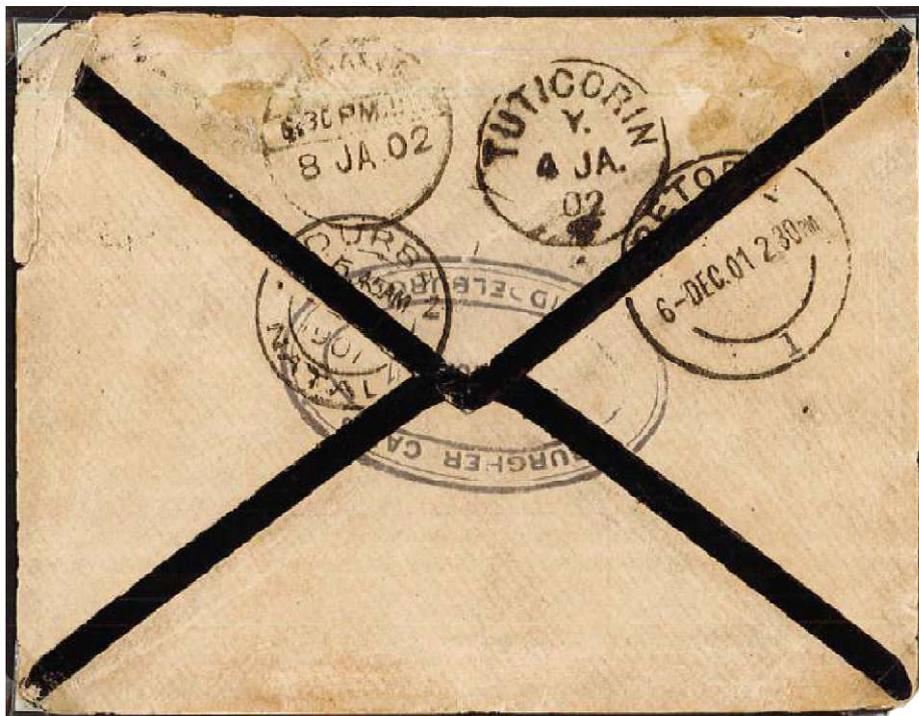


Concentration Camps of The Anglo-Boer War 1899 - 1902

David Mordant



1902. Mourning Cover. BURGHER CAMP MIDDELBURG '5 DEC 1901'.
Addressed to Mnr Pieter Smit, UMBALLA POW CAMP, INDIA.

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postmaster@southafricanphilatelyclub.com



David Godfrey Mordant



“David Mordant is a South African retired Veterinarian, Nutritionist, Commodity Trader and Business Entrepreneur. He lives in Vancouver, Canada with his wife of 53 years and a further six of his immediate family. In Philately his specialisations are the Cape of Good Hope (especially the Woodblock Triangulars and the Rectangulars), Natal, Orange Free State, Transvaal, the two Anglo-Boer Wars 1880 – 1881 and 1899 -1902, and the imperforate Queen Victoria Great Britain issues on cover.

This collection of Philatelic Material of the Anglo – Boer War Concentration Camps was accumulated over many years of purchasing directly from dealers, at stamp auctions and purchases from other Philatelists. With each passing year, good material is becoming more difficult to find and requires a rigorous study of auction catalogues to find what is on offer. Occasionally a collection becomes available to purchase.

In the Philatelic Thematic field, he dabbles in Nobel Prize Winners on stamps, Sir Rowland Hill on Stamps, and “Brief Kaarte or Letter Cards” of the Orange Free State.

Besides Philately he invests and trades on the New York, Toronto and Johannesburg Stock Exchanges to earn a living and also to provide wherewithal to satisfy his addiction to purchasing good Philatelic material in his fields of interest.”

CONCENTRATION CAMPS OF THE ANGLO BOER WAR 1899 - 1902.

INTRODUCTION

The Spanish Military has been accorded the doubtful accolade of being the pioneers to introduce Concentration Camps on a civilian population during war time, during the Cuban War of Independence of 1895 - 1898.

In South Africa in the Anglo Boer War of 1899 – 1902, the vast majority of the Boer forces consisted of Commandos of everyday farmers and their sons sixteen years and older, who answered the call of duty and rode out to battle on their horses. In so doing they left their wives, daughters and young male children basically unprotected on their farms. Unfortunately it was not long before they were attacked and some of them murdered and raped.

To provide protection for the rural civilian population, the British Army established 45 tented Refugee Camps (also known as Burgher Camps) for Whites at strategic points to house, feed and protect those non-combatants in danger. With the fall of Bloemfontein and Pretoria within seven months of the outbreak of war, it was hoped that the two warring parties would be able to negotiate a Peace Treaty and end the war.

However the Boers refused to accept the Terms of Surrender offered to them and began a guerilla war, attacking in the main the British forces and their main supply lines, while the Boer forces at the same time receiving succour from their countrymen and women still on their farms.

The British countered with a Scorched Earth policy. Any farms within a ten mile radius of an attack on a British supply line (mainly a railroad) would be burnt down, all the livestock confiscated or killed, the fields and water supply salted to make them unusable for crop production, and the inhabitants of the farm sent to the nearest Refugee Camp.

This resulted in a flood of homeless refugees, mainly women and children, streaming into the Refugee Camps, which were totally unprepared for this flood of humanity. They quickly became Concentration Camps where massive overcrowding, inadequate food supply leading to malnutrition, poor protection against cold and wet and the absence of rudimentary Health Care protocols led to epidemics of measles, cholera, diarrhoea and dysentery, and diphtheria and influenza. The result was a massive increase in mortality amongst the inmates.

To compound the problem the British Parliament refused to grant additional funds to house, feed and clothe the inmates adequately and relieve the overcrowding, as the cost of the war to the British taxpayer was already over one hundred million pounds, and ultimately the war cost in excess of two hundred million pounds, the most expensive in British history up to that point in time.

In these camps for Whites over 28,000 civilians perished, of which 24,000 were children under sixteen years of age. And so about half of all the children in the Orange Free State and South African Republic at the outbreak of the war died.

Highlights of this Exhibit

- 1) The specific cachets from the individual camps on cover of outgoing correspondence. These are rare to very rare.
- 2) Incoming correspondence into the camps. These covers originated both in, and from outside, South Africa.
- 3) Intercamp covers, both inside South Africa and from P.O.W. camps on St. Helena, Ceylon, India and Bermuda.
- 4) Original photographs of some of the camps and their inhabitants.
- 5) Humanitarian efforts of Emily Hobhouse and the Fawcett Commission to alleviate suffering and mortality in the camps.
- 6) Official statistics of the human losses in the camps.
- 7) Personal announcement of cessation of hostilities.



The Aim of the Camp System

Initially it was to provide relief and protection for those citizens of the two Boer Republics, who had been forced to abandon their homes for one or other reason related to the war. Hence "Relief Camps"/"Burgher Camps".

But with the military defeat of the two republics, their leaders and Burghers refused to surrender and the war morphed from a conventional one to a guerilla war.

To prevent civilian support of the Boer Guerillas, non-combatants were concentrated in these camps and they became "Concentration Camps".

The Burgher or Relief or Concentration Camps of the Second Anglo-Boer War of 1899 - 1902

Content

This exhibit is a comprehensive showing of camps established by the British military forces to hasten the defeat and annexation of the Boer Republics, who blocked political control over the remarkable gold wealth of the Transvaal. The Transvaal Republic was also supported by its southern neighbour, the Orange Free State, whose republic also hindered the anglicisation and colonisation required to implement the dream of mining magnate Cecil John Rhodes of British hegemony from the "Cape to Cairo".

This display is segmented into tented camps established in both republics and in the British Colonies of the Cape Colony and Natal.



A Typical Burgher Refugee Camp.

This one at Howick in Natal. The photograph was taken from the hospital (deliberately isolated from the camp) with the housing and offices for the British staff in the foreground and the tented housing for the burghers in the background. The large fixed structures on the left centre were the dining and church facilities.

Telegraph Department of the Z.A. Republic

Telegram dated 22 May 1900 From Pretoria to Piet Retief.

"Extra war report. 8:30 p.m. The Government reports with conviction that families that have remained behind on the farms are so far being handled with respect by the enemy. But if they flee their whole property is destroyed. All livestock, especially horses and all food and feed is taken by the enemy as spoils of war, and any people with weapons are captured as prisoners."

Ca

Telegraaf-Departement, Z. A. Republiek. Nr.

Bij vermoeden van verminkingen, kan men van het twijfelachtige herhaling vragen. De kosten daarvan worden alleen dan in rekening gebracht, wanneer het blijkt dat de verminking niet heeft plaats gehad door de schuld van den telegraafdienst.

Het Departement is niet aansprakelijk voor verliezen ontstaan door verminking, vertraging of niet aflevering van telegrammen.

Dit blad vergezelle elke navraag omtrent dit telegram.

Te betalen £.....

Kantoorstempel



Pretoria's tijd geldt voor alle binnenlandsche kantoren.

Aangenomen te Pretoria ten 10^u / Hier m. ontvangen ten 10^u / m.

Van

Aan

Flg
Pietretief

Extra oorlogs bericht. 8.30 n/m
De Regeering heeft bericht dat het schijnt of families die op de plaatsen achter blijven niet gedeerd worden door den vijand maar indien zij wegvluchten dat dan hun eigendommen vermeld worden. Vee echter en vooral paarden alsook voer worden door den vijand buit gemaakt en personen die in staat zijn de wapens te voeren worden gevangen genomen.

MAP OF CONCENTRATION CAMPS FOR WHITE PEOPLE



Key

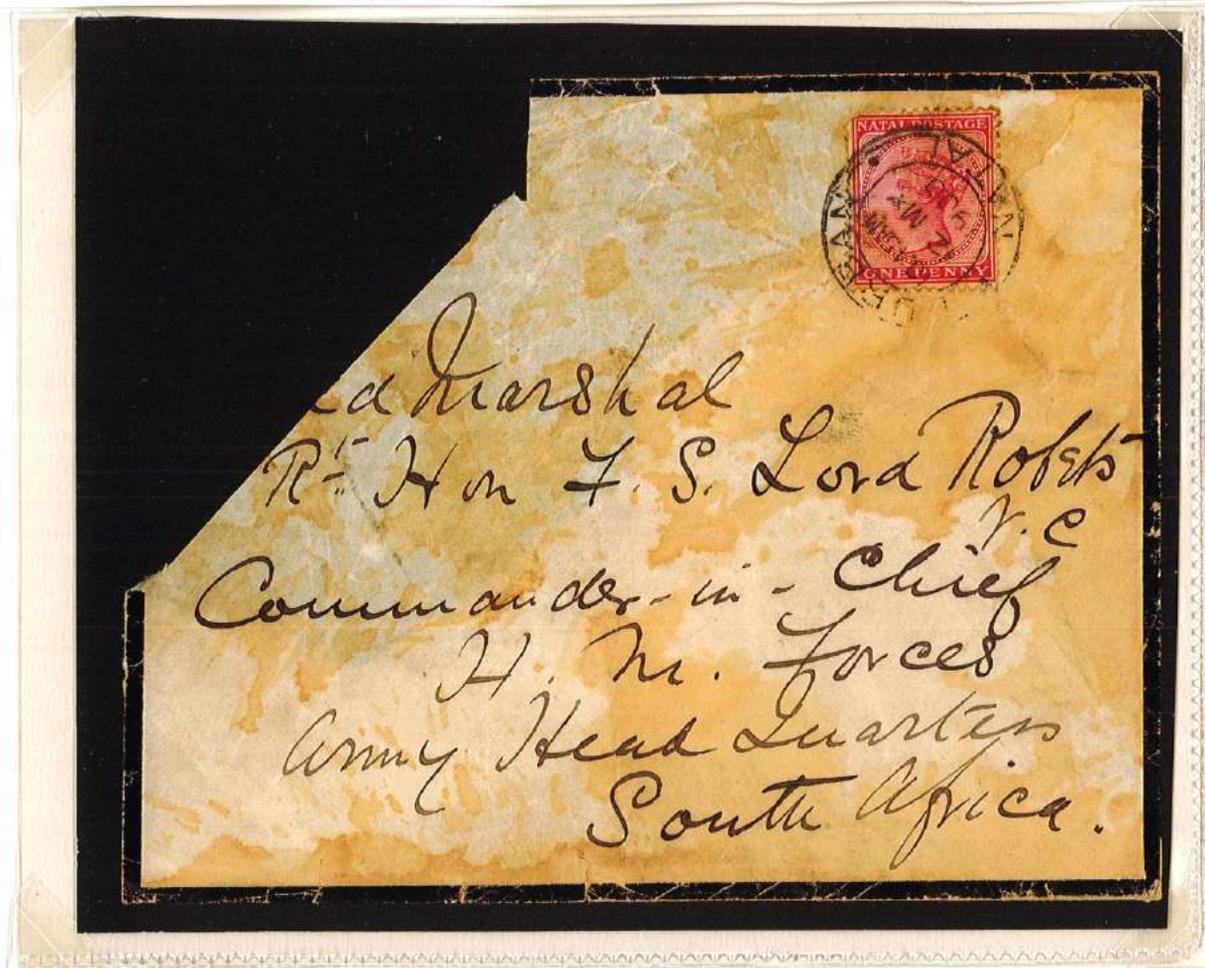
- Capital city ●
- Railway line ~
- White camps ●

The British Military Policy

Lord Kitchener succeeded General Roberts as Commander-in-Chief of the British Forces in South Africa on 29 November 1900. He introduced a "Scorched Earth" policy vis a vis the Boer farms to starve the Boer Guerillas of sustenance and support by a systematic destruction of their crops; confiscation and slaughter of their livestock; burning down their homesteads; poisoning of their wells and the salting of their lands to prevent new crops from being grown.

Consequences of the "Scorched Earth" Policy

The number of refugees who had lost their dwellings and farms increased dramatically, and many of the well-intentioned Relief Camps became overcrowded, diseased and disastrous concentration camps for the women folk and children of the erstwhile Boer Republics.



Below follows the translated content of a Telegram sent from Boer Headquarters in Pretoria to the Boer forces in the field – in this case based at Piet Retief in Natal – on 22 Mei 1900, when the war was only just over 7 months old.

"Telegraph Department, S.A. Republic.

Extra War Report – 8.30pm.

The Government makes known that families remaining on the farms appear to be well treated by the enemy. But if they flee, their property is destroyed. Livestock and especially horses with their feed are confiscated by the enemy as booty. Inhabitants on farms where weapons are discovered hidden are taken into custody."

To *Mr. King*



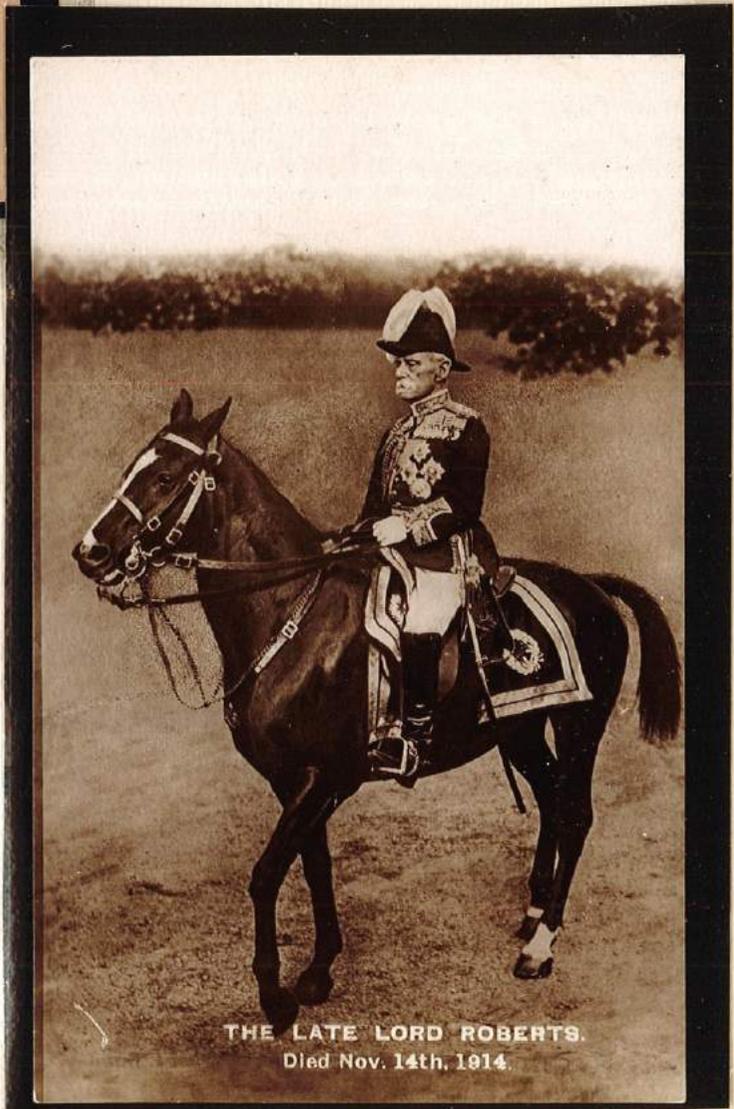
Victories, "Bobs" ← = Lord Roberts



With the Compliments of the Season.
1900.

E. Middleton
From.....

To Stamp the Orange Free State and Transvaal
Victories "BOBS" Stamp them V.R.I.



THE LATE LORD ROBERTS.
Died Nov. 14th, 1914.

Lord Roberts "Bobs" - Commander
in Chief - South Africa -
December 1899 - November 1900

~~ON HER MAJESTY'S SERVICE.~~

Q.B.

To General Lord Ritchie
Chief of Staff to Her Majesty's Forces
in South Africa
Believe me your truly

Procter

Lord Kitchener of Khartoum -
Commander in Chief -
South Africa -
December 1900 - May 1902



VISCOUNT KITCHENER

Love from M.H.

Why did Burgher Camps become Necessary?

A description follows of the situation developing on the Boer farms after the men had left to fight on Commando, and the women and children were left to defend themselves. It soon became apparent that the women and children were basically defenceless against outlaw gangs and the Burgher Camps were established to house and protect them.

That the initial good intentions of the British Army in establishing these protective camps went horribly wrong is the theme of this display.

Administration of the Camp System

From inception in February 1900 until March 1901 in the Transvaal and Orange River Colony and for Natal until November 1901, the responsibility fell to the British Army under Major-General J.G. Maxwell, the Military Governor of Pretoria.

The responsibility of rapidly over-populating the camps is blamed on Lord Kitchener, whose relentless scorched earth policy resulted in the rapid increase in number of refugees.



Burgher Camp Administration Covers

From February 1900 until March 1901 (in Natal until November 1901), the administration of the camps was done from the Military Governor's Office, Pretoria. Postmarked Army Post Office 50, dated 21 June 1901.

Subsequently a Burgher Camps Department was also set up in Johannesburg (see cover 20 June 1901)

BURGHEN CAMPS DEPT
HLH
DEN 20JND1
PBL-543 →
JHA 22JND1



The General Superintendent

→ Burgher Camps Dept.

Johannesburg

Transvaal

Burgher Camp Administration Stationery

Two examples of the Burgher Camps Department stationery.

One a handwritten personal letter with a rectangular cachet Burgher Camps Dept., Head Office, Pretoria in purple, and the other marked with the oval Burgher Camps Department, Buyers Office in maroon.

The first dated 7 October 1902; the second 3 May 1902

Dear Mr. Killick

Mr. Lucas has

kindly consulted by a person
I would have been sent to your care
for me from Johannesburg, & I will esteem
it a favour if you will kindly
advise me on arrival of my things

→

Burgher Camps Dept.	
FILE NO.....	
7 OCT. 1902	
SER. NO.....	
OFFICE, PRETORIA.	

D. Brewis

BURGHHER CAMPS DEPARTMENT.

Memorandum.

From

To *Stoehupen*
P.C. Stone
Pretoria



9 5/02

100

6495-12/2/02-50/100.

The following has been received from Dept
Stone: "I am forwarding to you Stoehupen & Whulhorn
received from your store on March 4th, the parts of which
do not correspond. Kindly have these exchanged on the
correct fitting returned with them."
Kindly attend to the above

And of the
Yours truly
Arthur P. Methu



O.H.M.S.
IN DIENST

Den WelEd. Heer

10
J. Emrys Evans Esq.

Royal Colonial Institute,

Northumberland Avenue

Charing X

London.

O.H.M.
1901
FPO 50



England

Z. A. REPUBLIEK.

Arthur H. Smith

Controller of the Treasury

Mortality and Disease in the Concentration Camps

The intention of the British Administration of the camps was almost certainly not one of genocide, but the camps were inadequately financed and poorly administered from the outset. Increasing overcrowding, neglect, poor hygiene, poor sanitation, inadequate rations and exposure to cold and wet were all too common, leading to rampant endemic contagious diseases like Measles, Typhoid and Dysentery. The result - a horrific death rate. About half the prewar child population under the age of sixteen of the two erstwhile Boer republics perished in the camps.

Extent of the Mortality

Of the approximately 110,000 of the white inhabitants in the fifty camps constructed, 28,000 died (25%). Of these more than 22,000 were children under the age of 16.

In the sixty-five camps constructed to house black war refugees, the mortality is thought to have been 14,000 out of 118,000 inmates (12%)

The Committee of Ladies (The Fawcett Commission)

Following reports by Emily Hobhouse on the appalling, inhumane living conditions, and accusations of barbarism in the camps, the Colonial Office on 16 July 1901 announced the appointment of a Ladies Commission of six ladies under Chairlady Mrs. Millicent G. Fawcett, to investigate the concentration camps in South Africa.

The commission reported in 1902 that, inter alia, the three main causes of the high death rate were:

- 1) The unsanitary condition of the country caused by the war
- 2) Causes within the control of the inmates
- 3) Causes within the control of the camps administration

The matter was discussed in the House of Commons of 4 March 1902, where an opposition motion to blame the high mortality on the camps administration was defeated 230 to 119.

During 1902 matters did improve in the camps.

As sometimes happens, one of the female doctors on the committee married a concentration camp official before the end of the investigation in South Africa.

Results of the Fawcett Commission and Emily Hobhouse Reports

The uproar in Britain and the accusations of "barbarism" resulted in the Colonial Secretary Joseph Chamberlain ordering the British High Commissioner in South Africa, Lord Alfred Milner, to take over the administration of the camps.

Conditions rapidly improved and by February 1902 the mortality rate dropped to 2% per annum, a rate lower than pertained in many British cities at that time.

CONCENTRATION CAMPS COMMISSION.

R E P O R T

ON THE

**CONCENTRATION CAMPS IN
SOUTH AFRICA,**

BY THE

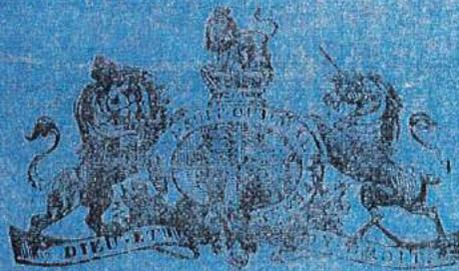
COMMITTEE OF LADIES

APPOINTED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR;

CONTAINING

REPORTS ON THE CAMPS IN NATAL, THE ORANGE RIVER
COLONY, AND THE TRANSVAAL.

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.



LONDON:

PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE.

Report of the "Committee of Ladies"

Consequences of the "Scorched Earth" Policy

The number of refugees who had lost their dwellings and farms increased dramatically, and many of the well-intentioned Relief Camps became overcrowded, diseased and disastrous concentration camps for the womenfolk and children of the erstwhile Boer Republics.

DEATHS

IN THE

CONCENTRATION CAMPS

(SOUTH AFRICA)

TAKEN FROM THE OFFICIAL RETURNS.

SEPTEMBER.

Number of White People in the Camps 109,418

(Children - - 54,326)

Died during September - - 2,411

(Children - - 1,964)

The Total Deaths are at the Yearly

Rate of - - - 264 per 1,000

The DEATHS of CHILDREN

Yearly Rate of - - 433 per 1,000

The Annual Death Rate of England and
Wales is 18 per 1,000.

The Returns previously issued give the

NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO

HAVE DIED IN THE CAMPS

AS FOLLOWS:—

June	-	-	-	-	576
July	-	-	-	-	1,124
August	-	-	-	-	1,545
September	-	-	-	-	1,964
Total in Four Months	-	-	-	-	5,209

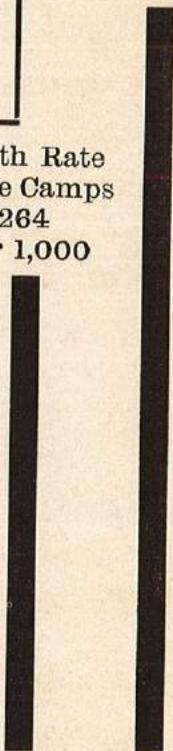
These Columns,
drawn to Scale
represent the
Annual Rate of
mortality in England
and Wales, as
compared with
that of the
South African
Camps.

Children's
Death Rate
in the Camps
433
per 1,000

Death Rate
in the Camps
264
per 1,000

Death Rate of
England
and Wales
18
per 1,000

18 264 433
per 1,000 per 1,000 per 1,000



Burgher Camps That Became Concentration Camps

1. Orange River Colony (ORC)

The British Military Authorities began to establish Burgher Camps in the ORC in February 1900. In March 1900 the overall administration of these camps was handed over to the civil administration in Pretoria. The Chief Superintendent of the ORC Camps was Captain A.G. Trollope, who was also responsible for the censor system. Overall these camps housed about 45,300 people; the average mortality rate was almost 25%.

1.1 Bethulie Habitation of the Bethulie Burgher Camp began on 22 April 1901. By 7 September 1901 it housed 4,882 people. At that stage the Superintendent was Russell Deane.



Letter Card from Bethulie Refugee Camp Written 9 February 1902 by D. De Villiers, Hospital Clerk, to the Rev. P van der Merwe at Beaufort West, Cape Colony, telling him that his friend, the Rev. Gonin, had died four days previously from Enteric Fever.

Posted Bethulie 11 February 1902, Arrived Beaufort West 14 February 1902, both "Passed By Censor" stamps in purple clearly visible, Bethulie Refugee Camp Oval; Beaufort West Triangular Cachet.

Waard. Heer. Een weinig regels
u te melden met naam van
Mw. vriend Rev. Gonin dat hy
4 dagen geleden in het hospitaal
alhier is gedraeft. Lyden de aan
Enteric fever, doch hy is niet
gunstig met groete de uw
Bethulie Ref. D. De Villiers
Camp. 9.2.1902. Hosp. Clerk.



Intercamp Cover from Bermuda to Bethulie Refugee Camp

Intercamp cover with only a non-specific double triangular framed censor cachet from the ORC. Except for the Springfontein Camp (see 1.6) censor cachets that specifically identify the ORC camp are rare.



MEMORANDUM.

From S. R. C.

From

Bethulie

To C. S. R. C.

To

Bloubaartse

ANSWER.

27/3/1902.

19

*I beg to enclose copy of
your letter no 7745 as
requested in your letter
of March 25th*

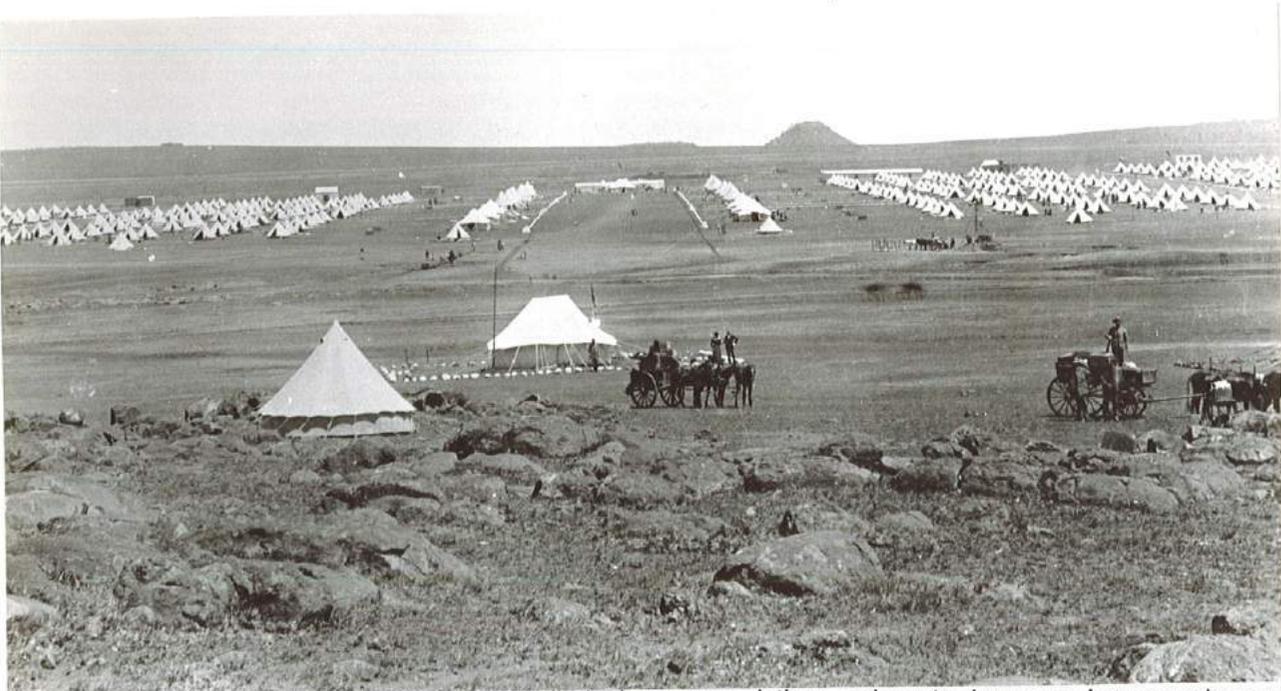
W. K. H. Wilson

S. R. C.

Memorandum with "Refugee Camp, Bethulie, O.F.S" Cachet dated 27 March 1902. Signed by W.K.H. Wilson, seemingly Superintendent at the time.

1.2 Bloemfontein

The civil authorities took over the administration of the camp on 18 February 1901 after it was established by the military in August 1900. (Bloemfontein - the capital of the Orange Free State fell to the British on 13 March 1900). On 16 September 1901 the camp held 6,660 citizens and was controlled inter alia by Captain A. Hume and Mr. J.F. Bennett.



Ladybrand "Passed Censor" cachet applied. There was a daily postal service by wagon between the town and the camp.





Orange Free State Answer Paid letter card to Bloemfontein Refugee Camp from Br. Burne Hitchcock, Capt., Assistant Priest Wars, Orange River Colony, Bloemfontein, sent from Rouxville, advising "Drink only boiled water".

A handwritten letter on a separate piece of paper, with a blue arrow pointing to it from the left. The text is written in cursive and reads: "My dear Blank! Through Kohlberg I heard, that you are settled in Bloemfontein. I hope you will keep well. Drink only boiled water. Perhaps you come back soon, as I sincerely wish. We are all well. If I can do anything for you, please let me know. Have you got your shack in camp? It is fearfully dull here. We have to be indoors at 8 1/2 p.m. That Henry & Antecoraha are in Greenpoint, you know perhaps. I expect, you may write home and have done so already. If not, please do so at once. Give my best compliments to Jooste and tell him, that his family is quite well. Wife and children send their best compliments. Kindest regards from
Your friend
J. Nauman."

420



Weekly return
ending 7th July 1902.

Date	No	Sex	men	women	children	Total
		Inmates.	1123.	2154.	2083	5360
		Deaths	1 Heart Disease	1 obstructed umbilical Femur		2 Cause of death.
		Patients in hosp	6	10	8	24
		Deaths.		1		1
		Patients in camp	17	37	17	71
		Deaths.	1			1
		Births.	-	-	-	nil
		Deaths.	-	-	-	nil
		Children under 5 yrs.		*	691	691

A Weekly Return for the week ending 7 July 1902 by the Superintendent of the Refugee Camp, Bloemfontein, showing a camp population of 5,360 - 1,123 men, 2,154 women and 2,083 children of which 691 were under 5 years of age. 95 inhabitants were classified as ill (July is mid-winter).

Letter in Dutch from Mrs. Chrissie Kruger in the Old Jail, Bloemfontein, dated 2 February 1902 and addressed to her father in Diyatalawa P.O.W. camp in Ceylon, making the following points:

- a) She regards herself as a Prisoner of War
- b) The reason for her transfer to the jail
- c) She may only write once per month from the jail, but the receipt of letters appears not to be restricted.



Brief Kaart (Letter Card) from "R.C. Bloemfontein 29 October 1901" to Cape Town re purchase of 1,350 sq. ft. marquee. Note Bloemfontein and Cape Town postmarks, blue NPR and Passed Press Censor Cape Town. (R.C. Refugee Camp).



↓ mijn adres Chrissie Kruger
ik kan niet een maal Prisoner of war
per maand schrijf
maar verwacht
meer van u. Oude Tronk Bloemfontein
Mr 2de Feb 1902

B. J. M. Kruger

Diyatalawa Kamp

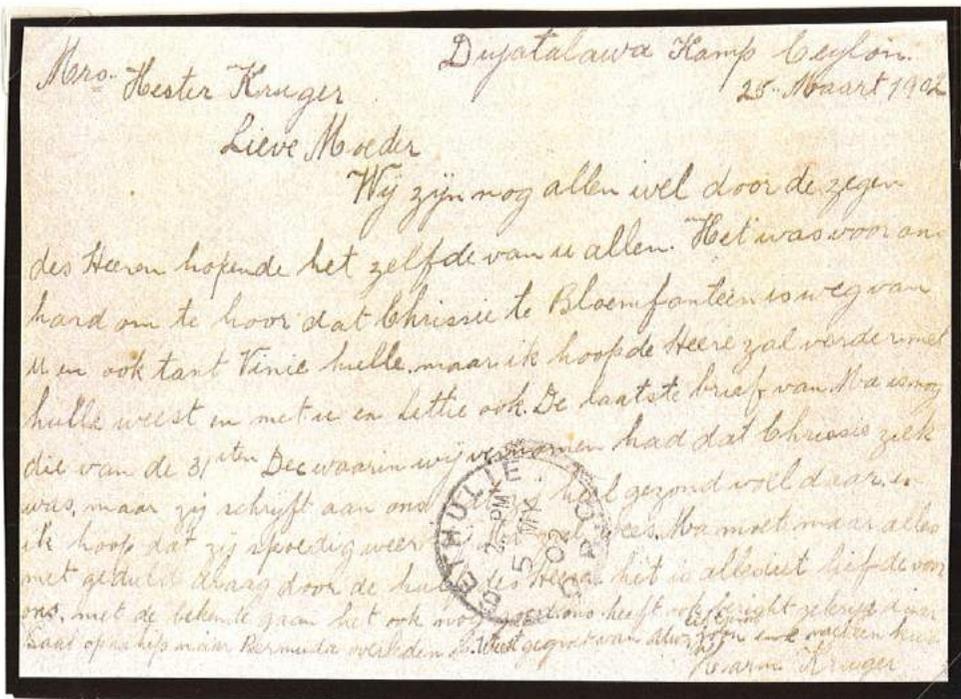
Lieve Vader

gy zult zeker zeer verwonderd
wees om een brief van mij te
ontvangen en dit geschreven
uit de tronk van Bloemfontein,
maar misschien heb moeder
u al er van geschreven, ik
heb moeder en Lettie in Bethu-
le Kamp achter gelaten. Lieve
vader het is moeilijk ^{om u} een gegron-
de rede op te noem waarom ik
hier is. Lieve vader met mijn

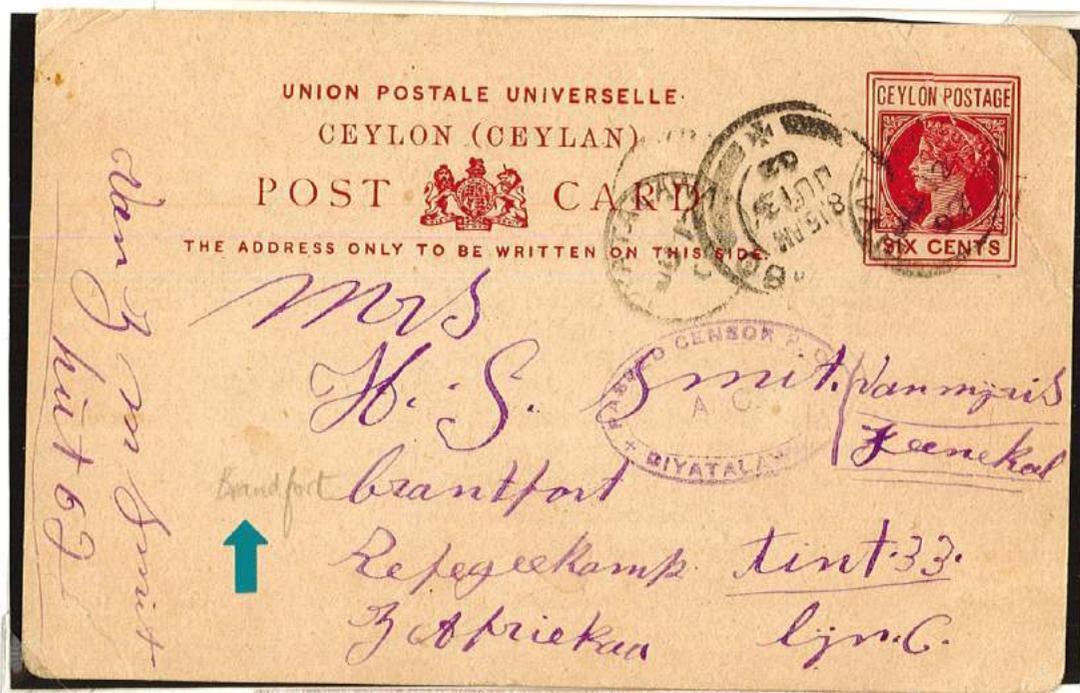
Contents of
Postal Items
on previous page

→ N.C. B. fontein 29-10-02
Sir, We shall take your cheque you
mentioned in your note to me for £66 - having the
space of 1350 sq ft. Please send it - as soon as
possible c/o Capt. Johnson Superintendent
Refugee Camp Bloemfontein, on arrival
of which we shall send the above
amount per cheque. Please see
Mr C.P. Schultz re this cheque as
I am going to write him about it.
Yrs truly
R.H. Daneel
x C.P. Schultz - Oud Land Kanton
C. Town.

Postcard from Diyatalawa P.O.W. camp, Ceylon dated 25 March 1902 and in Dutch from Maria Kruger to her mother Mrs. Hester Kruger in the Bethulie refugee camp Tent 600, and re-addressed to the Bloemfontein Refugee Camp, about the passing away of her aunt Mrs. Chrissie Kruger (see previous).



Postcard from Diyatalawa P.O.W. Camp, Ceylon, and addressed to Mrs. H.S. Smit in the Brandfort Refugee Camp. Passed Censor "A C" Diyatalawa.



Dijet Diyatalawa
 11-6-1945
 Mrs. H. S. Smit
 mijn lief heeft heel veel van
 dankbaar mijn god zijde
 ge post tijt dat hier toe
 al de zeekekelder 300
 ik weet mijn de vriend
 die zal mijn de vriend
 die mijn te heb aan wie heb ik
 van lette reuze bingen
 het haat je hende 14 mijn
 der neem in deet on ze
 je weer vijf ben maad
 de dagten 14 meer sies
 mijn de vriend al
 ook aan de myn de
 je god lof de
 rken de heere en
 maet on ze der
 by de alreede id
 die haat on de
 niet traai zelf
 ge wa toon
 id de baaren
 zo de dan
 van on te
 lant on die
 at mijn
 de heere
 ge te
 al man



#uono
 Nouwlonga
 Sietse
 Martha.

Concentration Camp.
 Brandfort.
 May 30th 1902.

Dearest Martha.

Accept warmest thanks for your
 dear welcome letter which I received
 a few days ago. Am glad to say that we are
 all enjoying good health & spirits, hope
 you are the same. Had a letter from
 Bob, he is quite well, but simply long
 to be with us all again. It would be so nice
 to have you & your mother with us here, but
 the only drawback is that you are so very far
 off. Anyway, we hope to have peace
 within about a year we are sure to see each
 other if God spares us. We have not had letters
 from Father for quite a time, was last heard
 from in Dublin, as mentioned in his letter that
 I had quite recently heard from you & your mother.

Letter card ("Briefkaart") from Brandfort Concentration Camp to Merbank Concentration Camp 1 May 1902. Family matters, and expressions of hope for peace - signed one month later.

1.3(a) Brandfort Women's Camp.

Cape of Good Hope Intercamp postcard overprinted Orange River Colony. From Brandfort Women's Camp 22 March 1902, sent by daughter to her father, a POW at Diyatalawa, Ceylon, detailing the health status of some family members, as well as recent deaths in the Brandfort Women's Camp "Vrouenskamp" addressor.

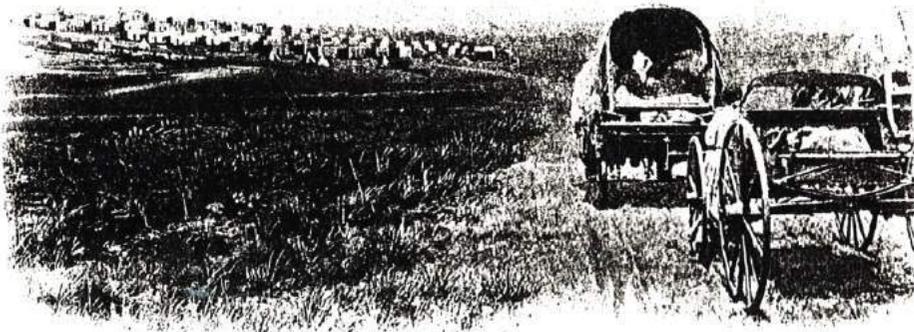
→ Vrouenskamp
22^{de} m^{ar}ch 1902.

Gieva Papa. Doordogend
van ons lieve Heer ginn u
nog wel behalve Maria was
ziet aan de kamps poorts
ginn nu weer letter. Hier ginn
wel vande bekende overleden
Ik heeft een portret aan
Papa ginn dem ook aan
Philip Lombard. etc
Elbert is by ons, dit is ginn
slecht afgeneem, man u
is van plaan ons allene voor
de tent te laat afgeneem
dang al ik Papa ook een
stuur, ik heeft twee
brieffe aan u geregister
heeft u het ontrange
ontrane de best groete van



1.4 Harrismith

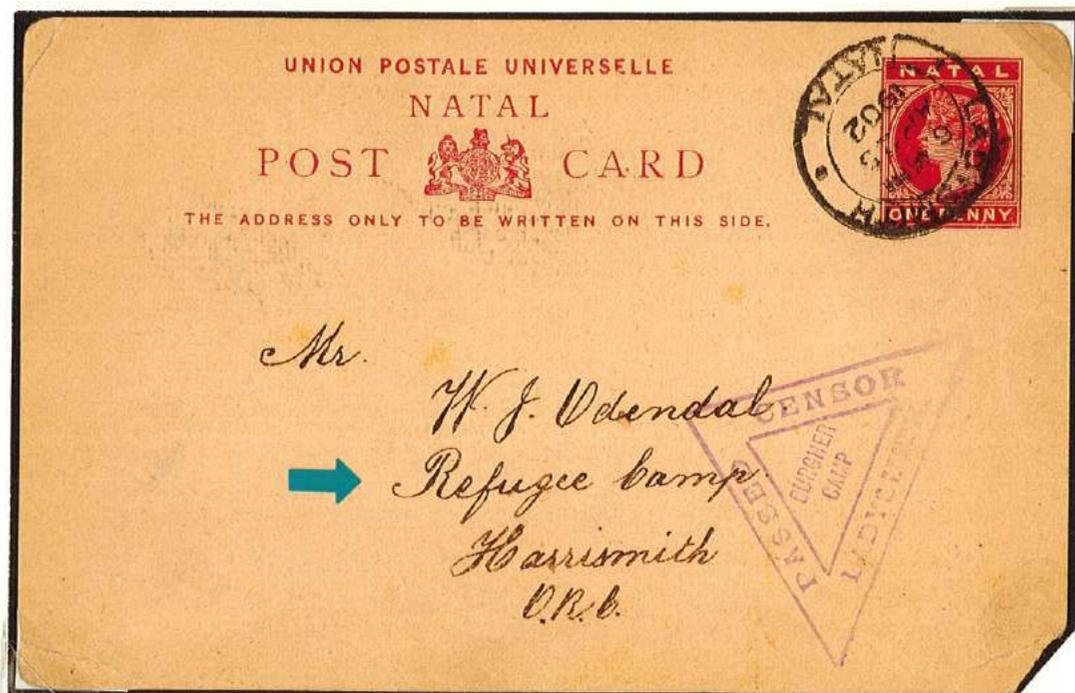
Camp established in January 1901 at the foot of the surrounding mountains. On 29 November 1901 the population was 1,653. ABW Philatelic Society publication of 1984 states Harrismith Camp - No philatelic material seems to have been recorded.



Un Camp de Concentration près de Harrismith

Collections ND Phot

Inter Refugee Camp post card from "Ladysmith Burgher Camp (Tin Town) - Passed Censor" cachet, 25 April 1902 to inmate "Refugee Camp, Harrismith, Orange River Colony".



1.5 Ladybrand

This was one of the smaller camps. It opened in 1901 and had a population of 701.

a. Copy of the Original.

The property and stock of Mrs van Heerden of Newlands farm to the South of the Platberg should not be interfered with as this farm is under the protection of the Lady Brand Garrison.

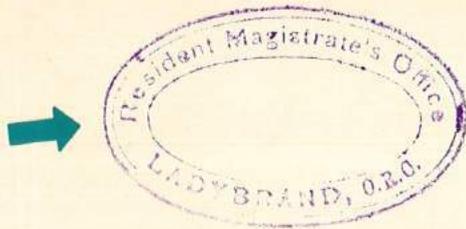
The Original signed by

A. M. Barthelme Yonston
Lt Col.

Commanding Lady Brand district
Zwartkopsgr.
March 19th 1901

For true copy

I.G. Horak
J.P.



J. G. HORAK

The van Heerden Family - Established farmers of the farm "Newlands", district Ladybrand, sought refuge in the Ladybrand Burgher Camp.

Pass Miss Cath. v. Heerden
into Ladybrand and back
to Bankfontein tomorrow
Saturday on horseback.
Signed J.C. Dixon
O.C. Bankfontein
11/10/01

Reported
F.A. Morley
Capt.
Ladybrand
12.10.01

Pass for Miss Cath van Heerden signed by J C Dixon, O.C., Bankfontein 11 October 1901. Used 12 October 1901 - Capt. F.A. Morley.

LEO COHEN, 

Editor.

A. F. BEGG, 

Manager.

"O Futuro,"

LOURENCO MARQUES, 13th April 1900


BOX 108.

Dear Miss Heerden

Your letter of the 4th inst for which I thank you, I am glad to inform you that your letter has gone privately with a friend of mine to Cape Town, where it will be posted, your friend will be sure to get it all right, it would be no use posting it here, it would not get beyond Natal, for the future in writing I think I mentioned in my last to you) head your letter Lourenco Marques and mention nothing about commandoes I write as if you were staying here, enclose same in an envelope to me and I will report it here I have informed your brother in the Cape to write to me here and I will forward the letter to you, there is no harm in this, I am a British subject and would not do anything to injure my country. I know Frank's father in Durban very well, I am writing to him and will inform him that I have heard about Frank does he know where he is, has he written to him lately has he any message to send to his father.

Quote "I know that life in a Boer Laager for an educated person like yourself must be very trying. You might write and give me some particulars of life in the Women's Laager".

Re news papers, you need not trouble your mind about the news papers, they cannot hurt, I send them all over the Transvaal and Free State, you can keep your mind easy on that point, I send you a bundle by this post, the only thing which troubles me is that the papers are so valuable that they do not always reach their destination they get lost very mysteriously, even when they are registered, should there be any particular paper you would like to receive I will give it name & I will try and get it for you, I know that life in a Boer Laager for an educated person like yourself must be very trying, you might write and give me some particulars of life in the Women's Laager it will be very interesting, you need not say anything about the war which the authorities might not like to be known.

Should you or any of your friends come this way I shall be glad to meet you at station.

Yours faithfully
A. J. Begg

P.S. If you can get hold of any surcharged Transvaal or Free State stamps you might send them to me, there was a few stamps I am badly in want of Coleridge, Fairhead, Dundee and New Castle
A. J. Begg
and Fairburg

Certificate dated 24 September 1900 giving protection for all of the van Heerden stock, grain and property.

This is to certify that Mr & Mrs
Heerden of the farm Newlands
district Ladybrand has protection
for all her stock, & grain &
property.

Resident Magistrate's Office
Ladybrand.

24. Sept. 1900


Resident Magistrate
Pro. A. Com.

BRAUN

17 May 1900. Sale by Mrs. van Heerden of 1 Wagon and 250 bundles of forage to 2nd Brabants Division.
Witnessed at "Resident Magistrate's Office - Ladybrand O.F.S."

Newlands farm
17. - 5 - 1900

✓ Received from Mrs van Heerden
1 wagon in good condition

Oliver W. Fanner
Squad Serjt Major
2nd Brabants

For true copy



[Handwritten signature]
Rm.

Newlands Ladybrand
17th May 1900.

✓ Received from van Heerden's farm
250 bundles of forage
two hundred and fifty

F. Musgrave Lt
2nd Brabants

For true copy



[Handwritten signature]
Rm.

Also (on back) - Horse and cart and 20 rolls wire sold to Black Watch.

② Steep roof £45
 replace dissembling & £8.0.0; done on rafting house £4.10.0
 making not water tight wood join labour, £15.0.0

horse £20 set of harness £10. Spider cart £105 and carriage present value £50
 40 rolls tobacco £15; Dicerape £7.10.0; 2 watches £10; tignskin £2; groceries £5; nursing &
 doctor's of housemaid £10

Total	£302.10.0	}	£322.0.0
<small>cost done</small>	4.10.0		
<small>debt</small>	15.0.0		

③ ~~about 24 oxen & about 16 mixed cattle making a total of 50 head~~

24
12
288
260
548

P.
260

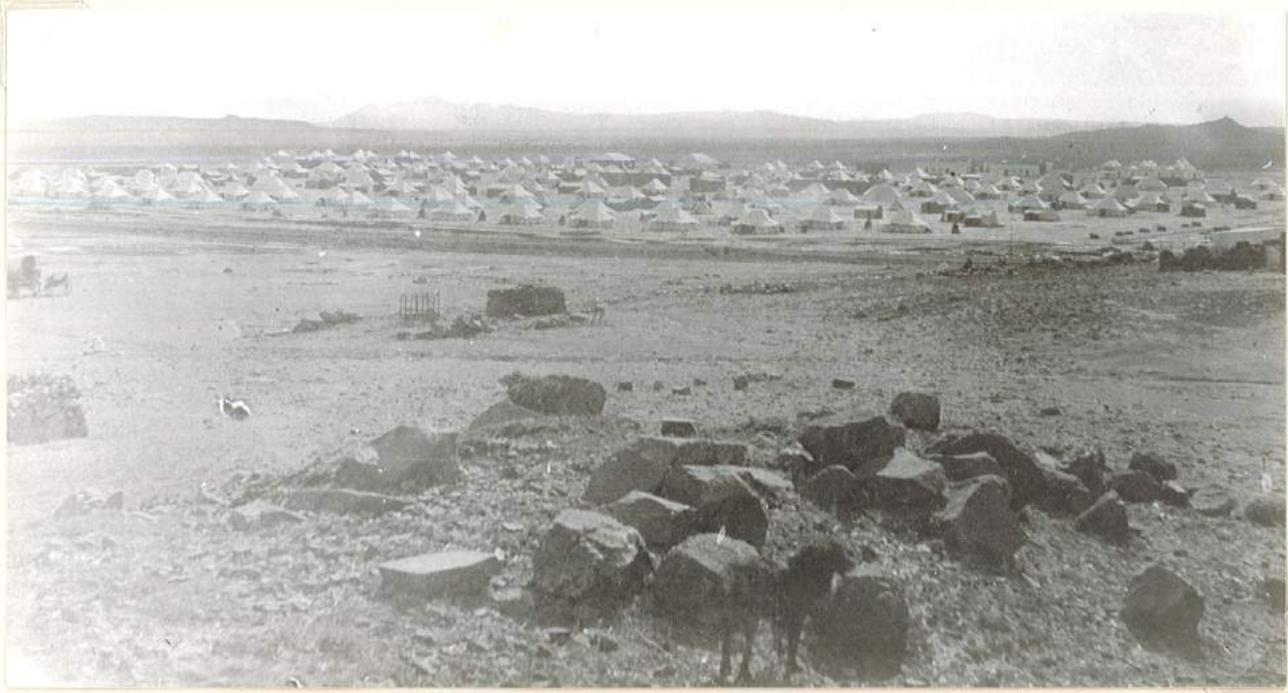
Receipt for spider cart	£15
- horse	£8
- wire	
- forge	
- wagon	

80.10.0
80.10.0

for the above wagon taken by General Roberts Column
 & - - horse & cart - - - - - same - -
 & - 20 rolls wire taken by the Black Watch I received £80.10.0
 this was only £15 for a cart costing £105 and I could not ~~part~~ at that time but
 I now claim for its true value & also for the true value of the ^{object} horse & wagon

1.6 Springfontein

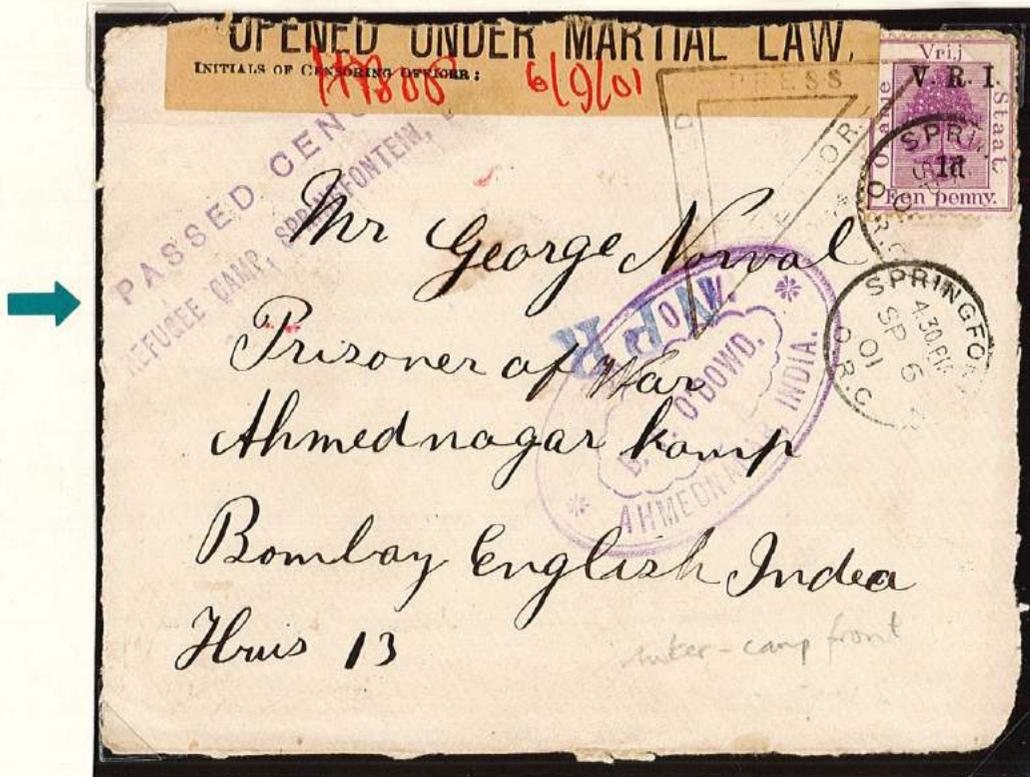
The camp was established in February 1900, and was the first of its type. On 30 June 1901 it held 2,667 inhabitants. The censor was Jas. P. Beck.



Cover front with the very rare triple oval "Refugee Camp Springfontein" passed censor Jas. P. Beck cachet. This cachet is only known used 1 July 1901 to 17 July 1901; this example is dated 5 July 1901, and addressed to the Diyatalawa P.O.W. camp, Ceylon. Cachet measures 56 x 37 mm.



Incoming Bermuda Post Card to the Springfontein Refugee Camp from "Darrells Island Camp", Bermuda. Triple oval Passed Censor Springfontein measures 47 x 28 mm; dated 24 April 1902. Note two different "Prisoners of War" Bermuda, Passed Censor in blue and black.



Cover front from Refugee Camp, Springfontein to Ahmednagar Camp, Bombay, India with B.P. O'Dowd as censor in India. Posted Springfontein 6 September 1901. NPR is the censor mark of N. P. Richards.



Two covers with the two-lined Passed Censor, Refugee Camp, Springfontein, O.R.C. Censor JPB (Jas P. Beck) in both instances. One is posted November 1901; the other December 1901. Both addressed to different recipients in the Diyatalawa P.O.W. camp, Ceylon.



1.7 Winburg

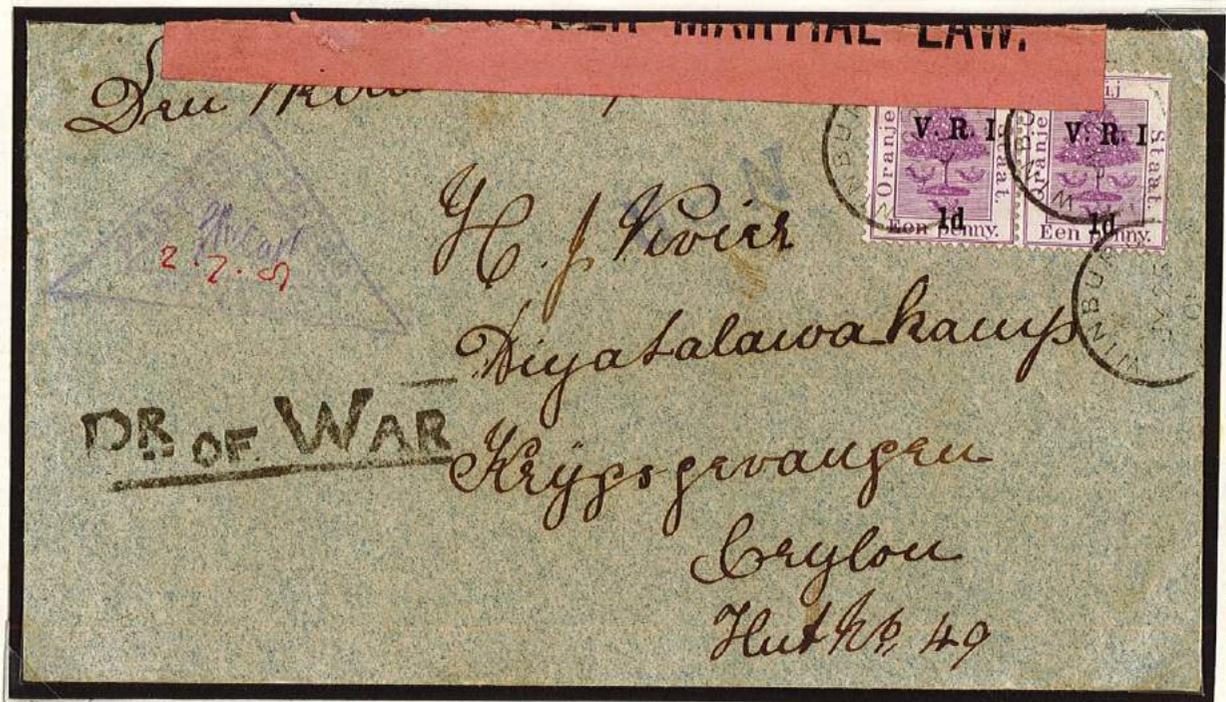
This camp began operating in January 1901. On 29 October 1901 its population was 3,153. No specific cachets for "Refugee Camp Winburg" have been identified so far.



Intercamp cover from Winburg camp to Miss Netty Bosman in the Bloemfontein Refugee Camp, dated 18 September 1901 and stamped with the purple double triangle Passed Press Censor on 17 September 1901.



Similar intercamp cover from Winburg camp dated 25 July 1901 and posted to Diyatalawa P.O.W. camp in Ceylon. Has a similar double triangular Passed Press Censor cachet in purple.



Intercamp post card from Diyatalawa camp dated 8 November 1901 and received in Winburg December 1901. Note double oval PPC P.O.W. Diyatalawa cachet in purple with censor's initials O.H. Writer Maurits v.d. Merwe enquires of his niece Mrs. Johan Kriek of any news about his daughter.

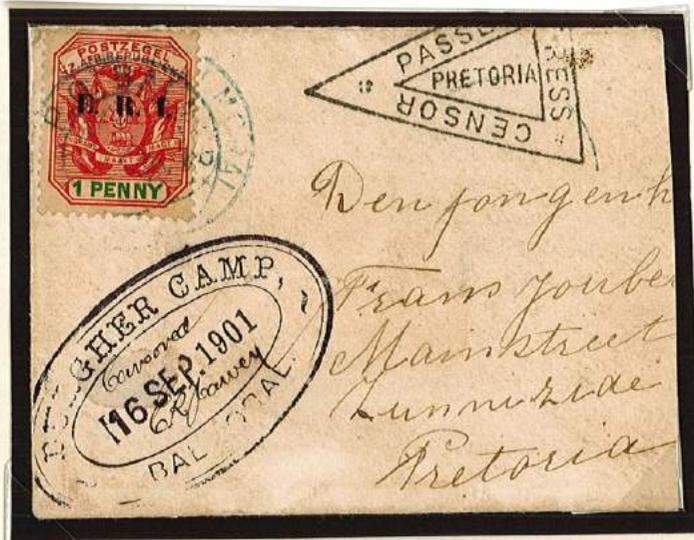


2. Transvaal

The Transvaal Refugee/Concentration Camps were put under a civil administration during March 1901. Initially the Chief Superintendent was a Col. Thomson and, after his return to India in October 1902, Major Leggett. Over the period of the existence of the Transvaal camps, the average mortality was about 21%.

2.1 Balmoral

Founded 25 July 1901. Superintendent was Mr. E.R. Harvey. Inhabitants 1,571 on 21 August 1901; 2,281 on 17 October 1901; 2,685 on 31 December 1901.



Envelope stamped P.O. Balmoral to Pretoria, with the triple oval "Burgher Camp Balmoral" cachet measuring 47 x 28 mm in purple. Censored E.R. Harvey 16 September 1901 and received the next day in Pretoria (backstamp).



An intercamp cover from the "Burgher Camp Balmoral" to the "Boer Camp Trichinopoly" in India, with both Balmoral and Pretoria triangular Passed Press Censor (PPC) cachets. This specific oval Balmoral cachet is dated 21 November 1901 and was used between 28 August 1901 and 1 February 1902.

2.1(a) Barberton.

Barberton Burgher Camp was opened on 1 February 1901. The Superintendent was B. Graumann. Censuses showed 445 inhabitants on 30 April 1901, 1994 on 31 July 1901 and 1631 on 31 December 1901. It was situated south-west of the town at the foot of the hills that formed part of the Lebombo Mountain range that constituted the boundary between Swaziland and the Z.A.R.

This original contemporary photograph shows veld in the foreground, then rows of tents that housed burghers, and the troop bungalows and administration buildings at the foot of the mountain.



A Typical Burgher Camp.

This one at Barberton in the Eastern Transvaal – an original photograph mounted on card – showing the grass veld in the foreground, rows of tents to house the burghers, troop and guard bungalows and other structures like administration offices, usually a church and dining facilities, often a shop and a clinic or hospital at the foot of the mountain.

Usually the camps were surrounded by a wire fence and regular guard posts, although this was not standard practice.

2.2 Belfast

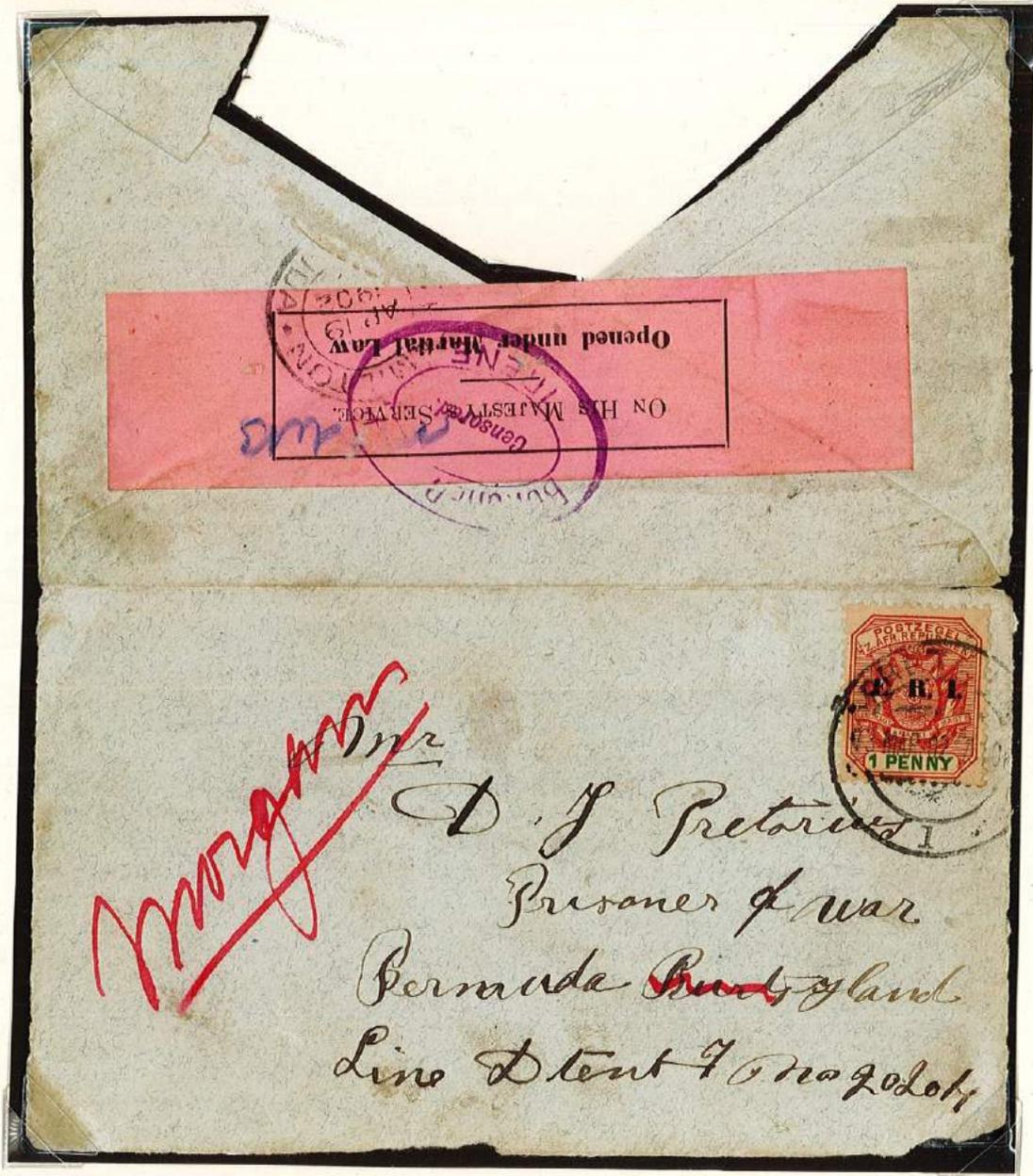
The camp was established in May 1901. On 24 August 1901 it contained 442 inhabitants. There were a further 957 "refugees" that lived in the town. The camp was closed in December 1902.



Intercamp cover from "Burger Camp Belfast" dated 12 August 1901 to the Boer P.O.W camp in Hamilton, Bermuda. The "Burger Camp Belfast" cachet measures 50 x 30 mm, is a double oval with a serrated outer rim. This specific cachet was used between 5 August 1901 and 19 June 1902.

2.3 Irene

The camp was inaugurated in January 1901 under the control of Capt. Hime-Haycock. The Superintendents were Messrs. N.J. Scholtz and G.F. Esselen. On 31 August 1901 there were 4,655 inhabitants. The camp was closed during December 1902.



Rare intercamp cover (March/April 1902) from Irene Burgher Camp to Bermuda (initially Burts Island, redirected to Morgan Island). Note Hamilton, Bermuda cachet.

S. 84



The Storekeeper
B. C. Stores
Pretoria

Sir, I have this day railed you
700 bags Flour in truck 33424.
This makes with the consignments
sent you yesterday 1000 bags
which is all I can spare you.

I have the honour to be
Sir
Your Obedient Servant

J. M. Wright.
Storekeeper

8000-18-3-02-6997

MEMORANDUM.

From Public Works Department.

To B.C. Storekeeper
Pretoria

Pretoria, 1. 7. 1902.

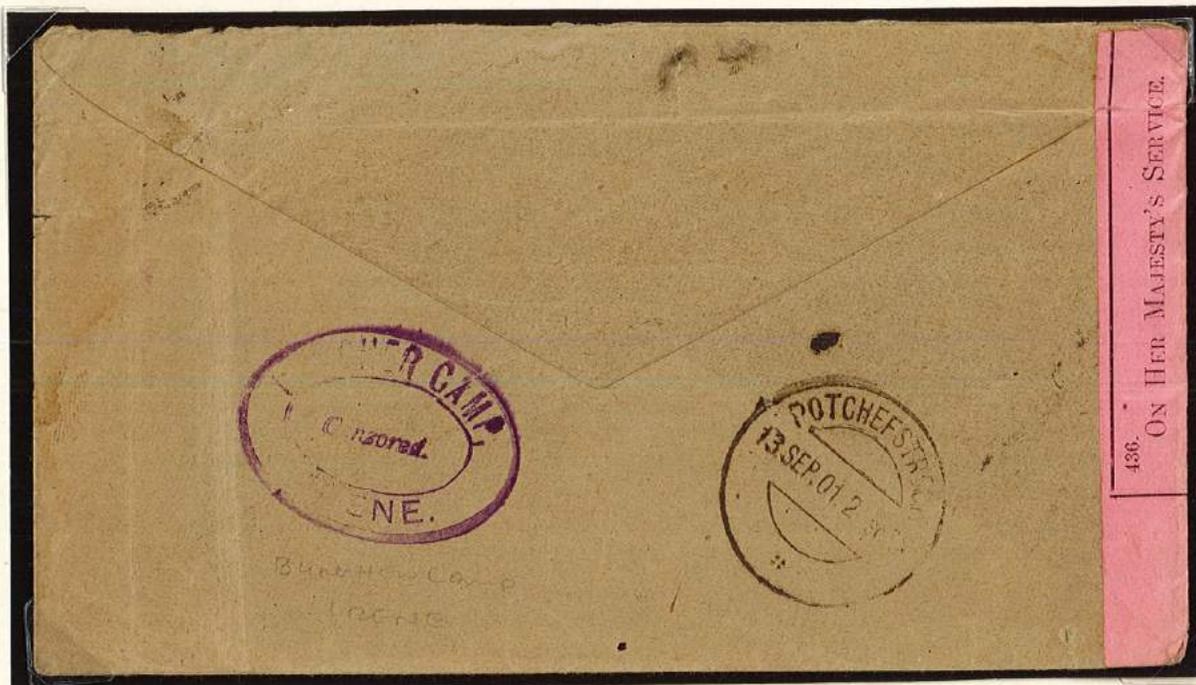
Sir

Please receive forward
to Education Officer
B.C. Irene No. 2 camp.

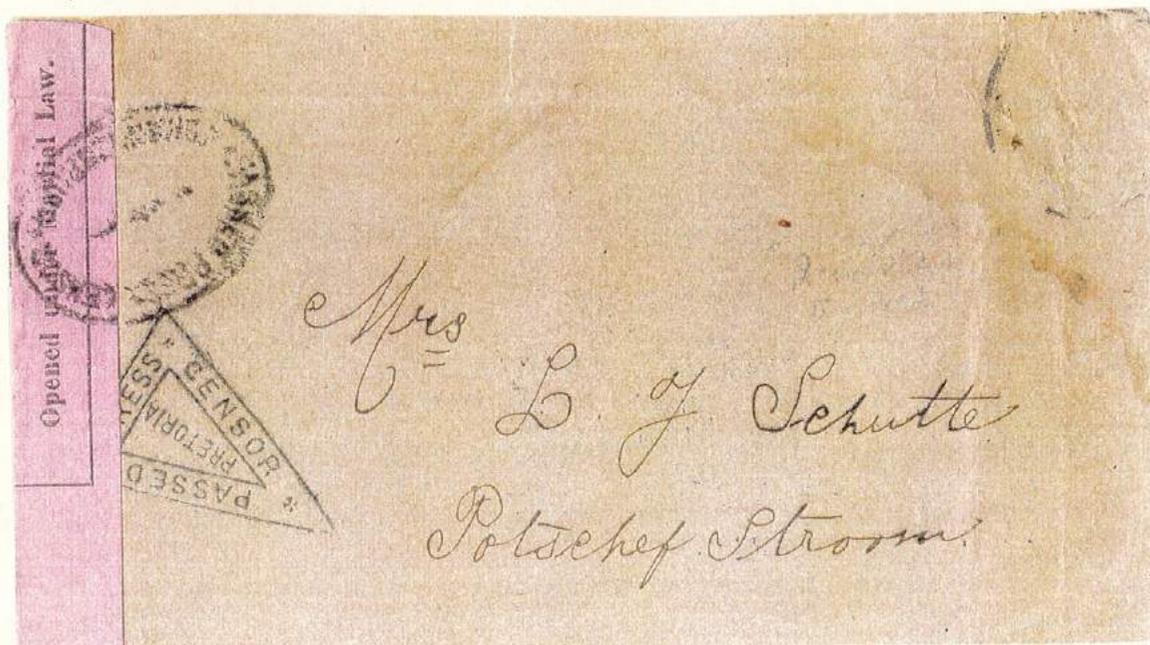
Memorandum of Goods sent to Education Officer at Burgher Camp (B.C) Irene No. 2 camp



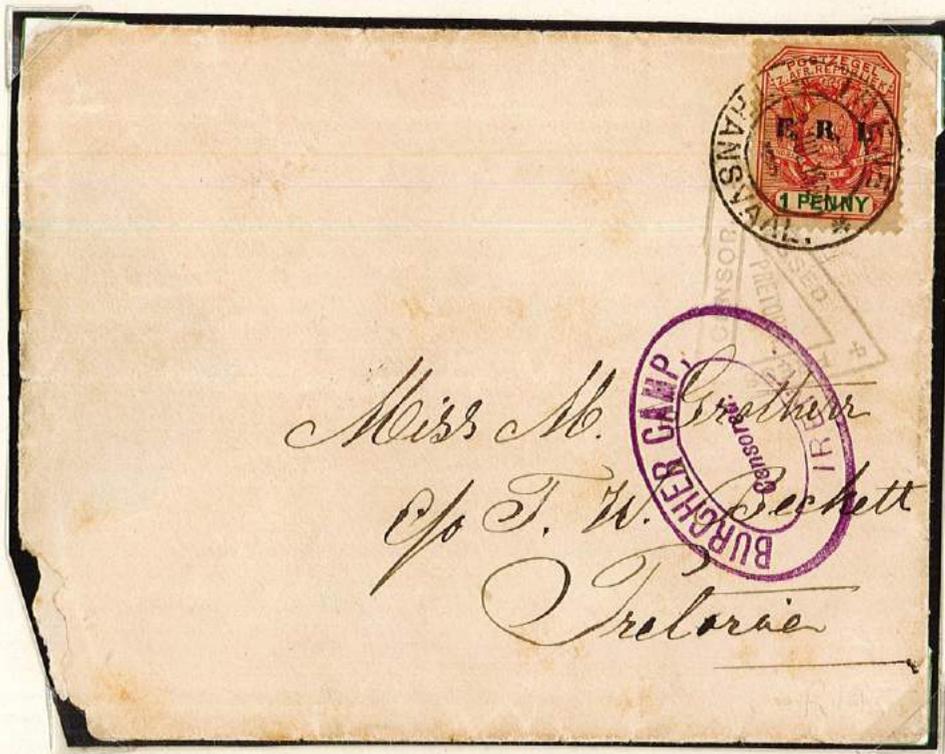
Cover front from Irene Burgher Camp - endorsed "Passed - Capt. H. Pitt - O.C. Irene" and posted in Irene on 20 February 1901, addressed to Diyatalawa P.O.W camp in Ceylon, with various To Be Paid taxation cachets.



Cover with "Irene Burger Camp-Censored" cachet, censored again in Pretoria and addressed to Potchefstroom where it arrived on 13 September 1901.



Cover with the "Irene Burgher Camp-Censored" cachet posted in Irene on 4 July 1901 to a Pretoria address. Censored for a second time in Pretoria.



2.4 Klerksdrop

The camp was established in 1900, south of the town. Mr. W.H Howard was the Superintendent. There were 4,588 inhabitants of the camp on 31 August 1901.



Cover sent from a prisoner in the St. Helena P.O.W. Camp, late in 1901, - Note "Maltese Cross Cancellation" - To the Klerksdorp Burgher Camp. Initialled by P.O.W. Censor "FWA", and secondarily in Johannesburg on 14 January 1902.

2.4 Klerksdorp Burgher Camp.

Intercamp cover from St. Helena 12 Aug 1901 to Klerksdorp Burgher Camp (Men's section), showing St. Helena Grid Postmark and initials "G A dB" at Broadbottom Camp in its censor cachet. Unusual for male POW to be held in a Burgher's Camp - "Krygsgevangene"



2.4(a) Klerksdorp Women's Camp.

Intercamp cover from POW on St. Helena 27 Sept 1901 to Klerksdorp Women's Camp - "Vrouwenkamp". Note POW Censor's initials "FWA", Field Post Office 16 (Klerksdorp) 12 Oct 1901, St. Helena Grid Postmark and Passed by Censor, Johannesburg.

OHMS cover from Lt. J. Munnik of British Guard at Klerksdorp Burgher Camp to Ordnance Officer.
Postmarked FPO 16 29JY01. FPO 16 was stationed at Klerksdorp 20 May 1901 to 31 October 1901. (FPO-
Field Post Office)

O. P. M. S.

*The
Ordnance Officer
Post Klerksdorp*

*Munnik
Klerksdorp
N. Orange*

This envelope can only be lawfully used by Government Departments on the public business. The use of it by public officials to avoid payment of postage on private matter of any kind is punishable, and involves the letter being charged double postage. The public are cautioned against using it under any circumstances.



FPO 16
29 JY 01

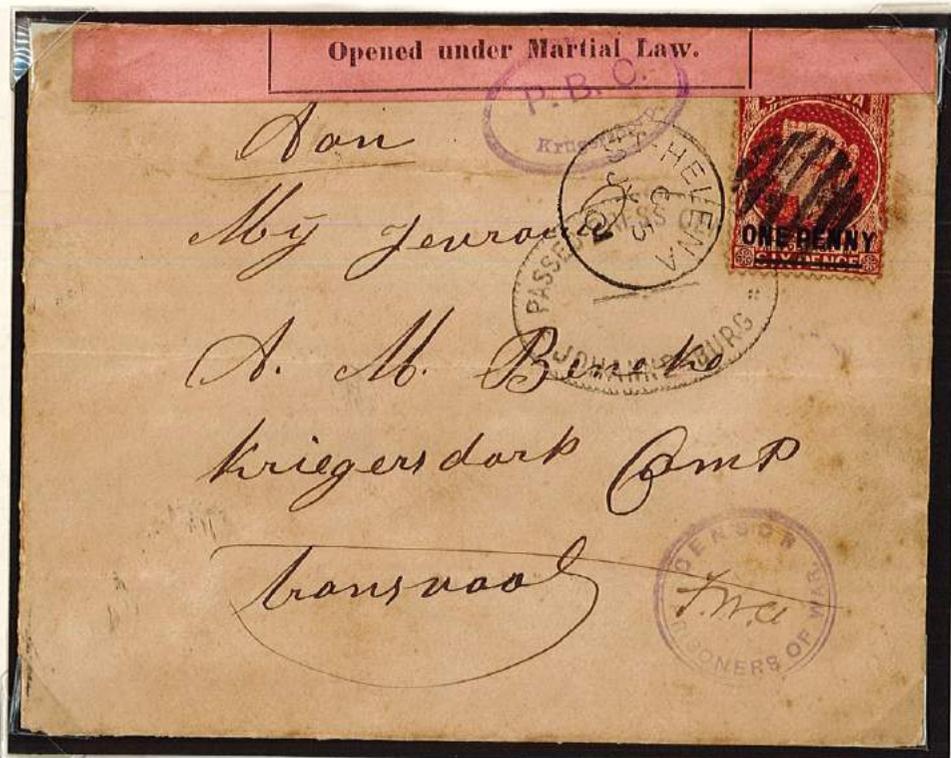
See cover for Sp 4?



Intercamp cover from POW camp Hamilton Bermuda dated 2 OC 01 to the Refugee Cmp in Klerksdorp. Note passed Censor, Prisoner of War, Bermuda (in blue) and Passed Press Censor Johannesburg.

2.5 Krugersdorp

This camp was opened on 15 April 1901, Mr. F Burger was the Superintendent, succeeded by Mr. P Tomlinson. On 28 September 1901 there were 5,408 inhabitants. It was closed during November 1902.



Intercamp cover from St. Helena P.O.W. Camp - Note Prisoners of War Censors "FWA" cachet - To Krugersdorp Burghers Camp. Passed by censors both in Johannesburg and Krugersdorp. Back stamped Johannesburg 30 July 1901.



Intercamp cover from Krugersdorp Burgher Camp - Note Oval (50 x 30 mm) serrated Krugersdorp Burgher Camp cachet addressed to a P.O.W. in the Diyatalawa Camp in Ceylon. Dated 2 September 1901.

Cover from Burgher Camp Krugersdorp dated 30 AU 01, initially to Johannesburg where received 31 AU 01, note Passes Press Censor Johannesburg. Returned to Krugersdorp where received 1 SP 01. Clearlz marked Re-Posted with 1d to be collected for reposting.



2.5(a) Lydenburg

This camp in the Transvaal was very much a minor camp. The dated census figures give 24 inhabitants on 30 June 1901, and 42 inhabitants on 31 August 1901.

Philatelic material to and from this camp is therefore scarce.

Cover stamped with a GB Queen Victoria 1d lilac and postmarked "Army Post Office, Lydenburg on 15 June 1902" with Passed by Censor Lydenburg in blue, back and front. Addressed to Lourenco Marques, it travelled via Pretoria 18 June 1902, Durban 20 June 1902 and arrived in Lourenco Marques 24 June 1902.



2.6 Middelburg

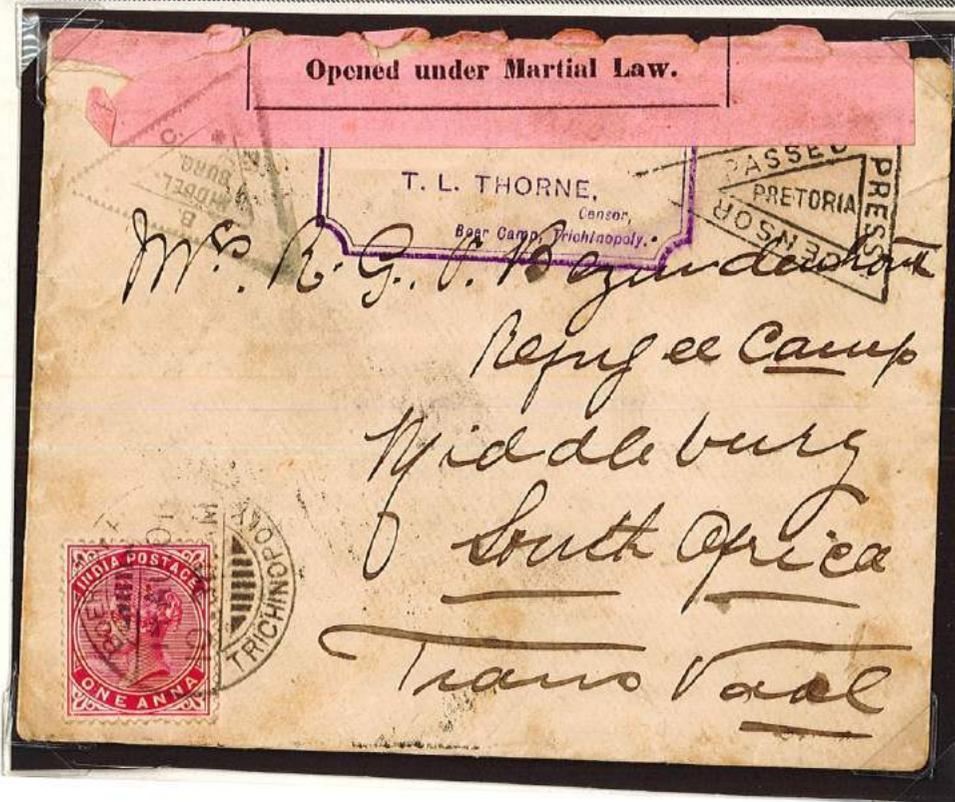
This camp was established during April and May 1901. By August 1901 it housed 6,500 inhabitants. The camp was closed in January 1903.



Intercamp cover from Middelburg Burgher Camp to Boer P.O.W. Camp, Trichinopoly, India. The Triple Oval (50 x 30 mm) Burgher Camp Middelburg cachet is the latest known use thereof (3 April 1902), before the serrated edge cachet was introduced.



Unfranked OHMS cover of 1 May 1902 with the serrated edge Burgher Camp Middelburg cachet (50 x 30 mm). Addressee local Church Minister Middelburg, blue triangular Censor cachet of Middelburg.

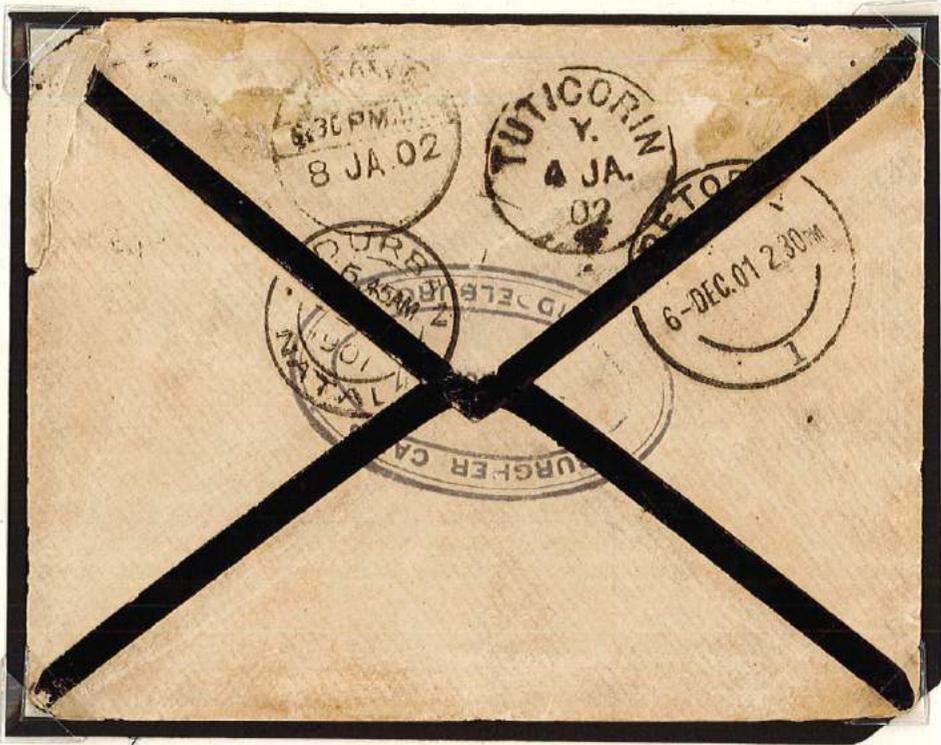


Cover from "Boer Camp Trichinopoly, India" to Middelburg Refugee Camp. Note three censor cachets - Trichinopoly, Pretoria and Middelburg. Back stamped Durban, Pretoria, Middelburg.



Postcard from Belfast, Ireland, to the British Hospital Matron in the Middelburg Burgher Camp. Note Transvaal and Cape of Good Hope stamps added for re-addressing purposes. Also note mail to British personnel uncensored.

Cover from Burgher Camp Middelburg dated 5 December 1901 (earliest known use of this 50 x30 mm cachet), and also addressed to Umballa P.O.W. Camp in India.



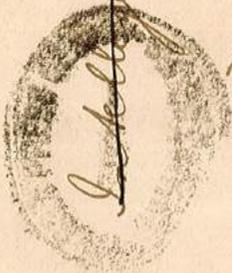
2.7 Nylstroom

This camp opened on 30 May 1901. Initially the Superintendent was Mr. Henry Cooke; Mr. R. Duncan took over on 3 September 1901. The Committee of Ladies quoted a camp population of 1,852, of whom 577 lived in the village of Nylstroom.

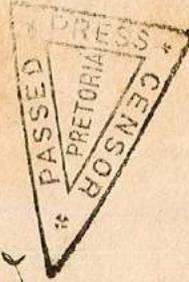
ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE

Johannesburg

Mr. J. J. Schutte



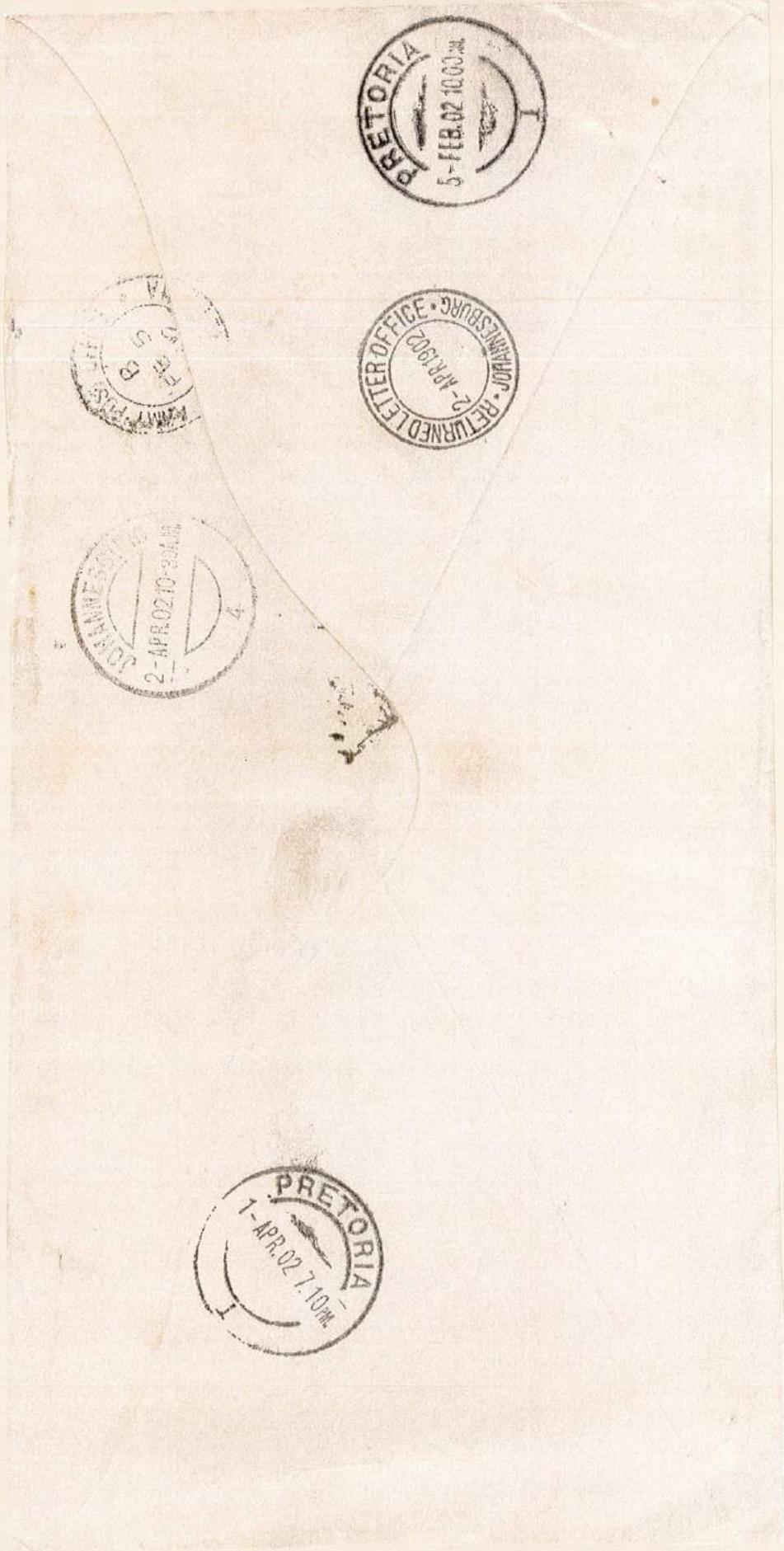
~~*Intelligence Dept*~~
Postmaster General
Nylstroom
Pretoria



W. Milford
High Commissioner for South Africa.

Mr. Nylstroom

Much travelled OHMS cover from the High Commissioner for the South Africa, Johannesburg. Note the clean serrated oval of "Burger Camp Nylstroom - 31 March 1902" And cachets for Johannesburg, Army Post Office Pretoria, Pretoria and Returned Letter Office Johannesburg.



Obverse of much travelled
OHMS cover of previous page.
Johannesburg 4 FE 02,
Army Post Office Pretoria
5 FE 02;
Burgher Camp Nylstroom
31 MR 02;
Johannesburg 2 AP 02;
Returned Letter
Office Johannesburg 2 AP 02 -
Signed for by D.Mitford -
High Commissioner for
South Africa.

2.8 Potchefstroom

Established in August 1900; one of the first in the Transvaal. Superintendent – J. Swart. During September 1901 it contained 7,598 inhabitants, the most of any camp in South Africa. Initially moved from the camp at Mooi River Railway Station, it was closed during May 1902.



A postcard showing bathing in the Mooi River and Boer women chopping wood.



A family (Visser) Intercamp cover front from the Potchefstroom Burgher Camp to the P.O.W. Camp on St. Helena.



An intercamp letter front from the Potchefstroom Burgher Camp to the Deadwood P.O.W. Camp on St. Helena. Almost certainly wife to husband or sister/mother or brother/son.



Another Family (Greeff) Intercamp cover from the Potchefstroom Burgher Camp to the P.O.W. Camp on St. Helena.

Cov 1900 Long regis eny addr to UK franked with 1/11 in VRI provis stamps
(folded under for exhibiting purposes), both dated rectangular "R" cachet & cds
of PRETORIA dt 8/11/00, with pink censor label & blue rectangular PASSED BY
CENSOR cachet (52x17 mm) attributed by A-B War Phil Soc publ to Pretoria's
Burgher camp, sl cut down & faults, uncommon (PHOTO)

Registered.
R
PRETORIA

Messrs.

14

486. ON HER MAJESTY'S SERVICE
Opened under Martial Law.
910

PASSED BY CENSOR

Reushaw, Kerkew

2

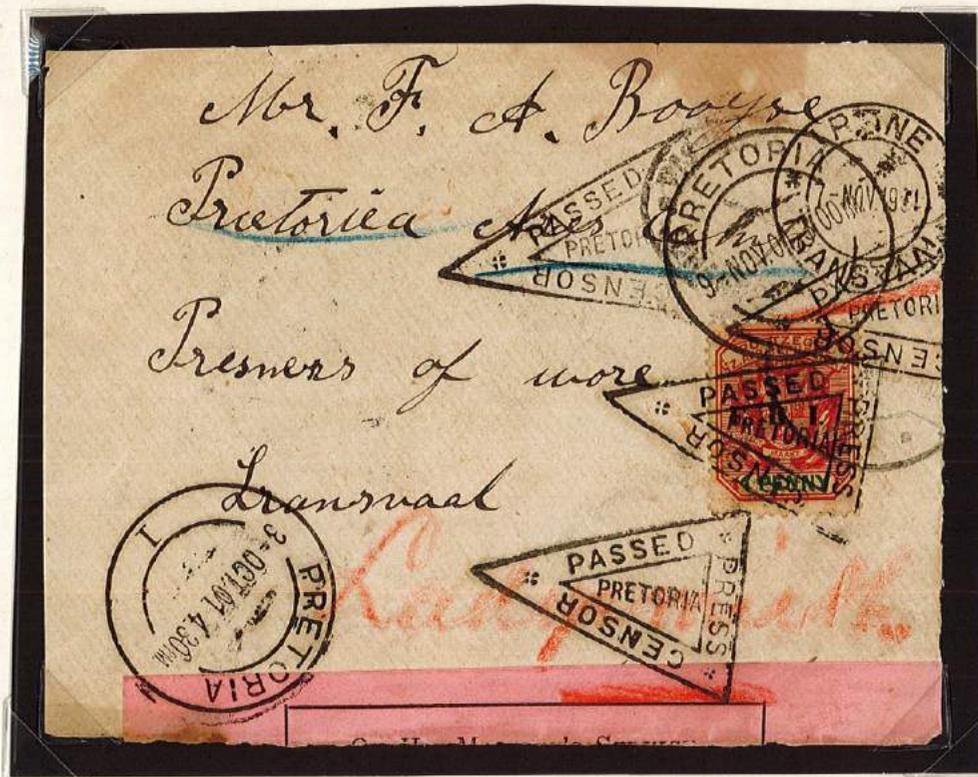
England.



Long registered cover to the U.K, origin recognised from the pathognomic dark blue "Passed by Censor" cachet measuring 53 x 18 mm. And double lined, the thicker line being the outside.

2.9(a) Pretoria Detention Camp (Pretoria Arres Kamp).

Not strictly a Burgher Camp, but a camp where arrested POWs were held before being sent on to POW camps. Probably located on the farm "Waterval" in the Petronella district of Pretoria.



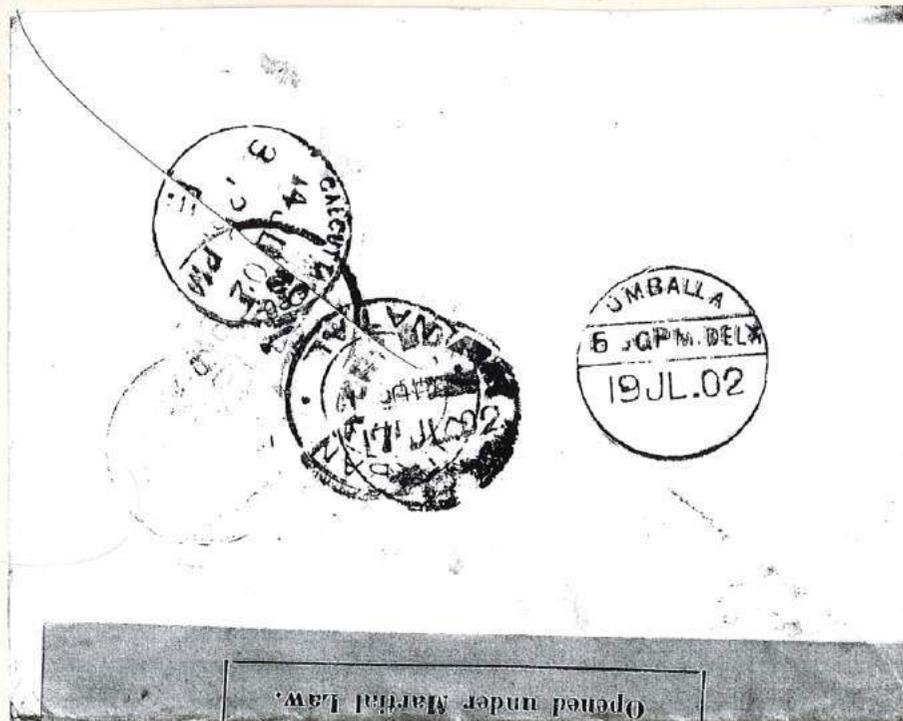
Intercamp cover sent to a prisoner housed there, and forwarded to the Ladysmith POW camp, and then back to the Irene Burgher Camp south of Pretoria.

Note: Passed Pretoria Press Censor triangle (four times)

Pretoria 3 OC 01, Ladysmith (date illegible), Irene 7 NO 01, Pretoria 9 NO 01.

2.10 Standerton

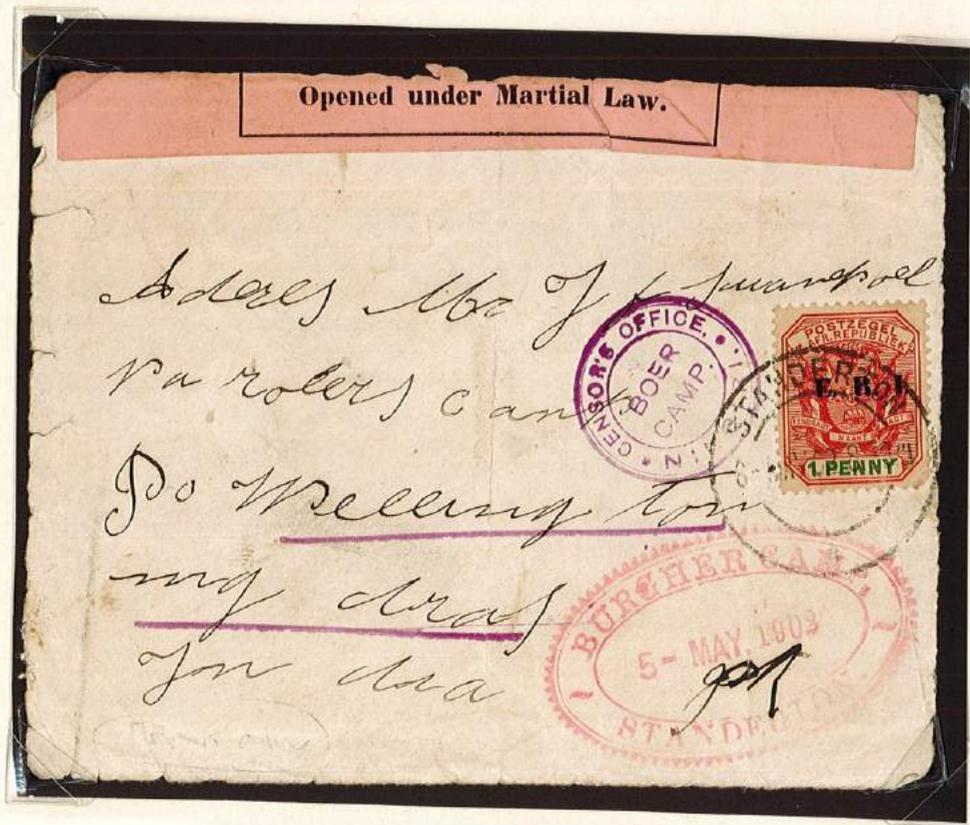
This camp was established in December 1900 by the British Military, and transferred to civilian authorities in February 1901. The Superintendents were W.K. Tucker and F. Winfield. On 9 September 1901 it contained 3,329 inhabitants. It was finally closed in January 1903.



Re-addressed intercamp cover from the Standerton Burgher Camp (with serrated oval) to the Ermelo Burgher Camp, and sent on to Bombay, India. Note date 31 May 1902, the date of the signing of the Peace Treaty between Boer and Brit.



Intercamp front from Burgher Camp Standerton (note two lined cachet) to Diyatalawa Camp in Ceylon and dated 4 September 1901. "Passed Press Censor" also a two lined cachet and censored by Camp Superintendent F. Winfield.



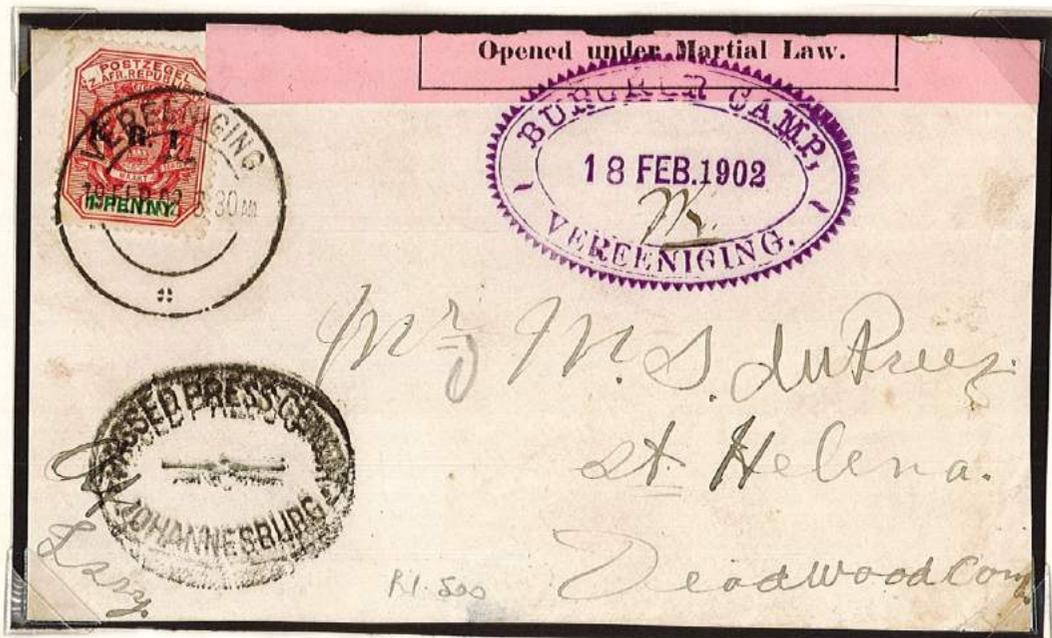
Intercamp from Burgher Camp Standerton – serrated cachet and dated 6 May 1902 to Patrollers Camp at Wellington in the Cape. Note two censor cachets.

2.11 Vereeniging

This camp was begun in September 1900. By 1 August 1901. It contained 1,038 inhabitants. The camp was managed by Capt. Bontinck with Superintendent Mr. B. Tucker. It was closed in January 1903.



Original photo taken in Vereeniging Burgher Camp showing ox wagon, tents and men in the background; women and children in the foreground.



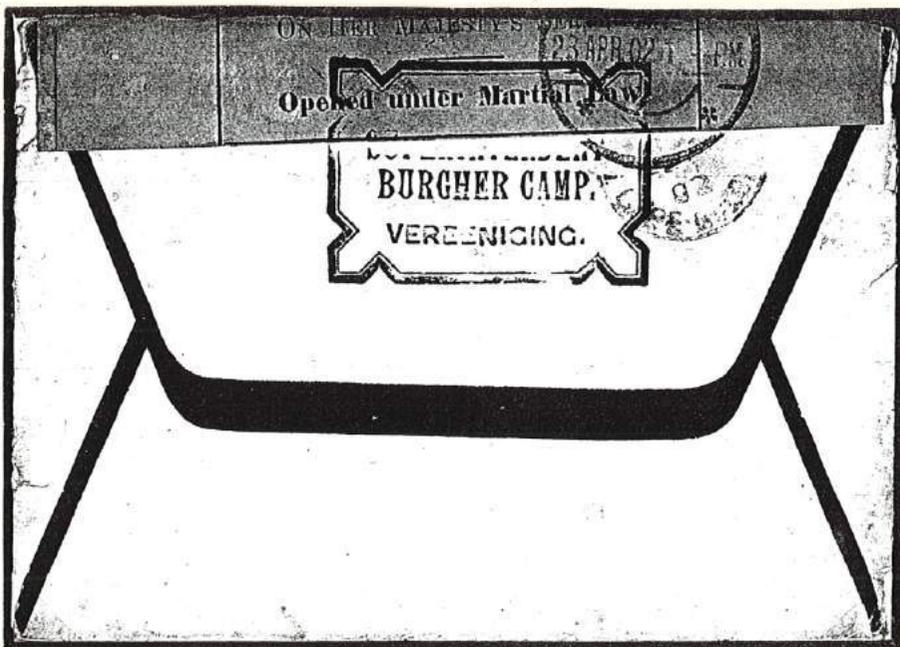
Intercamp cover front sent from Burgher Camp Vereeniging (with serrated triple oval cachet dated 18 February 1902) to Deadwood P.O.W. Camp on St. Helena. Note Johannesburg Censor cachet. Serrated cachet known used 10 February 1902 to 17 March 1902.

2.12 Volksrust

This camp was opened in 1901 with Mr. J.J. Carter and Mr. G. M. King as Superintendents. It contained 5,462 inhabitants. There was a central spacious wood and canvas structure for Dutch Church services.



Intercamp cover front from Burghers Camp Volksrust, dated 6 May 1901, to Boer P.O.W. Camp at Ahmednagar, India. Note triple oval cachets for both camps.



As sender
to J. J. Carter
Line
44 3

3. Cape of Good Hope (CGH)

Some of the Burgher Camps in the Cape Colony were managed from the Transvaal and Orange River Colony. Few censor - and Burgher Camp cachets specific to the Cape Colony Camps have been found. Generally living conditions in the Burgher Camps of the Cape Colony and Natal were much better than those in the Transvaal and Orange River Colony.

3.1 Aliwal North

This camp was opened on 11 January 1901 and taken over by Civil Administrators on 1 March 1901. At the end of July 1901 it accommodated 4,683 inhabitants. It was administered out of Zastron in the Orange River Colony. The superintendent was W.W. Greathead. No camp specific censor cachets have been found.



A multi resent Intercamp cover front, initially from Diyatalawa P.O.W Camp in Ceylon on 21 December 1901. "Undeliverable with Communication Suspended" and forwarded to "Zastron Relief Camp – Aliwal North" (blue). Thereafter to the "Returned Letter Office - Bloemfontein – 26 March 1902".



Intercamp cover front from "Refugee Camp Aliwal North" via Zastron with its double triangular dumb "Passed Press Censor" cachet. Addressed to Diyatalawa Camp, Ceylon.



An Intercamp Letter Card out of the Diyatalawa P.O.W. Camp in Ceylon to the Kraai River section of the Aliwal North Camp. Censored "F.R.N.F." and posted 11 November 1901. Received Zastron 7 December 1901.

3.2 Kimberley

There were two camps at Kimberley, at Newton and at Beaconsfield. They were both administered from Bloemfontein in the Orange River Colony. On 26 August 1901 they had 3,694 inhabitants. The Superintendent was Major S.B. Schutte.



An envelope from Bethulie posted 17 January 1902 addressed to "Boshofs Refugee Camp, Newton, Kimberley". Note double circular "Passed Censor Kimberley" cachet, with censor the well-known Major W. Elton.



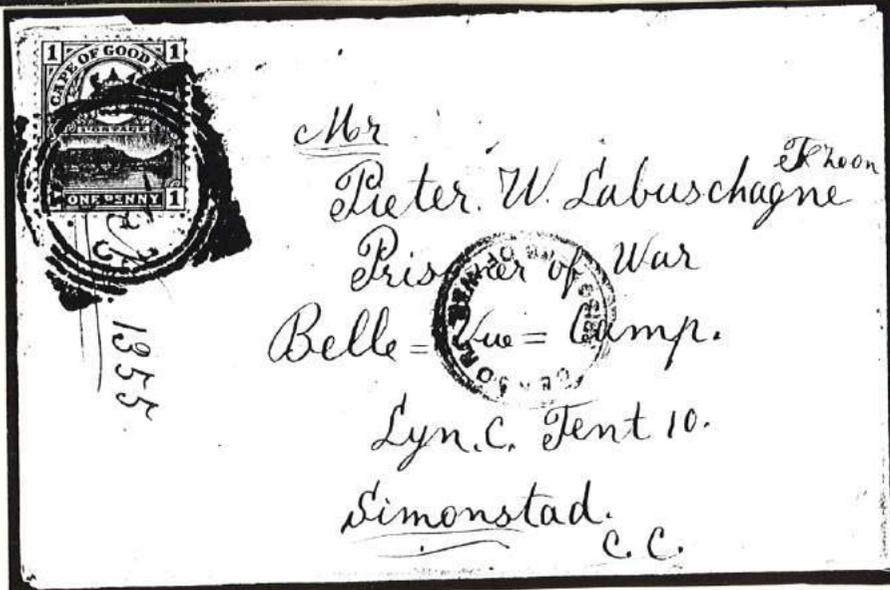
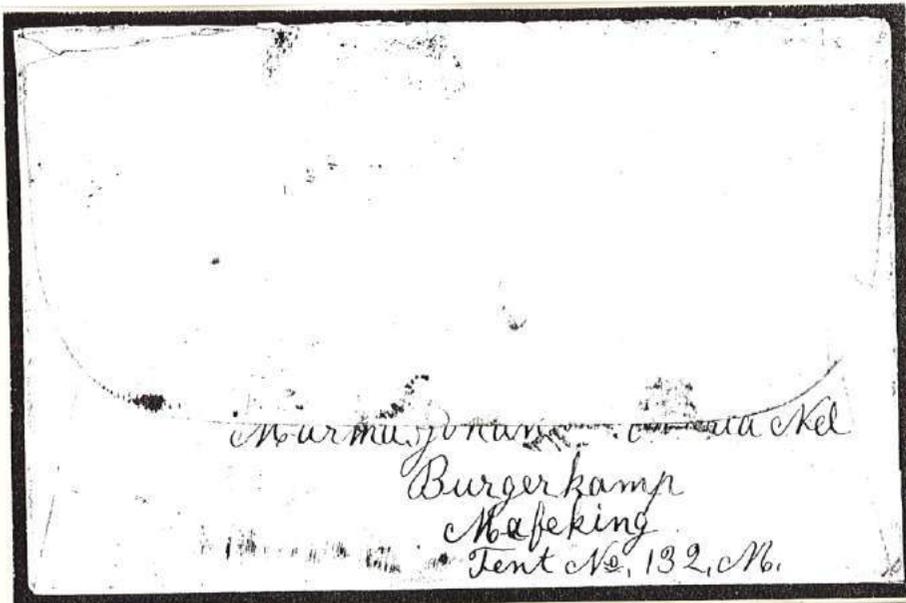
A letter front from Warrenton postmarked 30 December 1901, censored with black double triangular cachet and addressed to "Newton Refugee Camp".

3.3 Mafeking

This camp was established in July 1900, and was administered from the Transvaal. The Superintendent was Mr. R.L McCowat. On 30 April 1901 it accommodated 4,676 inhabitants.

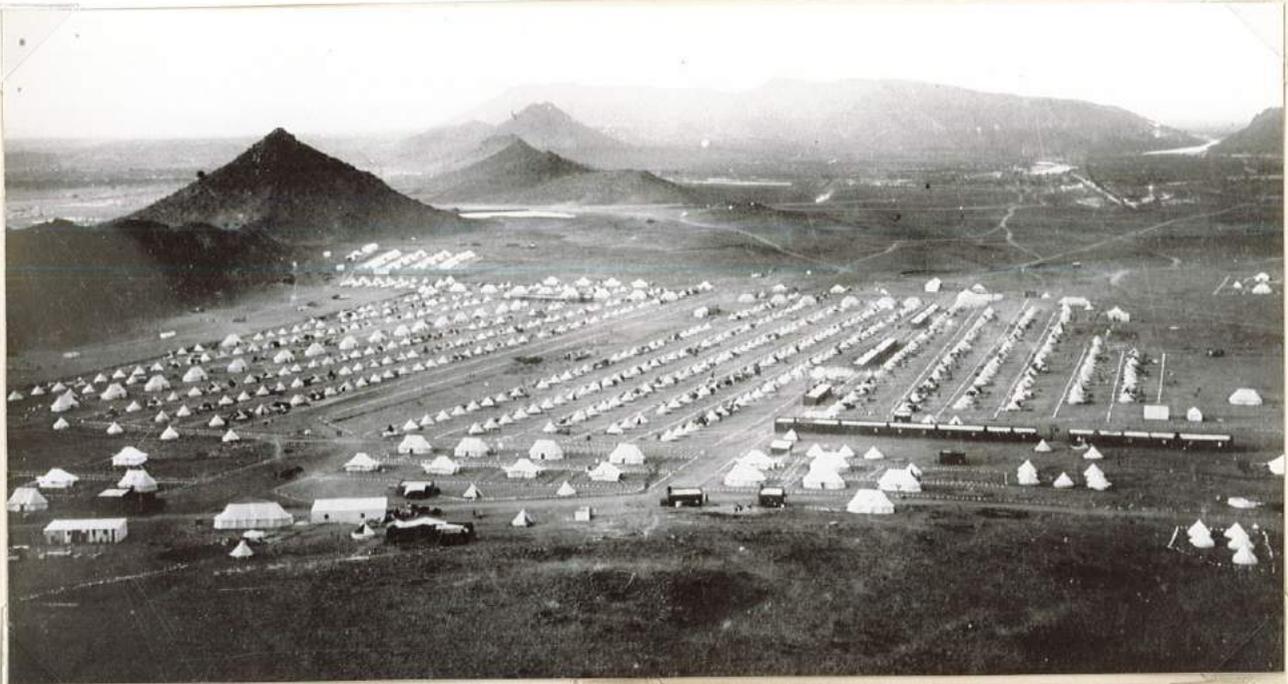


An original photograph of part of the Mafeking Refugee Camp with the Appellation "What do you think of the Refugee Camp?"



3.4 Norvals Pont

This camp was also administered from the Orange River Colony. At the end of July 1901 it housed 3,395 people. Mr. C. Bowen was the Superintendent.

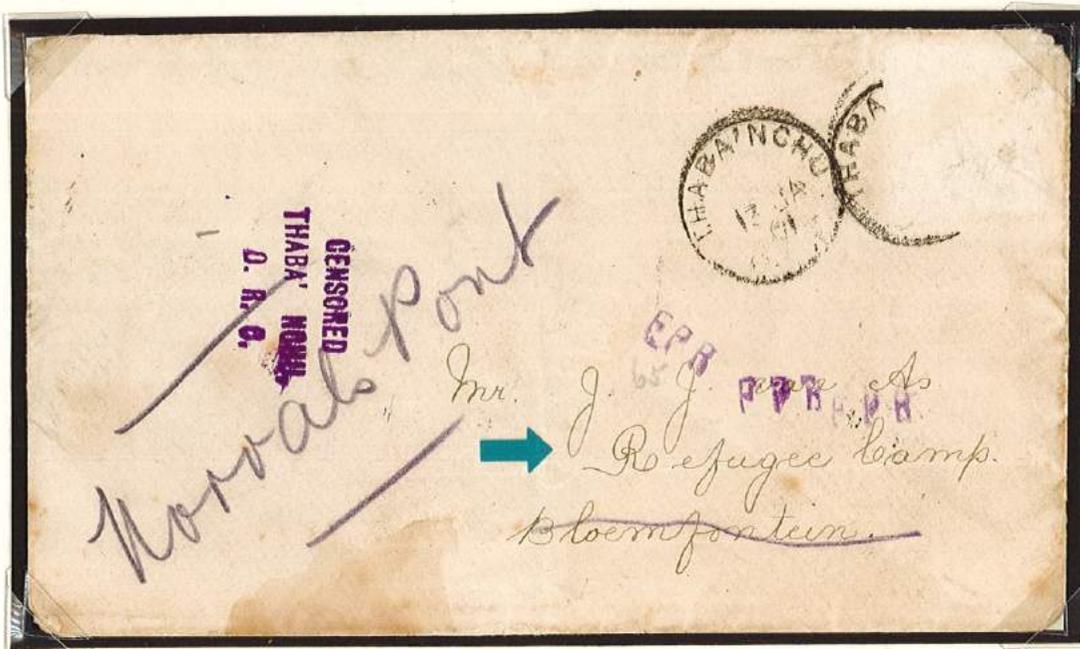


→ Norvals Pont
Maart 4 - 1902
Mr. W. N. Odendal
myn dierbare kind
heden sloot ik my weder
om u te doen weten dat ik
verploots van Wierburg
na Norvals Pont en dat
u broeder Paul die in
de hospitaal op Wierburg
wa weder hersteld
is door de wel des peen
en u zuster heet ook de
kroon gehat maar is weer
vred het gaan heel te maal
goet met ons allen als
behalve ik ben hard
van geld stoffel is nog fies
dat is my oches Mrs Maria
Odendal avond van Sint
Norvals Pont 27 van
ende Henders gegroet u
m/ moeder Maria Odendal

Reply Paid Post Card in Dutch from a mother to her son in Diyatalawa P.O.W. Camp, Ceylon, advising



Envelope from "Jagersfontein Road". Backstamped Bloemfontein 20 March 1902 and Norvals Pont 22 March 1902. Notable is a double triangular dumb Passed Press Censor cachet that is found at many Orange River Colony towns.



Cover from Thaba 'Nchu (Censored Thaba 'Nchu O.R.C) to "Refugee Camp Bloemfontein" and re-addressed to Norvals Pont. Postmarked Bloemfontein in 14 January 1901 and Norvals Pont 21 January 1901.

3.5 Uitenhage

Uitenhage Refugee Camp in the Cape was not started until April 1902 and only had a life of about 6 months, being dismantled in November 1902. It was situated at Pannell's Mill and administered from the Orange Free State.

Tel. 4.

C. ORANGE RIVER COLONY TELEGRAPHS.

30
Curling, Printer.

Inquiries respecting this Telegram, or application for repetition of the same, may be made at the Delivering Office; but any complaints as to its delay, &c., should be made in writing, and addressed to the officer in charge. In either case this form must accompany such inquiries or complaint.

No. of Message: _____

Office Stamp:

Charges } £ s. d.
to pay }

Handed in at *Uitenhage* at _____ M. Received here at *10 am* M.

TO } *Ple Secy D. a. Bloemfontein*

May I leave for parys with some of my people beginning next week -

Rev Hefer Chaplain
Refuge Camp

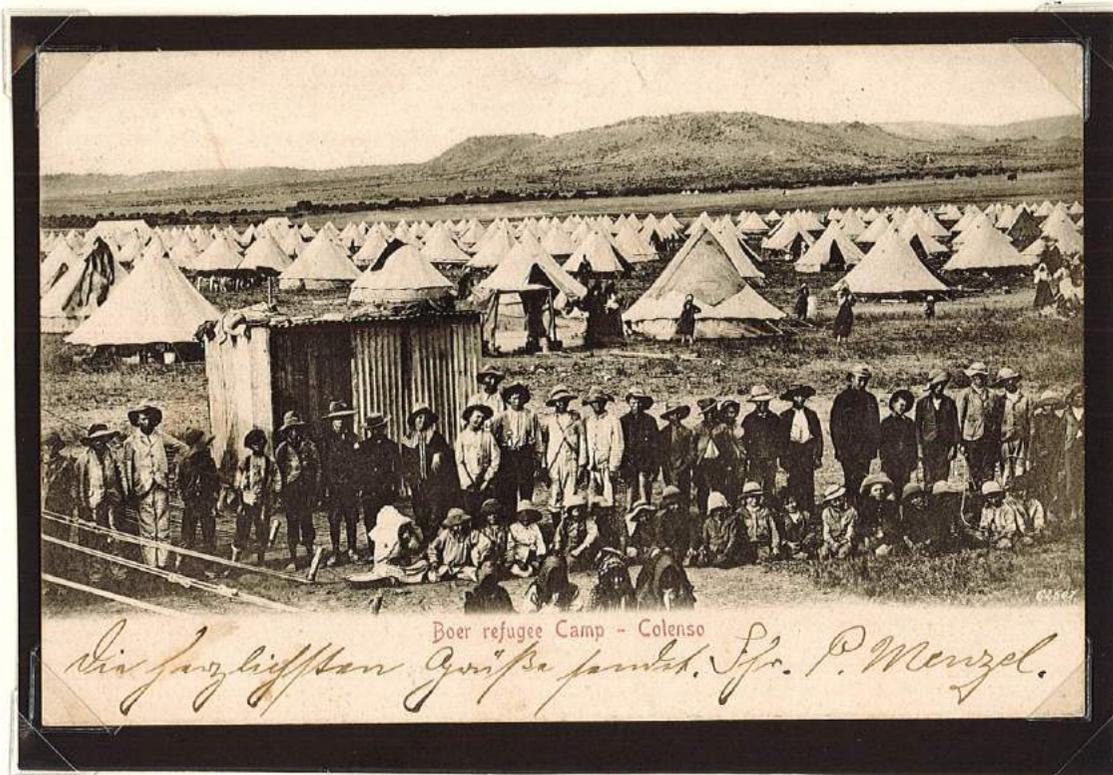
Rev. J.C. Hefer was preacher in the camp at Vredefort Road where he preached the Gospel under most trying circumstances. In Emily Hobhouse's book **War without Glamour** he wrote: "We spent five months in Vredefort Road Camp with our family of eight children living in three bell-tents and, passing the winter there. We lost through death our eldest daughter, the pride of our home, 17 years old, and our baby, 14 months old. We were refused a permit to leave the camp on account of my refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance before the war was ended. Ultimately his Excellency **Sir Hamilton Gould Adams** took pity on us and granted a permit to proceed to Worcester C.C.; but the permit came after the whole family was laid low with measles. I may state, that on being refused a permit for the reason stated, I submitted the refusal to my family, asking wife and children what to do: whether to take the Oath or not? Acquainting them with my scruple. Death was raging and there we were, shut up, with no prospect of delivery unless I took the Oath. We had to choose: either that I take the Oath, or if not, to remain in the camp; and I thought the responsibility for the lives of my family too great to decide without consulting them. But the first to reply was our dear daughter Kathe (who died there). 'No Papa! No Papa!' she exclaimed, her eyes filled with tears - 'do not take the Oath; we choose rather to remain, and suffer the consequences than to forsake, or be untrue to our nation'. All the other children and mother then wept, but their choice was the same.

4. Natal

The Burgher/ Relief/ Concentration Camps of Natal served as repatriation centres after peace was declared on 31 May 1902. They were finally closed end 1902 to early 1903. The Natal Camps Censor Cachets were unique in being triangular or rectangular in shape and incorporating the camp's name.

4.1 Colenso

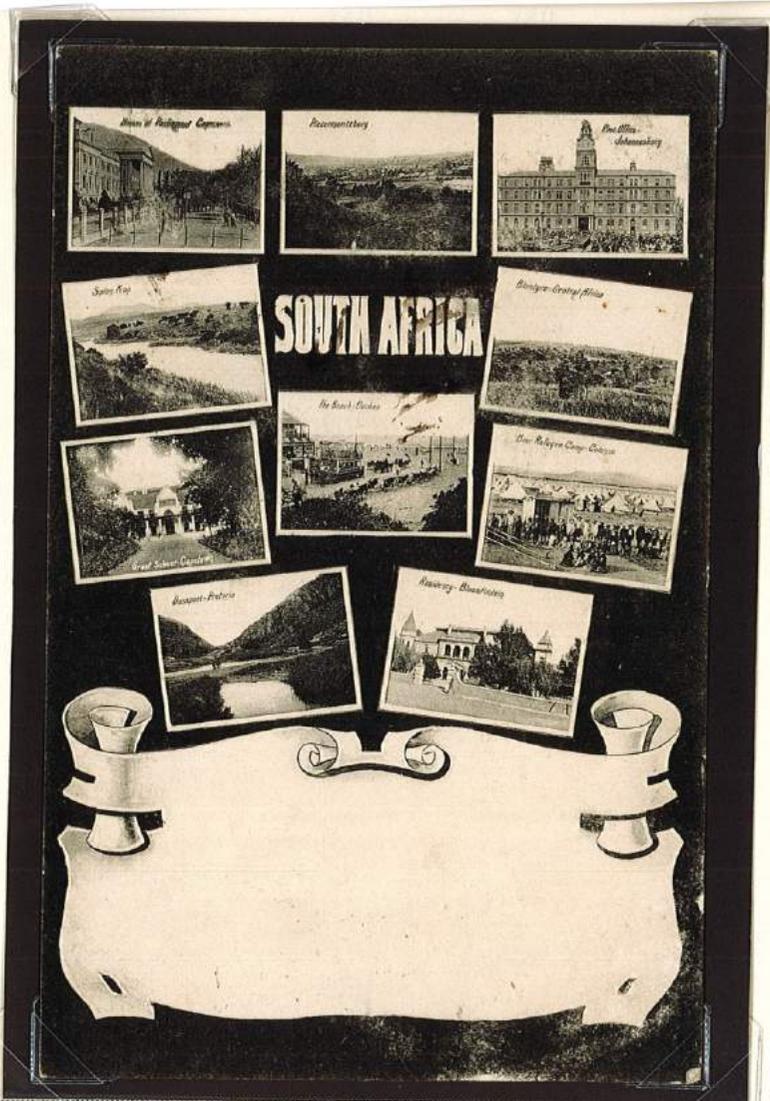
This camp was established in September 1901. Although not a lot is known about it, extant post cards and photographs show it to have been quite extensive.



Post card of "Boer Refugee Camp- Colenso" posted in 1903 at Queenstown, showing about 20 rows of tents and diverse inhabitants.



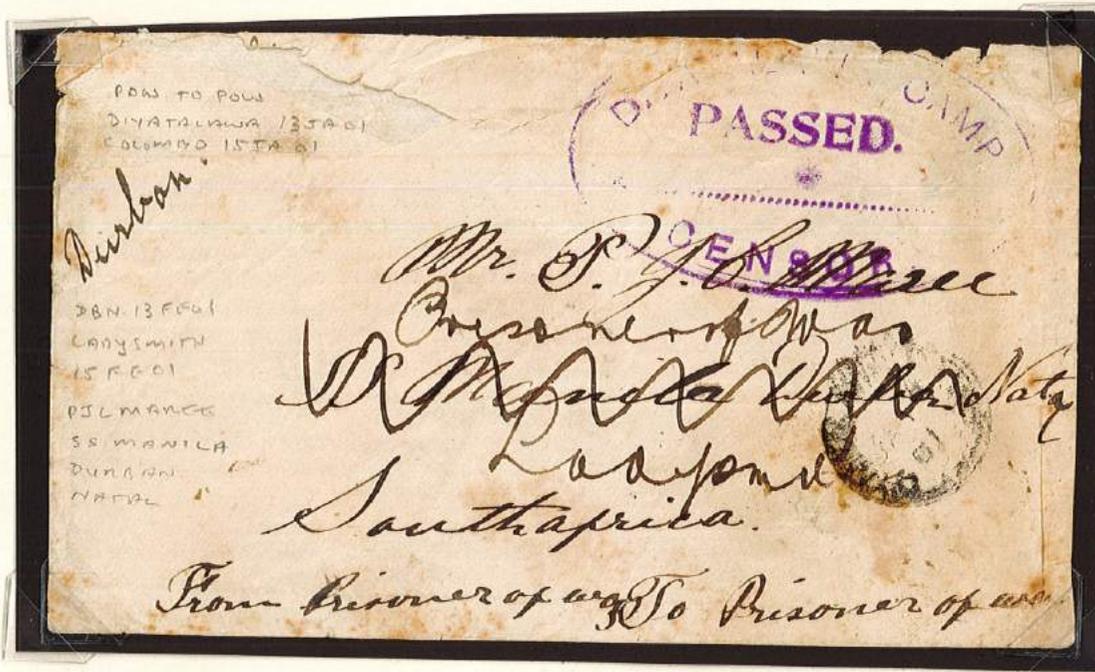
Intercamp front from "Burger Camp- Colenso" to Boer P.O.W. Camp at Trinchinopoly, India. Note the scarce double triangular "Passed Censor Colenso Burger Camp" cachet.



Sallo Epstein Post Card used in 1907 showing "Boer Refugee Camp - Colenso" and "Daspoors Pretoria"

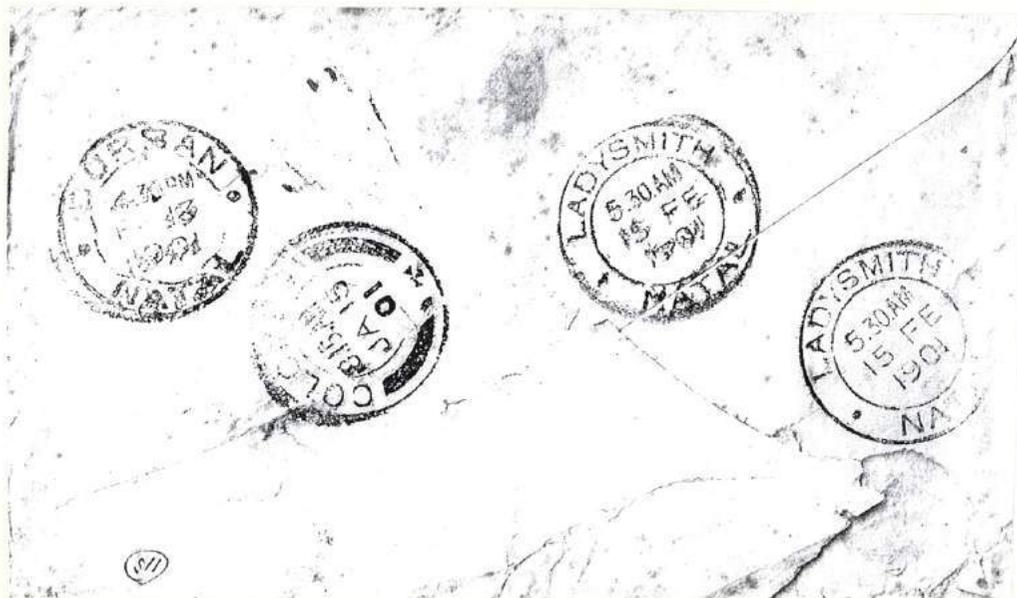
4.1 Durban Harbour.

As the POW camps became overcrowded, the British resorted to using ships anchored in Durban Harbour to hold POWs in transit. In this case the S.S. Manila.



An unstamped cover sent from Diyatalawa POW camp, Ceylon, on 13 January 1901 to Mr. P.J.C. Maree, a fellow POW. Initially thought to be held on SS Manila in Durban harbour, and readdressed to the Ladysmith Camp.

Backstamped Columbo 15 January 1901, Durban 13 February 1901 and Ladysmith 15 February 1901.



4.2 Eshowe

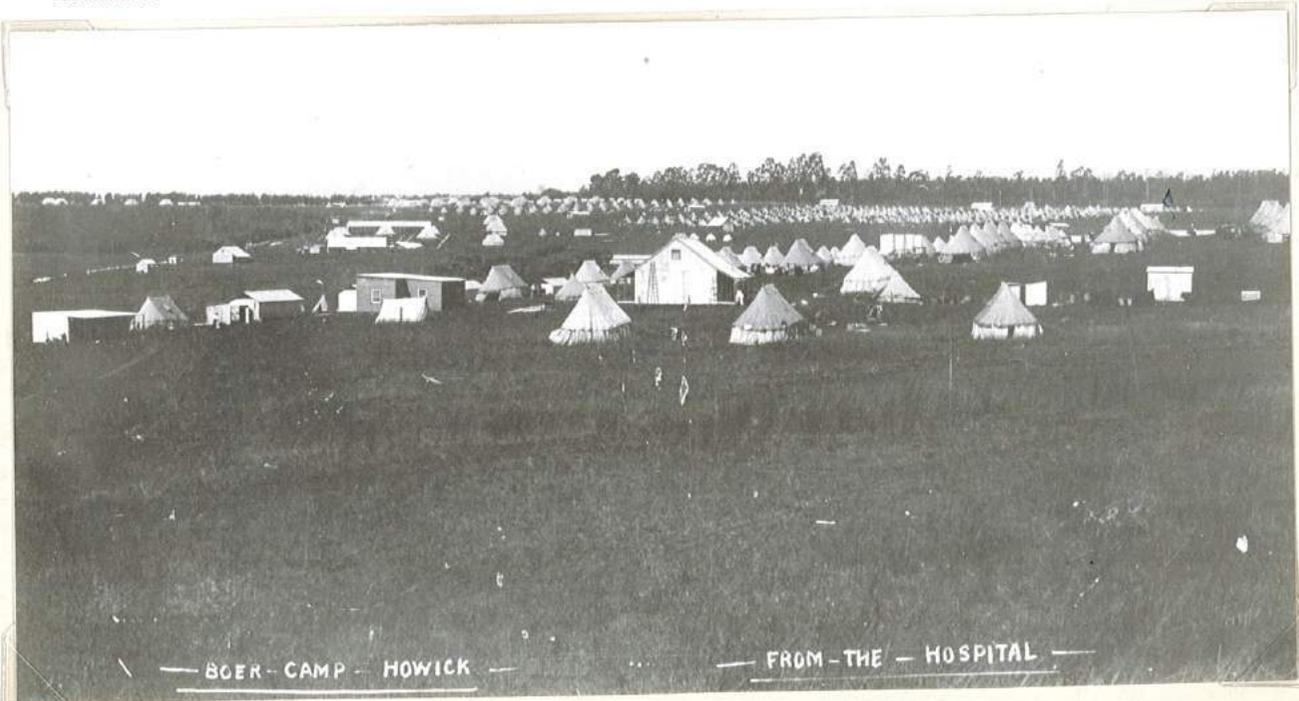
Eshowe Burgher Camp was in the Province of Zululand and was one of the smallest camps in Natal. It opened in the last third of 1901 and the only known population consensus revealed 250 inhabitants.



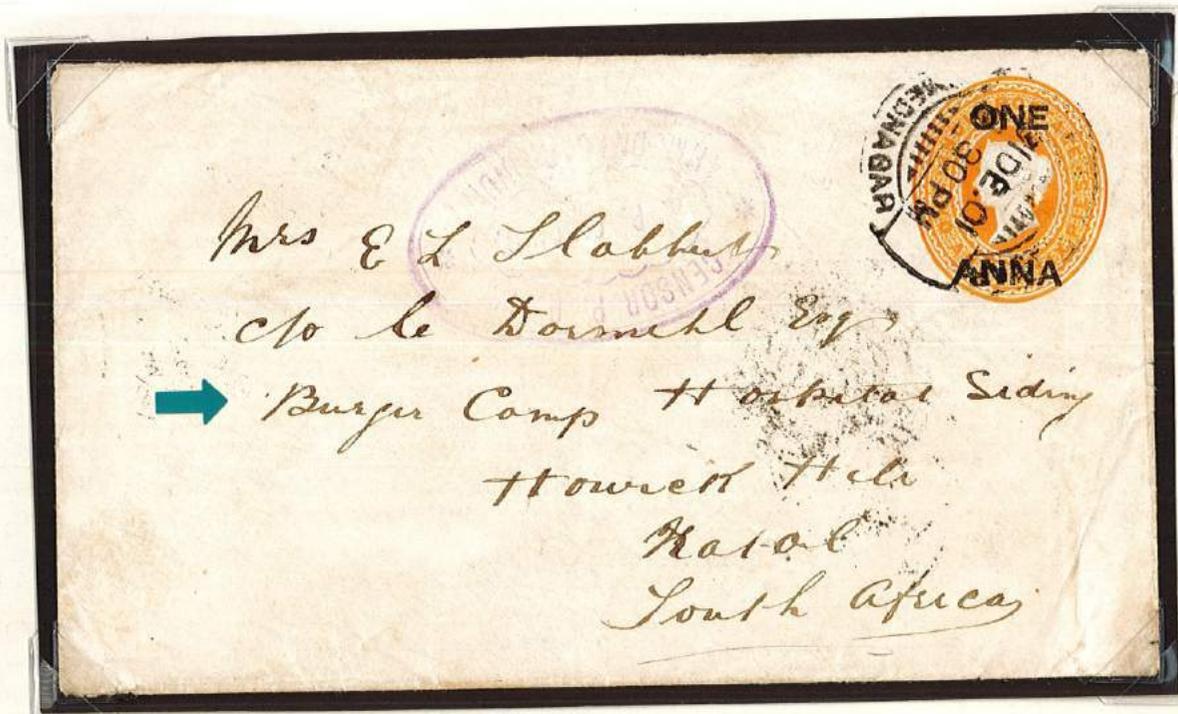
Front from Eshowe in the Province of Zululand dated 8 June 1901. Sent by D. Deane, Governor of the Central Gaol Eshowe to a Boer P.O.W. in the Tintown Camp, Ladysmith.

4.3 Howick

This was one of the first Natal Camps, taken into use mid-February 1901. The Superintendent was Mr. E Caldicott. On 21 March 1901 it housed 705 people; by 3 December 1901 there were 3,514 inhabitants.



Intercamp cover from Ahmednagar P.O.W. Camp, India (31 December 1901) to Howick Burgher Camp (30 January 1902) via Durban. Note double oval purple Ahmednagar Passed Censor cachet.



Cover from Burgher Camp Howick - Double Triangle Passed Censor to Amsterdam, Holland. Opened and resealed by Amsterdam Post Office, back stamped Pietermaritzburg 22 March 1902.



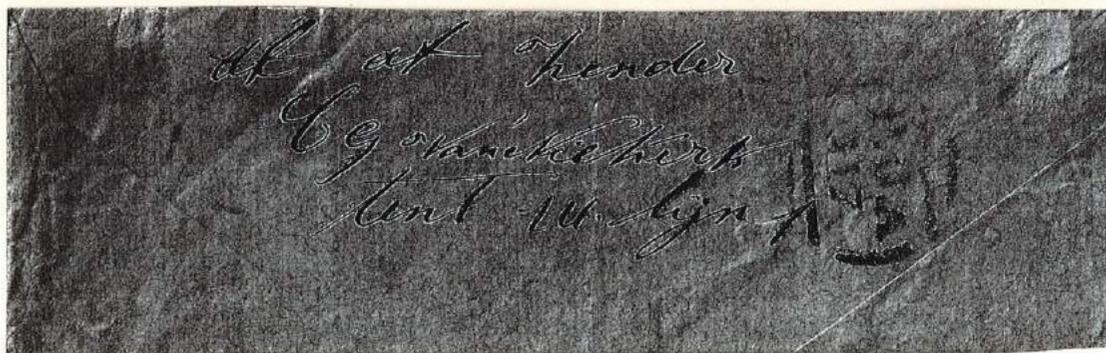
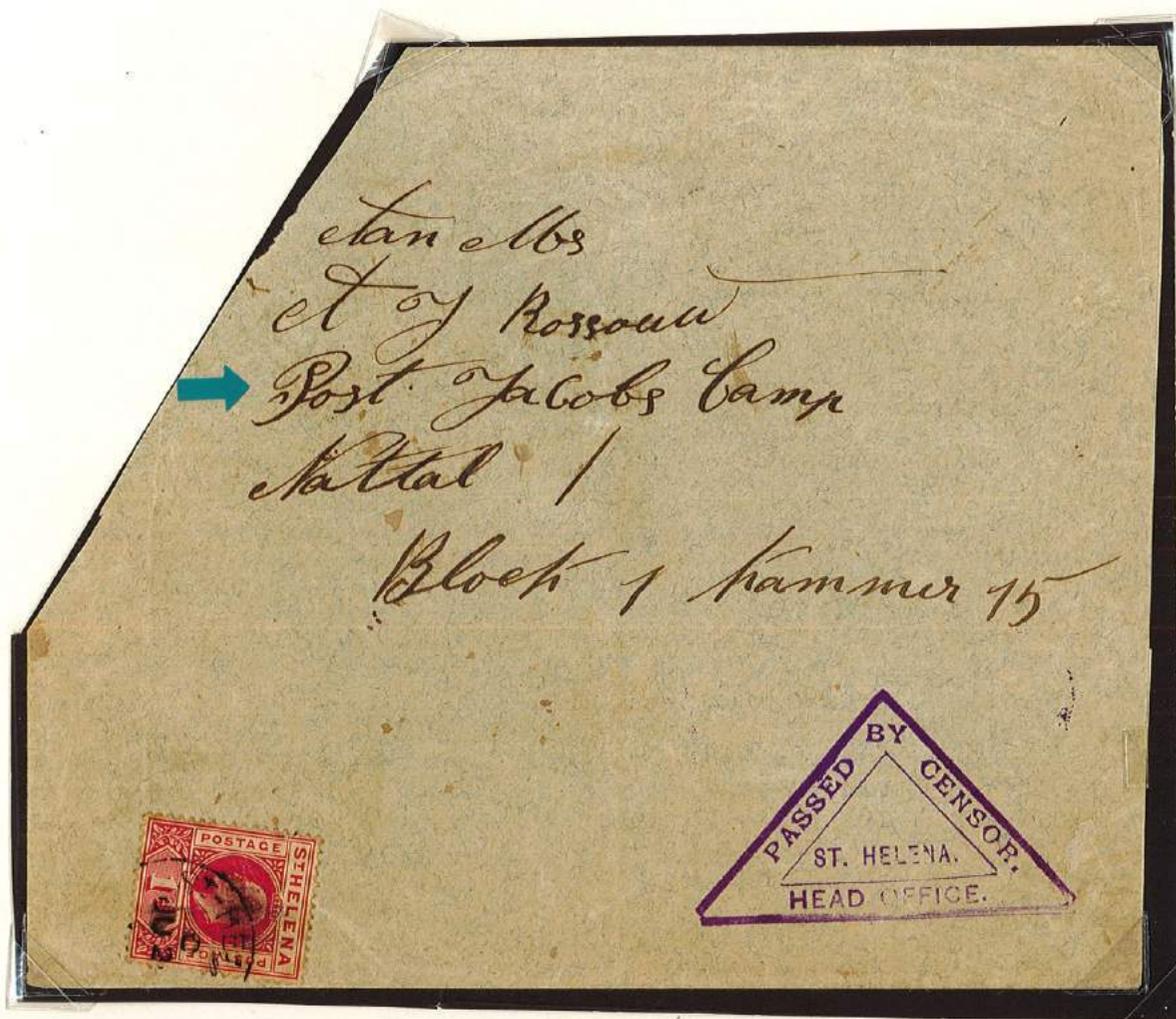
Cover from Howick Burgher Camp (22 September 1901) to Helderberg via Durban and Somerset West. Note single framed Howick Triangular Censor Cachet- censor B.R.C. cachet used 27 April 1901 to 22 March 1902.

4.4 Jacobs

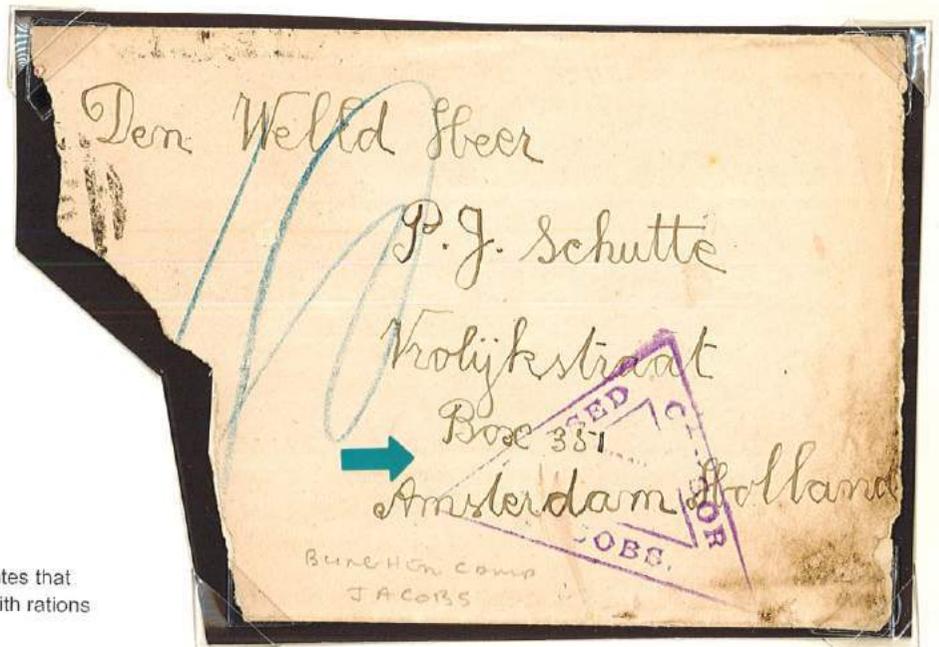
Established late in the war. Located east of Merebank. Population 2,584 in February 1902.

4.4 Jacobs.

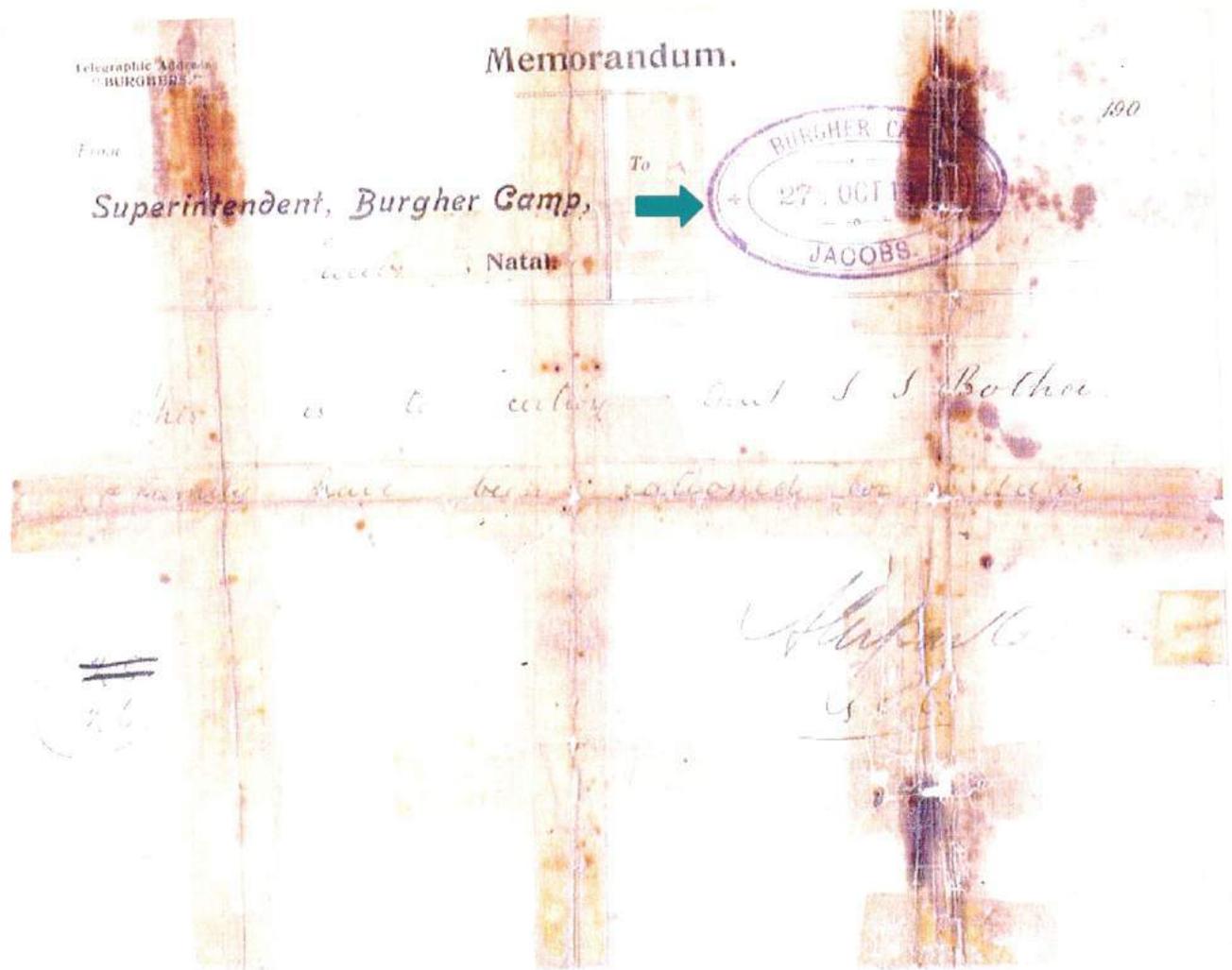
Intercamp cover from St. Helena 2 June 1902 to Jacobs Camp. Stamp not tied but date could be right as received Natal 5 July 1902. Note Passed by Censor, Head Office, St. Helena cachet, also P.O.A. 117 (Post Office Agency 117), probably the Jacobs receiving P.O.A.



Remnant of cover with rare "Jacobs Burgher Camp Passed Censor" cachet, addressed to Amsterdam Holland via Durban April 1902.



This is an old ration coupon issued at the concentration camp, Jacobs in Natal. It states that S.S. Botha and family have been issued with rations for 30 days.



4.5 Ladysmith

Established late 1901 or early 1902 when about 1,000 inhabitants of Harrismith were transferred to Ladysmith. Population 1902 - 1,043.

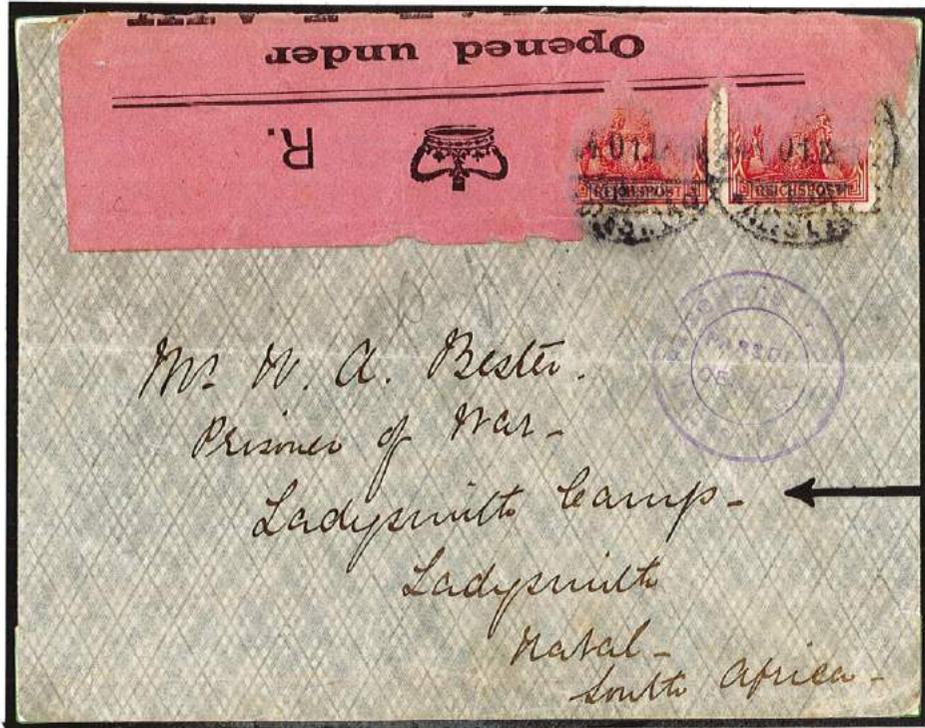


Intercamp cover front from "Burgher Camp Ladysmith" 18 March 1902 to "Boer Camp Urugasmahandiya, Ceylon". The latter was Pro- British P.O.W. Camp.



Rare "Passed Censor Prisoners of War Ladysmith" cachet dated 14 September 1901. Addressed to "Refugee Camp" Pietermaritzburg.

Cover from Europe addressed to "Ladysmith Camp" with rare Double Circle cachet in purple "Prisoners of War - Ladysmith - Passed Censor". 21 May 1901.



LADYSMITH, NATAL 21-5-01



4.6 Merebank

This camp was opened on 13 September 1901. By early December 1901 it held 5,154 persons. The Superintendent was Mr. H.M. Bousfield. It was finally closed in December 1902.

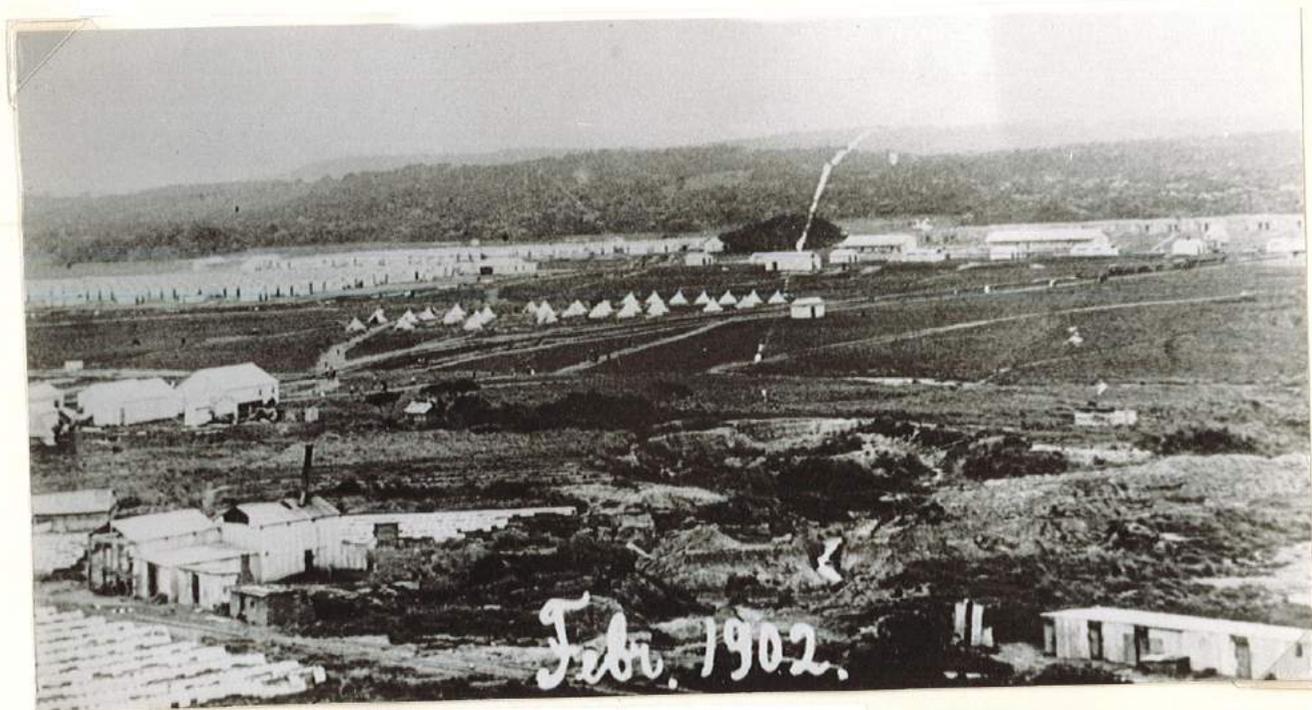


Photo of Camp taken in February 1902.



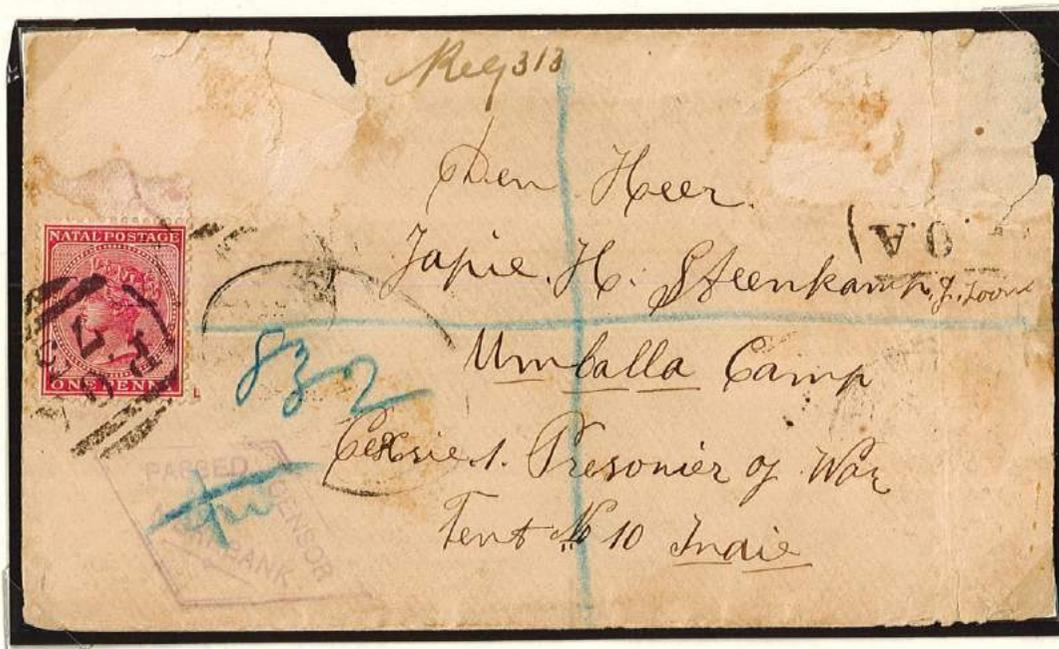
Intercamp mourning cover from Merebank to Bombay, India on S.S Red Hawk. Note various Natal and Indian route annotations for re-addressing from the Umbilo Camp, Natal, to the Umballa Camp, India. The double triangular "Merebank Burgher Camp Passed Censor" is known used from 13 March 1902 to 9 June 1902 (this cover).



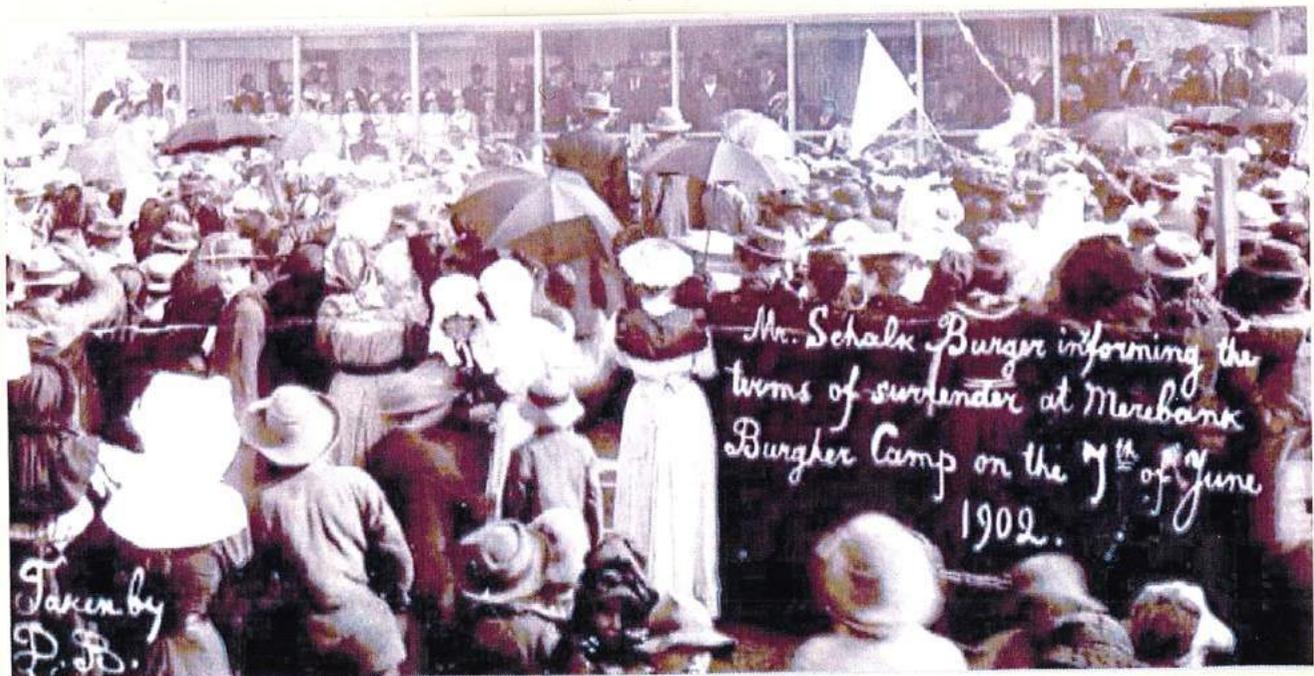
Registered Intercamp letter from Merebank P.O.A 73, Rhombus Shaped Passed Censor initialled by CJW. Back stamps Durban 11 February 1902, Bombay 17 May 1902 to Umballa Camp 20 May 1902.



Intercamp mourning front from Merebank to Diyatalawa, Ceylon. Note P.O.A 73 (Post Office Agency) used in Merebank in 1901 and 1902. Also "Rhombus Shaped Merebank Passed Censor" cachet initialled by CJW.



Intercamp cover Merebank Durban to Diyatalawa P.O.W Camp Ceylon. Rhombus shaped Passed Censor Merebank and P.O.A. 73.



OFFICE OF REG
OF CLAIM
31 JUL 1902
HARRISMITH.

CR 679
H

R.E.
Mooi River
27-7-02

Dear Sir

Herewith claim

which was made by me
in July 1901. I also attach
advertisement, & letter
dated 26th-7-1901. received
by me from assist Comd.
of Boer Refugee Camp, "Hawick".
I am sorry that I cannot
find a copy of the letter
which was sent in along
with the claim. However,
I hope the attached will be
plain enough to you.

Advertisement
refers to claims for
damage which occurred
between 31.3.01 & 30.6.01 only

Office of Registrar
of Claims
Harrismith

I am
Yours faithfully
G. J. Hoop

4.8 Pietermaritzburg

This camp was already in operation by August 1900. The Superintendent was Mr. E. Struben. By December 1901 there were 2,364 inhabitants. There were two similar censor cachets of different sizes.

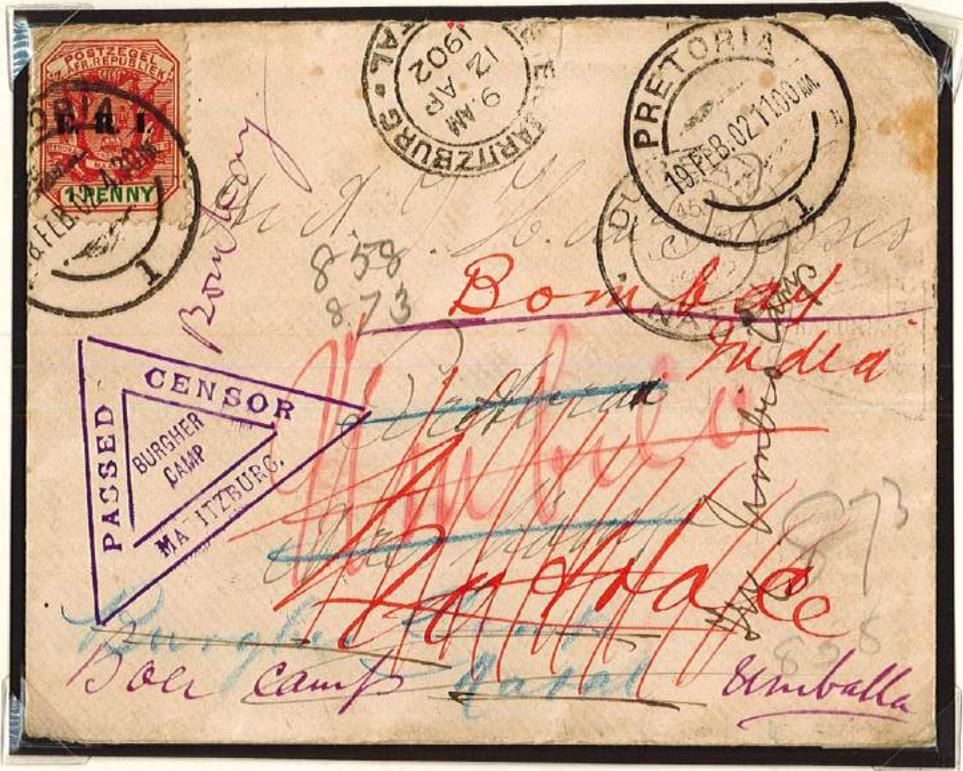
Intercamp cover from Pietermaritzburg Burgher Camp with double triangular Passed Censor cachet "Maritzburg" 29mm long. Dated 4 June 1902 and backstamped Umballa Camp (India) - Received 19 July 1902. Via Bombay, India.



This cover posted at Pietermaritzburg and not at Howick. It was probably due to inmates of the camp visiting the town to acquire supplies for their journey home.



Mourning cover sent 11 April 1902 with Pietermaritzburg Burgher Camp Passed Censor cachet, but "Maritzburg" only 10 1/2 mm long



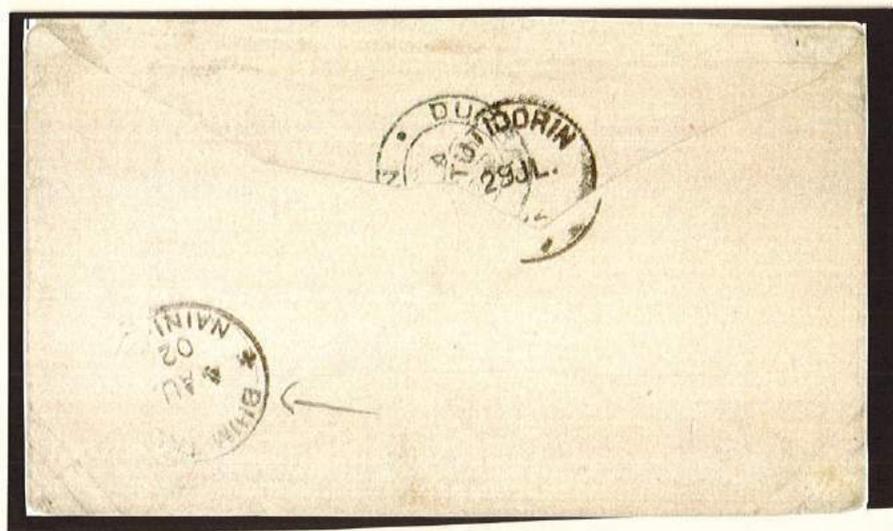
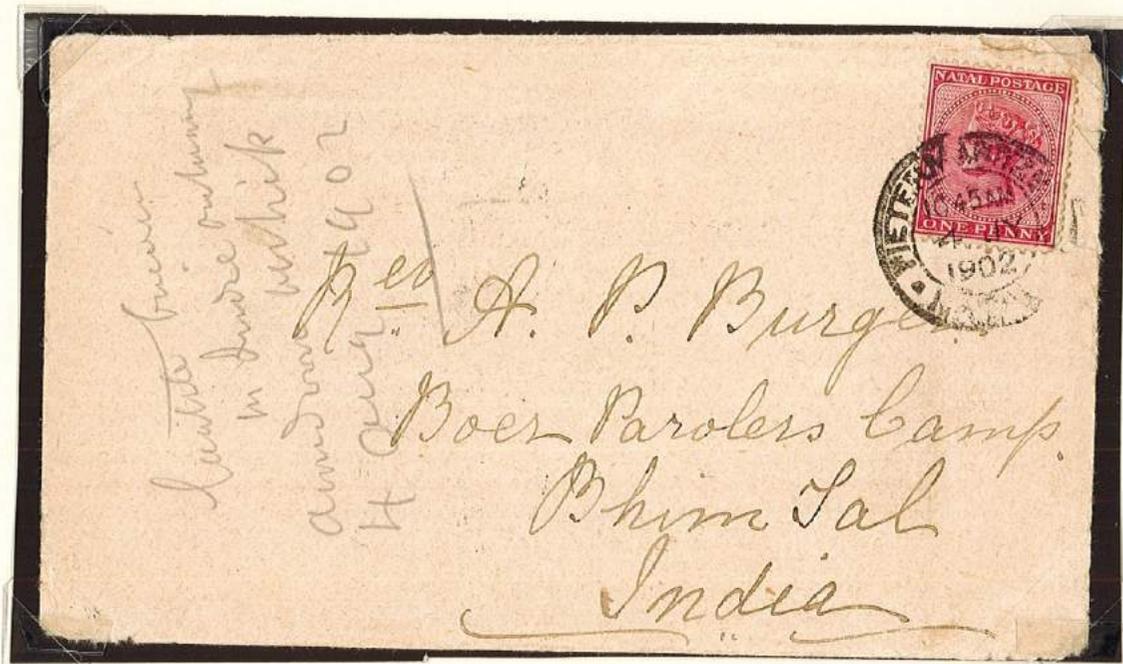
Much re-addressed cover initially from Pretoria 19 February 1902, via Pietermaritzburg Burger Camp with "Maritzburg" 19 ½ mm long. Ultimate destination Umballa Camp, India.



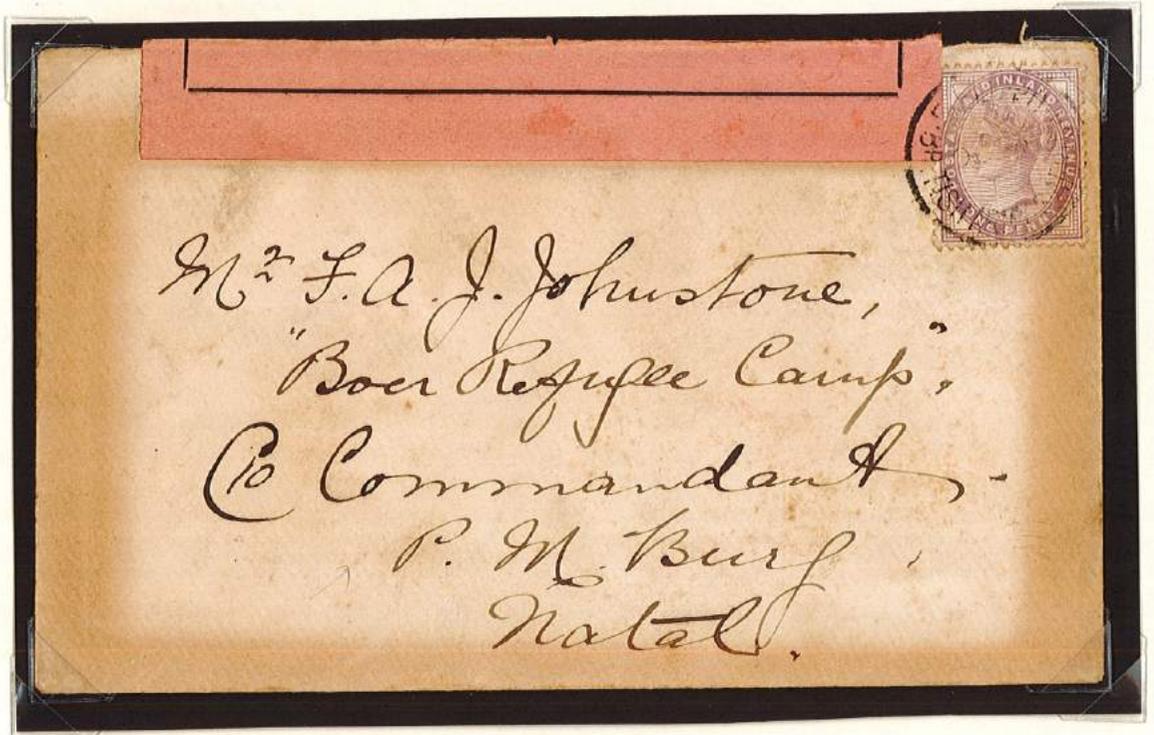
Intercamp cover from "Sialkot P.O.W. Camp" India with rare "Passed Censor" triangular cachet addressed to an inhabitant of the "Boer Women Camp, Pietermaritzburg". Sent 26 February 1902.

Cover from Pietermaritzburg 4 July 1902 to Boer Parolers Camp, Bhim Tal India, "endorsed" Last Letters Received in India 4 August 1902". Backstamped Durban and Tutidorin.

On the front of the cover Rev Burger wrote in pencil: "laatste brieven in Indie ontvang aand voor vertrek 4 Aug 1902" (last letters received in India before departure 4 Aug 1902).



Cover posted through the "Field Post Office, British Army South Africa" postal system to an official of the "C 10 Commandants" at the "Pietermaritzburg Boer Refugee Camp." Posted 2 October 1901.



4.8(a) Pinetown

This was one of the later camps – first established early in 1902. It seems to have operated for only about 6 months and closed in August 1902.



A photograph of the Pinetown Camp.

4.9 Wentworth and Umbilo Camps

The Wentworth Camp was opened on 27 March 1902, one of the last camps established. It's capacity was 3,000. It is reported to have closed by September 1902.

The Umbilo Camp was the primarily a staging camp, from where P.O.W.'s were sent to other camps, mainly overseas. By the same token it housed returning P.O.W.'s after cessation of hostilities.



A triple intercamp cover, initially from Wentworth Burgher Camp (see cachet) and P.O.A. 117 to Umbilo Camp, Durban and then on to Umballa Camp India, Backstamped Durban, Umbilo, Port Bombay, Calcutta GPO and Umballa Camp.

Post Office Agency 117 (P.O.A) not previously recorded used at Wentworth (See B.A Kantey "The P.O.A Cancellations of Natal (1982)".

Mrs. van Heerden
Newlands

Peace declared at 12 o'clock
last night

Lt. Corpl. Ridley

this is official

Handwritten cover from Lt. Corpl. Ridley

to Mrs. van Heerden (Newlands, Cape, Town)

notifying same.

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THE END

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03/05/2021

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