

The Victoria Cross Garden

**The Story of the Anglo/Boer War
Memorial erected in the Victoria
Cross Garden, Cheswick Green**

*Will you come with me in silent thought to the battlefields
of South Africa, to the lonely graves scattered over the
veldt, and to the thousands of those who had died of
wounds, disease and sickness since that Great Adventure.*

The Significance of the Stones – A Boer War Memorial

In the early Spring of 2011 a planning application relating to 194 Creynolds Lane was noted. It was realised that this site was once called **The Victoria Cross Garden** – a feature of the Mount Pleasure Grounds of the early 1900s, and that remnants of that garden were still on the site. This fact was not generally known.

I brought the matter to the attention of the Cheswick Green Parish Council and urged it to attempt to secure any remaining artefacts for the future: suggesting that any such remains could be re-installed at some suitable location within the Village to form an historical feature, preserving our heritage and above all continuing to honour the men to whom it was erected originally – those men of Warwickshire who were engaged in the South African Wars.

Site History

Those people who have lived in Cheswick Green since the new Village was built in the 1970s have been aware of a tall column standing in the garden of 194 Creynolds Lane, on the corner of Cheswick Way. A fascinating and mysterious feature: it had once been a part of the Pleasure Grounds that Philip Baker had created on the Mount Estate in the early 1900s.

Living in this Village, with its many odd features and origins, has stirred in many of its inhabitants a desire to understand more of its history. The author has some understanding of its origins and some of its odd features. Having relatives who were brought up and lived on the old Mount Estate, and who as children were discouraged from playing in the area around the column. It was regarded as a special, almost sacred place and not a place for playing!

But what was its significance, and why was it regarded as special? There exists an old pamphlet from the early 1900s, advertising the features and attractions of the Pleasure Grounds. This document contains a reference to a 'Victoria Cross Garden'.

VICTORIA CROSS GARDEN.

This is another object of interest commemorating the South African War, and especially the bravery of the Warwickshire men who were engaged. It is 24 yards square, and is appropriately surrounded by a hedge of Laurels. The inside is designed in the shape of a Maltese Cross, and the centre consists of a handsome stone column forming a natural Sun Dial. This central Monument is the more interesting as the stone with which it is constructed was hewn and used at the old Law Courts and Public Offices in Moor Street, which were demolished in the Spring of 1907.

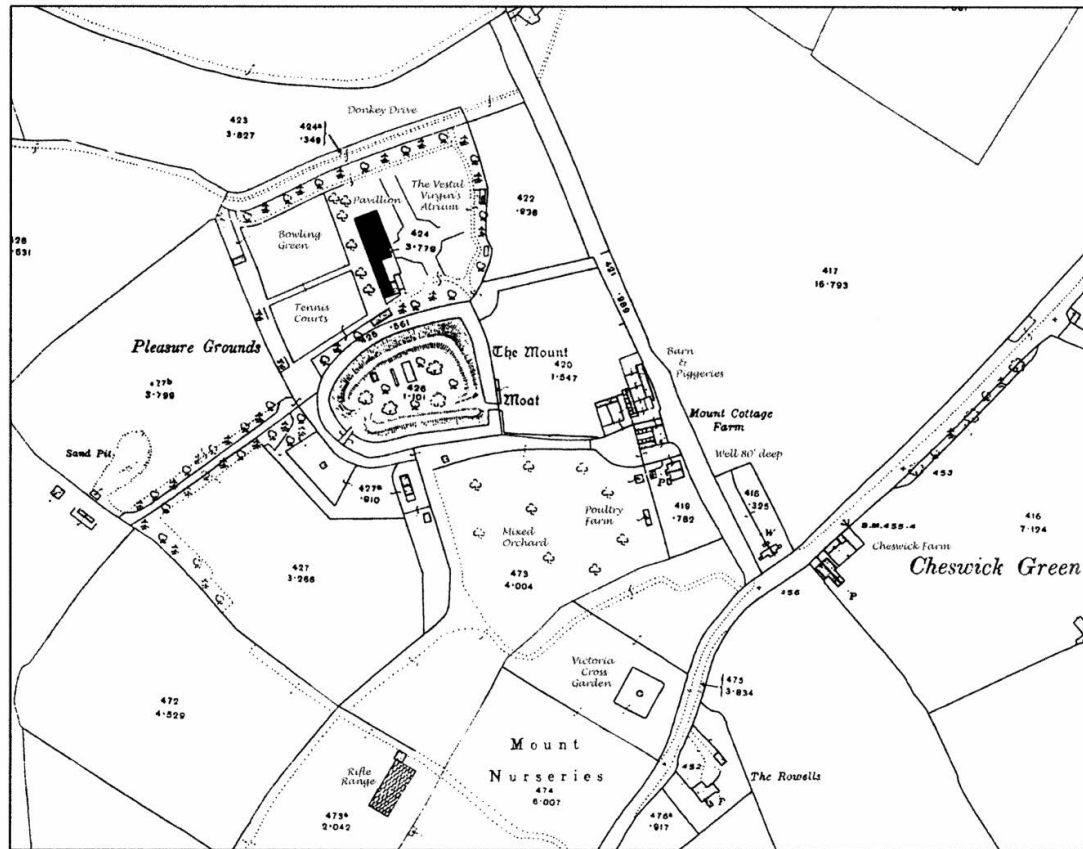
Linking this information with Ordnance Survey maps of the time it is clear that the Garden referred to was located close to the site of 194 Creynolds Lane, opposite to a property called The Rowells.

Was the column referred to in the pamphlet the same column in the garden and was it in its original position? If so then it was part of what was clearly a memorial. With permission from the owners of the bungalow photographs were taken of the column, and a number of large stones with engravings, close to it.

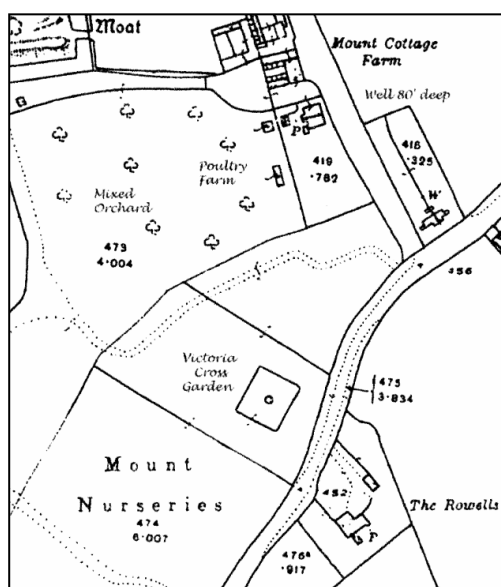
Initially there was very little information as to who had erected it and how a memorial of this importance found its way to this location. It obviously had a connection with Philip Baker, the owner

of The Mount Pleasure Grounds developed at Mount Cottage Farm, and Mount Dairy Farm, Cheswick Green in the early 1900s.

But the artefacts were secure in the garden of a private property, where they have remained secure and safe until the time when that property was to be redeveloped.



Plan of the Mount Pleasure Grounds



The location of the Victoria Cross Garden at what is now the junction of Cheswick Way and Creynolds Lane, opposite the property called The Rowells, which was a telephone exchange in the 1960/70s.



For many years, since 1962, the stones had been safely cared for by the Leese Family who owned the

property and lived in the bungalow. It is an odd coincidence that Mrs Leese has now moved to South Africa and lives near Rorke's Drift, site of one of the major battles of the Zulu War and graphically portrayed in the feature film Zulu.



Photographs of the Pillar and stones in situ 194 Creynolds Lane site.

Further Research

Over the years odd bits of the mystery of the stones have come to light.

On 5th July 1906, the Birmingham Gazette records a visit by Boer War Veterans to the Mount Pleasure Grounds, that had opened in the Spring of that year:

In July 1906, seventy-five members of the Birmingham Military Veterans Association men who had fought in the South African, and other wars, visited the Mount Pleasure Grounds for a 'day-out'. Attending were Sergeant Parkinson, one of the survivors of the charge of the Light Brigade (Crimean War), and Sergeant Dawes who recited Tennyson's 'Charge of the Six Hundred.' As he had ridden down the 'Valley of Death' with them, he knew how to recite it.

It might be assumed that the visit recorded above by Veterans of the then recent wars might well have been the inspiration for Philip Baker to create the memorial as an integral part of his project. The South African War (Boer War) was still very much in the minds of the British People, having finished in 1902, and its veterans were treated nationally as celebrities. Some towns and cities in the United Kingdom raised funds to commemorate the men from their communities who had fought and died in the Second Anglo-Boer War. As mentioned above, the memorial itself is referred to in a pamphlet describing the attractions to be found at the Pleasure Grounds: the full reference is:

VICTORIA CROSS GARDEN.

This is another object of interest commemorating the South African War, and especially the bravery of the Warwickshire men who were engaged. It is 24 yards square, and is appropriately surrounded by a hedge of Laurels. The inside is designed in the shape of a Maltese Cross, and the centre consists of a handsome stone column forming a natural Sun Dial. This central Monument is the more interesting as the stone with which it is constructed was hewn and used at the old Law Courts and Public Offices in Moor Street, which were demolished in the Spring of 1907.

It is surprising how well this Bilston stone has stood the ravages of years, and it is regrettable that the quarries are now exhausted.

"Thou by the Dial's shady stealth may know time's thievish progress to eternity" - Shakespeare

Many "natural" sun-dials exist. In Ireland as late as 1813 very few persons owned clocks and watches, and each settlement had some natural dial by which the nine watches of the day were shown by the sun's passage over certain mountain peaks or over set pyramids of stones if the natural foundations did not afford a suitable object as a marking place. There are many ways of making a noon mark. A very unscientific but very satisfactory one is this:-- On either April 15, June 15, September 1, or December 24, the four days of the year when the sun and the clock are exactly together, obtain a watch or clock of standard time, then on the surface where you desire to draw your noon mark, cast a straight shadow at 12 and mark it definitely. Another way is, on any clear night hang out of doors two plumb lines in such a position that in sighting from one to the other the North Star will be in exact range. Drive two stakes exactly in the place of the two plumb lines, and when the shadow at noon of one stake extends precisely to the other, that shadow line makes an accurate noon-mark. There is an interesting noon-mark at Durham Cathedral.

The visit by the veterans in 1906 would have been part of a reunion of some sort. In addition to individual regimental reunions, there functioned in Birmingham and a number of other West Midlands towns in England, an organization under the title of the National Association of South African Servicemen. The NASASM began in April 1906 as the Birmingham Association of South African servicemen and was the brainchild of one Harry J. Sabin, a public accountant who had served with the Birmingham City Division of the St John's Ambulance Brigade in the War. Another medical man was also active in the affairs of the Association at this time. He was Dr J.F. Hall-Edwards, former X-ray specialist at the Deelfontein Imperial Yeomanry Hospital, in South Africa. Field Marshal Earl Roberts agreed to be President of the Association.

The Association adopted the word National in its title at a special meeting held in September 1907, in anticipation of a national extension of its activities. These included:

regular smoking concerts and reunions; benevolence to needy veterans; the maintenance of a club room; library (suitably equipped with works of military and patriotic interest) and air rifle range at their Headquarters, the King Edward VII Hotel in Birmingham's New Corporation Street; and the establishment of ambulance and signalling corps. A register of members was kept to provide the authorities with a list of men with experience of active service who could be called upon in a time of national emergency.*

Membership of the National Association was limited to ex-servicemen who had served in the late Anglo-Boer War or any previous South African campaign.



The Boer War Memorial – unveiled in Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham – 23rd June 1906

The size of the crowd at the unveiling of the Birmingham memorial indicates the depth of feeling about the War

A further change of title is believed to have taken place in 1911 when NASASM became the Active Servicemen's Association, but the association largely became defunct when the bulk of its members, along with a good many other men who had served in South Africa, re-joined the colours in 1914.

During the 12 years separating the Anglo-Boer War from World War I, men and women who had served in South Africa continued to be 'celebrities', but 1914 changed that. Faced with devastating

casualty lists and large numbers of crippled and maimed servicemen returning from the front, the British public began to forget events that had once brought the Empire to crisis point a decade or so earlier. The war with the Boers seemed almost a minor colonial campaign when viewed against the carnage which was taking place in Europe.

In the aftermath of the Great War it was, perhaps, this indifference to veterans of the Anglo-Boer War, coupled with the fact that the British Legion was intended for veterans of the 1914-18 War, which led to the revival of interest in an association for South African War veterans in the late 1920s. The new title chosen was The South African War Veterans' Association.

*Note:

The significance of the air rifle range highlights one of the changes in warfare brought about by the Boer War, when it rapidly became clear that the Boer forces presented the British forces with a severe tactical challenge.

It was British practice on the battlefield for soldiers lined up in ranks to fire in volleys at an advancing group of enemy soldiers hitting them collectively with a blast of fire, and not to shoot at individuals.

What the Boers presented was a mobile and innovative approach to warfare. The average Boers who made up their Commandos were farmers who had spent almost all their working life in the saddle, both as farmers and hunters. They had to depend on the pot, their horse and their rifle and were skilled stalkers and marksmen. As hunters they had learned to fire from cover, from a prone position and to make the first shot count, knowing that if they missed, the game would either be long gone or could charge and potentially kill them. At community gatherings, target shooting was a major sport, and they practiced shooting at targets such as hens' eggs perched on posts 100 metres (100 yd.) away. They made expert mounted infantry, using every scrap of cover, from which they could pour in a destructive fire using their modern, smokeless, Mouser rifles.

During battles they rarely presented the British with a charging group to fire at, as they were better able to pick-off individual enemy soldiers by firing from the cover of rocks or hidden in vegetation.

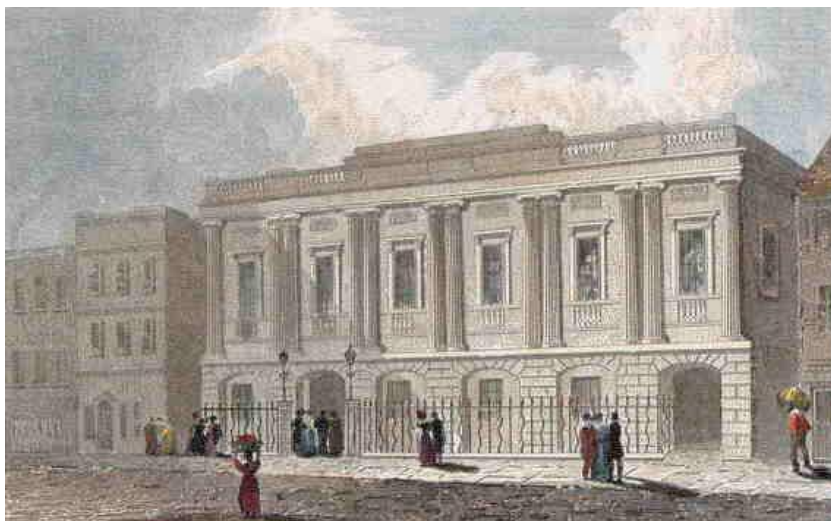
This resulted in an urgent need to retrain British soldiers in accurate firing as opposed to their normal volleys. This urgency obviously carried over into peacetime, allowing veterans to practice their marksmanship.

The Origin of the Cheswick Green Stones

From the article above, reproduced from the brochure advertising the Mount Cottage Farm facilities, we can determine that the Cheswick Green memorial was created after the 'Spring of 1907' as it is made from the pillars that formed part of the 'Old Law Courts and Public Offices in Moor Street Birmingham'; which were demolished at that time. The pillars that were used to construct the memorial can be seen in the pictures below.



The Birmingham Public Office in Moor Street c. 1890



The Public Office in Moor Street, completed in 1807, was often condemned as too ornate for a public building. It contained courtrooms and a prison.

It is quite probable that other pillars and stone work from this building were also used to create other interesting features throughout the Pleasure Grounds. As can be seen on a portion of a postcard depicting the pleasure grounds attractions. (The remains of some can still be found in undergrowth near the Mount.)



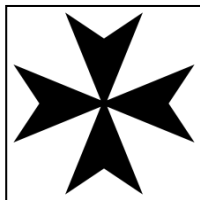
Initially it was thought that the original monument, a feature within the Mount Cottage Farm Pleasure Ground site, was just a memorial to the Boer War (South African War 1895 – 1902). But after transcribing and interpreting the inscriptions on the stones, it was realised that it had far greater significance – it was also, in fact, a memorial to the history of South Africa itself; the stones setting the War in the context of the Cape Colony history.

The Victoria Cross Medal

Before the Crimean War (1854), there was no official standardised system for recognition of gallantry within the British armed forces.

Queen Victoria had instructed the War Office to strike a new medal that would not recognise birth or class. The medal was meant to be a simple decoration that would be highly prized and eagerly sought after by those in the military services. To maintain its simplicity, Queen Victoria, under the guidance of Prince Albert, vetoed the suggestion that the award be called *The Military Order of Victoria* and instead suggested the name *Victoria Cross*. The original warrant stated that the Victoria Cross would only be awarded to soldiers who have served in the presence of the enemy and had performed some single act of valour or devotion.

The decoration is a bronze cross pattée, 41 mm high, 36 mm wide, bearing the crown of Saint Edward surmounted by a lion, and the inscription FOR VALOUR. This was originally to have been FOR THE BRAVE, until it was changed on the recommendation of Queen Victoria, as it implied that not all men in battle were brave. The decoration, suspension bar and link weigh about 0.87 troy ounces (27 g). The cross is suspended by a ring from a seriffed "V" to a bar ornamented with laurel leaves, through which the ribbon passes. The reverse of the suspension bar is engraved with the recipient's name, rank, number and unit. On the reverse of the medal is a circular panel on which the date of the act for which it was awarded is engraved in the centre.



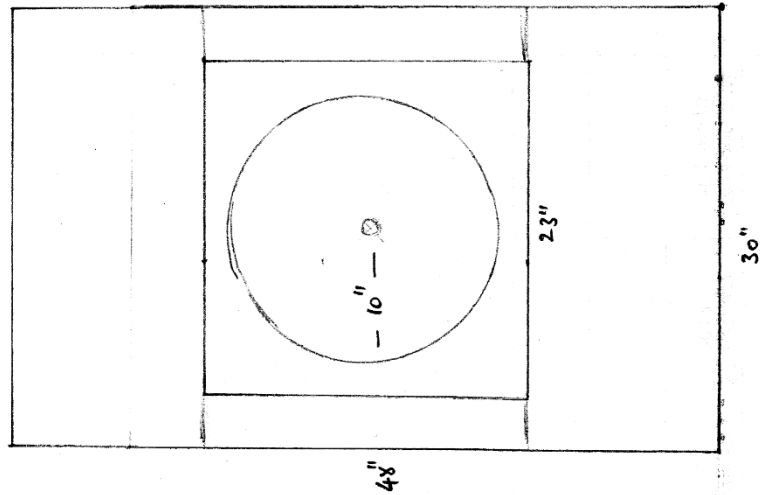
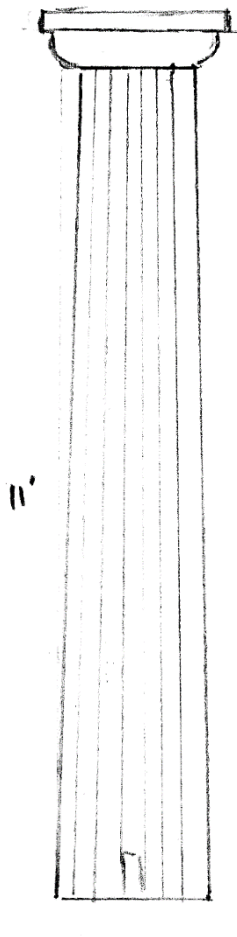
The Original Warrant Clause 1 states that the Victoria Cross "shall consist of a Maltese cross of bronze". Nonetheless, it has always been a cross pattée; the discrepancy with the Warrant has never been corrected.

The ribbon is crimson, 38 mm (1.5 inches) wide. The original (1856) specification for the award stated that the ribbon should be red for army recipients and blue for naval recipients. However the dark blue ribbon was abolished soon after the formation of the Royal Air Force on 1 April 1918. On 22 May 1920 King George V signed a warrant that stated all recipients would now receive a red ribbon and the living recipients of the naval version were required to exchange their ribbons for the new colour. Although the Army warrants state the colour as being red it is defined by most commentators as being crimson or "wine-red".

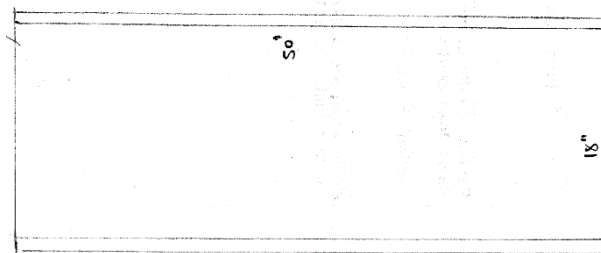
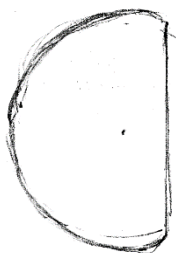
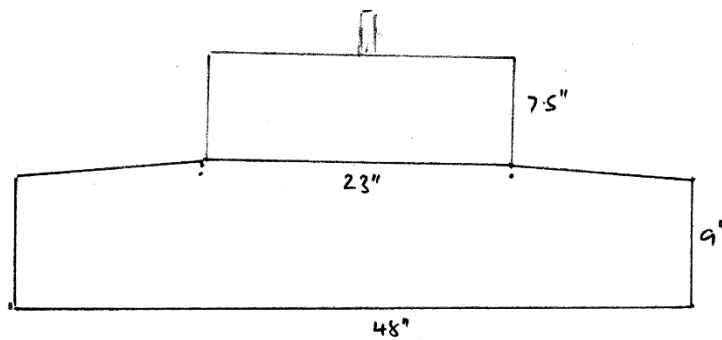


The Stones (dimensions)

The central feature consists of a rectangular base block 48 x 30 inches, 10 inches high upon which stands a further square block 23 x 23 inches, 7.5 inches high, with an 11 foot fluted column mounted upon its centre.



The faces either side of the central block slope gently away from the centre out to the edges of the lower block. It is upon these faces that inscriptions 1 and 2 are engraved,



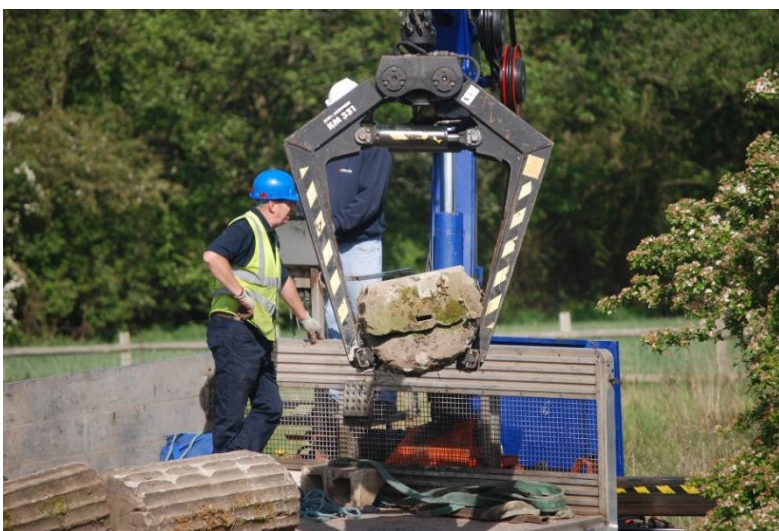
There are then twelve stone tablets each measuring 50 x 18 inches (approx.) cut out of fluted columns. Inscriptions are engraved upon the flat surfaces of these stone tablets.

The Stones in Safe Keeping

In May 2011 the Cheswick Green Parish Council enlisted the Help of the local firm of E.H.Smith to transport the stones from their original site to a site for safe keeping.



Chris Noble, then Chairman of Cheswick Green Parish Council, supervising the unloading of the Stones onto the field adjacent to Coppice Walk







The Cheswick Green Parish Council are indebted to E.H. Smith for their help and expertise in moving the stones from the Creynolds Lane site to a place where they could be stored safely until a suitable site could be found upon which they could be re-erected.

**THANK YOU
GENTLEMEN!**

Stones in temporary storage



Below pillar and standing stone in their original positions



The Memorial Stonework consists of:

A Central Column

A fluted column forms the central and main feature of the memorial. It is mounted upon a base bearing the primary inscriptions on two sloping surfaces.

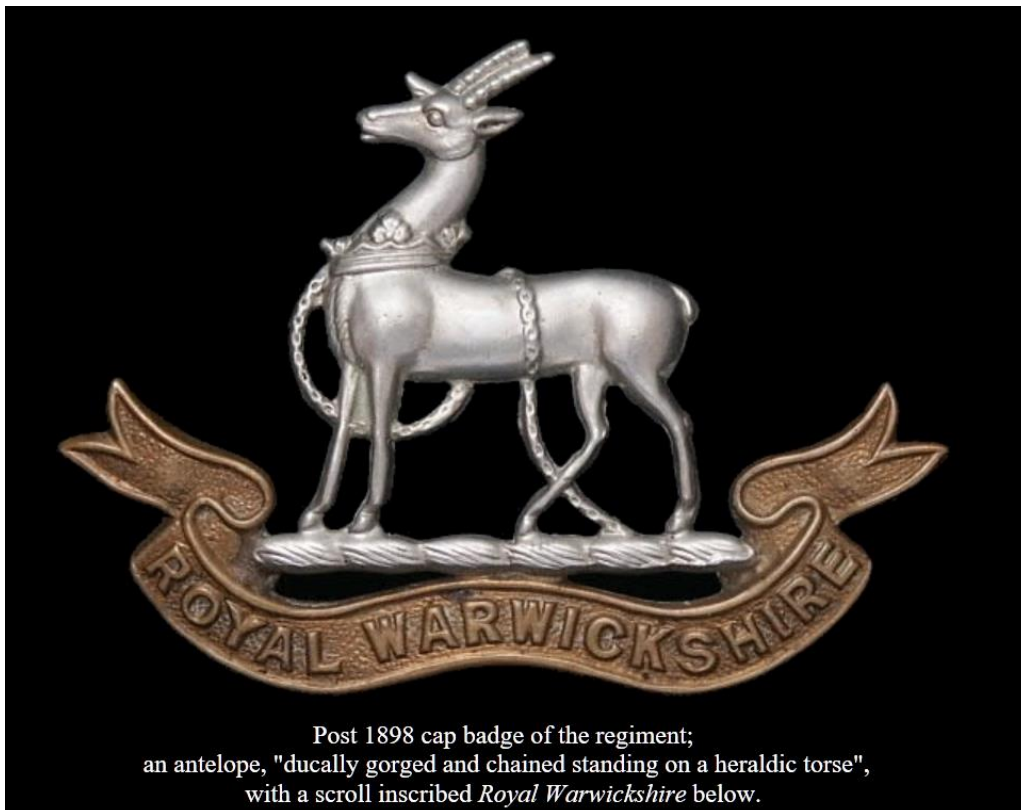
The Men of Warwickshire who fought in the South African War

First and foremost, this memorial is dedicated to the Men of Warwickshire who fought in the South Africa War.

The main memorial stone beneath the pillar reads:

*IN MEMORY OF THE
MEN OF WARWICKSHIRE
WHO FOUGHT IN THE
SOUTH AFRICAN WAR*

*TIME CANNOT ENTOMB
NOR AGE OBLITERATE
THE DEEDS OF THE BRAVE*



Post 1898 cap badge of the regiment;
an antelope, "ducally gorged and chained standing on a heraldic torse",
with a scroll inscribed *Royal Warwickshire* below.

The total number of Warwickshire men, from all Regiments is not known, but some indication can be judged from the 513 names on the Birmingham Cannon Hill Memorial, referred to as 'Sons of Birmingham, who died in South Africa'.

The sketchy Records of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment indicate that its 2nd Battalion provided Mounted Infantry, along with Volunteer Companies between 1899 and 1902.

South African War 1899 - 1902 or "Boer War" 2nd Battalion (December 1899 -July 1901) also providing Mounted Infantry, plus volunteer companies*.						
Queen's South Africa Medal 1899-1902						
Common clasps: Cape Colony, Orange Free State, Transvaal, South Africa 1901, also encountered:						
			MI?			
clasp:	Relief of Kimberley	Paardeberg	Driefontein	Johannesburg	Diamond Hill	Belfast
number:	?	?	?	?	?	?
	Vols & MI?					
clasp:	South Africa 1902					
number:	uncommon					
King's South Africa Medal 1901 - 1902						
At least some of the Mounted Infantry served beyond the period of the main battalion and qualified for this medal.						
Officers			NCOs and Men			
KIA & DOW	Wounded	Death from disease	KIA & DOW	Death from disease	Wounded	Missing / POW
2nd Battalion						
1	5	1	11	44	44	10
*Roll not sighted but Westlake (The Territorial Battalions 1859-1985) records about 125 men of the 1st Vol Btn and 100 of the 2nd Vol Btn served in the Boer war, with the 1st present at "Elandsfontein, Pretoria, Diamond Hill and Belfast.")						
Battle Honour; South Africa 1899-1902						

Two Companies, some 270 men of the Warwickshire Imperial Yeomanry (a Volunteer Cavalry Regiment) served in South Africa as mounted infantry during 1900/1.

The Outer Perimeter of Standing and Horizontal Stones

Around the central column were twelve further stones with inscriptions relating to the history of the Cape Colony and South Africa, details of the Boer Wars:

Twelve Tablets: Cut from fluted columns with a flat face. Four are believed to have been vertical mounted on bases; the remainder lying horizontal, inscription up. It is not known in which order the stones were placed around the central column, but the wording engraved upon them enables them to be placed in a chronological order. The inscriptions on the stones have been transcribed and are recorded below. (Except for one stone which unfortunately is 'face down' and cannot be read.)

- 1: TO THE 37 VC HEROES
714 OFFICERS KILLED IN ACTION AND 1753 WOUNDED
?845 MEN (7845) 19292
- 2: CAPE TOWN OCCUPIED BY THE DUTCH EAST INDIA Co
BRITISH CAPTURED CAPE TOWN 1795
- 3: ABOLITION OF SLAVERY 1834
THE GREAT TREK 1837

- 4: ENGLAND ANNEXED NATAL 1843
ORANGE FREE STATE 1848
- 5: ENGLAND TOOK OVER THE TRANSVAAL 1877
ZULU WAR 1879
- 6: MAJUBA HILL 27 FEB 1881
JAMESON RAID 27 JAN 1896

7: Standing

ELAND SLAAGTZ
GLENCOE
MODDER RIVER
COLENSO
PAARDEBERG
RELIEF OF
KIMBERLEY
LADYSMITH
MAFEKING

- 8: BLOEMFONTEIN ENTERED 18 MARCH 1900
PETORIA 5 JUNE 1900
- 9: PRESIDENT KRUGER PRESIDENT STEIN
BORN 10 OCTOBER 1825 BORN 2 OCT 1857
DIED 13 JULY 1908

10: Standing?

Needs reading – stone inverted!

11: Standing

1895 - 1902
3rd MARQUESS OF SAILSBURY
PRIME MINISTER
RT HON
JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN
COLONIAL SECRETARY
ARTHUR J BALFOUR
FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY
LORD MILNER
HIGH COMMISSIONER OF SOUTH AFRICA
5th May 1897 – 6th March 1901
Other names below these - not able to read – stone eroded!

12: Standing

QUEEN VICTORIA

BORN 24 MAY 1819

DIED 22 JANUARY 1901

KING EDWARD

BORN 9 NOVEMBER 1841

QUEEN ALEXANDRA

BORN 1 DECEMBER 1844

MARRIED 10 MARCH 1863

Historical context of the inscriptions

Below is some additional information which enlarges upon the inscribed wording on the stones.

The Central Memorial

To the 'Men of Warwickshire who fought in the South African War'

Stone One – Is a memorial

To thirty-seven holders of the Victoria Cross, awarded during the Boer War, and the Officers and Men killed and wounded in that War.

The Victoria Cross (VC) was awarded to 78 members of the British and Empire Armed Forces for action during the Second Boer War. Their National distribution is believed to be:

Country	Nº	Note
English	37	1 VC involuntarily forfeited
Irish	9	
Scottish	8	Inc. 4 English serving in Scots Regiments
Canadian	5	
South African	4	
Indian	3	
New Zealand	1	

Under the original Royal Warrant, the VC could not be awarded posthumously. Between 1897 and 1901, several notices were issued in the London Gazette regarding soldiers who would have been awarded the VC had they survived. In a partial reversal of policy in 1902, six of the soldiers mentioned were granted the VC, but not 'officially' awarded the medal. In 1907, the posthumous policy was completely reversed and medals were sent to the next of kin of six officers and men.

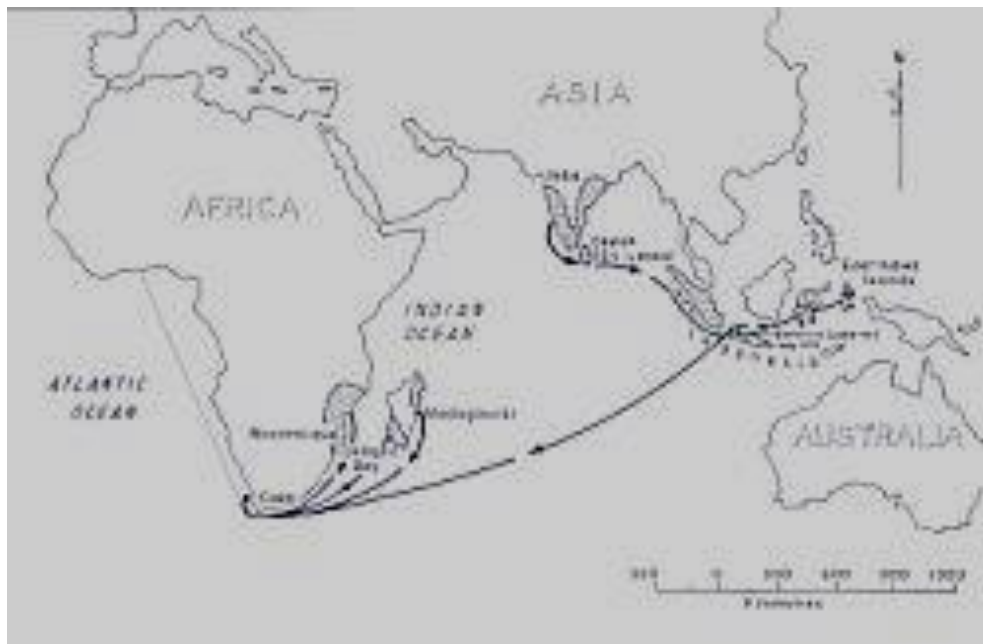
The 37 VCs recorded on this stone are thought to be those English recipients who are listed in Appendix A.

Stone Two – Points to the history of the Cape area.

Cape Town occupied by the Dutch East India Co

The first significant fact recorded on this stones concerns the settlement of Cape Town. The Dutch East India Company had sent Jan van Riebeeck and other employees to the Cape to establish a way-station for its ships travelling to the Dutch East Indies, and to build the Fort de Goede Hoop (later the Castle of Good Hope). The city grew slowly as it was hard to find adequate labour. This labour shortage prompted the Dutch to 'import' slaves from Indonesia and Madagascar.





The Dutch imported slaves from Madagascar and Indonesia to work in the Cape

In 1753 the Dutch Governor of the Cape Colony, Rijk Tulbagh, prepared a set of rules to govern the control of slaves: known as the Tulbagh Code:

- A curfew existed for slaves, who had to be indoors by ten o'clock at night. If they were out later they were required to carry a pass and a lantern.
- Slaves were not allowed passage through the streets of Cape Town on horseback or in a wagon.
- Slaves were forbidden to sing, whistle, or make any kind of sound at night.
- Slaves could not enter public houses or bars (*taphuis*).
- Slaves could not congregate in groups on public holidays.
- Slaves were not allowed to wait near a church entrance during service.
- Slaves could not stop to converse on the streets of Cape Town, at risk of being publicly caned.
- Slaves who made false claims or insulted freemen of the Cape were to be punished by public flogging and to be held in chains.
- Slaves who proffered violence to their masters were to be put to death; no mercy may be shown to such offenders.
- Slaves were not permitted to carry, or own, firearms

British captured Cape Town 1795

During the French Revolution and Napoleonic Wars, the Netherlands was repeatedly occupied by France. The Prince of Orange fled to England for protection, which allowed for the establishment of the Dutch Batavian Republic. Due to the long time it took to send and receive news from Europe, the Cape Commissioner of the time knew only that the French had been taking territory in the Netherlands and that the Dutch could change sides in the war at any moment. British forces arrived at the Cape bearing a letter from the Prince of Orange asking the Commissioner to allow the British troops to protect the Cape from France during the war. The British informed the Commissioner that the Prince had fled to England. The reaction in the Cape Council was mixed, and eventually the British successfully invaded the Cape in the Battle of Muizenberg. The British immediately announced the beginning of free trade. Great Britain moved in to take control of the Dutch colonies including Cape Town in 1795. Although briefly returned to the Netherlands, British forces occupied the Cape again in 1806; and in

the Anglo-Dutch Treaty of 1814, Cape Town was permanently ceded to Britain. It became the capital of the newly formed Cape Colony, whose territory expanded very substantially through the 1800s.



Cape Town's 'city bowl' as viewed from Table Mountain

In 1834 slavery was abolished in the Cape and 'slaves' were freed and made 'apprentices' to their 'masters' for four years.

Stone Three – Records the Abolition of Slavery by the British, and the response by the Boers in the Cape

The Abolition of Slavery

Also around this time the movement in Britain to abolish slavery was becoming increasingly strong.

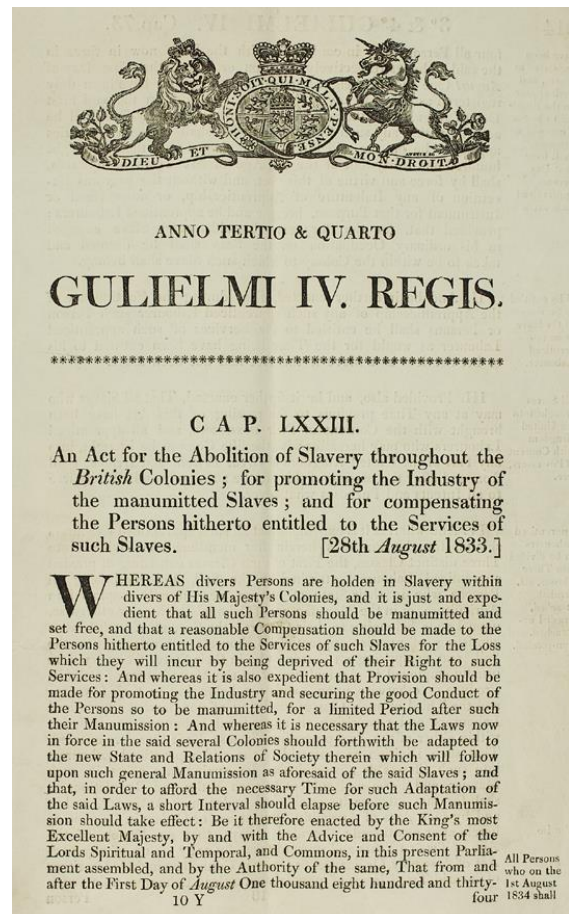
As far back as 1569 a court case in England ruled that English law could not recognise slavery. This was upheld in 1701 when the Lord Chief Justice ruled that a slave became free as soon as he arrived in England.

William Wilberforce later took on the cause of abolition in 1787 after the formation of the Committee for the Abolition of the Slave Trade, in which he led the parliamentary campaign to abolish the slave trade in the British Empire with the Slave Trade Act 1807. He continued to campaign for the abolition of slavery in the British Empire, which he lived to see in the Slavery Abolition Act 1833.

The Great Trek

The Great Trek was an eastward and north-eastward migration of some 12,000 Boers, farmers, descended from the original Cape settlers who came from the western mainland of Europe (Netherlands, Germany and France). The purpose of the Trek was to find new lands and to move away from British rule – especially its anti-slavery legislation, including arrangements to compensate former slave owners (see The Act above).

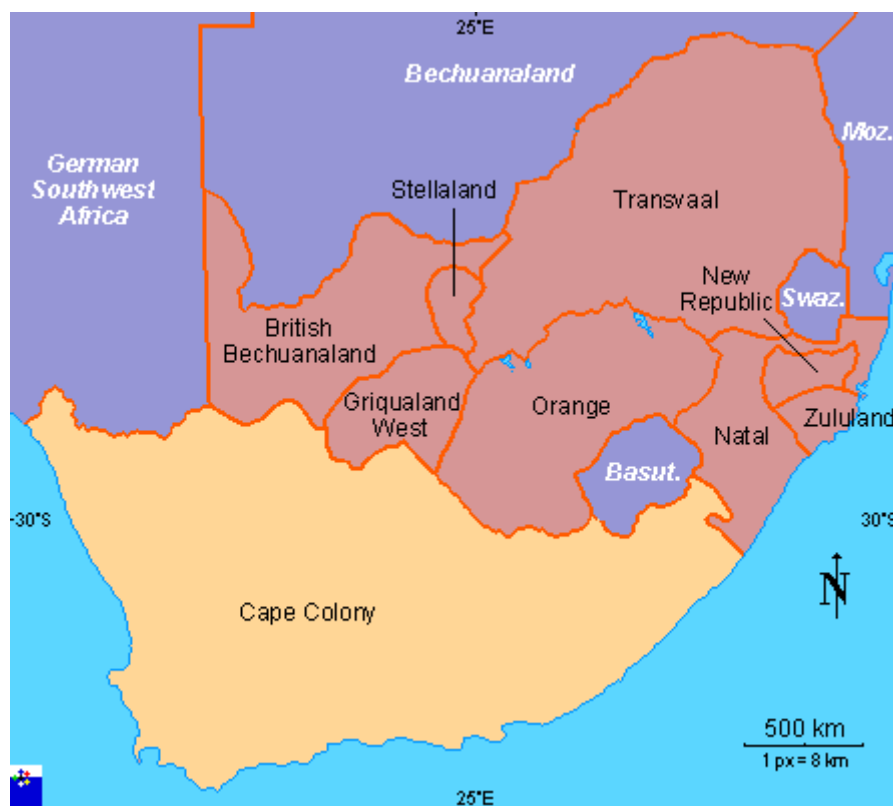
The migration itself led to the founding of numerous Boer republics, the Natalia Republic, the Orange Free State Republic and the Transvaal being the most notable. It has to be noted that these three



republics founded by the Boers prohibited slavery; but enshrined racial separatism (apartheid) in their constitutions. (This raised its head again in 1948 when The National Party won the most seats in the South African General Election on its policy of racial segregation - later to become known by the Afrikaans word *Apartheid*).

In the Natal the Boers were soon in conflict with the Zulu, who launched large-scale hostilities after a delegation, under the trek leader Pier Retief, negotiating the acquisition of land, was massacred by their chief, Dingane kaSenzangalhona on February 6, 1838.

Following the massacre the Zulus immediately attacked the Boer encampments, killing women and children along with the men. Half of the Boers in Natal were killed. The Boers retaliated with a 347 strong raid against the Zulus, but were roundly beaten by about 7000 Zulu warriors. This was followed by a further battle when a 470 strong Boer force confronted about 12,000 Zulu, killing some 3,000, whose blood turned the river red, the battle of Blood River.



Map of South Africa showing the 'republics' created by the Boers following the Great Trek

Stone Four – Records the British response to the setting up of the Boer Republics

England Annexed Natal 1843

The Boers unilaterally declared the Natal a Republic, but this was annexed by British forces in 1843. Due to the return of British Rule the Boer's attention moved to occupying land to the west and on to the high veld of the Transvaal and Orange Free State, which at the time were unoccupied due to the devastation of the Mfecane in tribal warfare. (The Zulu, under king Shaka, were constantly at war with other Black groups and Tribes who lived in the area and were driving them away).

Orange Free State 1848

This was another Boer republic extending between the Orange and Vaal rivers. The Boers had arrived in the area as part of the Great Trek and concluded an agreement with the local tribal leaders to settle land. But they soon came into collision with a section of the Zulu tribe whose raiding parties attacked the Boer hunters when they crossed the Vaal River. Reprisals followed and in November 1837 the Zulus were decisively defeated by the Boers and fled to the north.

Sir Harry Smith became governor of the Cape Colony at the end of 1847. He recognised that the area was not being governed along the lines of the treaties in force, and in February 1848 he issued a proclamation declaring British sovereignty over the region and proclaimed it as the Orange River Sovereignty and clearly defined its borders. Having restored order the British later recognized the area's independence and in 1854 it officially became the Orange Free State.

Stone Five – Records what happened with the Boer Republic of Transvaal, and the Zulu War of 1879

England took over the Transvaal 1877

The South African Republic (Transvaal Republic) was an independent Boer-ruled country in South Africa, created by the Boers following the Great Trek, to avoid British control. It was established in 1852, and was independent from 1856 to 1877, then again from 1881 to 1900.

The state was badly governed and over time the public credit and finances of the Transvaal went from bad to worse; the revenue for 1869 was stated as £31,511 and the expenditure at £30,836.

Following the discovery in 1868, of gold in the Tati River area of the neighbouring Matabele Kingdom, the President of Transvaal issued a proclamation unilaterally extending the territory of the Transvaal west and north so as to 'grab' the goldfield and a portion of neighbouring Bechuanaland, and also land on the east to include part of Delagoa Bay to gain a sea port.

This illegal and unwarranted action drew protests from Britain and Portugal. In 1877 Britain annexed the Transvaal, persuading the Boers to give up their independence. The Boers viewed this as an act of aggression and protested, and in 1880 the independence of the republic was proclaimed again, leading to the First Boer War.

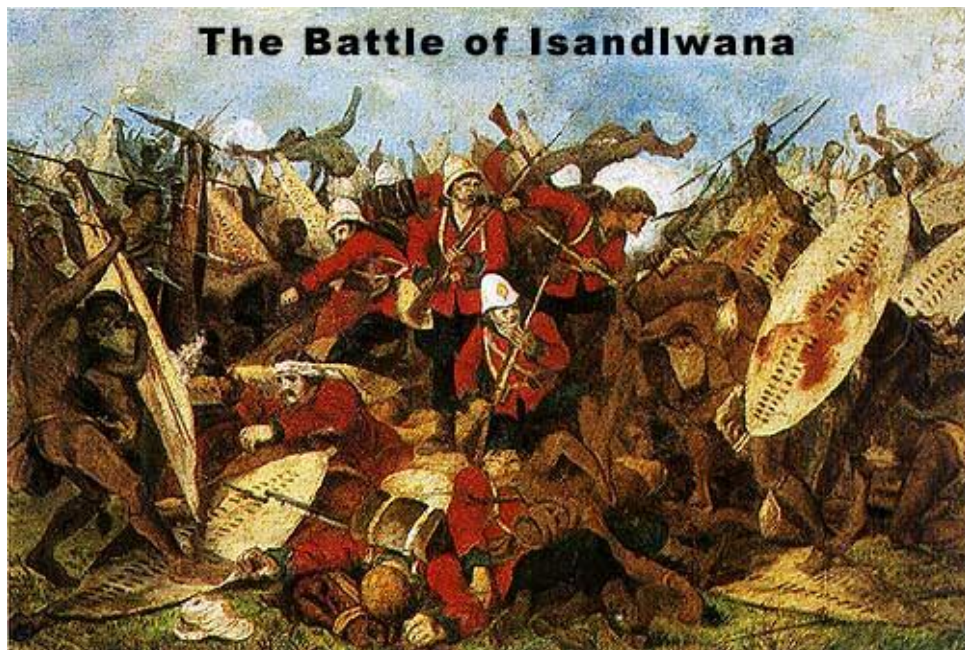
The Zulu War 1879

The pretext for this war had its origins in border disputes between the Zulu leader, Cetshwayo, and the Boers in the Transvaal region. Following a commission enquiry on the border dispute which reported in favour of the Zulu nation in July 1878, Sir Henry Bartle Frere, who found the award "one-sided and unfair to the Boers," delivered an ultimatum to the Zulu leader, Cetshwayo. Cetshwayo had not responded by the end of the year, so a concession was granted by the British until 11 January 1879, after which a state of war was deemed to exist.

Cetshwayo returned no answer, and in January 1879 a British force under Lieutenant General Frederick Augustus Thesiger, 2nd Baron Chelmsford invaded Zululand. Lord Chelmsford had under him a force of 5,000 British and 8,200 Africans. Three columns invaded Zululand, from the Lower Tugela, Rorke's Drift, and Utrecht respectively, their objective being Ulundi, the Zulu royal capital.

Almost immediately, the war went badly wrong for the British.

On 22 January, the Centre Column, under Lord Chelmsford's personal command, was defeated at Isandlwana Mountain. In one of the worst disasters of the Colonial era, over 1300 British troops and their African allies were killed.



In the aftermath of Isandlwana, the Zulu reserves mounted a raid on the British border post at Rorke's Drift, which was held by just 145 men. After ten hours of ferocious fighting, the Zulu were driven off.



The Defence of Rorke's Drift

At Rorke's Drift, eleven of the defenders were awarded the Victoria Cross for their courageous deeds during the battle. Seven to the 2nd Battalion, 24th (2nd Warwickshire) Regiment of Foot, one to the Army Medical Department, one to the Royal Engineers, one to the Commissariat and Transport Department and one to the Natal Native Contingent. There may possibly have been more VC's awarded but the posthumous VC was only started in 1905.

The British flanking columns also saw action that same day. On the coast, the right flank column brushed aside Zulu resistance at the Nyezane River, before advancing to occupy the deserted mission station at Eshowe. The left flank column was also involved in heavy skirmishing around the Hlobane Mountain. The British collapse at Isandlwana left the flanking columns exposed, however. The Zulus managed to cut Col. Pearson's Right-flank column off from the border, and Pearson's men were besieged for three months at Eshowe.

Only the left flank column remained operative.

But the success at Isandlwana exhausted the Zulu army, and Cetshwayo was unable to mount a counter-offensive into Natal. This gave Lord Chelmsford time to regroup. British troops were rushed to South Africa from around the Empire.

By the end of March the war was poised to enter a new phase. Lord Chelmsford assembled a column to march to the relief of Eshowe, and directed the commander of the Left Flank Column - Sir Evelyn Wood - to make a diversionary attack. Wood's men attacked a local Zulu stronghold - Hlobane Mountain - on 28 March, but were surprised by the unexpected arrival of the main Zulu army, and scattered. The following day, however, the Zulu attacked Wood's camp at Khambula, and after several hours of heavy fighting, were driven off. Meanwhile Lord Chelmsford had crossed into Zululand, marching towards Eshowe. On 2nd April he broke through the Zulu cordon around Eshowe at kwaGingindlovu, and relieved Pearson's column.

The defeat of the Zulu king's forces in two actions, at either end of the country, and within days of each other, demoralized the Zulu, and proved to be the turning point of the war. Lord Chelmsford reorganized his forces, and in late May was poised to mount a new invasion of Zululand. This, too, began badly, when, on 1 June, the exiled Prince Imperial of France, Louis Napoleon, who was serving with the British in an unofficial capacity, was killed in a skirmish.

Nevertheless, British troops continued to advance towards the Zulu capital, Ulundi, which they reached at the end of June. On 4 July Chelmsford defeated the Zulu army in the last great battle of the war. Ulundi was put to the torch, and King Cetshwayo fled.

Chelmsford resigned after the victory at Ulundi, but it took several weeks for the British to suppress lingering resistance in the outlying districts. King Cetshwayo was eventually captured and sent into exile at Cape Town. The British divided his country up among thirteen pro-British chiefs - a deliberately divisive move which led to a decade of destructive civil war.

Stone Six – Records First Boer War, and in particular the defeat of the British at the Battle of Majuba Hill. It also records the disgraceful incident of the Jameson Raid.

The First Boer War

With the defeat of the Zulus, the Transvaal Boers were able to give voice to the growing resentment against the 1877 British annexation of the Transvaal and complained that it had been a violation of the Sand River Convention of 1852, and the Bloemfontein Convention of 1854.

The British claimed the moral high ground and said the Boers mistreated the black Africans, which in many cases was true. The British were over confident and underestimated the outrage felt by the Boers and misread the character of the Boer and his capacity to defend his territory.

The First Boer War was more a rebellion than a war, and was over in four months. On 16 December 1880 the Boers revolted and took action at Bronkhorstspuit against a British column of the 94th Foot, who were returning to reinforce Pretoria. The British had too few troops under indifferent command. Every British garrison in the Transvaal was under siege. Sir George Pomeroy Colley led his Natal Field Force to relieve the besieged garrisons, but the Boers sent them packing at the battle of Laing's Neck.

Majuba Hill 27 Feb 1881

Then came Majuba Hill, the main battle of the war; whoever held this position theoretically controlled the main theatre of battle. The 405 British soldiers occupying the hill thought themselves in command. But at this point an important difference between the British and the Boers was to prove decisive, and which arguably was to alter warfare in the future.

The British infantry uniforms at that date were red jackets, black trousers with red piping to the side, white pith helmets and pipe clayed equipment, a stark contrast to the African landscape. The Highlanders wore the kilt. The standard infantry weapon was the Martini Henry single-shot breech loading rifle with a long sword bayonet. Gunners of the Royal Artillery wore blue jackets. These uniforms enabled the Boer marksmen to easily snipe at distinctively-clad British troops from a distance.

The fiercely independent Boers had no regular army; when danger threatened, all the men in a district would form a militia organized into military units called commandos and would elect officers. Being civilian militia, each man wore what they wished, usually everyday dark-grey, neutral-coloured, or earth tone khaki farming clothes such as a jacket, trousers and slouch hat. Each man brought his own weapon, usually a hunting rifle, and his own horses. The average Boer citizens who made up their commandos were farmers who had spent almost all their working life in the saddle, and, because they had to depend on both their horse and their rifle for almost all of their meat, they were skilled hunters and expert marksmen. Most of the Boers had single-shot breech loading rifle. As hunters they had learned to fire from cover, from a prone position and to make the first shot count, knowing that if they missed the game would be long gone. At community gatherings, they often held target shooting competitions using targets such as hens eggs perched on posts over 100 yards away. The Boer commandos made for expert light cavalry, able to use every scrap of cover from which they could pour accurate and destructive fire at the British with their breech loading rifles.



A Commando was the basic unit of the Boer militia

The Boers carried no bayonets leaving them at a substantial disadvantage in close combat, which they avoided as far as possible. Drawing on years of experience of fighting frontier skirmishes with numerous and indigenous African tribes, they relied more on mobility, stealth, marksmanship and initiative while the British emphasized the traditional military values of command, discipline, formation and synchronized firepower at an oncoming enemy force. The average British soldier was not trained to be a marksman and got little target practice. What shooting training British soldiers had was mainly as a unit firing in volleys on command at a charging enemy force.

At Majuba Hill the British held the high ground and in their highly visible uniforms were clear targets for the Boers firing from cover in their khaki clothing. They were able to pick off the British at will. The British realising that they would be killed one by one if they did not escape ran off the Hill. General Colley was the last to leave and was shot dead as he walked after his retreating men.

The battle was a resounding victory for the Boers. The defeat led to the signing of a peace treaty and later the Pretoria Convention.



The Pretoria Convention gave the Boers independence of the newly created South African Republic under theoretical British oversight and British control over African affairs and native districts. In 1883, Paul Kruger was declared its president.

The Aid Post on Majuba Hill
Lance Corporal Turner winning the Victoria Cross

Jameson Raid January 1896

In 1886 gold was discovered in the Transvaal and many foreigners went to seek their fortune in the area. They were disliked and poorly treated by the Boers but mostly digging for gold they paid huge taxes, which were much needed.

The British became concerned, and asked; could a rich Boer state threaten their other interests in Africa and they were fearful that the Germans might assist the Boers. The British interests in Transvaal were limited to foreign affairs by the Pretoria Convention.

The Cape governor demanded to know how the Boers and British could be at peace while the British in the Transvaal were being so badly treated.

The Jameson Raid was an ill-fated attempt to support an uprising that would topple the Transvaal Government to ensure foreign (mainly British) immigrants (uitlanders) were given full political rights. The raid was also intended to eliminate Transvaal resistance to plans to federate all of South Africa.

Uitlander grievances were subject to exploitation by British imperialists, such as Cecil J. Rhodes, the diamond and gold magnate. Rhodes stated that the uitlanders , “possessing more than half the land, nine - tenths of the wealth , and paying nineteen - twentieths of the taxes”, should be allowed some voice in the government. He had earlier secured neighbouring Bechuanaland as a British protectorate and the charter for the British South Africa Company in 1889. In the following year, Rhodes became prime minister of the Cape Colony and envisioned British imperial holdings stretching “from the Cape to Cairo,” with a federated South Africa.

The Transvaal was opposed to this strategy. Rhodes conceived a plan, apparently with the tacit approval of the Colonial Secretary, Joseph Chamberlain, and assisted by his colleague Dr. Leander Starr Jameson, to force Transvaal compliance. The plan was for an uitlander rebellion that would force the Transvaal to grant full political rights to them; then in the next election the uitlanders would vote for a government that would support Rhodes’s scheme.

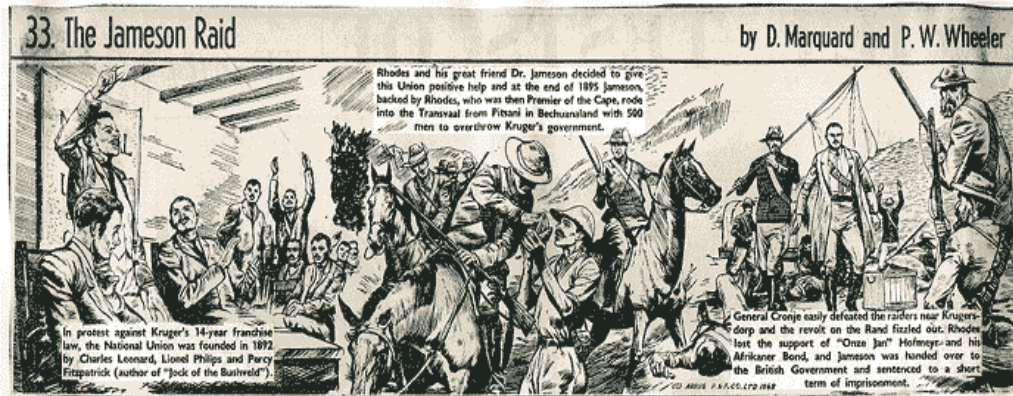
Jameson, with a force of about 600 mounted troopers, six Maxim guns, two 7-pounder mountain guns, and a 12.5- pounder artillery piece, assembled within the Cape Colony border. The uitlander revolt in Johannesburg was scheduled to take place near the end of December 1895, but it soon became apparent that the rising “had fizzled out like a damp squib”. On 29 December 1895, Jameson made the decision to dash to Johannesburg to instigate the uitlander rebellion.

When the raiders crossed into the Transvaal , they cut a number of telegraph wires to prevent early warning of their approach, but in the confusion apparently did not cut the wire to Pretoria. On 1 January 1896, Jameson and his men met Boer opposition at Krugersdorp, and on the following day, they were surrounded at Doornkop. The Jameson Raiders attempted to fight their way out of Boer encirclement and lost 16 men killed and 49 wounded before surrendering to the Boers — who had one man killed.

The fiasco of Jameson’s unsuccessful raid had far-reaching repercussions. Jameson and five of the raiders were returned to England, tried, and imprisoned; Rhodes was forced to resign as prime minister of Cape Colony. Kruger’s prestige was enhanced in South Africa as well as in Europe. A treaty of mutual assistance between the Transvaal and the Orange Free State was concluded in 1897, and

both republics modernized the capabilities of their security forces. Finally, trust between Britain and the Boers was shattered, with some people believing that war was inevitable.

The Jameson Raid



In protest against Kruger's 14 year franchise law, the National Union was founded in 1892 by Charles Leonard, Lionel Phillips and Percy Fitzpatrick (author of 'Jock of the Bushveld').

Rhodes and his great friend Dr. Jameson decided to give the Union positive help and at the end of 1895 Jameson backed by Rhodes, who was then Premier of the Cape, rode into the Transvaal from Pietersburg in Bechuanaland with 500 men to overthrow Kruger's government

General Cronje easily defeated the raiders near Krugersdorp and the revolt on the Rand fizzled out. Rhodes lost the support of the 'Onze Jan' Hofmeyr and his Afrikaner Bond, and Jameson was handed over to the British Government and sentenced to a short term of imprisonment

The Jameson Raid, illustration by P. W. Wheeler, taken from South African History in Pictures, as published in The Star

Stone Seven – Lists significant Battles and Sieges of the Second Boer War

The Second Boer War

There were more Uitlanders, foreigners (mainly British), poorly treated but mostly digging for gold in Transvaal than there were Boers. The Boers disliked them but needed the huge taxes they forced the Uitlanders to pay.

In November 1898 Alfred Milner, governor of the Cape went to London to explain the situation to colonial secretary Joseph Chamberlain. Chamberlain's view was that the imperial power of Queen Victoria was worthless if Britain could not protect its own people. There was a so-called peace conference at Bloemfontein in June 1898; but it came to nothing.

Morale amongst the Boers was high. They had 38-40,000 well-drilled, sharp-shooting militia and commandos. At the start, the British had fewer than 20,000 regulars. So unprepared were the British that they had to enlist perhaps 20,000 black Africans. The black soldiers could infiltrate enemy territory more easily than their white colleagues in their colourful uniforms.

Battles and Sieges

The Second Boer War was fought from 11 October 1899 to 31 May 1902, between the British Empire and the two independent Boer republics of Orange Free State and the South African Republic (Transvaal).

The war had three distinct phases. The war started when the Boers mounted pre-emptive strikes into British-held territory in the Northern Cape and Natal, besieging the garrisons of Ladysmith, Mafeking and Kimberley. The Boers then won a series of tactical victories against a failed British counter-offensive to relieve the three sieges.

By January 1900, the British were feeling very uneasy they had been beaten at four battles, Colenso (143 killed and 755 wounded, 240 missing), Magersfontein and Stormberg and still had Ladysmith, Kimberley and Mafeking under siege. Morale among the Boers was high.

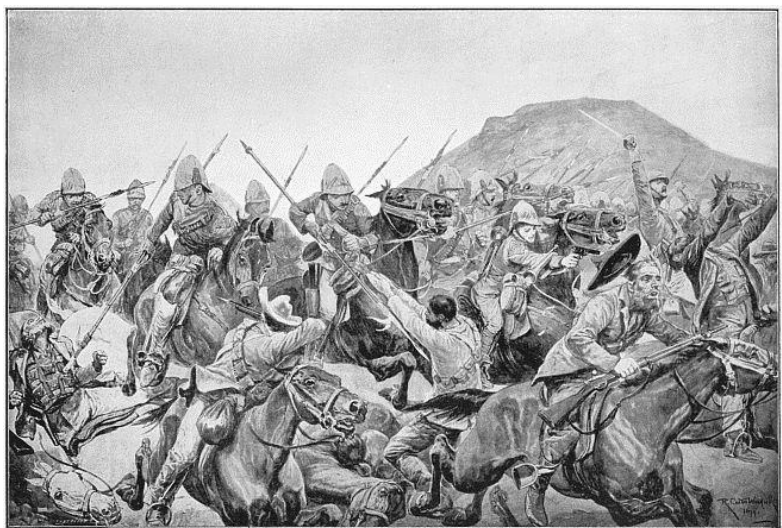
Eland Slaagte 4 VCs

A force under General Kock (consisting mainly of men of the Johannesburg Commando, with detachments of German, French, Dutch, American, and Irish volunteers) occupied the railway station at Elandslaagte on 19 October 1899, thus cutting the communications between the main British force at Ladysmith and a detachment at Dundee.

Learning that the telegraph had been cut, General Sir George White sent his cavalry commander, Major General John French to recapture the station.

Arriving shortly after dawn on 21 October, French found the Boers present in strength, with two field guns. He telegraphed to Ladysmith for reinforcements, which shortly afterwards arrived by train.

While three batteries of British field guns bombarded the Boer position, and the 1st Battalion, the Devonshire Regiment advanced frontally in open order, the main attack commanded by Colonel Ian Hamilton (1st Battalion, the Manchester Regiment, 2nd Battalion, the Gordon Highlanders and the dismounted Imperial Light Horse) moved around the Boers' left flank. The sky had steadily been growing dark with thunderclouds, and as the British made their assault, the storm burst. In the poor visibility and pouring rain, the British infantry had to face a barbed wire fence, in which several men were entangled and shot. Nevertheless, they cut the wire or broke it down, and occupied the main part of the Boer position'



Some small parties of Boers were already showing white flags when General Kock led a counterattack, dressed in his top hat and Sunday best. He drove back the British infantry in confusion, but they rallied,

inspired by Hamilton (and reportedly, a bugler of the Manchesters and a Pipe Major of the Gordons) and charged again. Kock and his companions were killed.

As the remaining Boers mounted their ponies and tried to retreat, two squadrons of British cavalry (from the 5th Lancers and the 5th Dragoon Guards) got among them with lances and sabres, cutting down many. This one of the few occasions during the Boer war in which a British cavalry charge made contact.

The two Boer field guns fell into British hands. They were found to have originally been British and had been captured by the Boers in the aftermath of the Jameson Raid. The British suffered 273 casualties and losses.

Glencoe

Also known as the Battle of Talana Hill, 20 October 1899, was one of the first major clashes of the Second Boer War. A frontal attack by British infantry supported by artillery drove Boers from a hilltop position, but the British suffered heavy casualties in the process, including their commanding general Sir William Penn Symons.

The evening before the battle two forces of Boers (each of 4,000 men) closed in on the coal town of Dundee in the Natal. One force occupied Impati Mountain to the north; and the other occupied the low Talana Hill east of the town and dragged several field guns to the top.

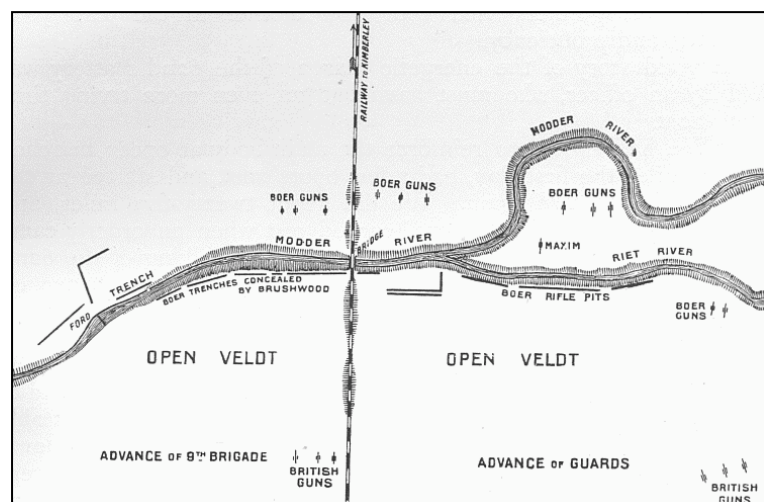
As dawn broke the Boers opened fire and the British field batteries galloped to within range and opened fire. The British infantry made a frontal attack on the hill but were pinned down by heavy fire behind a stone wall. General Symons went forward to urge his men on but was mortally wounded in the stomach.

With the British guns laying down accurate fire on the summit the infantry were able to reach the top, but then suffered casualties from their own supporting artillery. The Boers mounted their ponies and made off, a squadron of cavalry and mounted infantry tried to cut them off but strayed onto the slopes of Impati Mountain where they were surrounded by the other Boer force and captured.

The British had won a tactical victory, but at a high cost, 41 killed, 185 wounded and 220 captured or missing.

Modder River

The Battle of Modder River was an engagement in the Boer War, fought at Modder River, on 28 November 1899. A British column under Lord Methuen, that was attempting to relieve the besieged town of Kimberley, forced Boers under General Piet Cronje to retreat to Magersfontein, but suffered heavy casualties themselves.



It was a British Victory but was fought after a tiring day; in the heat and especially after forming up at 4:30am and it being the 3rd battle in a week. Boers fled after British captured vital positions. Fiercest battle yet fought in the war. An almost impossible offensive task. The total Boer casualties may perhaps have amounted to 150, mainly due to shell-fire. 70 British were killed and another 413 were wounded.

Methuen reported that the battle had been "one of the hardest and most trying fights in the annals of the British army". Although casualties had not been crippling heavy (between 450 and 480), mainly because the Boers opened fire prematurely, it was clear that any simple frontal attack by infantry only against an enemy using bolt-action rifles, was effectively impossible. The British were forced to pause for ten days, to evacuate their casualties, receive further reinforcements and repair their lines of communications. The delay allowed the Boers to construct the entrenchments which they were to defend in the Battle of Magersfontein.

Stormberg

General Gatacre's contingent faced the invasion in the middle of the colony down the railway line to East London. The size and nature of the country dictated that campaigning took place largely along the railways. Gatacre resolved to move north up the Stormberg Pass and drive the Boers back from Stormberg station lying beyond the pass.

Gatacre ordered his force to gather at Molteno Station some 20 miles to the South in the early hours of 9th December 1899 to move up by train to the mouth of the pass and begin a night flanking approach up the western side of the valley. Due to inadequate communications part of the force, 1st Royal Berkshire Regiment who knew the ground well having built entrenchments in the area to be attacked, failed to arrive leaving the rest of the British troops waiting around at Molteno a full day. A further problem; Gatacre did not have guides who knew the area sufficiently well and did not brief the guides he had precisely as to his intentions.

The force finally moved off during the night of 9th December 1899. The approach march took the British to the wrong side of the ridge where the middle of the column came under fire from Boer piquets. The front of the British column marched on, unaware that the following companies had stopped to assault the Boer positions.

The uphill attack, foundering due to the steepness of a section of cliffs, was fired on by the British guns attempting to lay a supporting bombardment on the crest.

The force began to retreat in some confusion pressed hard by the Boers; but covered by a rearguard of guns and some mounted infantry. Once clear of the battle it was found that 600 men of the Northumberland Fusiliers and the Irish Rifles had been left behind. Forming the van of the column and continuing along the route when the Boers opened fire, these men were unaware of the retreat and finding themselves surrounded were forced to surrender.

Casualties: British casualties were 90 men with the 600 captured by the Boers. Boer casualties were trivial and are unknown.

Magersfontein

British forces under Lieutenant General Lord Methuen were advancing north along the railway line from the Cape in order to relieve the Siege of Kimberley, but their path was blocked at Magersfontein

by a Boer force that was entrenched in the surrounding hills. The British had already fought a series of battles with the Boers, most recently at Modder River, where the advance was temporarily halted.



The Black Watch at Magersfontein

On 11 December, Lord Methuen failed to perform adequate reconnaissance in preparation for the impending battle, and was unaware that Boers were entrenched at the foot of the hills rather than the forward slopes as was the accepted practice. This allowed the Boers to survive the initial British artillery bombardment, which passed over them. Then the British troops, not expecting the Boers to be so close, failed to deploy from a compact formation during their advance, the defenders were able to inflict heavy casualties. The Highland Brigade suffered the worst casualties, while on the Boer side, the Scandinavian Corps was destroyed. The Boers attained a tactical victory and succeeded in holding the British in their advance on Kimberley. The battle was the second of three battles during what became known as the Black Week of the Second Boer War.

The British lost 22 officers and 188 other ranks killed, 46 officers and 629 other ranks wounded, and one officer and 62 other ranks missing.

Three Victoria Crosses were won at Magersfontein.

Colenso

On the 15 December 1899 on the way to attempt a relief of Ladysmith the British were met by the Boers dug in at the Tugela River crossing near Colenso, Natal.

Preparations for battle were made but the British battle plan was thrown into disarray after a local guide had led the forces to the wrong river crossing; trapping them in a loop in the river and exposing them to deadly fire from the Boers. The British guns that were deployed too close to the Boer positions also came under heavy fire and had to be rescued by volunteers who won four Victoria Crosses.

This was the third and final of the battles fought during the Black Week,; 143 killed, 755 wounded, 240 missing.



Saving the guns at Colenso

Stormberg, Magersfontein and Colenso were the defeats that made up “Black Week”. Although there were more failures for the British, Lord Roberts in the West and General Buller in Natal pushed the Boers back, eventually relieving Kimberley, Mafeking and Ladysmith,

Paardeberg

The Battle of Paardeberg or Perdeberg ("Horse Mountain") was a major battle during the Second Anglo-Boer War. It was fought near *Paardeberg Drift* on the banks of the Modder River in the Orange Free State near Kimberley.

Lord Methuen advanced up the railway line in November 1899 with the objective of relieving the besieged city of Kimberley (and the town of Mafeking, also under siege). Battles were fought on this front at Graspan, Colenso, Modder River before the advance was halted for two months after the British defeat at the Battle of Magersfontein. In February 1900, Field Marshal Lord Roberts assumed personal command of a significantly reinforced British offensive.

The army of Boer General Piet Cronjé was retreating from its entrenched position at Magersfontein towards Bloemfontein after its lines of communication were cut by Major General John French, whose cavalry had recently outflanked the Boer position to relieve Kimberley. Cronje's slow-moving column was intercepted by French at Paardeberg, where the Boer general eventually surrendered after a prolonged siege, having fought off an attempted direct assault by Lieutenant General Horatio Kitchener.

Also on 15 February, Cronjé's men, some 5,000 Transvaalers and Freestaters, finally evacuated their laager at Jacobsdal. Their position at Magersfontein was no longer relevant and they were in danger of being besieged in Jacobsdal by the British 7th Division under Lieutenant General Tucker, which had turned west from Klip Drift. On the night of the 15th, the large convoy of Boer ox-wagons passed between the rear of French's division and the outposts of Lieutenant General Thomas Kelly-Kenny's 6th Division at the Modder fords. Throughout the next day, the Boer mounted rear guards prevented the British 6th Division (with only one understrength mounted infantry unit) overtaking them. On the 17th, the large convoy of Boer wagons reached the crossing of the Modder at Paardeberg Drift. They

were starting to cross the river when a force of 1,500 British mounted troops, almost all of French's fit horses and men who had covered the 40 miles (64 km) from Kimberley in another desperately tiring march, opened fire on them unexpectedly from the north, causing confusion.

Cronjé then inadvisably decided to form a laager and dig in on the banks of the Modder river. His reasons for doing so are unclear. The British now outnumbered his force significantly and enjoyed overwhelming superiority in artillery. All the British would have to do was lay siege to the Boer position and bombard them at their leisure. On the other hand, the British had insufficient cavalry and it would have been an easy matter for Cronjé to brush them aside and link up other Boers east of the Modder; those under noted commander Christiaan De Wet who were only 30 miles (48 km) away to the south-east and other forces under Chief Commandant Ignatius S. Ferreira a similar distance to the north.

Bloody Sunday

Lieutenant General Kelly-Kenny, commanding the British 6th Division, had a sound plan to lay siege to Cronjé and bombard his force into surrender. This would almost certainly have proved successful and cost the British very few casualties. However, Roberts was ill, and his Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Herbert Kitchener, was now in overall command of the British force. He had different plans, and overruled Kelly-Kenny. Kitchener proceeded to order his infantry and mounted troops into a series of uncoordinated frontal assaults against the Boer laager. This was despite the fact that the cost of frontal assaults against entrenched Boers had been demonstrated time and again the preceding months. It was no different this time. The British were shot down in droves. It is thought that not a single British soldier got within 200 yards (180 m) of the Boer lines. By nightfall some 24 officers and 279 men were killed and 59 officers and 847 men wounded. Judged by British casualties it was the most severe reverse of the war and became known as Bloody Sunday.

Kelly-Kenny had warned Kitchener not to leave "Kitchener's Kopje" undefended. Possession of the kopje was essential to guard the south-east of the British position and prevent Cronjé's escape. But Kitchener, in his zeal for an all-out attack, had left the kopje defended by only a handful of "Kitchener's Horse" (volunteer British colonists). De Wet was therefore able to take the kopje with little resistance. The strategic picture had now changed dramatically. De Wet could now make the British position on the south east bank of the Modder untenable, and the Boers now commanded a swathe of front stretching from the north east right through to the south east. As darkness fell, Kitchener ordered his troops to dig in where they were. Few received these orders and fewer still obeyed them. Desperately thirsty and exhausted, the surviving British trickled back into camp. Rescue for Cronjé now seemed the likely outcome.

But seen from the Boer side, things were also bad. Cronjé and his men had been in headlong retreat for several days with the British snapping at their heels. While casualties from the bombardment had been reduced to around 100 dead and 250 wounded by the soft bank of the Modder, the horses, oxen and wagons had no trenches in which to shelter. Many wagons were destroyed. Ammunition exploded and stores were ruined. For many of the Burghers, these wagons carried all their worldly possessions. The loss of their horses was even worse, for the horse was almost as important to the fighting ability of a Boer as his Mauser rifle. The morale in Cronjé's laager was desperate.

Siege

As the sun came up on the morning of Monday, 19 February, General Roberts arrived on the scene. He initially urged a resumption of the frontal assaults, but Cronjé requested a cease-fire to bury the dead. The British refused and Cronjé replied "If you are so uncharitable as to refuse me a truce as

requested, then you may do as you please. I shall not surrender alive. Bombard as you will." The truce communications had taken up much of the day and there was no time for any more assaults.

The following day Roberts and Kitchener again planned to launch more assaults, but were firmly resisted by the other British senior officers. By 21 February, Roberts was intent on withdrawing, but to do so would have allowed Cronjé to escape. The Boers withdrew first. De Wet, faced with an entire British division who might be reinforced at any time, and fearing for his men's safety, withdrew his commandos from the south east. Ferreira's forces, which might have supported De Wet, had been left without direction after Ferreira was accidentally shot dead by one of his own sentries. Cronjé had inexplicably refused to abandon his laager. Now De Wet had to abandon Cronjé.

Boer surrender

Cronjé's encampment was subjected to an increasingly heavy artillery bombardment, as more guns (including a battery of 5-inch medium howitzers and another of 1-pounder "pom-poms") joined the besieging British forces. Almost every horse, mule and ox was killed, and the stench and flies became unbearable. On the final day of the battle, the Royal Canadian Regiment of Infantry, having lost more than 70 soldiers in an earlier charge against sheltered Boer positions, were again called to take the lead in the routine daily battalion rotation. Instead of another charge the next morning as was



expected, the Canadians, with the help of Royal Engineers, advanced at night towards the Boer camp, then set about digging trenches on high ground 65 yards from the Boer lines. On 27 February 1900, the Boers woke up staring into the muzzles of Canadian rifles and surrendered. Cronjé surrendered with some 4,019 men and 50 women; around 10% of the Boers' entire army were now prisoners.

The Boer War marked the first ever overseas deployment of the Canadian Army. The Toronto company of the Royal Canadian Regiment had joined the Queensland

Mounted Infantry in dispersing a Boer commando at Sunnyside and Belmont in the Western Cape in January.

As a result of poor command decisions particularly by Herbert Kitchener the cost in lives in this battle were unnecessarily high, with 348 killed, 1,213 wounded and 59 missing in action or taken prisoner. Two VCs were won.

Stone Eight – Bloemfontein entered 18 March 1900 and Pretoria entered 5 June 1900

But here was a mark of real empire – the Anglo-Boer War became a significant Empire effort with the colonies sending troops to fight on the Empire's side against the Boers who were seen as rebels. Troops from Australia, New Zealand and Canada arrived and were in action in further battles.

The second phase began after British forces under Frederick Roberts launched counter-offensives with the, by then, increased troop numbers.

On 13 March 1900, following the Battle of Paardeberg, British forces captured the city. After Natal and the Cape Colony were secure, the British were able to take the action into the Transvaal and attack the republic's capital, Pretoria, which they captured in June 1900.

The third phase began in March 1900, when the Boers engaged in a protracted hard-fought guerrilla warfare against British forces, now under the leadership of Lord Kitchener. In an effort to cut off supplies to raiders he decided to sweep the country bare of everything that could give sustenance to the Boers i.e. cattle, sheep, horses, women and children. His scorched earth policy destroyed Boer farms and the resulting displaced Boer women and children were moved into 'refugee' camps.

Scorched Earth Policy

This scorched earth policy led to the destruction of about 30,000 Boer farmhouses and the partial and complete destruction of more than forty towns.

Thousands of women and children were removed from their homes by force. They had little or no time to remove valuables before the house was burnt down. They were then taken by oxwagon or in open cattle trucks to the nearest refugee camp.

Conditions in the camps were less than ideal. Tents were overcrowded. Reduced-scale army rations were provided. In fact there were two scales. Meat was not included in the rations issued to women and children whose men folk were still fighting. There were little or no vegetables, no fresh milk for the babies and children, 3/4 lb. of either mealie meal, rice or potatoes, 1 lb. of meat twice weekly, 1 oz. of coffee daily, sugar 2 oz. daily, and salt 0.5 oz. daily (this was for adults and children who had family members on commando).

There were a total of 45 tented camps built for Boer internees and 64 for black Africans. Of the 28,000 Boer men captured as prisoners of war, 25,630 were sent overseas. The vast majority of Boers remaining in the local camps were women and children.



Public opinion and political opposition to government civilian policies in South Africa emerged for the first time in Parliament in February 1901 in the instance of an attack on the policy, the government, and the Army by radical Liberal M.P. Lloyd-George. Kitchener had succeeded Roberts as commander-in-chief in South Africa November 29, 1900, and though his systematic sweeps of the countryside would not get underway in full-swing until March of the next year, Roberts policy of farm burning had already brought thousands of Boers and black Africans into "refugee camps" established by the Army to hold them.



Boer women and children in a camp, waiting for rations

In March 1901, just as Kitchener's troops were beginning to bring tens-of-thousands of "refugees" into the camps, Liberal members of Parliament took up the attack on the camp system and first used the term "concentration camp." Secretary for war Brodrick replied that the camps were "voluntary" and that inmates went as refugees (which was in some cases true, but not most).

Responding to these attacks on the Government, secretary of war Brodrick insisted that the interned Boers were "contented and comfortable", but he had no firm statistics from Kitchener to back-up his comment.

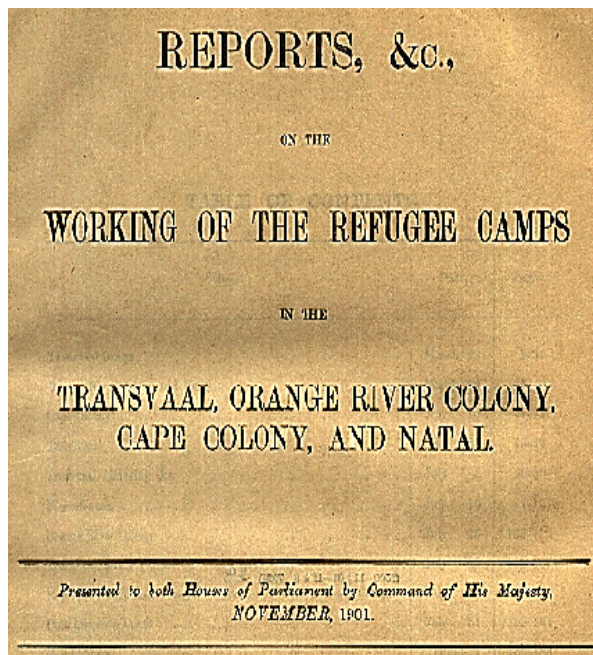
See her
pamphlet.

Miss Hobhouse was in South Africa visiting the camps from January to the beginning of June, and, when she came back in June, she published her account, and made her recommendations to Mr. Brodrick. No doubt it was due to the agitation and public interest which arose out of her account of the camps, that the Ladies' Commission, of which Mrs. Fawcett is chairman, was appointed in July,

Emily Hobhouse visited the camp at Bloemfontein in January 1901 and was appalled at the conditions for its nearly 2,000 internees. In other camps she also recorded hungry women and children.

Emily Hobhouse's 15 page *Brunt of War* report was distributed to M.Ps. This report and her personal testimony led to another attack on the Government in the Commons by Lloyd-George on June 17, 1901. Lloyd-George asked, "Why pursue this disgraceful policy, why pursue war against women and children." But a motion condemning the camps was defeated 252 to 149.

Then in July complete statistical returns from camps were sent by Kitchener, and by August it was clear to Government and Opposition alike that Miss Hobhouse's worst fears were being confirmed (93,940 whites and 24,457 blacks in "camps of refuge" and the crisis was becoming a catastrophe as the death rates appeared very high.



Brodrick hoped to defuse the situation by constituting a commission of inquiry, an all-ladies commission, which was quickly selected, and sent out to South Africa in August. The ladies remained in South Africa through early December, at which time they returned to England and quickly issued their findings. If Brodrick expected a ladylike white wash he was in for a surprise.

Of course, they were of no comfort to the government. But Chamberlain had at long last got the message . . . Milner was in theory the man responsible for the camps, but the main decisions (or their absence) had been left to the soldiers in charge of them, to whom the life or death of the 154,000 Boer and African civilians in the camps rated as an abysmally low priority.

No doubt the continued concern at the high death-rate in these concentration camps, helped changed Kitchener's mind. By mid-December, Kitchener was already circulating all column commanders with instructions not to bring in women and children when they cleared the country, unless they were in danger of starving, but to leave them with the guerrillas. Also military intelligence had told him that by leaving the women and children to be cared for by the guerrillas had its benefits as it hindered their activities.

The private and public responses of Milner and Chamberlain to the growing debate in England over treatment of the internees were responsible for injecting the administrative staff of the camps with a sense of urgency [after the camps were transferred to civilian control in November 1901]. Both the secretary of state and the high commissioner had become extremely concerned about conditions in the concentration camps. They were concerned with all aspects of camp administration including such matters as the availability of milk and the nutritional value of rations. Chamberlain, in the first week of November, impressed upon Brodrick (secretary of war) how serious the matter was, and placed a call for medical officers and additional nurses for the camps.

. . . the terrible mortality figures were at last declining. The common sense of the Fawcett Commission had a magical effect on the annual death-rate, which was to fall by February to 6 percent, and soon to 2 percent, less than the average in Glasgow.

Ten months after the subject had first been raised in Parliament, Lloyd-George's taunts had been vindicated. In the interval, at least twenty thousand whites and twelve thousand coloured people had died in the concentration camps, the majority from epidemics of measles and typhoid that could have been avoided.

In December 1901 and January 1902 Milner was saying that Kitchener's policy of concentration camps as a "mistake," "blunder," and "sad folly". But it is clear that Milner knew first-hand what Kitchener was up to prior to May, 1901.

The reports about the conditions in the camps helped to sway public opinion against the war. The demand for peace led to a settlement of hostilities, and in 1902, the Treaty of Vereeniging was signed. The two republics were absorbed into the British Empire, although the British were forced to make a number of concessions and reparations to the Boers. The granting of limited autonomy for the area ultimately led to the establishment of the Union of South Africa.

The National Women's Memorial, on the outskirts of the city of Bloemfontein, pays homage to the 26,370 boeren women and children as well as 1,421 old men who died in these camps in various parts of the country.

Stone Nine – Boer Presidents

This stone records the two important presidents of the Boer Republics during the War.



Stephanus Johannes Paulus Kruger (10 October 1825 – 14 July 1904), better known as Paul Kruger and affectionately known as *Uncle Paul* (Afrikaans: "Oom Paul") was State President of the South African Republic (Transvaal). He gained international renown as the face of Boer resistance against the British during the South African or Second Boer War (1899–1902).

Martinus (or Marthinus) Theunis Steyn (2 October 1857 – 28 November 1916) was a South African lawyer, politician, and statesman, sixth and last president of the independent Orange Free State from 1896 to 1902.

"I would rather lose the independence of the Free State with honour than retain it with dishonour". *Stated before he dispatched the ultimatum (starting the Anglo-Boer War) to the United Kingdom.*



Stone Ten – Currently unread Stone

This stone has not yet been read, whilst in storage it has remained inverted, inscription face-down. (Too heavy to turn over).

Stone Eleven – British Government members

Only four names can be read:

3 rd Marquess of Salisbury	Prime Minister
Joseph Chamberlain	Colonial Secretary
Arthur J Balfour	First Lord of the Treasury
Lord Milner	High Commissioner of South Africa

Stone Twelve – British Royalty

Queen Victoria 24th May 1819 – 22nd January 1901

King Edward 9th November 1841

Queen Alexandra 1st December 1844

Married 10th March 1863

Queen Victoria Empress of India died on 22 January 1901. Her 440 million subjects felt safe while Victoria was on the throne; but with her passing, the empire settled uneasily after the official and popular mourning. The empire was, as one sermon preached ex cathedra in South Africa, reflected, “Burying the Great White Queen beloved and revered by races, diverse from our own, within the sway of her sceptre.”

When the mourning ended, that same empire contemplated its own mortality. The Anglo-Boer War had shown that the British were not so invincible as previously thought. The war demonstrated an often hopelessly incompetent military and a political system lacking in direction.

British Empire



All areas of the world that were ever part of the British Empire.

Recreating The Victoria Cross Garden

Layout of the Garden

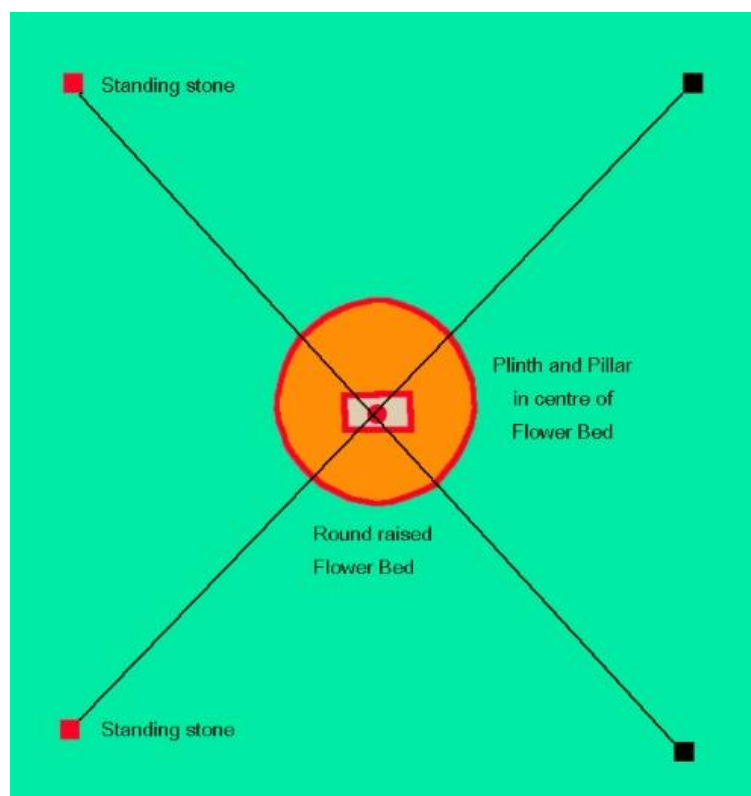
The original Cheswick Green Victoria Cross Garden was described as being, 24 yards square surrounded by a hedge of laurels.

Although the description of the Garden indicates that it was laid out in the shape of a Maltese Cross, it is believed that it was more likely to have been in the shape of a Cross Patee (i.e. in the shape of the medal itself).

We are not told how the stones were positioned, except that, it is said, they formed a natural 'sundial' with the central pillar forming its 'pin'. This implies that they encircled the central pillar.

The stones in the grounds of 194 Creynolds Lane were not laid out in their original positions. But it is believed that the raised flower bed, central plinth, pillar and two of the standing stones might not have been moved; in which case they provide a little help in determining the original layout of the Memorial.

The diagram, below, indicates the relationship between positions of the central pillar and two of the remaining standing stones when they were located on the 194 Creynolds Lane site.



It is likely that the other standing stones were originally positioned as indicated by the black squares.

It is hoped that the Garden can be recreated within the confines of the Village, close to where it was originally.

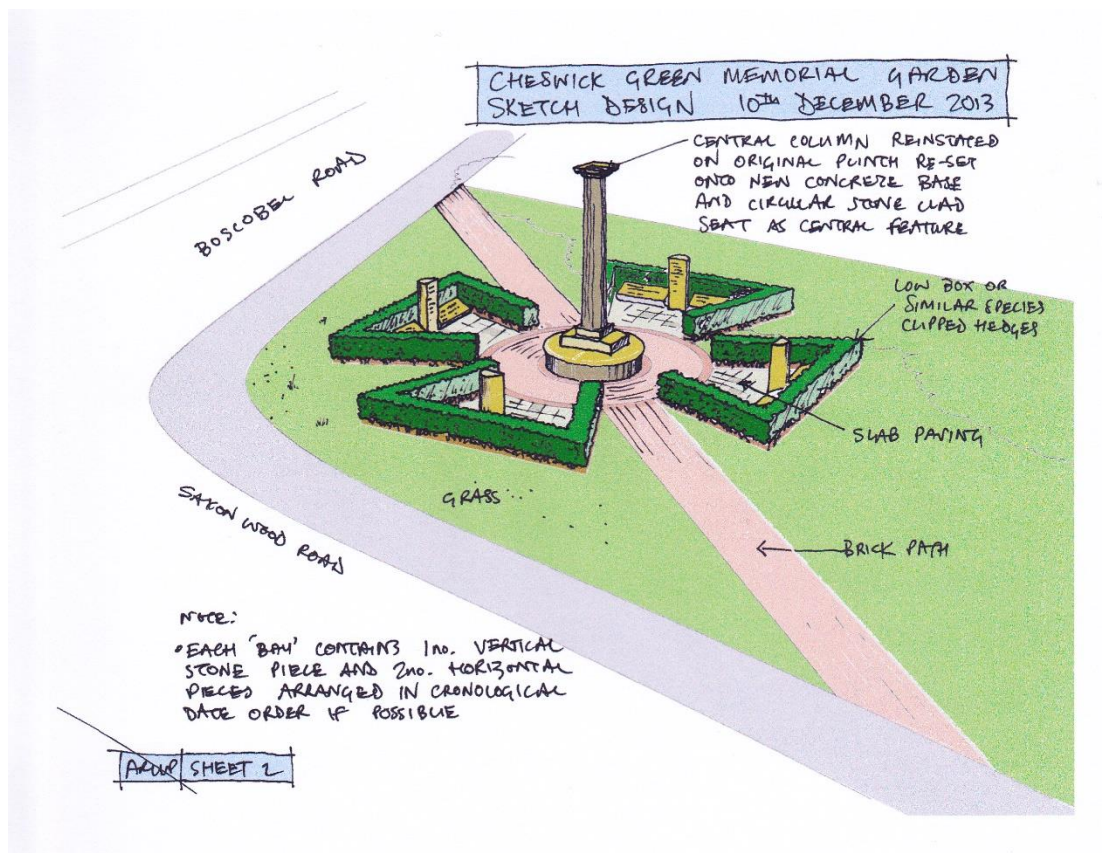
It is not possible to use the original site as it has been redeveloped and there is insufficient space to accommodate it there.

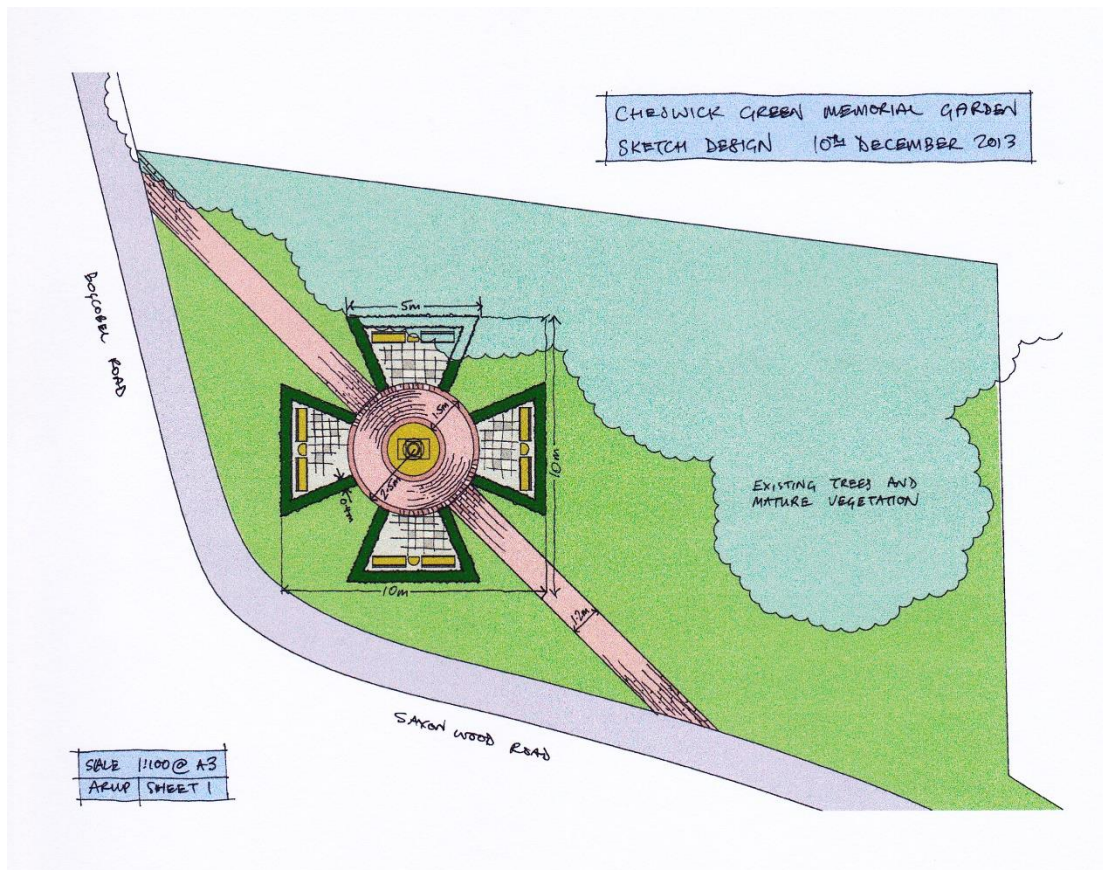
Various sites have been suggested but no firm decision has been reached.

Bloor homes have expressed a desire to help the Village in this respect and are in discussions with the Parish Council on the matter.

Before reconstruction can take place the individual stones and central pillar will need to be cleaned and damaged/eroded engraving restored.

Below are representations of how the Garden would look, as proposed by the Parish Council.





Update

Bloors, the developers of Cheswick Place, which adjoins the village of Cheswick Green have agreed, with the Cheswick Green Parish Council to restore the stones and reinstate them on the open ground adjoining Coppice Walk. Having born the cost of restoration Bloors, it is understood, will leave the Council to recreate the Garden itself. It is hoped that a service of dedication can be held when that work is completed.

Appendix A

The Men and their Valour

Victoria Cross Recipients during the Second Boer War

As noted above, the memorial is dedicated to the '37 VCs' – but Wikipedia (on the internet) records a list of 78 members of the British Armed Forces who were awarded the Victoria Cross for action during the Second Boer War.

So who are the 37 VCs referred to on this monument? The Second Boer War was fought from 11th October 1899 to 31st May 1902, between the British Empire and the two independent Boer republics of the Orange Free State and the South African Republic (Transvaal Republic).

The list of recipients then records the Country of origin of the soldiers concerned. There were:

Country	Number
England	42
Ireland	9
Scotland	8
Australia	6
Canada	5
South Africa	4
British India	3
New Zealand	1

Of the 42 English recipients listed five were serving in Scottish Regiments and one was serving in the South African Constabulary.

If only those serving in English Regiments are counted then these are the 37 commemorated on this memorial.

Name	Unit	Date of Action	Place of Action
Alfred Atkinson	Yorkshire Regt	18 th Feb 1900	Battle of Paardebergm, S.A.
William Bees	Sherwood Foresters	30 th Sept 1901	Moedwil, S.A.
Harry Beet	Derbyshire Regt	22 nd Apr 1900	Wakkerstroom, S.A.
Frederick Bradley	Royal Field Artillery	26 th Sep 1901	Itala, S.A.
Walter Congreve	Rifle Brigade	15 th Dec 1899	Battle of Colenso, S.A.
Harry Crandon	18 th Royal Hussars	4 th Jul 1901	Springbok Laagte, S.A.
Albert Curtis	East Surrey Regt	23 rd Feb 1900	Onderbank Spruit, S.A.
Robert Digby-Jones	Royal Engineers	6 th Jan 1900	Ladysmith, S.A.
Henry Douglas	Royal Army Medical Corps	11 th Dec 1899	Magnersfontein, S.A.
Alexis Doxat	Imperial Yeomanry	20 th Oct 1900	Zeerust, S.A.

Frederic Dugdale	5 th Lancers	3 rd Mar 1901	Derby, S.A.
Alfred Durrant	Rifle Brigade	27 th Aug 1900	Bergendalm S.A.
Henry Engleheart	10 th Hussars	13 th Mar 1900	Bloemfontein, S.A.
James Firth	Duke of Wellington's Regt	24 th Feb 1900	Arundel near Colesberg, S.A.
Horace Glasock	Royal Horse Artillery	31 st Mar 1900	Korn Spruit, S.A.
Harry Hampton	King's Liverpool Regt	21 st Aug 1900	Van Wyk's Vlei, S.A.
William Heaton	King's Liverpool Regt	23 rd Aug 1900	Geluk, S.A.
William House	Royal Berkshire Regt	2 nd Aug 1900	Mosilikatse Nek, S.A.
Alfred Ind	Royal Horse Artillery	20 th Dec 1901	Tafelkop, S.A.
Frank Kirby	Royal Engineers	2 nd Jun 1900	Delagoa Bay Railway, S.A.
Henry Knight	King's Liverpool Regt	21 st Aug 1900	Van Wyk's Vlei, S.A.
Brian Lawrence	17 th Lancers	7 th Aug 1900	Essenbosch Farm, S.A./
Isaac Lodge	Royal Horse Artillery	31 st Mar 1900	Korn Spruit, S.A.
Conwyn Mansel-Jones	West Yorkshire Regt	27 th Feb 1900	Tugela, S.A.
Horace Martineau	Protectorate Regt	26 th Dec 1899	Mafeking, S.A.
Francis Maxwell	Robert's Light Horse	31 st Mar 1900	Korn Spruit, S.A.
John Milbanke	10 th Hussars	5 th Jan 1900	Colesberg, S.A.
John Norwood	5 th Dragoon Guards	30 th Oct 1899	Ladysmith, S.A.
Charles Parker	Royal Horse Artillery	31 st Mar 1900	Korn Spruit, S.A.
Francis Parsons	Essex Regt	18 th Feb 1900	Battle of Paardeberg, S.A.
Edmund Phipps-Hornby	Royal Horse Artillery	31 st Mar 1900	Korn Spruit, S.A.
James Pitts	Manchester Regt	6 th Jan 1900	Caesar's Camp, S.A.
Llewelyn Price-Davies	King's Royal Rifle Corps	17 th Sep 1901	Blood River Poort, S.A.
Harry Schofield	Royal Field Artillery	15 th Dec 1899	Battle of Colenso, S.A.
Robert Scott	Manchester Regt	6 th Jan 1900	Caesar's Camp, S.A.
William Traynor	West Yorkshire Regt	6 th Feb 1901	Bothwell Camp, S.A.
Charles Ward	King's Own Yorks Light Infantry	26 th Jun 1900	Lindley, S.A.

Alfred Atkinson VC (6 February 1874 – 21 February 1900) was an English recipient of the Victoria Cross. He was 26 years old, and a sergeant in the 1st Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment (Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own), British Army during the Second Boer War when the following deed took place on 18 February 1900 during the Battle of Paardeberg, South Africa for which he was awarded the VC:

No. 3264 Sergeant A. Atkinson, Yorkshire Regiment.

During the battle of Paardeburg, 18th February, 1900, Sergeant A. Atkinson, 1st Battalion Yorkshire Regiment, went out seven-times, under heavy and close fire, to obtain water for the wounded. At the seventh attempt he was wounded in the head, and died a few days afterwards.

His Victoria Cross is displayed at the Green Howards Museum, Richmond, Yorkshire, England.

William Dolman Bees VC (12 September 1871 – 20 June 1938) was an English recipient of the Victoria Cross. Born in Midsomer Norton, Somerset he was 29 years old, and a private in the 1st Battalion, The Derbyshire Regiment (later The Sherwood Foresters), British Army during the Second Boer War when the following deed took place on 30 September 1901 at Moedwil, South Africa for which he was awarded the VC:

Private Bees was one of the Maxim-gun detachment, which at Moedwil, on the 30th September, 1901, had six men hit out of nine. Hearing his wounded comrades asking for water, he went forward, under a heavy fire, to a spruit held by Boers about 500 yards ahead of the gun, and brought back a kettle full of water. In going and returning he had to pass within 100 yards of some rocks also held by Boers, and the kettle which he was carrying was hit by several bullets.

He later achieved the rank of corporal.

His Victoria Cross is displayed at the Sherwood Foresters Museum at Nottingham Castle, England.

Harry Churchill Beet VC (1 April 1873 – 10 January 1946) was an English recipient of the Victoria Cross. Beet was 27 years old, and a corporal in the 1st Battalion, Derbyshire Regiment, British Army during the Second Boer War when the following deed took place on 22 April 1900 at Wakkerstroom, South Africa, for which he was awarded the VC:

At Wakkerstroom, on the 22nd April, 1900, No. 2 Mounted Infantry Company, 1st Battalion Derbyshire Regiment, with two squadrons, Imperial Yeomanry, had to retire from near a farm, under a ridge held by Boers. Corporal Burnett, Imperial Yeomanry, was left on the ground wounded, and Corporal Beet, on seeing him, remained behind and placed him under cover, bound up his wounds, and by firing prevented the Boers from coming down to the farm till dark, when Doctor Wilson, Imperial Yeomanry, came to the wounded man's assistance. The retirement was carried out under a very heavy fire, and Corporal Beet was exposed to fire during the whole afternoon.

He later achieved the rank of Captain. He later emigrated to Saskatchewan, Canada, where he fought with the Canadian Expeditionary Force in World War I. In 1936 he settled in Vancouver where he remained until his death.

His Victoria Cross is displayed at the Sherwood Foresters Museum, The Castle, Nottingham, England.

Major **Frederick Henry Bradley** VC (27 September 1876 – 10 March 1943) was an English recipient of the Victoria Cross. He was 24 years old, and a Driver in the 69th Battery, Royal Field Artillery, British Army during the Second Boer War when the following deed took place at Itala, South Africa for which he was awarded the VC:

During the action at Itala, Zululand, on the 26th September, 1901, Major Chapman called for volunteers to carry ammunition up the hill; to do this a space of about 150 yards swept by a heavy cross fire had to be crossed. Driver Lancashire and Gunner Bull at once came forward and started, but half-way across Driver Lancashire fell wounded. Driver Bradley and Gunner Rabb without a moment's hesitation ran out and caught Driver Lancashire up, and Gunner Rabb carried him under cover, the ground being swept by bullets the whole time. Driver Bradley then, with the aid of Gunner Boddy, succeeded in getting the ammunition up the hill.

General **Sir Walter Norris Congreve** VC KCB MVO DL (20 November 1862 – 28 February 1927) was an English recipient of the Victoria Cross. He was 37 years old, and a captain in The Rifle Brigade (Prince Consort's Own), British Army during the Second Boer War when he won the VC.

On 15 December 1899 at the Battle of Colenso, South Africa, Captain Congreve with several others, tried to save the guns of the 14th and 66th Batteries, Royal Field Artillery, when the detachments serving the guns had all become casualties or been driven from their guns. Some of the horses and drivers were sheltering in a donga (gully) about 500 yards behind the guns and the intervening space was swept with shell and rifle fire. Captain Congreve, with two other officers (The Hon. Frederick Hugh Sherston Roberts and Harry Norton Schofield), and Corporal George Edward Nurse retrieved two of the guns. All four received the VC for this action. (F.S.H. Roberts was the son in one of the two other father and son pairs of VC winners.) Then, although wounded himself, seeing one of the officers fall, Congreve went out with Major William Babbie, RAMC, who also received the VC for this action, and brought in the wounded man.

His citation read:

At Colenso on the 15th December, 1899, the detachments serving the guns of the 14th and 66th Batteries, Royal Field Artillery, had all been either killed, wounded, or driven from their guns by Infantry fire at close range, and the guns were deserted. About 500 yards behind the guns was a donga in which some of the few

horses and drivers left alive were sheltered. The intervening space was swept with shell and rifle fire. Captain Congreve, Rifle Brigade, who was in the donga, assisted to hook a team into a limber, went out; and assisted to limber up a gun. Being wounded, he took shelter; but, seeing Lieutenant Roberts fall, badly wounded, he went out again and brought him in. Captain Congreve was shot through the leg, through the toe of his boot, grazed on the elbow and the shoulder, and his horse shot in three places.

Harry George Crandon VC (12 February 1874 – 2 January 1953) was an English recipient of the Victoria Cross. He was born in Wells, Somerset, on 12 February 1874.^[1] At the age of 27 years, he was a private in the 18th Hussars (Queen Mary's Own), British Army during the Second Boer War when the following deed took place for which he was awarded the VC.

On the 4th July, 1901, at Springbok Laagte, Privates Berry and Crandon were scouting towards a kopje when the Boers suddenly opened fire on them at a range of 100 yards. Private Berry's horse fell and became disabled, and he was himself shot in the right band and left shoulder. Private Crandon at once rode back under a heavy fire to his assistance, gave up his horse to the wounded man to enable him to reach shelter, and followed him on foot, having to run for 1,100 yards, all the time under fire.

Albert Edward Curtis VC (6 January 1866 - 18 March 1940) was an English recipient of the Victoria Cross. Curtis was 34 years old, and a private in the 2nd Battalion, The East Surrey Regiment, British Army during the Second Boer War when the following deed took place at Onderbank Spruit for which he was awarded the VC:

On the 23rd February, 1900, Colonel Harris lay all day long in a perfectly open space under close fire of a Boer breastwork. The Boers fired all day at any man who moved, and Colonel Harris was wounded eight or nine times. Private Curtis, after several attempts succeeded in reaching the Colonel, bound his wounded arm, and gave him his flask — all under heavy fire. He then tried to carry him away, but was unable, on which he called for assistance, and Private Morton came out at once. Fearing that the men would be killed; Colonel Harris told them to leave him, but they declined, and after trying to carry the Colonel on their rifles, they made a chair with their hands, and so carried him out of fire.

Major General **Henry Edward Manning Douglas** VC, CB, CMG, DSO (11 July 1875 – 14 February 1939) was an English recipient of the Victoria Cross. Born in Gillingham, Medway, Douglas was 24 years old, and a lieutenant in the Royal Army Medical Corps, British Army during the Second Boer War on 11 December 1899, at Magersfontein, South Africa, when the following deed earned him the Victoria Cross:

On the 11th December, 1899, during the action at Magersfontein, Lieutenant Douglas showed great gallantry and devotion under a very severe fire in advancing in the open and attending to Captain Gordon, Gordon Highlanders, who was wounded, and also attending to Major Robinson and other wounded men under a fearful fire. Many similar acts of devotion and gallantry were performed by Lieutenant Douglas on the same day.

He also served in the First World War and later achieved the rank of Major General. He is buried in Epsom. His Victoria Cross is displayed at the Army Medical Services Museum in Aldershot, England.

Major **Alexis Charles Doxat** VC (9 April 1867 - 29 November 1942) was an English recipient of the Victoria Cross. Doxat was 33 years old, and a lieutenant in the 3rd Battalion, Imperial Yeomanry during the Second Boer War when the following deed took place on 20 October 1900 near Zeerust, South Africa, for which he was awarded the VC:

On the 20th October, 1900, near Zeerust, Lieutenant Doxat proceeded with a party of Mounted Infantry to reconnoitre a position held by 100 Boers on a ridge of kopjes. When within 300 yards of the position the enemy opened a heavy fire on Lieutenant Doxat's party, which then retired, leaving one of their number who had lost his horse. Lieutenant Doxat seeing the dangerous position in which the man was placed galloped back under a very heavy fire and brought him on his horse to a place of safety.

He later achieved the rank of major in the King's Royal Rifle Corps in World War I.

Frederic Brooks Dugdale VC (21 October 1877 – 13 November 1902) was an English recipient of the Victoria Cross. He was 23 years old, and a lieutenant in the 5th Lancers (Royal Irish), British Army during the Second Boer War when the following deed took place on 3 March 1901 near Derby, South Africa for which he was awarded the VC.

On 3rd March, 1901, Lieutenant Dugdale, who was in command of a small outpost near Derby, having been ordered to retire, his patrol came under a heavy fire at a range of about 250 yards, and a Sergeant, two men, and a horse were hit. Lieutenant Dugdale dismounted and placed one of the wounded men on his own horse; he then caught another horse, galloped up to a wounded man and took him up behind him, and brought both men safely out of action.

He was killed in a horse riding accident whilst riding with the North Cotswold Hunt, near Charingworth, Gloucestershire, England, on 13 November 1902.

His Victoria Cross is displayed at The Queen's Royal Lancers Regimental Museum, Thoresby Park, Nottinghamshire, England.

Alfred Edward Durrant VC ISM (4 November 1864 - 29 March 1933) was an English recipient of the Victoria Cross. He was 35 years old, and a private in the 2nd Battalion, The Rifle Brigade (Prince Consort's Own), British Army during the Second Boer War when the following deed took place on 27 August 1900 at Bergendal, South Africa, for which he was awarded the VC:

At Bergendal, on the 27th August, 1900, Acting-Corporal Wellar having been wounded, and being somewhat dazed, got up from his prone position in the firing line, exposing himself still more to the enemy's fire, and commenced to run towards

them. Private Durrant rose, and pulling him down endeavoured to keep him quiet, but finding this impossible he took him up and carried him back for 200 yards under a heavy fire to shelter, returning immediately to his place in the line.

He later achieved the rank of lance-corporal.

His Victoria Cross is displayed at the Royal Green Jackets Museum, Winchester, England.

Henry William Engleheart VC (14 November 1863 - 9 August 1939) was an English recipient of the Victoria Cross. Engleheart was 36 years old, and a sergeant in the 10th Royal Hussars (Prince of Wales's Own), British Army during the Second Boer War when the following deed took place for which he was awarded the VC:

At dawn on the 13th March, 1900, the party that had destroyed the railway north of Bloemfontein had to charge through a Boer piquet and get over four deep spruits, in order to make their way back through the Boer lines. At the fourth spruit Sapper Webb's horse failed to get up the bank and he was left in a very dangerous position. In face of a very heavy rifle and shell fire, and, notwithstanding the great chance of being cut off, Sergeant Engleheart returned to Sapper Webb's assistance. It took some time to get the man and his horse out of the sluit and the position became momentarily more critical owing to the advance of the Boers. He was, however, at last successful, and, retiring slowly, to cover Webb's retreat, was able to get him safely back to the party. Shortly before this, Sergeant Engleheart had shown great gallantry in dashing into the first spruit, which could only be reached in single file and was still full of Boers hesitating whether to fly or fire. Had they been given time to rally, they must have destroyed the small party of British, as they outnumbered them by 4 to 1.

Engleheart was educated at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Barnet. He later achieved the rank of Quartermaster Sergeant.

His Victoria Cross is displayed at The King's Royal Hussars Museum in Winchester.

James Firth VC (15 January 1874 - 29 May 1921) was an English recipient of the Victoria Cross. Firth was 26 years old, and a sergeant in the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment, British Army during the Second Boer War when the following deed took place on 24 February 1900 near Arundel, Cape Colony for which he was awarded the VC:

During the action at Plewman's Farm, near Arundel, Cape Colony, on the 24th February, 1900, Lance-Corporal Blackman having been wounded and lying exposed to a hot fire at a range of from four to five hundred yards, Sergeant Firth picked him up and carried him to cover. Later in the day, when the enemy had advanced to within a short distance of the firing line, Second Lieutenant Wilson being dangerously wounded and in a most exposed position Sergeant Firth carried him over the crest of the ridge, which was being held by the troops, to shelter, and was himself shot through the nose and eye whilst doing so.

The medal is privately owned and not on public display.

Horace Henry Glasock VC (16 October 1880 – 20 October 1916) was an English recipient of the Victoria Cross. Glasock was 19 years old, and a driver in 'Q' Battery, Royal Horse Artillery, British Army during the Second Boer War when the following deed took place for which he was awarded the VC:

On 31 March 1900 at Sanna's Post (aka Korn Spruit), South Africa, 'Q' and 'U' batteries of the Royal Horse Artillery were ambushed with the loss of most of the baggage column and five guns of the leading battery. When the alarm was given, 'Q' Battery went into action 1150 yards from the spruit, until the order to retire was received, when Major Phipps-Hornby (VC, CB, CMG), commanding officer of the battery, ordered the guns and their limbers to be run back by hand to a safe place. This most exhausting operation was carried out by, among others, Driver Glasock, Sergeant Charles Parker (VC) and Gunner Isaac Lodge (VC). When at last all but one of the guns and one limber had been moved to safety, the battery was reformed.

The citation reads:

On the occasion of the action at Korn Spruit on the 31st March, 1900, a British force, including two batteries of the Royal Horse Artillery, was retiring from Thabanchu towards Bloemfontein. The enemy had formed an ambush at Korn Spruit, and before their presence was discovered by the main body had captured the greater portion of the baggage column and five out of the six guns of the leading battery. When the alarm was given Q Battery, Royal Horse Artillery, was within 300 yards of the Spruit. Major Phipps-Hornby, who commanded it, at once wheeled about and moved off at a gallop under a very heavy fire. One gun upset when a wheel horse was shot, and had to be abandoned, together with a waggon, the horses of which were killed. The remainder of the battery reached a position close to some unfinished railway buildings and came into action 1,150 yards from the Spruit, remaining in action until ordered to retire. When the order to retire was received Major Phipps-Hornby ordered the guns and their limbers to be run back by hand to where the teams of uninjured horses stood behind the unfinished buildings. The few remaining gunners, assisted by a number of Officers and men of a party of Mounted Infantry, and directed by Major Phipps-Hornby and Captain Humphreys, the only remaining Officers of the battery, succeeded in running back four of the guns under shelter. One or two of the limbers were similarly withdrawn by hand, but the work was most severe and the distance considerable. In consequence all concerned were so exhausted that they were unable to drag in the remaining limbers or the fifth gun. It now became necessary to risk the horses, and volunteers were called for from among the drivers, who readily responded. Several horses were killed and men wounded, but at length only one gun and one limber were left exposed. Four separate attempts were made to rescue these, but when no more hordes were available the attempt had to be given up and the gun and limber were abandoned. Meanwhile the other guns had been sent on, one at a time, and after passing within 700 or 800 yards of the enemy, in rounding the head of a donga and crossing two spruits they eventually reached a place of safety, where the battery was re-formed.

After full consideration of the circumstances of the case the Field-Marshal Commanding-in-chief in South Africa formed the opinion that the conduct of all ranks of Q Battery, Royal Horse Artillery, was conspicuously gallant and daring, but that all were equally brave and devoted in their behaviour. He therefore decided to treat the case of the battery as one of collective gallantry under Rule 13 of the Victoria Cross Warrant, and directed that one Officer should be selected for the decoration of the Victoria Cross by the Officers, one non-commissioned officer by the non-commissioned officers, and two gunners or drivers by the gunners and drivers. A difficulty arose with regard to the Officer because there were only two unwounded Officers—Major Phipps-Hornby and Captain Humphreys—available for the work of saving the guns, and both of these had been conspicuous by their gallantry and by the fearless manner in which they exposed themselves, and each of them nominated the other for the decoration. It was ultimately decided in favour of Major Phipps-Hornby as having been the senior concerned.

Glascock was one of the gunners and drivers, elected as described above.

Harry Hampton VC (14 December 1870 - 2 November 1922) was an English recipient of the Victoria Cross. Hampton was 29 years old, and a sergeant in the 2nd Battalion, The King's (Liverpool) Regiment, British Army during the Second Boer War when the following deed took place on 21 August 1900 at Van Wyk's Vlei, South Africa, for which he was awarded the VC:

On the 21st August, 1900, at Van Wyk's Vlei, Sergeant Hampton, who was in command of a small party of Mounted Infantry, held an important position for some time against heavy odds, and when compelled to retire saw all his men into safety, and then, although he had himself been wounded in the head, supported Lance-Corporal Walsh, who was unable to walk, until the latter was again hit and apparently killed, Sergeant Hampton himself being again wounded a short time after.

His Victoria Cross is displayed at the Museum of the King's Regiment in Liverpool, England.

William Edward Heaton VC (1875 – 5 June 1941) was an English recipient of the Victoria Cross. Heaton was about 25 years old, and a private in the 1st Battalion, The King's (Liverpool) Regiment, British Army during the Second Boer War when the following deed took place at Geluk, South Africa for which he was awarded the VC:

On the 23rd August, 1900, the Company to which Private Heaton belonged, advancing in front of the general line held by the troops, became surrounded by the enemy and was suffering severely. At the request of the Officer Commanding, Private Heaton volunteered to take a message back to explain the position of the Company. He was successful, though at the imminent risk of his own life. Had it not been for Private Heaton's courage there can be little doubt that the remainder of the Company, which suffered very severely, would have had to surrender.

His Victoria Cross is displayed at the Museum of the King's Regiment, Liverpool, England.

William John House VC (7 October 1879 - 28 February 1912) was an English recipient of the Victoria Cross. House was 20 years old, and a private in the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Berkshire Regiment (Princess Charlotte of Wales's), British Army during the Second Boer War when the following deed took place at Mosilikatse Nek, South Africa, for which he was awarded the VC.

During the attack on Mosilikatse Nek, on 2nd August, 1900, when a Sergeant, who had gone forward to reconnoitre, was wounded, Private House rushed out from cover (though cautioned not to do so, as the fire from the enemy was very hot), picked up the wounded Sergeant, and endeavoured to bring him into shelter, in doing which Private House was himself severely wounded. He, however, warned his comrades not to come to his assistance, the fire being so severe.

The medal is displayed at The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment Museum, Salisbury, Wiltshire, England

Alfred Ernest Ind VC (16 September 1872 - 29 November 1916) was an English recipient of the Victoria Cross. Ind was 29 years old, and a Shoeing Smith in X 1 Section Pompoms Royal Horse Artillery, British Army during the Second Boer War when the following deed took place at Tafelkop, Orange River Colony, South Africa, for which he was awarded the VC.

During the action near Tafelkop, Orange River Colony, on 20th December, 1901, Shoeing-Smith A. E. Ind, X 1 Section Pompoms, stuck to his gun under a very heavy fire, when the whole of the remainder of the Pompom team had been shot down, and continued to fire into the advancing Boers till the last possible moment. Captain Jeffcoat, who was mortally wounded on this, occasion, requested that Shoeing-Smith Ind's gallant conduct in this and in every other action since he joined, the Pompom section should be brought to notice.

He later achieved the rank of Sergeant and was a member of Chestnut Troop

Group Captain **Frank Howard Kirby** VC CBE DCM (12 November 1871 - 8 July 1956) was an English recipient of the Victoria Cross. Kirby was 28 years old, and a corporal in the Corps of Royal Engineers, British Army during the Second Boer War when the following deed took place for which he was awarded the VC:

On the morning of the 2nd June, 1900, a party sent to try to cut the Delagoa Bay Railway were retiring, hotly pressed by very superior numbers. During one of the successive retirements of the rearguard, a man, whose horse had been shot, was seen running after his comrades. He was a long way behind the rest of his troop and was under a brisk fire. From among the retiring troop Corporal Kirby turned and rode back to the man's assistance. Although by the time he reached him they were under a heavy fire at close range, Corporal Kirby managed to get the dismounted man up behind him and to take him clear off over the next rise held by our rearguard. This is the third occasion on which Corporal Kirby has displayed gallantry in the face of the enemy.

Henry James Knight VC (5 November 1878 – 24 November 1955) was an English recipient of the Victoria Cross. Born in Yeovil, Somerset he was 21 years old, and a corporal in the 1st Battalion, The King's (Liverpool) Regiment, British Army during the Second Boer War when the following deed took place for which he was awarded the VC. The full citation was published in the London Gazette of 4 January 1901 and reads:

War Office, January 4, 1901.

*THE Queen has been graciously pleased to signify Her intention to confer the decoration of the Victoria Cross on the under mentioned Non-Commissioned Officer, whose claims have been submitted for Her Majesty's approval, for his conspicuous bravery during the operations near Van Wyk's Vlei, as stated against his name :—
1st Battalion Liverpool Regiment. No. 1 Company, 4th Division Mounted Infantry
Corporal H. J. Knight*

On the 21st August, during the operations near Van Wyk's Vlei, Corporal Knight was posted in some rocks with four men covering the right rear of a detachment of the same Company who, under Captain Ewart, were holding the right of the line.

The enemy, about 50 strong, attacked Captain Ewart's right and almost surrounded, at short range, Corporal Knight's small party. That Non-Commissioned Officer held his ground, directing his party to retire one by one to better cover, where he maintained his position for nearly an hour, covering the withdrawal of Captain Ewart's force, and losing two of his four men.

He then retired, bringing with him two wounded men. One of these he left in a place of safety, the other he carried himself for nearly two miles.

The party were hotly engaged during the whole time.

He later achieved the rank of captain in the Manchester Regiment. His Victoria Cross is displayed at the Museum of the King's Regiment, Liverpool, England.

Brian Turner Tom Lawrence VC (9 November 1873 - 7 June 1949) was an English recipient of the Victoria Cross. Born in Bewdley, Worcestershire, the eldest of five brothers, and the son of Hannah and John Lawrence, a timber merchant of 15, Lower Park, Bewdley. Lawrence was a former pupil of King Charles I Grammar School, Kidderminster. Lawrence was 26 years old, and a sergeant in the 17th Lancers (Duke of Cambridge's Own), British Army during the Second Boer War when the following deed took place for which he was awarded the VC.

On the 7th August, 1900, when on patrol duty near Essensbosch Farm, Sergeant Lawrence and a Private Hayman were attacked by 12 or 14 Boers. Private Hayman's horse was shot, and the man was thrown, dislocating his shoulder. Sergeant Lawrence at once came to his assistance, extricated him from under the horse, put him on his own horse and sent him on to the picket. Sergeant Lawrence took the soldier's carbine, and with his own carbine as well, kept the Boers off until Private

Hayman was safely out of range. He then retired for some two miles on foot, followed by the Boers, and keeping them off till assistance arrived.

He was decorated by King Edward in London in 1902. Lawrence later served in World War I and World War II and reached the rank of lieutenant-colonel in the 18th Royal Hussars (later 13th/18th Royal Hussars).

He competed in the 1912 Summer Olympics for Great Britain in eventing. He did not finish the Individual eventing (Military) competition, also the British team did not finish the team event.

The medal is on display at the Lord Ashcroft VC Gallery in the Imperial War Museum in London.

Isaac Lodge VC (6 May 1866 - 18 June 1923) was an English recipient of the Victoria Cross (VC). Lodge was 33 years old, and a gunner in "Q" Battery, Royal Horse Artillery, British Army during the Second Boer War when the following deed took place for which he was awarded the VC:

On 31 March 1900 at Sanna's Post (aka Korn Spruit), South Africa, "Q" and "U" batteries of the Royal Horse Artillery were ambushed with the loss of most of the baggage column and five guns of the leading battery. When the alarm was given, 'Q' Battery went into action 1150 yards from the spruit, until the order to retire was received, when Major Edmund John Phipps-Hornby (VC) commanding the battery ordered the guns and their limbers to be run back by hand to a safe place. This most exhausting operation was carried out by, among others, Gunner Lodge, Sergeant Charles Parker (VC) and Driver Horace Glascock VC. When at last all but one of the guns and one limber had been moved to safety, the battery was reformed.

The citation reads:

On the occasion of the action at Korn Spruit on the 31st March, 1900, a British force, including two batteries of the Royal Horse Artillery, was retiring from Thabanchu towards Bloemfontein. The enemy had formed an ambush at Korn Spruit, and before their presence was discovered by the main body had captured the greater portion of the baggage column and five out of the six guns of the leading battery. When the alarm was given Q Battery, Royal Horse Artillery, was within 300 yards of the Spruit. Major Phipps-Hornby, who commanded it, at once wheeled about and moved off at a gallop under a very heavy fire. One gun upset when a wheel horse was shot, and had to be abandoned, together with a waggon, the horses of which were killed. The remainder of the battery reached a position close to some unfinished railway buildings and came into action 1,150 yards from the Spruit, remaining in action until ordered to retire. When the order to retire was received Major Phipps-Hornby ordered the guns and their limbers to be run back by hand to where the teams of uninjured horses stood behind the unfinished buildings. The few remaining gunners, assisted by a number of Officers and men of a party of Mounted Infantry, and directed by Major Phipps-Hornby and Captain Humphreys, the only remaining Officers of the battery, succeeded in running back four of the guns under shelter. One or two of the limbers were similarly withdrawn by hand, but the work was most severe and the distance considerable. In consequence all concerned were

so exhausted that they were unable to drag in the remaining limbers or the fifth gun. It now became necessary to risk the horses, and volunteers were called for from among the drivers, who readily responded. Several horses were killed and men wounded, but at length only one gun and one limber were left exposed. Four separate attempts were made to rescue these, but when no more hordes were available the attempt had to be given up and the gun and limber were abandoned. Meanwhile the other guns had been sent on, one at a time, and after passing within 700 or 800 yards of the enemy, in rounding the head of a donga and crossing two spruits they eventually reached a place of safety, where the battery was re-formed. After full consideration of the circumstances of the case the Field-Marshal Commanding-in-chief in South Africa formed the opinion that the conduct of all ranks of Q Battery, Royal Horse Artillery, was conspicuously gallant and daring, but that all were equally brave and devoted in their behaviour. He therefore decided to treat the case of the battery as one of collective gallantry under Rule 13 of the Victoria Cross Warrant, and directed that one Officer should be selected for the decoration of the Victoria Cross by the Officers, one non-commissioned officer by the non-commissioned officers, and two gunners or drivers by the gunners and drivers. A difficulty arose with regard to the Officer because there were only two unwounded Officers — Major Phipps-Hornby and Captain Humphreys — available for the work of saving the guns, and both of these had been conspicuous by their gallantry and by the fearless manner in which they exposed themselves, and each of them nominated the other for the decoration. It was ultimately decided in favour of Major Phipps-Hornby as having been the senior concerned.

Lodge was one of the two gunners or drivers elected as described above.

He later achieved the rank of bombardier. He is buried at Hendon Park Cemetery, London, England in grave number 21820.

Lieutenant Francis Maxwell also earned the Victoria Cross in this action.

His Victoria Cross is displayed at the National Army Museum in Chelsea, England.

Colonel **Conwyn Mansel-Jones** VC CMG DSO (14 June 1871 - 29 May 1942) was an English recipient of the Victoria Cross. Mansel-Jones was 28 years old, and a captain in The West Yorkshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's Own), British Army during the Second Boer War when the following deed took place in Natal for which he was awarded the VC:

On the 27th February, 1900, during the assault on Terrace Hill, north of the Tugela, in Natal, the companies of the West Yorkshire Regiment on the northern slope of the hill met with a severe shell, Vickers-Maxim, and rifle fire, and their advance was for a few moments checked. Captain C. Mansel-Jones, however, by his strong initiative, restored confidence, and, in spite of his falling very seriously wounded, the men took the whole ridge without further check, this Officer's self-sacrificing devotion to duty at a critical moment having averted what might have proved a serious check to the whole assault.

Horace Robert Martineau VC (31 October 1874 - 7 April 1916) was a British recipient of the Victoria Cross. On the outbreak of the Second Boer War in 1899, Martineau joined the Protectorate Regiment (N.W. Cape Colony) as a sergeant. He was awarded the VC in an action near Mafeking. His citation in the London Gazette reads:

On the 26th December, 1899, during the fight at Game Tree, near Mafeking, when the order to retire had been given, Sergeant Martineau stopped and picked up Corporal Le Camp, who had been struck down about 10 yards from the Boer trenches, and half dragged, half carried, him towards a bush about 150 yards from the trenches. In doing this Sergeant Martineau was wounded in the side, but paid no attention to it, and proceeded to stanch and bandage the wounds of his comrade, whom he, afterwards, assisted to retire. The firing while they were retiring was very heavy and Sergeant Martineau was again wounded. When shot the second time he was absolutely exhausted from supporting his comrade, and sank down unable to proceed further. He received three wounds, one of which necessitated the amputation of his arm near the shoulder.

Horace Martineau's VC and other campaign medals were sold at auction by Spink of London for £90,000 on 9 May 2002. The VC was bought for Lord Ashcroft's VC Collection and is on display at the Lord Ashcroft VC Gallery in the Imperial War Museum in London.

Brigadier General **Francis Aylmer Maxwell** VC, CSI, DSO & Bar (7 September 1871 – 21 September 1917) was an English recipient of the Victoria Cross (VC). Maxwell was 28 years old, and a lieutenant in the Indian Staff Corps, Indian Army, attached to Roberts's Light Horse during the Second Boer War when the following deed took place for which he was awarded the VC:

On 31 March 1900 at Sanna's Post (aka Korn Spruit), South Africa, Lieutenant Maxwell was one of three Officers not belonging to "Q" Battery, Royal Horse Artillery, specially mentioned by Lord Roberts as having shown the greatest gallantry, and disregard of danger, in carrying out the self-imposed duty of saving the guns of that Battery during the affair at Korn Spruit on 31st March, 1900.

This Officer went out on five different occasions and assisted, to bring in two guns and three limbers, one of which he Captain Humphreys, and some Gunners, dragged in by hand. He also went out with Captain Humphreys and Lieutenant Stirling to try to get the last gun in, and remained there till the attempt was abandoned.

During a previous Campaign (the Chitral Expedition of 1895) Lieutenant Maxwell displayed gallantry in the removal of the body of Lieutenant-Colonel F. D. Battye, Corps of Guides, under fire, for which, though recommended, he received no reward.

Major Edmund Phipps-Hornby, Sergeant Charles Parker, Gunner Isaac Lodge and Driver Horace Glascock also earned the Victoria Cross in this action.

He was killed in action, shot by a German sniper, at Ypres, Belgium, on 21 September 1917 while commanding the 27th Brigade, 9th (Scottish) Division and is buried in Ypres Reservoir Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery. General Maxwell is commemorated with

a plaque in St. Giles Cathedral on the Royal Mile in Edinburgh, Scotland. Maxwell's medals are now held in the Lord Ashcroft collection after sale at auction. His wife, Charlotte Maxwell, published a volume of his edited letters in 1921.

Lieutenant-Colonel **Sir John Peniston Milbanke, 10th Baronet** VC (9 October 1872 - 21 August 1915) was an English recipient of the Victoria Cross. Milbanke was born the son of Sir Peniston Milbanke, 9th Baronet, in Chichester. In 1886 he began attendance at Harrow School, where he became a close friend of Winston Churchill. He joined the Army in 1889. Milbanke was 27 years old, and a lieutenant in the 10th Hussars, British Army during the Second Boer War when the following deed took place near Colesberg for which he was awarded the VC:

On the 5th January, 1900, during a reconnaissance near Colesberg, Sir John Milbanke, when retiring under fire with a small patrol of the 10th Hussars, notwithstanding the fact that he had just been severely wounded in the thigh, rode back to the assistance of one of the men whose pony was exhausted, and who was under fire from some Boers who had dismounted. Sir John Milbanke took the man up on his own horse under a most galling fire and brought him safely back to camp.

In 1914, having retired from the regular army, he became lieutenant-colonel of the Sherwood Rangers. He was killed in action at Suvla, Gallipoli, Turkey, on 21 August 1915 and is commemorated on the Helles Memorial.

His Victoria Cross is displayed at The King's Royal Hussars Museum in Winchester, England.

Captain **John Norwood** VC (8 September 1876 – 8 September 1914) was an English recipient of the Victoria Cross. Norwood was 23 years old, and a second lieutenant in the 5th Dragoon Guards (Princess Charlotte of Wales's), British Army during the Second Boer War when the following deed took place at Ladysmith for which he was awarded the VC:

On the 30th October, 1899, this Officer went out from Ladysmith in charge of a small patrol of the 5th Dragoon Guards. They came under a heavy fire from the enemy, who were posted on a ridge in great force. The patrol, which had arrived within about 600 yards of the ridge, then retired at full speed. One man dropped, and Second Lieutenant Norwood galloped back about 300 yards through heavy fire, dismounted, and picking up the fallen trooper, carried him out of fire on his back, at the same time leading his horse with one hand. The enemy kept up an incessant fire during the whole time that Second Lieutenant Norwood was carrying the man until he was quite out of range.

He later achieved the rank of captain. Norwood served in the First World War and was killed in action during the First Battle of the Marne at Sablonnières, France, on 8 September 1914. A brass memorial to him can be seen in St Michael's Church, East Peckham, Kent.

His VC is on display at the Lord Ashcroft Gallery in the Imperial War Museum, London.

Charles Edward Haydon Parker VC (10 March 1870 - 5 December 1918) was an English recipient of the Victoria Cross (VC). Parker was 30 years old, and a sergeant in 'Q' Battery,

Royal Horse Artillery, British Army during the Second Boer War when the following deed took place for which he was awarded the VC:

On 31 March 1900 at Sanna's Post (aka Korn Spruit), South Africa, 'Q' and 'U' Batteries of the Royal Horse Artillery were ambushed with the loss of most of the baggage column and five guns of the leading battery. When the alarm was given, 'Q' Battery went into action 1150 yards from the spruit, until the order to retire was received, when Major Phipps-Hornby, commander of 'Q' Battery, ordered the guns and their limbers to be run back by hand to a safe place. This most exhausting operation was carried out by, among others, Sergeant Parker, Gunner Isaac Lodge and Driver Horace Glascock, and when at last all but one of the guns and one limber had been moved to safety, the battery was reformed.

The citation reads:

On the occasion of the action at Korn Spruit on the 31st March, 1900, a British force, including two batteries of the Royal Horse Artillery, was retiring from Thabanchu towards Bloemfontein. The enemy had formed an ambush at Korn Spruit, and before their presence was discovered by the main body had captured the greater portion of the baggage column and five out of the six guns of the leading battery. When the alarm was given Q Battery, Royal Horse Artillery, was within 300 yards of the Spruit. Major Phipps-Hornby, who commanded it, at once wheeled about and moved off at a gallop under a very heavy fire. One gun upset when a wheel horse was shot, and had to be abandoned, together with a waggon, the horses of which were killed. The remainder of the battery reached a position close to some unfinished railway buildings and came into action 1,150 yards from the Spruit, remaining in action until ordered to retire. When the order to retire was received Major Phipps-Hornby ordered the guns and their limbers to be run back by hand to where the teams of uninjured horses stood behind the unfinished buildings. The few remaining gunners, assisted by a number of Officers and men of a party of Mounted Infantry, and directed by Major Phipps-Hornby and Captain Humphreys, the only remaining Officers of the battery, succeeded in running back four of the guns under shelter. One or two of the limbers were similarly withdrawn by hand, but the work was most severe and the distance considerable. In consequence all concerned were so exhausted that they were unable to drag in the remaining limbers or the fifth gun. It now became necessary to risk the horses, and volunteers were called for from among the drivers, who readily responded. Several horses were killed and men wounded, but at length only one gun and one limber were left exposed. Four separate attempts were made to rescue these, but when no more hordes were available the attempt had to be given up and the gun and limber were abandoned. Meanwhile the other guns had been sent on, one at a time, and after passing within 700 or 800 yards of the enemy, in rounding the head of a donga and crossing two spruits they eventually reached a place of safety, where the battery was re-formed. After full consideration of the circumstances of the case the Field-Marshal Commanding-in-chief in South Africa formed the opinion that the conduct of all ranks of Q Battery, Royal Horse Artillery, was conspicuously gallant and daring, but that all were equally brave and devoted in their behaviour. He therefore decided to treat the case of the battery as one of collective gallantry under Rule 13 of the

Victoria Cross Warrant, and directed that one Officer should be selected for the decoration of the Victoria Cross by the Officers, one non-commissioned officer by the non-commissioned officers, and two gunners or drivers by the gunners and drivers. A difficulty arose with regard to the Officer because there were only two unwounded Officers — Major Phipps-Hornby and Captain Humphreys — available for the work of saving the guns, and both of these had been conspicuous by their gallantry and by the fearless manner in which they exposed themselves, and each of them nominated the other for the decoration. It was ultimately decided in favour of Major Phipps-Hornby as having been the senior concerned.

Parker was elected by the non-commissioned officers as described above.

Lieutenant Francis Maxwell (VC, CSI, DSO & Bar) also earned the VC in this action. Parker rejoined the army and was seriously injured in World War I.

His Victoria Cross is displayed at the Royal Artillery Museum, Woolwich, England.

Francis Newton Parsons VC (23 March 1875 Dover - 10 March 1900) was educated at Dover College, joined the Essex Regiment and served in the Second Boer War. He was an English recipient of the Victoria Cross. Parsons was 24 years old, and in the 1st Battalion, The Essex Regiment, British Army during the Second Boer War when the following deeds took place for which he was awarded the VC. He was recommended by Lieutenant-General Kelly-Kenny, C.B., for the award and the citation was published in the London Gazette of 20 November 1900:

THE Queen has been graciously pleased to award the decoration of the Victoria Cross to the undermentioned Officer, whose claims have been submitted for Her Majesty's approval, for his conspicuous bravery during the engagement at Paardeberg, as stated against his name : —

*Essex Regiment, Lieutenant Francis Newton Parsons (since deceased)
On the morning of the 15th February, 1900, at Paardeberg, on the south bank of the River Modder, Private Ferguson, 1st Battalion Essex Regiment, was wounded and fell in a place devoid of cover. While trying to crawl under cover, he was again wounded, in the stomach, Lieutenant Parsons at once went to his assistance, dressed his wound under heavy fire, went down twice (still under heavy fire) to the bank of the river to get water for Private Ferguson, and subsequently carried him to a place of safety.*

This Officer was recommended for the Victoria Cross by Lieutenant-General Kelly-Kenny, C.B. on 3rd March latt.

Lieutenant Parsons was killed on the 10th March, in the engagement at Dreifontein, on which occasion he again displayed conspicuous gallantry.

Parsons also received a posthumous Mention in Despatches on 8 February 1901. His Victoria Cross is displayed at The Essex Regiment Museum, Chelmsford, Essex, England.

Brigadier General **Edmund John Phipps-Hornby** VC, CB, CMG, DL (31 December 1857 – 13 December 1947) was an English recipient of the Victoria Cross. Phipps Hornby was 42 years old, and a major commanding 'Q' Battery, Royal Horse Artillery, British Army, during the Second Boer War when the following deed took place for which he was awarded the VC:

On 31 March 1900 at Sanna's Post (aka Korn Spruit), South Africa, 'Q' and 'U' batteries of the Royal Horse Artillery were ambushed with the loss of most of the baggage column and five guns of the leading battery. When the alarm was given 'Q' Battery, commanded by Major Phipps Hornby, went into action 1150 yards from the spruit, until the order to retire was received, when the major commanded that the guns and their limbers be run back by hand to a safe place — a most exhausting operation over a considerable distance, but at last all but one of the guns and one limber had been moved to safety and the battery reformed.

The citation reads:

On the occasion of the action at Korn Spruit on the 31st March, 1900, a British force, including two batteries of the Royal Horse Artillery, was retiring from Thabanchu towards Bloemfontein. The enemy had formed an ambush at Korn Spruit, and before their presence was discovered by the main body had captured the greater portion of the baggage column and five out of the six guns of the leading battery. When the alarm was given Q Battery, Royal Horse Artillery, was within 300 yards of the Spruit. Major Phipps-Hornby, who commanded it, at once wheeled about and moved off at a gallop under a very heavy fire. One gun upset when a wheel horse was shot, and had to be abandoned, together with a waggon, the horses of which were killed. The remainder of the battery reached a position close to some unfinished railway buildings and came into action 1,150 yards from the Spruit, remaining in action until ordered to retire. When the order to retire was received Major Phipps-Hornby ordered the guns and their limbers to be run back by hand to where the teams of uninjured horses stood behind the unfinished buildings. The few remaining gunners, assisted by a number of Officers and men of a party of Mounted Infantry, and directed by Major Phipps-Hornby and Captain Humphreys, the only remaining Officers of the battery, succeeded in running back four of the guns under shelter. One or two of the limbers were similarly withdrawn by hand, but the work was most severe and the distance considerable. In consequence all concerned were so exhausted that they were unable to drag in the remaining limbers or the fifth gun. It now became necessary to risk the horses, and volunteers were called for from among the drivers, who readily responded. Several horses were killed and men wounded, but at length only one gun and one limber were left exposed. Four separate attempts were made to rescue these, but when no more horses were available the attempt had to be given up and the gun and limber were abandoned. Meanwhile the other guns had been sent on, one at a time, and after passing within 700 or 800 yards of the enemy, in rounding the head of a donga and crossing two spruits they eventually reached a place of safety, where the battery was re-formed. After full consideration of the circumstances of the case the Field-Marshal Commanding-in-chief in South Africa formed the opinion that the conduct of all ranks of Q Battery, Royal Horse Artillery, was conspicuously gallant and daring, but that all were equally brave and devoted in their behaviour. He therefore decided to

treat the case of the battery as one of collective gallantry under Rule 13 of the Victoria Cross Warrant, and directed that one Officer should be selected for the decoration of the Victoria Cross by the Officers, one non-commissioned officer by the non-commissioned officers, and two gunners or drivers by the gunners and drivers. A difficulty arose with regard to the Officer because there were only two unwounded Officers—Major Phipps-Hornby and Captain Humphreys—available for the work of saving the guns, and both of these had been conspicuous by their gallantry and by the fearless manner in which they exposed themselves, and each of them nominated the other for the decoration. It was ultimately decided in favour of Major Phipps-Hornby as having been the senior concerned.

The following men were also awarded the Victoria Cross in the same action: Lieutenant Francis Maxwell (VC, CSI, DSO & Bar), Sergeant Charles Parker (VC), Gunner Isaac Lodge (VC) and Driver Horace Glascock (VC).

Phipps Hornby served in the First World War and later achieved the rank of brigadier general granted upon his retirement in 1918. His grave and memorial are in St Andrew's churchyard at Sonning in Berkshire.

Brigadier General Phipps Hornby's Victoria Cross and other medals are displayed at the Royal Artillery Museum, Woolwich, England.

James Pitts VC MSM (26 February 1877 - 18 February 1955) was an English recipient of the Victoria Cross. Pitts was 22 years old, and a private in the 1st Battalion, The Manchester Regiment, British Army during the Second Boer War when the following deed in Natal took place for which he and Private Robert Scott were awarded the VC:

During the attack on Caesar's Camp, in Natal, on the 6th January, 1900, these two men occupied a sangar, on the left of which all our men had been shoe down and their positions occupied by Boers, and held their post for fifteen hours without food or water, all the time under an extremely heavy fire, keeping up their fire and a smart look-out though the Boers occupied some sangars on their immediate left rear. Private Scott was wounded.

He later achieved the rank of corporal and served in World War. I He was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal in 1918.

His Victoria Cross is displayed at the Museum of the Manchesters, Ashton-under-Lyne, England.

Major General **Llewelyn Alberic Emilius Price-Davies** VC CB CMG DSO (30 June 1878 – 26 December 1965) was an English recipient of the Victoria Cross. Price-Davies was 23 years old, and a Lieutenant in The King's Royal Rifle Corps, British Army during the Second Boer War when the following deed took place at Blood River Poort for which he was awarded the VC:

At Blood River Poort, on the 17th September, 1901, when the Boers had overwhelmed the right of the British Column, and some 400 of them were galloping

round the flank and rear of the guns, riding up to the drivers (who were trying to get the guns away) and calling upon them to surrender, Lieutenant Price Davies, hearing an order to fire upon the charging Boers, at once drew his revolver and dashed in among them, firing at them in a most gallant and desperate attempt to rescue the guns. He was immediately shot and knocked off his horse, but was not mortally wounded, although he had ridden to what seemed to be almost certain death without a moment's hesitation.

He later achieved the rank of major general. His grave and memorial are at St Andrew's churchyard in Sonning, Berkshire.

His Victoria Cross is displayed at the Royal Green Jackets Museum in Winchester, England.

Lieutenant-Colonel **Harry Norton Schofield** VC (29 January 1865 - 10 October 1931) was an English recipient of the Victoria Cross. Schofield was 34 years old, and a captain in the Royal Artillery (Royal Field Artillery), British Army during the Second Boer War when the following deed took place for which he was awarded the VC. On 15 December 1899, at the Battle of Colenso, South Africa, Captain Schofield with several others tried to save the guns of the 14th and 66th Batteries, Royal Field Artillery, when the detachments serving the guns had all become casualties or been driven from their guns by infantry fire at close range. Captain Schofield went out with two other officers (Walter Norris Congreve and Frederick Hugh Sherston (The Hon.) Roberts) and a corporal (George Edward Nurse) when the first attempt was made to extricate the guns and helped in withdrawing the two that were saved. Schofield was initially awarded the Distinguished Service Order, but this was subsequently upgraded to the VC, his citation reads:

At Colenso, on the 15th December, 1899, when the detachments serving the guns of the 14th and 66th Batteries, Royal Field Artillery, had all been killed, wounded, or driven from them by Infantry fire at close range, Captain Schofield went out when the first attempt was made to extricate the guns, and assisted in withdrawing the two that were saved.

Robert Scott VC (4 June 1874 – 21 February 1961), was an English recipient of the Victoria Cross. Born in Haslingden, Lancashire, he was a 25-year-old private in the 1st Battalion, Manchester Regiment, British Army during the Second Boer War when the following deed took place in Natal for which he and Private James Pitts were awarded the VC:

During the attack on Caesar's Camp, in Natal, on the 6th January, 1900, these two men occupied a sangar, on the left of which all our men had been shot down and their positions occupied by Boers, and held their post for fifteen hours without food or water, all the time under an extremely heavy fire, keeping up their fire and a smart look-out though the Boers occupied some sangars on their immediate left rear. Private Scott was wounded.

His Victoria Cross is displayed at the Museum of the Manchester Regiment, Ashton-under-Lyne, England.

William Bernard Traynor VC (31 December 1870 - 20 October 1956) was an English recipient of the Victoria Cross. Traynor was born at 29 Moxon Street, Hull, East Riding of Yorkshire. He was 30 years old and a sergeant in the 2nd Battalion, The West Yorkshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's Own), British Army during the Second Boer War when the following act led to the award of the Victoria Cross:

During the night attack on Bothwell Camp on the 6th, February, 1901, Sergeant Traynor jumped out of a trench and ran out under an extremely heavy fire to the assistance of a wounded man. While running out he was severely wounded, and being unable to carry the man by himself he called for assistance. Lance-Corporal Lintott at once came to him and between them they carried the wounded soldier into shelter. After this, although severely wounded, Sergeant Traynor remained in command of his section, and was most cheerful, encouraging his men till the attack failed.

Traynor's Cross is held privately.

Charles Burley Ward VC (10 July 1877 – 30 December 1921) was an English recipient of the Victoria Cross. Ward was 22 years old, and a private in the 2nd Battalion, The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, British Army during the Second Boer War when the following deed took place for which he was awarded the VC:

On the 26th June, 1900, at Lindley, a picquet of the Yorkshire Light Infantry was surrounded on three sides by about 500 Boers, at close quarters. The two Officers were wounded and all but six of their men were killed or wounded. Private Ward then volunteered to take a message asking for reinforcements to the Signalling Station about 150 yards in the rear of the post. His offer was at first refused owing to the practical certainty of his being shot; but, on his insisting, he was allowed to go. He got across untouched through a storm of shots from each flank, and, having delivered his message, he voluntarily returned from a place of absolute safety, and recrossed the fire-swept ground to assure his Commanding Officer that the message had been sent. On this occasion he was severely wounded. But for this gallant action the post would certainly have been captured.

Further Information

Films:

Zulu (1964)

Young Winston (1972)

Zulu Dawn (1979)

YouTube:

Boer War footage 1899

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