sup> May 1900 with Roberts's advance serving with the Heilbron Commando and who was sent to Bermuda on the ARMENIAN on the 29<sup>th</sup> May 1901.



A Photograph of the Burt's Island Drill Team.



VARIOUS CAMPS: TUCKER'S and MORGAN'S ISLANDS: ZONE 1:

The prison camps were situated on the island of the Great Sound in close proximity to the capital HAMILTON. All the island or zones were under Martial Law and were patrolled by Navy Guard Ships. The islands were roughly divided in half resulting in the Boer POWs being accommodated in tents on one side while their guards were on the other. There were regulations enforced for the orderly management of the camps under line captains, Commandants and even a Landdrost who officiated over those who had committed offences. The camps were consigned to various ZONES. Zone 1, the furthest from Hamilton was TUCKER'S and MORGAN'S ISLANDS. The inmates of this camp were "Handsappers" or "Khaki Boers" who had either already taken the Oath of Allegiance in South Africa and who had hoped not to be sent away or those who indicated they were prepared to accept British Rule. They were considered to have committed treason and were kept here for their own safety. This zone was closed at the end of August 1902.

Postcard from ANDREW LE ROUX to his brother PIETER J.A. LE ROUX at Wellington Cape Colony with pre-printed Bermuda 1d QV adhesive and tied by a Hamilton cds dated AP 4 02 with Type CMI Censor cachet and triangular Censor cachet applied at Wellington. The reverse shows the contents of the postcard.



REVERSE OF COVER

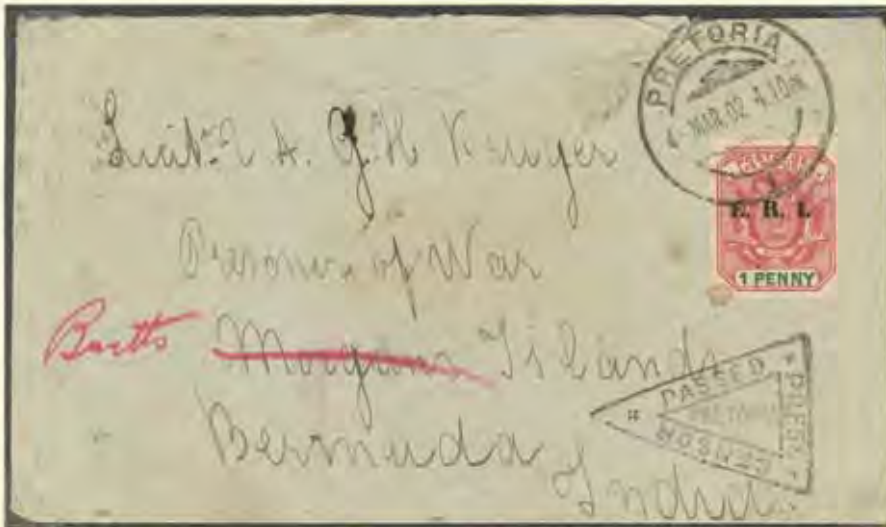
Morgan's Island  
Jan 20 02

Dear Pieter  
 Het is myn dankbaarheid te zeggen  
 dat ik zeer veel heb en hoop dat  
 jij ook een heel goede gezondheid  
 geniet. Ik heb veel lief weggeschikt  
 naar en te hopen dat ook jij  
 van hier gaat het maar meidag  
 jij zult alij zeker weten.  
 Het is mij zeer aangenaam te  
 horen de berichten te krijgen, maar  
 die zijn maar gering in getal.  
 Zult jij mij niet en posten van  
 Quinsje in Zandba? Ik hoop jij zult  
 er in slaagen te komen maar  
 er te krijgen, daar het voor hen  
 veel beter zal zijn. Wat jij aan  
 hen ten koste legt zal ik ook  
 myn opaart en ten volste vergoeten ik  
 heb voor hen niet doen, dan in  
 van den Vader overtuigen.  
 Beste Pieter van in allen  
 de Roodte. In het hopen dat  
 de Roodte.

ZONE 2: BURT'S and DARRELL'S ISLANDS:

These were the first islands to be occupied. They were divided by barbed wire as mentioned above. Burt's was the smallest of the camps, the prisoner's area being not more than 150 meters in length and was allocated to those who were most opposed to British Rule. They were the dissidents or irreconcilables. Darrell's Island housed the telephone exchange and had a school. These camps were filled by July 1901 and held about 1480 men. This zone was empty by the middle of October 1902.

Cover from PRETORIA to BURTS re-directed from MORGANS with 1d ZAR opt'd ERI and tied by Pretoria cds dated 4 MAR 02 with triangular black censor cachet Pretoria on the front. The cover is addressed to ABRAHAM JOHANNES JACOBUS KRUGER Prisoner No 12855 aged 37 years an Officer from the farm REMHOOGTE district Pretoria who was captured on his farm on the 5<sup>th</sup> September 1900 serving with the Krokodilrivier Commando.



Inter Camp cover from IRENE CONCENTRATION CAMP to BURTS with 2 x 1d ZAR adhesives opt'd ERI and tied by APO A dated OC 25 01 addressed to JACOB STREICHER Prisoner No 20437 aged 34 years from the farm PIENAARSPOORT district PRETORIA who was captured at ROODEBERG on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1901 serving with the Apyesrivier Commando and who was sent via Tin Town Ladysmith to Bermuda.





**ZONE 3:**

This comprised: HAWKIN'S ISLAND with two compounds, NELLY ISLAND with Naval water-catchment and tanks, LONG ISLAND with a cemetery and stone quarries, and PORT'S ISLAND the administrative HQ for all the camps. The camps and islands were connected with wooden footbridges. The convicts were marched via these to the quarries as well as the cemeteries where they were forced to dig graves.

**HAWKIN'S :**

This camp accommodated more than 1000 POWs and 225 convicts. The enclosure for the convicts was situated on the northern side of the island facing the sea. It was cordoned off with two cordons of barbed wire and had a special guard tower. This camp only closed in August 1903 when some 50 irreconcilables who refused to take the Oath of Allegiance were evicted from the island and who were dumped and left to their own devices on the mainland. Some stayed on and eventually the last survivor of this group died there in 1927.

Registered Cover from PRETORIA to HAWKIN'S with 2 x2 ½ d ZAR adhesives tied by a box Registered Pretoria cds with violet triangular Pretoria censor cachet and red London transit Registered strike dated 19 AP 02 with usual registration marks and number 3127 in red. The reverse shows Hamilton arrival in blue dated 3 MY 1902. The cover is addressed to LOURENS RASMUS JORDAAN Prisoner No 23785 aged 24 years from PRETORIA of the Civil Service who was captured at ZUURHOEK on the 7<sup>th</sup> October 1901.



Map of Hawkins Island showing the Boer camp and Special enclosure in Red, Convict enclosure in Yellow and Prisoners Of War enclosure in Green.



BURTS ISLAND:

Cover from PRETORIA to BURTS addressed to JACOB STREICHER (STRICKER) Prisoner No 20437 aged 34 years from the farm PIENAARSPOORT district PRETORIA who was captured at ROODEBERG on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1901 serving with the Apiesrivier Commando and who was sent to Bermuda via Tin Town Ladysmith.



Map of Burts Island showing the division of the island Green depicting the Boer camp and Red the British Guards.



BURT'S ISLAND: Royal Engineers' Report & Survey (1902)

#### ZONE 4: HINSON'S ISLAND:

Lt. General Sir Henry Geary the Governor established this zone to be used as a boarding school in April 1902. It was equipped with barbed wire fence as the rest were but only had a lifespan of three months. Many youngsters were scattered about in the camps and needed a formal type of schooling. This island was left in the hands of the Boer teachers and along with Tucker's island was the first to close. It was called the "Khaki School" which the boys refused to attend if they did not have their own teachers. These youths were aged from eight to sixteen years. Children were chastised by the British teachers whom they were not prepared to acknowledge. Once their own teacher ALBERTUS WILLEM BESTER Prisoner No 25500 aged 28 years from the farm SCHIETFONTEIN district PRETORIA who was captured at SANDRIVIERPOORT on the 16<sup>th</sup> November 1901 serving with the Pretoria Commando was appointed, they freely attended school. He was replaced after a month. The school closed in July 1902. The child leaders THYS DE WET, GERT VOSLOO and DIRK ACKERMAN who represented the children as dissident "ringleaders" were handcuffed by hands and feet at night and were sjambokked until they relented their defiance to British authority.

Photo of the children at Hinsons with their teacher Bester in the centre:



"'n Groep kinders, wat op die Bermuda-eilande krygsgevangenes was, net voordat hulle onder dwang na die "Kakieskool" op Hinsonseiland verskuif is waar hulle net in Engels onderwyse sou word. Toe hulle vertrek, het hulle spontaan begin sing: "Kent jy dat volk".

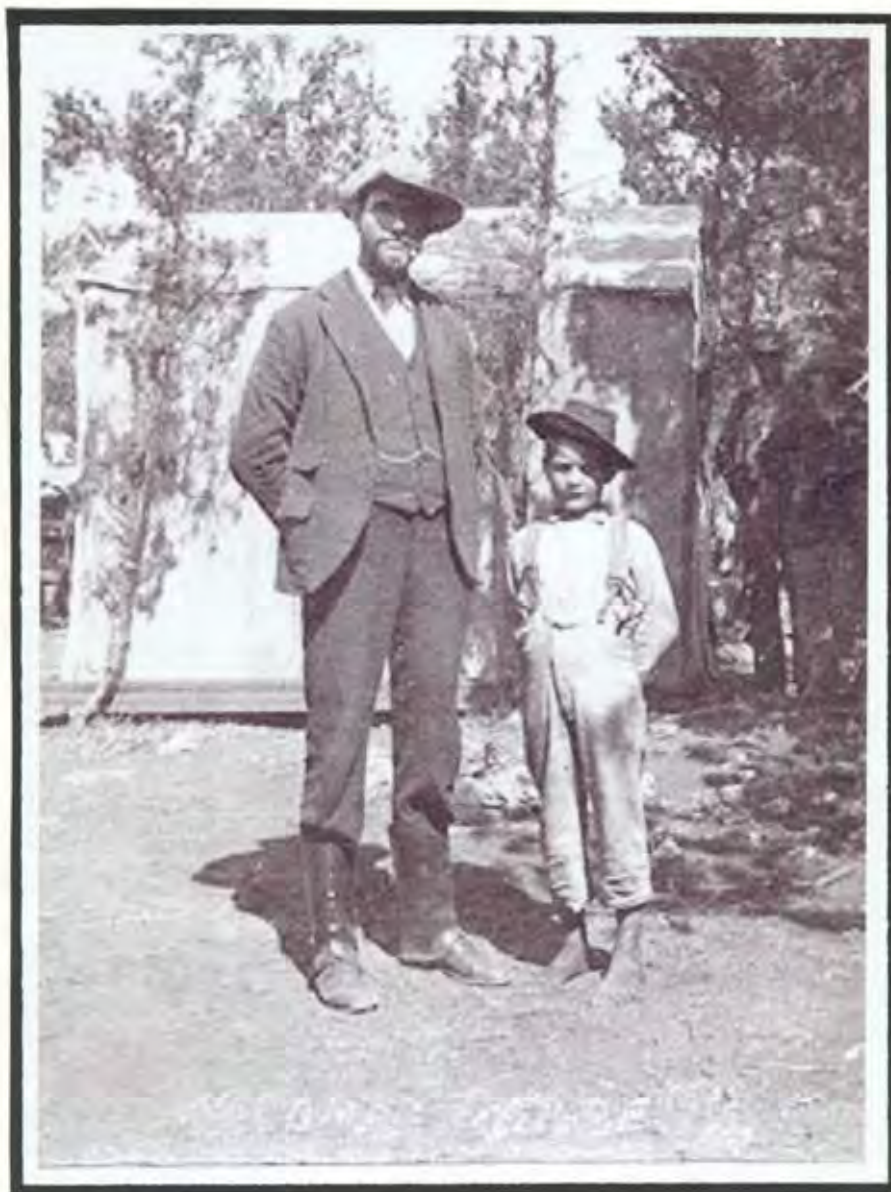
From: Oorlogsmuseum van die Boerewoorde, Bloemfontein.

Map of Hinson's Island Prisoners Of War enclosure in Green,



BOER WAR: BERMUDA:

*Many young children were taken captive and sent to BERMUDA. An example of this shows a teacher on Bermuda Island Van den Heever with a young child Pietie Cronje.*



MORGAN'S ISLAND:

Postcard from GERRIT JOHANNES BOTHA to his mother in the Kleksdorp Concentration camp. It shows pre-printed 1d QV Bermuda tied by Hamilton cds dated MR 3 1902 with Censor cachet CM 1 in blue and black oval Johannesburg Censor cachet and date in manuscript 10/2/02. In the card he makes mention of the activities of Rev Van Blerk and Albertyn. On the 7<sup>th</sup> March he was still at MORGANS.



REVERSE OF COVER

10/2/02  
Gerrit Johannes Botha

Sijn moeder my dit oorgelbekt hi ek en pa my friend  
 en ook al de bekende Sabie Okelain en Tom Boonstra kenne  
 tot de Borede en ook die Floog my zyn niet op de zelfde  
 Uland bij hem op een god een van hem det my ken  
 byga ken geen loopen en my hooren allefen van  
 hem. Dat laatste brief det ons van ma heeft  
 ontlaagan is de det mpa en Johannes geschreuen loff  
 Van Tjebard en Btker heb ek myn geen brief gekreeg  
 Da Bessel en Johannes Hamban is ook hier op een  
 zilandje niet ver van hier my geen hem tenten  
 van hier. Dan het is nu hie winter maar het is  
 niet my houd. Dan my liden hier 2 predikanten De  
 Albertyn en Van Blerk schooler helde my ook  
 Men seggenet ek el leve moeder in ene loctard  
 noyte kneer over de dood van Pina doch meer  
 spaar getroos het is de wil des heerem ook was  
 het voor ons een yvare piding. nu zussen beste  
 grude een allen van alle eden dat ik heb

LETTER FROM GERRIT JOHANNES BOTHA FROM MORGAN'S ISLAND:

Letter from Gerrit Johannes Botha from Morgan's Island to his mother who was in the Concentration Camp at Klerksdorp.

Morgens Eiland  
Morgans Eiland

mi

27 Februari 1902

Van Maas O. J. Botha  
Klerksdorp Bergersdorp

Tag alles weldoor den goet sijde des  
Heerren in ik wens u het zelfde toe  
ook gaat het met gert ook nog goet mijn  
hart ik heb laats van u eer brief van den  
6 de Desember gekrijg ik weet nit oer het  
is dat ik nu zoo wij nig briewe krijg en of  
u maar zoo men schrijf weet ik nit oom  
Te Ver maas krijg tag zoo veel dan heb  
ik ook een brief van Hans gekrijg ook van  
den 6 Desember was in hij ook oer met van den  
doot van Tina in dan Tin ik ook <sup>er</sup> een  
brief brief van oon Corneels Semmeret  
dat vader ook doot is mijn hart ik hoer  
van zoo veel storf ge valle en klerksdorp  
dat ik ook vrees wan neet ik een brief  
krijg dan heb ik ook ge hoer van de doot  
van Tjimon en Franszina mijn hart is het tag  
vreselij het sijn of ons mensse en de  
kamps sneet dast gaar dat op de oorlog

LETTERS FROM GERRIT JOHANNES BOTHA :

Letters from G.J. Botha to his mother and sisters in the Concentration Camp at Klerksdorp from MORGANS and DARRELLS Bermuda. The fact that the letters come from different camps show that the prisoners were rotated between the different camps.

*Handwritten notes in left margin:*  
D. J. van der Stoep  
Johannes Botha se vrouwe  
van P. J. Botha se wif  
in die Klerksdorp  
gevangenis  
1901

Morgans Island  
Vreemde 15<sup>de</sup> December 1901

Mrs G. J. Botha  
Burgerkamp Klerksdorp

Verbaare Moeder

Gisteren is vandag het  
wij straven van ma ghelegen die waan  
met een O. J. Botha in de...

*Handwritten notes in left margin:*  
D. J. van der Stoep  
Johannes Botha se vrouwe  
van P. J. Botha se wif  
in die Klerksdorp  
gevangenis  
1901

Bermuda  
Darrells Island  
29<sup>de</sup> Oct 1901

Mrs G. J. Botha  
Burgerkamp  
Klerksdorp

*Handwritten notes in left margin:*  
Morgans Island  
Mrs G. J. Botha

...den mydekoop public ten ik ja en al de  
ende may wel volk. Davie Chalou van Fran  
is en zijk kinders ook al de Pireado en ja  
H. Dan gisten heb ik van Pina en broer  
igen die 15 Oct. van Tjard de...  
poek van Oktober met Jan van...  
...brief ghegeve. Chace moeder ik...  
...in...  
...niet goed gevonden. Dan wij appen nu bij...  
...volk van Cornelius hemmen met...  
...ma. geeft mijn beste groete aan...  
...en al de familie en al de dames en ook...  
...spijzen in Huis en...  
...jaad ook nog goed ook met...  
...gaberterde van...  
...Pierckes met zijn zoon...  
...vertellen maar ik loop het...  
...houdt maar...  
...Phy...  
...gevoel. - Gerrit Botha.

**Stamp:** KLERKS  
1901

LETTERS FROM OCKERT JONATHAN BOTHA:

Letters from OCKERT JONATHAN BOTHA Prisoner No 593 aged 42 from the farm KAFFERSKRAAL district POTCHEFSTROOM to his wife Mrs. C. M. BOTHA from BELLEVUE CAMP dated the 1<sup>st</sup> April 1900 (shortly after his arrival from Paardeberg) and another from DARRELLS dated the 29<sup>th</sup> October 1901. He was captured together with his sons.

Seronostat  
1 April 1900

Jan Mrs. C. M. Botha  
Kafferskraal

en liever vrouwe Nog alles wel  
Dooi gaat goed bijde - ik wens  
si het zelfde toe want ik moet  
u zeggen dat ik veel dank  
aan u heb en de lekkerste daagen  
die ons leef te samen heb ye  
moeten verdet gaat het ook  
nog goed met geit - en

Gyaard en ook met  
de deen des mensse vande  
pluut hoe lang u j nog  
leef jaek blijft want ik mit  
u kan het beter weet dan ik

Darrells stand  
29 Oktober 1901  
Jan Mrs. C. M. Botha  
Kleinsdorp  
Ujn hart nog alles wel doot  
goed byde des heeren in ik  
u het zelfde toe wjn  
ik heb geset een brief  
u ont vang en ook van  
u een de brewe was der 3 op  
is geskryf - het was loge  
tijd schaps son wy de brewe  
u te vangen daat in die  
dat u loge was getond is ik was  
loge te onvestig om ik geboort  
het dat de maseel daat is  
omny Hart wat is de heere tog gaet  
voet ons dat ons nog alle  
in het leven is, ver geet tog

of het  
afgelees  
mag hier  
is het  
Prins



LETTER FROM DARRELL'S:

Letter dated 5<sup>th</sup> July 1901 from GERRIT JOHANNES JACOBUS BOTHA Prisoner No 594 aged 20 years (Penkop) from KAFFERSKRAAL district POTCHEFSTROOM who was captured at Paardeberg together with his father and brother while serving with the Onder Schoonspruit Commando, to his mother and sisters in the Concentration Camp at KLERKSDORP. He writes about the voyage in the ARMENIAN which left Cape Town on the 5<sup>th</sup> June 1901 arriving in Bermuda on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 1901. There were 963 POWs. He describes Darrell's island overgrown with trees. They had already built a church. He describes how his father and others known were in one tent and his uncle Jacobi De Bruin with others in another.

Klerk

Bermuda 1901  
vrydag 5<sup>den</sup> juli

Gelieve Moeder! & zuster

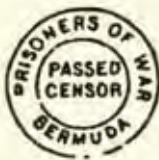
Het is mij een groote  
blydschap om weder in het voorrecht te zijn  
u te schrijven. Gij weet dierbare moeder dat  
ik van Kaapstad heb geschreven dat ik met  
naar een Eiland Bermuda. lieve moeder, nu  
zijn wij toch eindelijk hier aangekomen na  
een reis van 30 dagen. den 18<sup>den</sup> dag zijn wij bij  
het Eiland St Vincent van daar heb ik twee  
ook weder een brief geschreven.

Van Gaard toen achter gebleven, maar wij  
hebben vernomen, dat zij ook aangekomen zijn  
Okker is met Don Gert Presler en nog  
meer betenden die met hem is gevangen ge-  
nomen naar West India gezonden  
wij nu in West India zijn. 8181 mijl van  
Transvaal dat is ongeveer 1363 uur

Maar gelieve moeder het is een pracht-  
ig eiland geheel begroeft met ceder bomen  
en nog meer andere bomen en dan is het niet  
een Eiland alleen maar meer dan een honderd

CENSORSHIP and CENSOR MARKINGS:

Four censors were employed at PORT'S ISLAND. Mr Brown was the first senior censor and later followed by Mr. R.F. Wilson. The third was Captain Biggs while the fourth is unknown. Four handstamped censor marks have been recorded with two sub types. No censor seals were used in the islands. They are set out as follows:



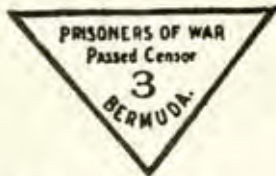
In use 16/7/01 to 13/6/02



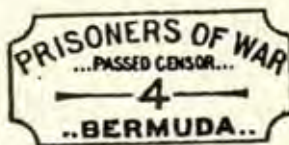
In use 5/11/01 to 27/6/02



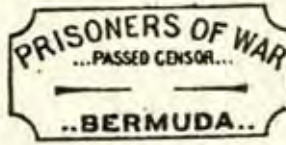
In use /6/02 to ?



In use 5/11/01 to 13/7/02



In use 5/11/01 to 5/02



In use 5/02 to 24/7/02.

Incoming wrapper cover from ENGLAND to BURTS addressed to the Schoolmaster MATTHEUS JOHANNES HOLLENBRANDT Prisoner No 19818 aged 34 years from the farm ELANDSRIVIER district PRETORIA who was captured in the ZOUTPANSBERG on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1901 serving with the Elandsrivier Commando and who was sent to Bermuda via Tin Town Ladysmith and in the Montrose. The cover shows CM 4a.



MAIL :

**OUTGOING:** There was no restriction on letter writing. The Relief Committee on the island had provided paper and envelopes while stamps were available for purchase from camp Post Masters. The envelopes were handed in to the censor open with a stamp within which was attached by the Censor before posting. About 5000 letters were handled each week.

**INCOMING:**

Hamilton Post Office handled all mail on arrival. Mail was randomly checked as all incoming mail had been censored at source. Mail to British sympathisers at Tucker's Island received prior attention. Mail sent there unclaimed was marked "NOT TUCKER'S". Unclaimed letters were sent from camp to camp and this accounts for the endorsements " NOT DARRELLS " and "TRY BURTS" and others.

The following postal markings and re-directional marks appear on covers:

**NOT TUCKERS**

**NOT TUCKERS**

**MONTROSE.  
BERMUDA.**

**BERMUDA.**

Cover addressed to CASPER JOHANNES HENDRIK BRITZ Prisoner No 6912 aged 22 years from the farm KAARUIJFONTEIN district BLOEMFONTEIN who was apparently sent to St Helena. The cover was re-directed to Bermuda. The history shows: 1. Id OFS opt VRI tied by Brandfort cds dated DE 28 01 with another adjacent. Violet oval censor cachet JJM (Moolman) of even date addressed to Britz at the Hospital. Manuscript "Not National Hospital" endorsed "Boer Hospital" in red sent to APO. 2. Arrival Bloemfontein 29 DE 01 and same day APO "B" DE 29 01. 3. Arrival strike LADYSMITH JA 18 02 Britz not there re-directed to St. Helena in red under stamp edging. 4. Transit strike Durban JA 20 02. 5. Arrival Strike St. Helena My 23 02 not ther re-directed to Bermuda in red pencil. 6. Arrival Bermuda, Hamilton Jy 8 1902 endorsed "NOT HAWKIN'S" in pencil over oval cachet and some other illegible pencil endorsements. It is unknown whether Britz ever received the item.



RE-DIRECTED MAIL WITH ALL THE VARIOUS MARKS APPLIED:

Cover from BALMORAL CONCENTRATION CAMP to PRETORIA to LADYSMITH to BERMUDA addressed to JOHANNES HENDRIK VORSTER Prisoner No 25373 aged 19 years (Penkop) from the farm WELGEVAL district FAURESMITH who was captured at OSPOORT on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 1901.

The cover shows:

1. 4 x 1d ZAR adhesives optd VRI cancelled with a black pen covered over the top with British Censor Seal Type 5 and another on the reverse tied by violet triangular BALMORAL censor cachet and signed 25/3/02.
2. Arrival PRETORIA 24 MRT 02 and black triangular PRETORIA censor cachet.
3. On MAR 26 02 rectangular Boxed Registered PRETORIA cds applied tied over front seal
4. Arrival strike LADYSMITH MR 28 02. Re-directed on left stamp over edging "Rance Bermuda" in red and sent to Durban.
5. Arrival strike DURBAN MR 29 1902 and then onward to POINT.
6. POINT arrival 29 MR 02 then back to DURBAN P.O. transit strike 5.15 p.m. AP 01 02 on to
7. LONDON arrival 25 AP on to
8. HAMILTON arrival 10 My 1902 on to
9. TUCKER'S endorsed "Not Tucker's", on to
10. MORGAN'S endorsed "Not Morgan's" on to
11. HAWKIN'S endorsed "Not Hawkin's" on to
12. DARRELL'S endorsed "Not Darrell's" on left in blue crayon - it is unclear what happened after the last endorsement.



INTER OVERSEAS CAMP MAIL:

Cover front from DIYATALAWA to DARRELL'S with 2 x 3cent QV Ceylon adhesives tied by indistinct Diyatalawa cds and having a violet E.J.B. (Baumann) Type D 3 Censor cachet on the front. The cover is addressed to JACOBUS PETRUS KRIEL Prisoner No 9809 aged 18 years (Penkop) from the farm EXCELSIOR district LADYBRAND who was captured together with his father JACOBUS PETRUS GIDEON KRIEL Prisoner No 10716 aged 48 years and brothers EDWARD CHRISTIAN KRIEL Prisoner No 5790 aged 19 years (Penkop) and DAVID JACOBUS KRIEL Prisoner No 9808 aged 21 years (Penkop). Jacobus and his father were sent to Bermuda while Edward and David were sent to Ceylon. The letter is most probably from one of them.



Cover front from DIYATALAWA to DARRELL'S with 6 cent QV Ceylon adhesive tied by Diyatalawa Camp M.O. S.B.K. cds (Civil Post Office) dated Sp 31 01 with violet Type D 3 censor cachet E.J.B. (Baumann) on the front.

The cover is addressed to JOHANNES JURGENS LINDEQUE Prisoner No 10747 aged 27 years from the farm BORNMANSKOP district LADYBRAND who was captured at FOURIESBURG on the 30<sup>th</sup> July 1900 serving with the Korannaberg Commando and who was sent to Bermuda on the Armenian on the 29<sup>th</sup> May 1901.



OUTGOING INTER CAMP MAIL:

Cover front from BERMUDA to TIN TOWN Ladysmith with 1d QV Bermuda tied with a Hamilton cds dated JY 6 01 and "Passed HMB (H.M. Brown) Censor" cachet in red manuscript. The cover is addressed to ABRAHAM KORSTEN Prisoner No 13182 aged 24 years from BARBERTON TOWN who was captured at BARBERTON by the invading and occupying British Forces on the 13<sup>th</sup> September 1900 together with his brother CHRISTIAN JAMES KORSTEN Prisoner No 13181 aged 25 years both of whom were serving with the Barberton Commando and initially sent to Tin Town Ladysmith on the 24<sup>th</sup> December 1900. It would appear that Christian may be writing to his brother?



Cover front from BERMUDA to ALIWAL NORTH CONCENTRATION CAMP showing 1d Bermuda QV tied by a Hamilton cds dated MR 7 1902 with Type Cm 1 censor cachet in blue applied at Hamilton and a violet triangular and shield J.C.C. Censor cachet applied at Aliwal North on the front. The cover is addressed to MISS BESS VILJOEN of Knysport c/o her father H.J. Viljoen.



ROTATION OF PRISONERS:

POWs on the various islands were rotated to different camps when occasion demand it. When the British authorities detected that there was dissent or that they had reason to believe a plot was being hatched to escape prisoners were rotated to other camps by so doing splitting them up interfering with their arrangements. This is one of the reasons why the post to the islands was continually re- directed.

A Photograph of a group of prisoners about to be rotated.



16. A group of prisoners about to be rotated.

A Photograph by RUDOLF JACOBUS SCHUTTE Prisoner No 13484 aged 33 years from the farm LAMSKOP district LYDENBURG who was captured at ROSSHILL on the 13<sup>th</sup> September 1900 while serving with the Crocodile River Commando and who was sent to Bermuda via Tin Town Ladysmith. The view is from Darrell's looking towards Hamilton.



29. Looking towards Hamilton past the guard-ship "Hotspur"(r).

AFTER THE DECLARATION OF PEACE:

After the Declaration of Peace the Camp Commandant required the POWs to sign the Oath of Allegiance before they could go home. Willing signatories were found on TUCKER'S and DARRELL'S but not on BURT'S and HAWKIN'S where no one was prepared to sign. A Month after the end of the war consular agents were free to arrange repatriation of nationals prepared to pay their own fares. As a result 15 Germans sailed on the S.S. ROLAND on the 9<sup>th</sup> July 1902. On the 17<sup>th</sup> July 1902 the S.S. PRETORIA conveyed fare paying passengers to NEW YORK among them Generals A.P. Cronje, Wessels and Peter Ferreira.

Cover from General ANDRIES PETRUS CRONJE Prisoner No 20899 aged 68 years from the farm WELGELEGEN district WINBURG who was captured at REITZ on the 11<sup>th</sup> July 1901 with the entourage of President Steyn, to his daughter ELLIE CRONJE at WELLINGTON showing 1d QV Bermuda tied by Hamilton cds dated JA 1902 with blue CMI censor cachet on front and endorsed by him.



Ferreira told reporters that there were three groups :

1. Those who could afford to pay were free to leave.
2. Those who could not, waited for British transports to take them home.
3. The irreconcilables who were left to their own devices.

Those that returned inclusive of the convict element were landed at Simons Bay. The convicts were transported to TOKAI PRISON while the other POWs went via transit camps at UMBILO in DURBAN



Prisoners leaving Darrell's Island for home.



BERMUDA:

Cover from BERMUDA to AMSTERDAM with 2x 1d and 1x ½ d QV Bermuda adhesives tied by a Hamilton cds dated OC 14 01 with a blue Bermuda Censor cachet on the front the cover addressed to JAN KELFKENS in Amsterdam from CORNELIS POTGIETER Prisoner No 19053 aged 27 years from the farm SPITZKOP district MIDDELBURG (TVL) who was captured at LEEUFONTEIN on the 8<sup>th</sup> May 1901 serving with the ZAR Staats Artillerie and who was sent to Bermuda via Tin Town at Ladysmith.



A Picture of Prisoners of War on Bermuda.



**BERMUDA:**

*A very fine cover from BERMUDA to HOLLAND with a variety of BERMUDA adhesives tied by a HAMILTON cds dated JA 24 1902 cds with blue Type 1 censor cachet on the front sent via LONDON with the transit strikes of London and arrival of Doesburg.*

*The cover sent by PIETER FRANCOIS DE BRUYN TENBERGEN ( KNOWN AS LANDDS) Prisoner No 20464 aged 34 years from DOESBURG, GELDERLAND , HOLLAND who was captured at ZWARTWATER on the 9<sup>th</sup> JUNE 1901 and who was sent to BERMUDA via TIN TOWN, LADYSMITH.*



BERMUDA:

A postcard from BEREMUDA to BRESLAU with a pre-printed Bermuda QV adhesive 1d tied by a HAMILTON cds dated MR 29 02 with a violet round Censor cachet POW BERMUDA / PASSED CENSOR and a Breslau cds dated 12 4 02 on the front.



Message on reverse:

Bermuda, Watkins - Island 2. 11/3. 1902.  
 Antank - West - Indes.

Teufel gescheit quälen hat Fräulein!

Die haben Sie mir geschickt auf Ihre Postkarte vom 15. Janne  
 (da mir von Cape-Town angekündigt wird) nach dem 15ten  
 Klainen Wahl mit der Glückseligen dinst. eine Kisten  
 sende youwast. Zu den Besängen Comedian des gescheit.  
 kunden Beingspinnungsfest ist es in der Stadt am letzten  
 vom nun mit der Gemeint mal einem Geißt rufft aber  
 man sieht, das man doch noch alle so ganz unangefen ist  
 und so sollen Klängen sollen Ihre Zielan. Sie auf  
 unterst zusammen interviewen. Ich hoffe das ich mit  
 die Kistenungst De-Taktion, sind kunden auf alle Ihre  
 Klauen jenseit kunden-wändig gatten; - und das ist  
 ... - Leben just geistlich? - Was Sie dann ungenügt den  
 die Klauen die gehen ist. Keine Guteselke werden. Ich  
 hat der Klauen, die je manne jenseit mit unangenehm  
 was? Ich ist das noch auf der Seite kunden-tigam die die  
 kunden-... was manne ca 2 kunden?

Ich würde gerne so kunden blättern; - eine kunden  
 Beingspinnungsfest mit der geistlichen kunden-...  
 ihre Klauen haben. Was ich Ihnen noch jenseit Ihre klauen  
 kunden ist je unangenehm von kunden-...  
 kunden kunden, aber das ist der Geist sind kunden. kunden  
 kunden. kunden: - Was manne kunden-...  
 in kunden ist mit der kunden kunden. kunden kunden  
 kunden kunden. Ich würde gerne die kunden-...  
 kunden kunden kunden. Ich würde gerne die kunden-...  
 kunden kunden kunden. Ich würde gerne die kunden-...  
 kunden kunden kunden. Ich würde gerne die kunden-...  
 kunden kunden kunden. Ich würde gerne die kunden-...

BOER WAR: BERMUDA:

A postcard from BURTS ISLAND, BERMUDA to AMSTERDAM with a pre-printed 1 C QV Bermuda adhesive tied by a Hamilton cds dated 2 JU 1902 (Post War) with a violet POW /PASSED CENSOR / BERMUDA censor cachet on the front. The card is from MATTHEUS JOHANNES HOLLE(N)BRAND Prisoner no 19818 aged 34 years from the farm ELANDSRIVIER district PRETORIA who was captured at ELANDSRIVIER on the 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1901 and who was sent to BERMUDA via TIN TOWN LADYSMITH and most probably on the MONTROSE. In the message on the card he discusses the Censor Seals and the stamps on covers to and from Bermuda.



Reverse of postcard with message:



OUTGOING MAIL INTER CAMP:

BERMUDA: Cover front with QV adhesives tied by small cork obliterator and St Helena cds dated NO 21 01 and triangular Censor cachet Deadwood with initials EW. The cover is addressed to JOHANNES JACOBUS DIEDERICKS Prisoner No 2683 aged 20 years (PENKOP) from the farm HOLFONTEIN district Potchefstroom who was captured with his father CHRISTIAN PETRUS ADOLF DIEDERICKS Prisoner 928 at Paardeberg serving with the Vaalrivier Commando.



DIYATALAWA: Cover front to CHRIS PIETERSE with QV adhesive tied by cork obliterator and showing St Helena cds dated Y 20 01 with Broad Bottom Censor cachet initialled GDB (G de Beer).



PAARDEKRAAL:

Cover from BERMUDA to PRETORIA with 2 x ½ d QV Bermuda adhesives tied by a Hamilton cds dated JY 25 1902 post-war and uncensored addressed to MRS. H.S. Van der Merwe from her husband HENDRIK SCHALK VAN DER MERWE Prisoner No 22066 aged 24 years from the farm TWEELINGSFONTEIN district BOSHOF who was captured at PAARDEKRAAL at KRUGERSDORP on the 9<sup>th</sup> August 1901 together with his brothers BAREND FREDERICK VANDER MERWE Prisoner No 22064 aged 37 years and PHILIPPUS JOHANNES JACOBUS VAN DER MERWE Prisoner No 22065 aged 23 from the same farm and who, together with their brother were sent to the Tin Town at Ladysmith and ultimately to Bermuda.



A postcard of the PAARDEKRAAL MONUMENT in the close proximity of which Hendrik van der Merwe and his brothers were captured near Krugersdorp on the 9<sup>th</sup> August 1901.



REV. J.A. VAN BLERK:

After the War Rev. Van Blerk was active in obtaining assistance for the reconstruction of the infrastructure laid waste by the scorched earth policy of Kitchener. He was in Italy in 1903 as the card shows. Postcard from STRASSBURG dated 6/6/03 to NAPLES with 10pf Deutches Reich adhesive tied by Straasburgs dated 6/6.03. The card is from Jan Loubser.



Rev Van Blerks Inscribed. The KÖNIG-DEUTSCHE OST-AFRIKA-LINIE Booklet - the ship that took him to Europe en route to the Bermudas to attend on the religious needs of the Boer Prisoners of War.



REV. J.A. VAN BLERK:

Cover from RICHMOND to Rev. J.A. Van Blerk at LAINGSBURG with 1d CGH tied by a Richmond cds dated MY 11 01 with red and blue triangular Censor cachets cachet applied at Richmond and Laingsburg respectively and tied along the left side with a Type 7D British Censor Seal.



Cover from RICHMOND with 1d CGH tied by Richmond cds dated MR 16 03 addressed to Rev. J.A. van Blerk at Ludgate Hill in London. The letter most probably from his wife / fiancé.



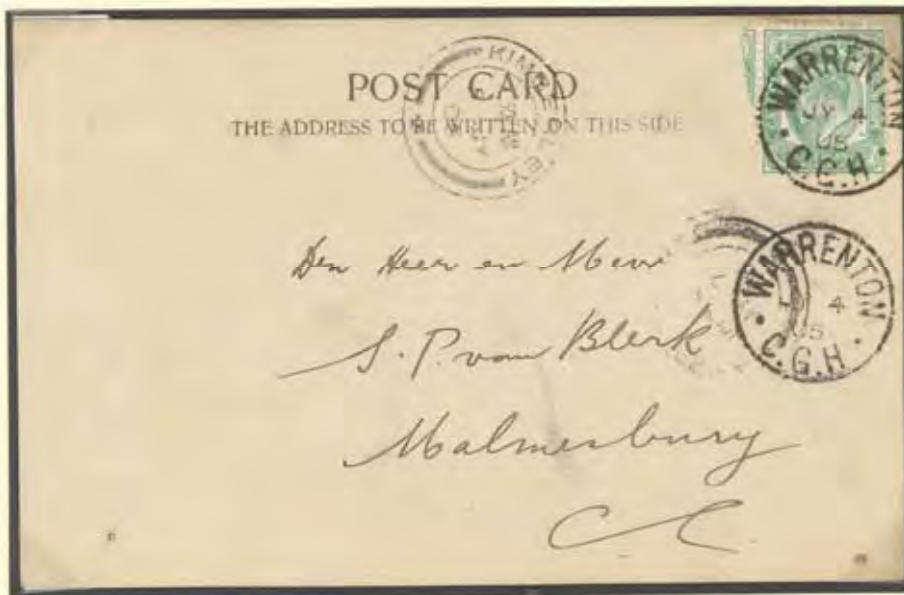


REV. J.A. VAN BLERK:

Postcard from Rev. J.A. Raubenhimer (Murray family?) addressed to the Rev. J.A. van Blerk of Bermuda fame who was in London during September 1901.



Postcard from Rev J.A. Van Blerk to his relatives in Malmesbury from WARRENTON dated JY 4 05. The reverse is a photo of Van Blerk with his wife.



BERMUDA: THE STORY OF L.M. DU PREEZ:

LUDOVIC MULDER DU PREEZ Prisoner No 6214 aged 31 years from the farm KLEINFONTEIN district Vrede was captured at Elandslaagte on the 21<sup>st</sup> October 1899 serving with the Vrede Commando. He was married to a nee Adendorff. Her names were SUSAN ELIZABETH, she hailed from VOLKSRUST. She kept contact with her husband after his capture until his return from BERMUDA as the following shows:

Cover from Convict Station at Cape Town from L.M. Du Preez to his wife with endorsement Censored S. Jarvis Capt S.O believed to be at The Castle. He must have been an irreconcilable. The second ( without referring to the adhesives or cancellations) a mourning cover from his wife at Volksrust ( her family home) to him at Cape Town.



REVERSE OF COVER



BERMUDA: L.M. DU PREEZ : Continued:

Third letter from L.M. Du Preez to his wife at Volksrust with indications that he was now being held upon a transport as indicated by the Censor cachet of L. Heyman who was known to be a censor aboard a transport ship of the British followed by a telegram cover to him dated 23 December 1900 showing he was still held in Cape Town.



Reverse



BERMUDA: L.M. DU PREEZ : Continued;

Telegram from SUSAN to LUDOVIC dated 23 December 1899 and cover from him to her dated FE 14 1901  
(NB) A year and two months later he was still held at Cape Town- at the Castle perhaps?

57

S.F.O. 61K  
T. 31

### POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS. CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

No. of Message

Dated Stamp of

If the accuracy of this Telegram (being an Inland Telegram) is doubted, it will be repeated on payment of half the amount originally paid for its transmission; and, if found to be incorrect, the amount paid for repetition will be refunded. Special conditions are applicable to the repetition of Cablegrams. When the cost of a reply to a Telegram has been prepaid, and the number of words in the reply is in excess of the number so paid for, the Sender of the reply must pay for such excess.

N.B.—This Form should accompany any inquiry made respecting this Telegram.

Charges to pay £

CAPE UNIFORM TIME is observed throughout Cape Colony, Rhodesia, the Transvaal and the Orange Free State.

Handed in at Newcastle at 10:30 p.m. Received here at 11:27 a.m.



Delivering Office.

From	To
Susan Newcastle	Ludovic Ward Cape Town

Letting married papa gift her  
families all with warmest regards  
from all love

  
  
 Mrs. L.M. du Preez  
 " G. F. Adendorff  
 D/o Newcastle  
 Natal:

BERMUDA: L.M. DU PREEZ: Continued;

Mourning Cover front from Mrs. Du Preez to Ludovic at Darrell's Island Bermuda dated 31<sup>st</sup> October 1901 showing that her husband was now in Bermuda most probably taken aboard the Armenian on the 29<sup>th</sup> May 1901.



An affectionate "FAREWELL" Poem written by Susan to her husband when she heard he was going to BERMUDA.

Farewell

Adieu adieu is a lonely sound  
With a tear perhaps with a sigh  
But the heart feels most  
When the lips move not  
And the eyes speaks gentle goodbye

Farewell farewell is a lonely sound  
That often brings a sigh  
But gives to me when we once part  
That sweet old word good bye  
S.E.D.P.

BERMUDA: L.M. DU PREEZ: Continued:

A second Poem by Susan du Preez to her husband in Bermuda with a postcard from him to her dated 1 MR 1902 wherein he tells her NOT to sell the Coal rights on their farm.

De weg is niet allyd met roozen bezaaid  
Wy voelen de doorenen soms steeken  
Een ander moet zaaien een ander die <sup>smait</sup>  
By't einde des Jaars weer gebleken  
De Heer zy uw Schuls Heer  
Uw loevlucht in smart  
Geloof Zyn belofte vertrouw Hem  
Uw hart, dan zal het  
Aan niets u ontbreken  
S.S.P.  
22/1/1902



BERMUDA: L.M.DU PREEZ: Continued:

63

Reverse of Postcard mentioned above wherein Ludovic tells Susan that he loves her and that she is not to sell their farm.

Mijn heer Geliefd Wouffe, Ik wensch u Gods rijkste  
 zegen. Het is mij zeer te moeten zeggen dat ons  
 geliefd her Jacobs veld gister van hier weggezonden is  
 Hij ten nog 20 uren is naar een ander te land gezonden  
 ik weet niet waarom, de Heere geef steeds vrucht diepste  
 door Gods Genade geef ik nog wull. Maar de verlangste  
 is onuitbrekelijk. Ik had ik heden de voorrecht om u  
 te overtuigen wat zoo het voor ons zijn diep ik heb  
 met de laatste 2. Duten niets van u ontvang u, de laatste  
 is die van de 25<sup>de</sup>. Die ach hoe verlangent men ik naar  
 tijding, van u Mijn liefste ik heb u geschreven en niet  
 ons grond niet verhoopen, laat Com C. S. lievel die hooren  
 verhooren, diepste geef mijn hartje groete aan allen in  
 huis. En lasten dat onze zegen of <sup>de die verlijen ondiep wij niet</sup>  
 hier ontwaakt. <sup>de die verlijen ondiep wij niet</sup>

LUDOVIC MULDER DU PREEZ'S return home with a TRAIN TICKET issued to him from CAPE TOWN to VOLKSRUST dated 4<sup>th</sup> November 1902 on his return from BERMUDA. A happy ending.

346  
 TN ——— C.G.R. T. 66.  
 75 Passengers' Ticket - Single Journey  
 NOT TRANSFERABLE

No. of Passen- gers	Class	Station from	Amount
1	1st	CAPE TOWN	7.80
		Station to	

Date: 4 Nov 1902  
 Issued by: [Signature]

CONNECTIONS WITH MISS OUTERBRIDGE AFTER THE WAR:

Miss Outerbridge was the most outspoken supporter of the Boer cause in the Bermudas. Her intentions were philanthropic although she was known to have harboured escapees and interceded on behalf of the POWs with the authorities. She provided some with work and did what she could to obtain aid for the Boer POWs to provide them with the amenities of life they needed in the camps. Working with Mrs Selina Recht and Captain Meyer and his wife a number of escapes were arranged and made good. The most well known escape being that of Fritz Duquesne.

Miss Anna Maria Outerbridge had a communication network in operation to obtain relief for the POWs from Boston in America. She had the assistance of Miss Helen Parker in New York who did what she could there to make known the plight of the Boers in the camps at Bermuda. This special woman kept the POWs sustained in their will to fight, she uplifted their morale despite inhuman odds for a victory against overwhelming odds. They did not forget her kindness as the postcard sent to her in April 1905 shows.

The card was sent by PERCY LIONEL MADER Prisoner No 14592 aged 27 years at the time he was captured who came from the Railway Station at VILJOENDRIFT where he was captured on the 15<sup>th</sup> October 1900 serving with the Heilbron Commando who was sent to Bermuda as a POW on the ARMENIAN on the 29<sup>th</sup> May 1901.



Reverse



BOER PRISONERS OF WAR BERMUDA: MANUSCRIPT MARKS IN INK, PENCIL OR CRAYON:

Post re-directed at Bermuda was endorsed by hand indicating the rotation of prisoners between the various islands. This was done to prevent the POWs escaping and to prevent them forming bonds to create insurrection.

Cover from STELLENBOSCH with 2 X CGH adhesives tied with Stellenbosch cds dated 9 DE 01 with violet boxed censor cachet of Stellenbosch on the front with Hamilton arrival strike on the reverse. The front shows ink manuscript "NOT DARRELL'S" on the front. The cover is addressed to WILLEM BACHOFNER Prisoner no 19450 aged 38 years from ERMELO who was captured at KLIPFONTEIN on the 26<sup>th</sup> May 1901 and who was sent to Burts Island Bermuda.



Cover from PRETORIA (with GB adhesives applied) 2x 1d GB 1 Lilac tied by a Pretoria cds dated 12 DEC 01 with black triangular censor cachet applied at Pretoria. The cover is addressed to GERT DIEDERICK DE BEER Prisoner No 20729 aged 24 years from the farm KJLIPKOP district Rustenberg who was captured at MAMPAS RIVER on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 1901 serving with the Rustenburg Commando and who was sent to Bermuda via Ladysmith.



**BOER PRISONERS OF WAR ON BERMUDA:**

Inter Camp cover from ALIWAL NORTH CONCENTRATION CAMP to BERMUDA with 1d CGH tied by aliwal North cds date illegible with adhesive tied over by British Censor Seal Type 34 which is a white seal used principally in Cape Town and other places such as Bredasdorp, Gordons Bay, Kimberley, Paarl and a few other places but seldom mentioned from Aliwal North. Here it was tied over by a violet double oval Censor cachet Aliwal north dated 16 May 1902. The front has usual manuscript note "Not Darrells" on the front. The reverse shows Hamilton arrival strike dated 23 JU 1902 and no censor mark as it arrived after hostilities had ended. The cover is from Mrs D. Hoffman to her husband DANIEL CORNELIS HOFFMAN Prisoner No 25807 aged 66 from the farm HOFFMANSRUST district WEPENER who was captured on his farm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1901 and who was sent to Bermuda.



A Picture of the Youth held on Bermuda during the Boer War. There were more than 300 children held on the Islands as Prisoners Of War.



**BOER PRISONERS OF WAR ON BERMUDA:**

Censor cachet Type 3 in the form of a triangle with point down containing "PRISONERS OF WAR/..Passed Censor 3 /..BERMUDA struck in violet was used from 5<sup>th</sup> November 1901 to 13<sup>th</sup> July 1902..The cover Inter Camp from MEREBANK P.O.A. 73 to Burts Island Bermuda is addressed to WILLEM DE JAGER Prisoner No 19824 aged 31 from the farm UITKOMST district ERMELO who was captured at WELGELEGEN on the 26<sup>th</sup> May 1901 and who was sent to BERMUDA via Ladysmith



Inter Camp postcard from BERMUDA to DIYATALAWA with pre-stamped 1/2d adhesive tied by Hamilton cds dated FE 25 1902 with Colombo transit strike dated MR 10 02 on the front with circular "T" and Rectangular black Taxed cachet "Amount to be collected "5" Centimes" with blue censor markings and Diyatalawa Type 2 E.J.B. Censor cachet E.J.B. ( Baumann) censor cachet on the front. The cover is addressed to JAN JACOBUS LUDIK Prisoner No 27171 aged 12years (Penkop) from KLERKSDORP TOWN who was captured at TWEELINGSPAN on the 13<sup>th</sup> December 1901 serving with the Klerksdorp Commando and who was sent to Ceylon.



BOER PRISONERS OF WAR ON BERMUDA:

In the ABW Philatelist dealing with the POW camps overseas research states that four censors were employed at Ports Island between June 1901 and June 1902. Four handstamp censor marks have been recorded with a further two sub types. No censor seals were used on the islands. The first and the commonest censor mark is an un-numbered 24cm diameter double circle circle mark with "PRISONERS OF WAR/BEREMUDA between the circles and "Passed/Censor" in the centre. It was applied from 16<sup>th</sup> July 1901 to the 13<sup>th</sup> June 1902. The mark numbered "2" is larger than type 1 consisting of a double bordered single circle 28mm in diameter with "PRISONERS OF WAR/BERMUDA" around the perimeter and in the centre "PASSES CENSOR" with line above and numeral "2" below. It appeared from 5<sup>th</sup> November 1901 to 27<sup>th</sup> June 1902. Many cover have manuscript endorsements "Not Dorells" "Not Tuckers" etc on the fronts indicating that the prisoners were rotated between different camps and that their post was re-directed. Cover from BRUSSELS Belgium( with one adhesive torn away) with 10 C adhesive tied by Brussels cds dated DEC 12 01 with Type 1 blue Censor cachet on the front. The cover is addressed to: MARIUS CORNELIUS SCHENER Prisoner No 21438 aged 24 years from Pretoria who was captured at BLOEDRIVER on the 29<sup>th</sup> July 1901 serving with the Pretoria Commando a Hollander who was sent to Bermuda via Ladysmith.



Cover from a POW on BERMUDA to GRONINGEN Holland and re-directed to Zivolle with 2 1/2 d QV Bermuda adhesive tied by a Hamilton cds dated AP 2 1901 with Bermuda Type 2 censor cachet and Groningen arrival strike dated 15 APR 02 on the front. The reverse shows Groningen transit and Zivolle arrival strike on the reverse.



BOER PRISONERS OF WAR BERMUDA: MANUSCRIPT MARKS IN INK, PENCIL OR CRAYON:

Inter Camp Cover from GREEN POINT to TIN TOWN LADYSMITH re-directed to BERMUDA with 1d CGH adhesive tied by Green Point cds dated MY 25 01 with outgoing POW censored mail cachet "Green Point" with orange crayon manuscript "Bermuda" and manuscripts: "Not Morgan's, Not Darrells, Not Burts" on the front. The reverse shows Ladysmith arrival and transit strike as also Durban and Hamilton. The Cover is addressed to CAREL LODEWIJK VAN DER MERWE Prisoner No 18014 aged 36 years from the farm KRANSSPRUIT district KROONSTAD who was captured at Kroonstad on the 14th March 1901 serving with the Mid Valsch River Commando and initially sent to Green Point.



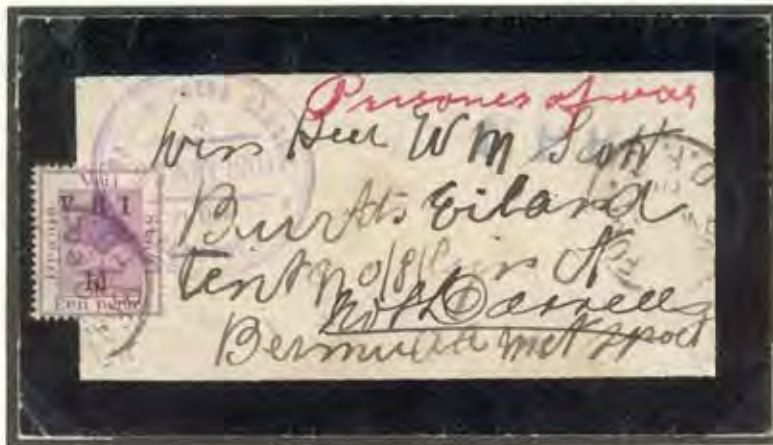
Cover from ROODEPOORT to BERMUDA with 1d ZAR opid ERI tied by Roodepoort cds dated 27 JAN 02 with partial black Johannesburg censor cachet on the front with Johannesburg and Hamilton transit and arrival strikes on the reverse. The manuscripts "Not Darrells and Not Hawkins" in pencil manuscript appear on the front. The cover is addressed to JAN CHRISTOFFEL VAN GRAAN Prisoner No 11258 aged 34 years from ROODEPOORTB TOWN district KRUGERSDORP who was captured at Roodepoort on the 26<sup>th</sup> August 1900 serving with the De Villiers Commando.



BERMUDA:INTER CAMP MAIL:

Miniature Mourning Cover from BRANDFORT CONCENTRATION CAMP to BERMUDA with 1d OFS adhesive optd VRI and tied by a Brandfort cds dated No 01 with large circular violet censor cachet H.O.M.(Moolman) the censor to the Brandfort Camp dated 29 Nov 1901, NPR(Richards) censor cachet in blue applied at Bloemfontein where he was the Chief censor, manuscript in red pen "Prisoner of War" and "Not Darrells" in black on the front. The reverse shows a Bermuda arrival strike dated 13 Jan 1902.

The cover is addressed to WILLEM MARTINUS SCOTT Prisoner No 20355 aged 51 years from the farm DE LA REYSFONTEIN district WINBURG who was captured at WELGEVONDEN on the 26<sup>th</sup> May 1901 together with his son JAN DU BOIS SCOTT Prisoner No 20356 aged 14 years both serving with the Winburg Commando and who were sent to Bermuda via Ladysmith Tin Town Camp.



Inter Camp cover from TRICHINOPOLY INDIA with 2x ½ Anna tied by a Trichinopoly cds dated 19 NO 01 with boxed violet censor cachet "Examined [T.L.Thorne] Censor/ Boer Camp/ Trichinopoly" with manuscripts "Not Burts," "Not Hawkins" on the front.

The cover is addressed to JAN ANTONI SMIT Prisoner No 20370 aged 44 years from LOUIS TRICHARDT district ZOUTPANSBERG who was captured at SPELONKEN on the 9<sup>th</sup> May 1901 serving with the Louis Trichardt Commando and who was sent to Bermuda via Tin Town Ladysmith. The letter is from POW T.W. Smit

