

The Service of Lionel Eric SMITH during the Boer War



October 1899 to May 1900

Produced by Helen Bull (helenjbull@yahoo.co.uk), 26 September 2020

Great niece of Lionel Eric Smith (a.k.a. Eric Smith)

Background of the ANGLO-BOER WAR 1899-1902

The Boer War began on 11 October 1899 and ended on 31 May 1902. It was the war in which Great Britain defeated the Boers of South Africa. The Transvaal (South African Republic) and the Orange Free State were Dutch Republics recognised by Great Britain in 1852 and 1854 respectfully. Natal and Cape of Good Hope were British colonies. There was Anglo-Dutch friction for years between the Dutch Republican Government of Transvaal and British settlers. Both Dutch republics lost their independence by the peace treaty signed at Pretoria 31 May 1902 by Lords Kitchener and Milner and the chief civil and military representatives of the Boers. At one time or another the British Army committed 448,435 men. Of these, 518 officers and 5,255 men were killed, 1,852 officers and 20,978 men were wounded, and 15,617 men died of wounds or disease. It is estimated the Boers had in the field from first to last and including the rebels about 60,000 to 65,000. Exactly eight years later the four former colonies joined to form the Union of South Africa.

The war had three phases. In the first phase, the Boers mounted pre-emptive strikes into British-held territory in Natal and the Cape Colony, besieging the British garrisons of Ladysmith, Mafeking, and Kimberley. The Boers then won a series of tactical victories at Stormberg, Magersfontein, Colenso and Spion Kop.

In the second phase, after the number of British troops was greatly increased under the command of Lord Roberts, the British launched another offensive in 1900 to relieve the sieges, this time achieving success. After Natal and the Cape Colony were secure, the British army was able to invade the Transvaal, and the republic's capital, Pretoria, was ultimately captured in June 1900.

In the third and final phase, beginning in March 1900 and lasting a further two years, the Boers conducted a hard-fought guerrilla war, attacking British troop columns, telegraph sites, railways, and storage depots. To deny supplies to the Boer guerrillas, the British, now under the leadership of Lord Kitchener, adopted a scorched earth policy. They cleared whole areas, destroying Boer farms and moving the civilians into concentration camps.[28]

Some parts of the British press and British government expected the campaign to be over within months, and the protracted war gradually became less popular, especially after revelations about the conditions in the concentration camps (where as many as 26,000 Afrikaner women and children died of disease and malnutrition). The Boer forces finally surrendered on Saturday, 31 May 1902, with 54 of the 60 delegates from the Transvaal and Orange Free State voting to accept the terms of the peace treaty.[29] This was known as the Treaty of Vereeniging, and under its provisions, the two republics were absorbed into the British Empire, with the promise of self-government in the future. This promise was fulfilled with the creation of the Union of South Africa in 1910.

The war had a lasting effect on the region and on British domestic politics. For Britain, the Second Boer War was the longest, the most expensive (£211 million, £202 billion at 2014 prices), and the bloodiest conflict between 1815 and 1914,[30] lasting three months longer and resulting in more British combat casualties than the Crimean War (1853–56), although more soldiers died from disease in the Crimean War.

The vast majority of troops fighting for the British army came from Great Britain. Yet a significant number came from other parts of the British Empire. These countries had their own internal disputes over whether they should remain tied to London, or have full independence, which carried over into the debate around the sending of forces to assist the war. Though not fully independent on foreign affairs, these countries did have local say over how much support to provide, and the manner it was provided. Ultimately, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and British South African Company administered Rhodesia all sent volunteers to aid the United Kingdom. Canada provided the largest number of troops followed by Australia.

New Zealand was ready to give her best blood in defense of the Empire

When the war seemed imminent, New Zealand offered its support. On 28 September 1899, Prime Minister Richard Seddon asked Parliament to approve the offer to the imperial government of a contingent of mounted rifles, thus **becoming the first British Colony to send troops to the Boer War**. The British position in the dispute with the Transvaal was "moderate and righteous," he maintained. He stressed the "crimson tie" of Empire that bound New Zealand to the mother-country and the importance of a strong British Empire for the colony's security.

Virtually every man in New Zealand was desperately keen to get to war, so the first soldiers to go were selected on the basis of who could afford to go. If a man could provide his own horse, rifle and equipment, (costing about £25 in total) he could go to war. New Zealanders were well suited to service as mounted riflemen in Africa and, in common with other Commonwealth contingents, were highly valued by their British commanders. Partly because of a persistent belief in a short war, very little by modern standards was done for the welfare of the troops.

By the time peace was concluded two and a half years later, 10 contingents of volunteers, totalling nearly 6,500 men from New Zealand, with 8,000 horses had fought in the conflict, along with doctors, nurses, veterinary surgeons and a small number of school teachers helped to educate Boer children in internment camps.

The women of New Zealand were also supportive of the war. Girls' and Ladies' Khaki Corps (or 'Contingents') were organised throughout the country during 1900 to raise funds as part of New Zealand's South African War effort (1899–1902). Denied entry into active war service, women threw themselves into patriotic work on the home front. The contingents were quickly established throughout New Zealand in cities and small towns. Young society women dressed in khaki uniforms with skirts and hats (modelled on men's uniforms). The Khaki Corps had a full range of military titles and local volunteer officers coached members in military exercises. Members participated in influential fundraising events such as the Patriotic Carnival at Government House in 1900 organised by Lady Douglas in aid of the Wellington More Men Fund.

The Ninth and Tenth contingents, over 2,000 men, arrived too late to see much service. The term of service for every soldier was one year. The cost was slight, under £500,000 including money raised by public subscription, with Britain bearing the rest.

The Boer War was the first overseas conflict to involve New Zealand troops, and was the first conflict the nation was involved in since the New Zealand Wars had ceased in the early 1870s. Seventy New Zealanders died in the war as the result of action; 25 were accidentally killed; 133 died of disease; with the wounded numbering 166. The first New Zealander to be killed was Farrier G.R. Bradford at Jasfontein Farm on 18 December 1899. Doctors, nurses, and veterinary surgeons also served, and some teachers helped to educate Boer children in internment camps.

Famous faces

Winston Churchill – Best known as the prime minister of Britain during the main part of the Second World War, Churchill worked as a war correspondent for *The Morning Post*. At the age of twenty-six, he was captured and held prisoner in a camp in Pretoria from which he escaped and rejoined the British army. He received a commission in the South African Light Horse (still working as a correspondent) and witnessed the capture of Ladysmith and Pretoria.

Mahatma Gandhi – Best known as the leader of the independence movement in India, he lived in South Africa 1893–1915 where he worked on behalf of Indians. He volunteered in 1900 to help the British by forming teams of ambulance drivers and raising 1,100 Indian volunteer medics. At Spioenkop Gandhi and his bearers had to carry wounded soldiers for miles to a field hospital because the terrain was too rough for the ambulances. General Redvers Buller mentioned the courage of the Indians in his dispatch. Gandhi and thirty-seven other Indians received the War Medal.

Horses used in the War

The number of horses killed in the war was at the time unprecedented in modern warfare. For example, in the Relief of Kimberley, French's cavalry rode 500 horses to their deaths in a single day. The wastage was particularly heavy among British forces for several reasons: overloading of horses with unnecessary equipment and saddlery, failure to rest and acclimatise horses after long sea voyages and, later in the war, poor management by inexperienced mounted troops and distant control by unsympathetic staffs. The average life expectancy of a British horse, from the time of its arrival in Port Elizabeth, was around six weeks.

Horses were slaughtered for their meat when needed. During the Siege of Kimberley and Siege of Ladysmith, horses were consumed as food once the regular sources of meat were depleted. The besieged British forces in Ladysmith also produced *chevril*, a Bovril-like paste, by boiling down the horse meat to a jelly paste and serving it like beef tea.

The Horse Memorial in Port Elizabeth, S.A. is a tribute to the 300,000 horses that died during the conflict.

Timeline of the Boer War and Lionel Eric SMITH's service with the Second Contingent

DATE	ACTIVITY
28 Sept 1899	Prime Minister Richard Seddon asks Parliament to approve the offer to the imperial government of a contingent of New Zealand mounted rifles
11 Oct 1899	Boer War begins
Mid Oct 1899	<p>Lionel Eric SMITH. Aged 23 years & 3 months. Living in Stratford, working as a carpenter. <u>Note</u> – Pop was born 27 February 1896 so would have been Eric's 3 year old brother at this point.</p> <p>Voluntarily enlists in the army, as a Private, attached to 3 Coy, 2nd New Zealand Mounted Rifles. Also known as Second Contingents NZ with 3rd and 4th Companies, (whereby 3rd were North Islanders and 4th were South Islanders). He also took his own horse, as was expected of the First and Second Contingents.</p> <p>Eric's Service Number: 480. His horse's Service Number: 470. Carbine 480.</p> <p>Was drafted from Hawera MR (Mounted Rifles)</p> <p>His height 5' 9 ¾" – Chest measurement 37 inches – Weight 11 stone – Religion CoE – Father Henry Percy SMITH (<i>These details were extracted from his Attestation Form for Volunteers</i>)</p>
21 Oct 1899	<p>The first of ten New Zealand contingents leaves Wellington, onboard The Waiwera troopship, bound for South Africa to fight for Britain in the South African War, (Boer War). The First and Second Contingent were required to supply their own mount and expected to contribute 25 pounds to the cost of their own equipment. A few exceptions were made. A high standard of physique and horsemanship was demanded. From the small districts of New Zealand nearly 6,500 volunteer troops, 3.5% of the adult male population, and nurses, along with 8,000 horses went to South Africa in an extraordinary outpouring of patriotism that brought parades, crowded send-offs for the troopships, and much public fundraising for the war effort. Many districts and firms contributed the horses and tack. The Third and Fourth Contingents were essentially paid for by private contribution. The Third (a.k.a. the New Zealand Roughriders) selected from 2,000 picked riders and shots, all unmarried men, many representing the oldest families in New Zealand.</p> <p>The total public subscription amount to 50,000, each centre providing its quota of men. Canterbury 104, Westland 10, Westport 6, Wanganui 56, Hawke's Bay 47, Gisborne 10, and Hawera & Taranaki 18.</p> <p>Disease was a serious problem, and the New Zealand units lost 133 men from illness, and that was twice the number killed in action at 70. Twenty-five soldiers were killed accidentally. Maoris were not allowed to fight in the war. Many New Zealanders were named after Boer war heroes.</p>
Nov 1899	Eric sent for training @ Newtown Park military camp, Wellington. Opened in 1881, Newtown Park was the first public park on the Town Belt. It is currently used for athletic and soccer. Incidentally New Town was one of Wellington's first outlying suburbs.

Military camp at Newtown Park, Wellington, for soldiers of the 2nd Contingent to the South African War. Taken by an unidentified photographer, January 1900



A view of Newtown Park in Wellington, where Second Contingent troops camped before departing for South Africa in January 1900



Second Contingent soldier's horses feeding at Newtown Park, 1900



Stretching the length of Island Bay, The Parade is the backbone of the seaside suburb. The Parade's name reportedly comes from the Island Bay Racecourse, which was on the parallel Derwent St. The racecourse was built on 60 acres of

land the Wellington Jockey Club bought in 1882. Bad roads and Island Bay's remote location meant the racecourse was short lived. After it was abandoned the land was used as a Boer War cavalry parade ground in 1900.

Review of 2nd contingent for the South African War at Island Bay, Wellington. Taken 18 January 1900



Members of the New Zealand second contingent for the South African War under review at the racecourse in Island Bay, Wellington. All of the soldiers are in full military uniform and are on horseback. There are civilians in the background, milling behind the military formation. Taken by an unidentified photographer on 18 January 1900.



New Zealand Second Contingent For South Africa Complete, - Formed Squares
After Final Inspection On The Island Bay Race-Course, January 1900.

- 22 Dec 1899 “The Waiwera will probably be again employed as a troopship. Carpenters were to dismantle her on her way back but the operations will be intercepted at Albany if possible. 97% of the members of Parliament have signified their approval of sending another Contingent (the second). The Government requires 250 horses, bays, blacks, or browns, 15 to 15.3 hands and five to ten years old.”
[Timaru Herald Friday 22 December 1899]
- 13 Jan 1900 Second Contingent marching in their Open Day and parade at Newtown Park, (training camp) Wellington.

Click below to see some amazing footage where, most likely, Eric is seen passing the camera.

https://ngataonga.org.nz/collections/catalogue/catalogue-item?record_id=73073

The film is of the Second New Zealand Contingent filmed on January 13 or 14, 1900 at Newtown Park, Wellington. It shows the Contingent members in fatigues undergoing riding tests or training. It is almost certainly the A H Whitehouse film of the Second Contingent, which makes it the only known surviving Whitehouse film and now the oldest surviving moving film taken in New Zealand.

I have been able to identify similar uniforms in a photo taken of the 2nd Contingent at Newtown Park (Alexander Turnbull Library F59914 1/2). Both the details of dress and weapons establish it as having been taken before the end of February 1900. During this period three Contingents were raised for the Boer War. The First Contingent trained at Campbell's farm in Karori, the Third Contingent was raised and trained in Canterbury, leaving the Second Contingent, which was raised and trained at Newtown Park, as the only possibility.

Talking to Clive Sowry the film is almost certainly that filmed by A H Whitehouse. The Pegler connection is still to be explored and would require someone to examine the scrapbooks and diaries with the family to see if the film's provenance can be traced. The film cannister has been identified by Clive Sowry as being a Karbutt Film Container. Karbutt was an early film manufacturer that supplied Edison with some of his early nitrate film and later supplied the trade. That, and the film stock characteristics, support the 1900 date.

The following notes are from Len King, June 21, 1995:

I believe it is the Second Contingent at Newtown Park. It is possible to eliminate all other contingents that sailed in 1899-1900.

The First camped on Campbell's farm in Karori and marched directly to the wharf. The area about this camp was much more open than the footage viewed and would not have picked up any significant tree line. I have not seen any shots that suggest there were large numbers of the public visiting this camp; most show crowds lining the roads and wharf as they marched through the suburbs.

The Third was mainly raised in Canterbury. It had various reviews in Hagley Park and sailed from Lyttelton.

The Fourth was raised mainly from Otago, camped at Forbury and sailed from Port Chalmers.

The Fifth was the only other early contingent based at Newtown, but I have eliminated them as a possibility based on the following reasoning: The equipment issue to the early contingents was the 1882 pattern infantry set, consisting of a pair of ammo' pouches, belt and shoulder straps. This was not satisfactory really for mounted troops as it concentrated

weight about the waist when pouches were full. This equipment, based on photographs, was only issued to the First, Second, Third and some of the Fourth Contingents. After that the 1889-94 bandolier equipment replaced it, which is quite different. By the time the Sixth sailed in January 1901, the carbines had also been replaced by Long pattern 1896 Lee-Enfield rifles, so this film well pre-dates the Sixth.

The provenance of the film is also important to any particular attribution. Fortunately it has been held by the same family of the cameraman(?) for the past 95 years and they may be able to provide some further documentation. Apart from this I believe it has been established that the family lived in Palmerston North around the turn of the century and were involved in a photographic business, so it would not have been more than a day trip to come to Wellington for some special event.

Hence my conclusion that the Contingent is the Second, with the footage most likely shot on January 13 or 14, 1900 at the open day and parade held over that weekend. If I had to settle on a date I would go for 13 January when a sham fight was held. In the film the troopers are wearing a mixture of serge tunics and undress / stable duty jerseys. Possibly they were split into 2 forces in different dress as an easy way of identifying the opposing forces. Photographs show that a large crowd was in attendance and this appears in the background of the footage, somewhat elevated, as they would have been from reference to photos of the camp's layout: the parade ground below an embankment surmounted by trees. The Contingent sailed on January 20, so this was likely to have been the farewell event, apart from dockside speeches.

20 Jan 1900 Eric embarks from Wellington to South Africa on the Troopship Waiwera (the same ship that carried the First Contingent).

Second New Zealand Contingent for the South African War (1899-1902), marching along Lambton Quay, Wellington, on 20 January 1900. Photographer unidentified

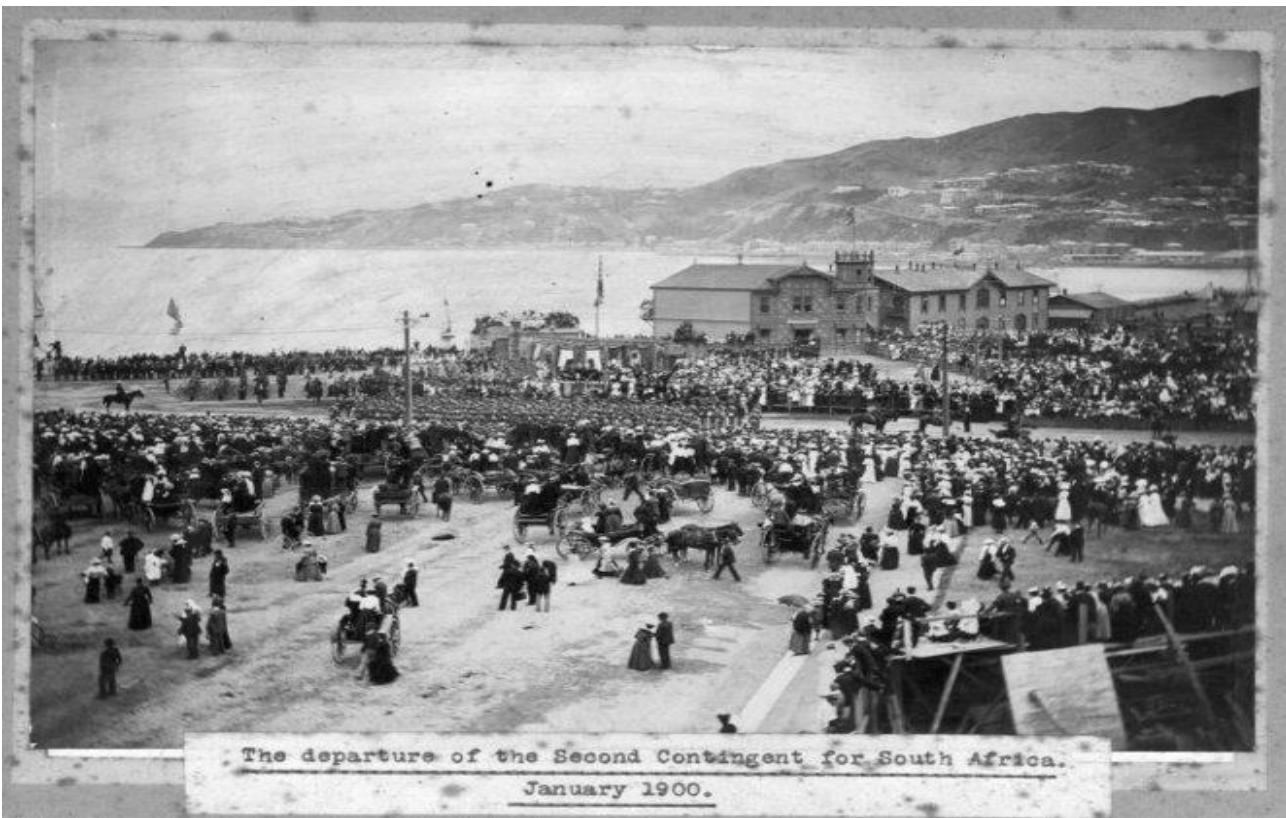


Contingent leaving Wellington for the Boer War, s.s. Waiwera



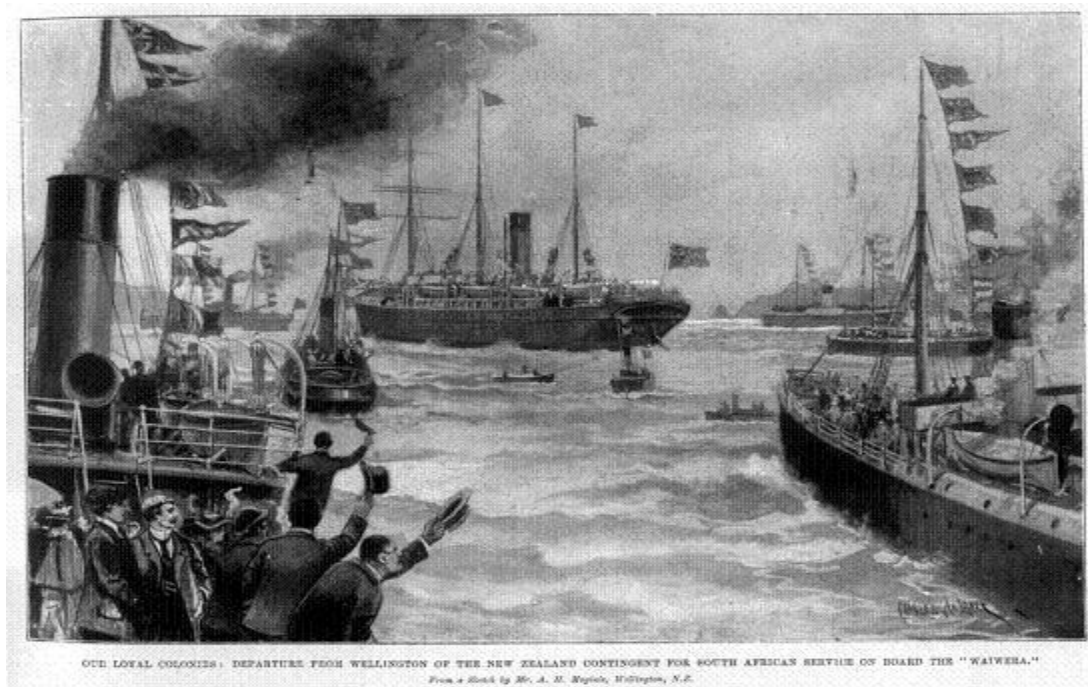
A contingent leaving Wellington for the Boer War, s.s. Waiwera

Photograph of a crowd gathered at the Wellington waterfront to farewell the Second Contingent (737), departing for the South African War. Shows the buildings of the Star Boating Club, and the Wellington Naval Artillery Volunteers. Photograph taken in January 1900 by an unidentified photographer. The Star Boating Club building is currently (2005) The Boatshed restaurant and venue, and the Wellington Naval Artillery Volunteers building is now the premises of the Wellington Rowing Club.



*The departure of the Second Contingent for South Africa.
January 1900.*

"Our Loyal Colonies: Departure from Wellington of the New Zealand Contingent for South African Service on board the *"Waiwera"*



Following is the record of all 10 contingents who left for the Boer War.

Contingent	Departure & Arrival ports	Date of Departure	Vessel	Officers & men
First	Wellington for Algoa Bay	21 Oct. 1899	s.s. Waiwera	9 officers 209 men Major Robin in command. Arrived Cape Town Nov. 23.
Second	Wellington	20 Jan. 1900	s.s. Waiwera	11 officers 231 men, 300 horses Major Montagu Cradock Commander Included a Hotchkiss machine gun detachment
Third "The NZ Roughriders"	Lyttelton	17 Feb. 1900	s.s. Knight Templar	12 officers 252 men, 279 horses Major Jowsey in command.
Otago and Southland companies of the Fourth	Lyttelton for Durban	26 Mar. 1900	s.s. Monowai	About 200 men and 250 horses. Total on the next 4 steamers 1,060
Otago section of the fifth Wellington and Auckland districts of the fourth contingent.	Port Chalmers & Lyttelton for Durban	25 March 1900 31 March 1900	s.s. Gymeric	400 horses, five stowaways - one from Lyttelton & four from Albany. Trooper Alfred Aldred was discharged at Albapt as medically unfit & placed on board H.M.S. Diana en route to Sydney. One of the stowaways to fill the vacancy
Fifth -Wellington, Nelson and West Coast districts	Wellington	31 March 1900	s.s. Waimate	13 officers 268 men 233 horses
Fourth & Fifth and reserves	Worser Bay, Wellington	31 March 1900	s.s. Maori	8 officers, 200 men 180 horses
horse feed	Timaru for Durban	28 March 1900	barque, Magwen	1000 tons of flour 17160 sacks of oats
Sixth	Auckland	30 Jan. 1901	s.s. Cornwall	27 officers 551 men
Seventh (incl. the 23rd Co. Nelson section, 24 Co. Canterbury Section)	Wellington arr. Durban 10 May	6 April 1901	s.s. Gulf of Taranto	28 officers 572 men
Eighth - North Is. division	Auckland arr. Durban 15 March	1 Feb. 1902	s.s. Surrey	45 officers 951 men

Eighth - South Is. division	Lyttelton arr. Durban 15 March	8 Feb. 1902	s.s. Cornwall	8 officers 192 men
Ninth - North Is. division	Auckland	9 March 1902	s.s. Devon	48 officers 1,028 men
Ninth - South Is. division	Port Chalmers	12 March 1902	s.s. Kent	
Tenth - North Is. division	Auckland	14 April 1902	s.s. Drayton Grange	45 officers 961 men
Tenth - South Is. division	Lyttelton	17 April 1902	s.s. Norfolk	7 officers 155 men

- 25 Feb 1900 Troopship Waiwera arrives at Cape Town (5 weeks duration)
- 27 Feb 1900 Under Major Montagu Cradock, the Second contingent boarded a train at Cape Town bound for Victoria West in the north of the country
- 15 Mar 1900 The NZ Second Contingent, together with the 2nd Canadian Mounted Rifles and a Canadian battery of field artillery, formed the advanced guard, under Major Cradock, of the Carnarvon Field Force, (under Colonel Parsons). This advanced guard was one of the three columns Lord Roberts mentioned in his despatch of 15th March 1900 as taking part in the expedition to put down the organised disaffection in the Prieska-Carnarvon district.
- The troops of the Carnarvon Field Force endured much hardship. On one occasion Major Cradock's men did 50 miles in twenty four hours, but after all failed to get into contact with the enemy. Two New Zealand troopers, T G Anderson and T Hempton, died of enteric during this expedition; and Lieutenant John Findlay and Corporal J F Neal, both of the 2nd New Zealand Mounted Rifles, had a narrow escape from drowning, but were gallantly rescued by Sergeant G H Street and Private W Cassidy of the New Zealand Mounted Rifles and a trooper of the Canadians. Cassidy was for his fearlessness presented with the Royal Humane Society Medal. He received the award from the hands of Lord Roberts at Pretoria on 25th October, the day the annexation of the Transvaal was proclaimed. Read more by clicking below <https://www.angloboerwar.com/unit-information/new-zealand-units/415-new-zealand-2nd-contingent>
- 1 April 1900 The advanced guard reached Kenhardt on 1st April and occupied it without opposition, being then 100 miles ahead of the main body. They captured a few rebels, many rifles, and 1,900 rounds of ammunition. After three days' occupation they were relieved by a column under Major Burke, being part of a parallel force under General Settle, and were then marched back to Victoria West with all speed and were there entrained to Norvals Pont, Northern Cape.
- 29 April 1900 The contingent marched from Norvals Pont, Northern Cape to Bloemfontein, Free State.

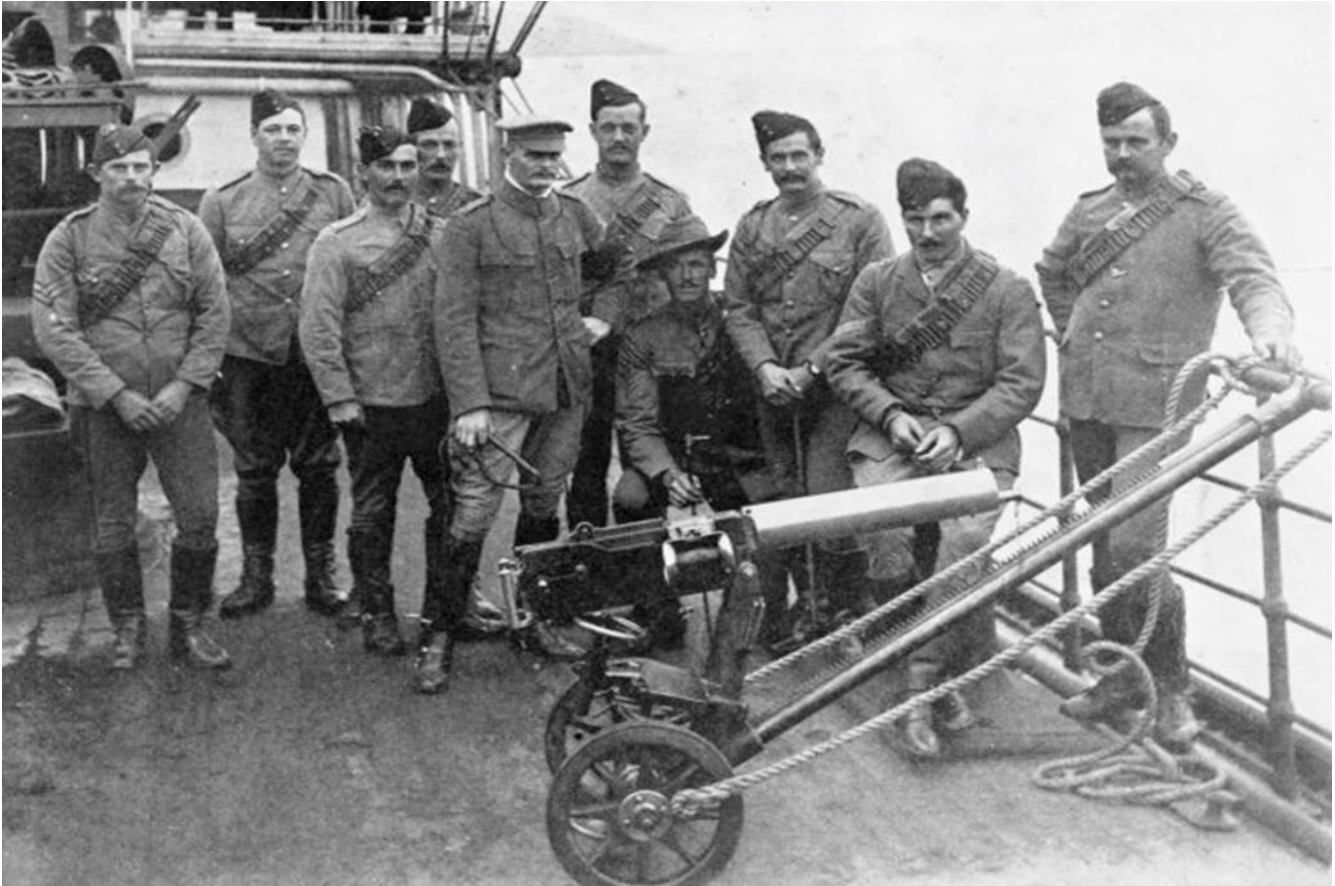


- 2 May 1900 After invading Bloemfontein Lord Roberts got his army moving again; 45,000 men, 11,000 horses, 120 guns and 2,500 wagons. Spearheading it was Maj. Gen. Ian Hamilton's division, which included a brigade commanded by Maj. Gen. "Curly" Hutton and mostly made up of colonials-New Zealanders, Canadians, and mounted infantry from all the Australian colonies. Due to the flatness of the Free state the Boers did not have any natural mountains or rivers they could use to stop the English, they tried at Glen Karee and Brandfort but with failure, the next place was the Vet River.
- 3 May 1900 At the engagement of Brandfort on the 3rd May, the 2nd New Zealand Mounted Rifles (a.k.a. N.Z. Second Contingent) were directed to attack the town, and they captured it simultaneously with a successful attack by some of Rimington's Guides on the heights near it.
- 4 May 1900 Gen. De la Rey (the Boers) and his men blew the rail bridge that crosses the river to pieces. Giving the protruding English (and colonies) only one place, +/- 10km west from there to pass the river, at Coetzee's drift.
- On the 4th May the NZ 1st Contingent joined Hutton's force, and were put into the 3rd corps of Mounted Infantry under Colonel Pilcher, which was therefore composed as follows: 1st and 2nd New Zealand Mounted Rifles, 1st and 2nd Queensland Mounted Infantry — Colonel Ricardo; 3rd Battalion Regular Mounted Infantry—Major Anley. This 3rd corps of Mounted Infantry took part in every engagement fought by French and Hutton on the way to Pretoria, often in the advanced guard.
- 5 May 1900 Battle of Coetzee Drift commences
- The next morning on May 5, while the infantry and guns crawled toward the ruined railway bridge over the river, Hutton's brigade fought its way across the river at Coetzee's Drift. The Canadians crossed the river enthusiastically against heavy rifle fire, but Ricardo sheltered his Queensland Mounted Infantry in a creek bed and refused to budge. The Boers, estimated at 1,000, occupied positions along the riverbank while artillery covered them from a hill behind. The Royal Horse Artillery softened up both positions, then the New South Wales Mounted Rifles dismounted and went into the attack. Under heavy fire they pushed the Boers back from the river bank and, after another bombardment of the hill, joined Queenslanders and New Zealanders in clearing the hill. The division moved on.

5 May 1900 Eric wounded at the Battle of Coetzee Drift (Vet River). Taken to Langman Field Hospital under the care of Dr. Conan Doyle. (Dr Doyle was knighted for his work at Langman Field Hospital and for his history of the Boer War).

6 May 1900 Eric died of his wounds. (He had been in South Africa for only 70 days, from arrival to his death)*

Soldiers of the 2nd New Zealand Contingent to the South African war alongside the Maxim machine gun the Contingent captured at the Vett River. Taken on the 5th of May 1900



13 May 1900 As ordered by Lord Roberts, Mahon marched from Pretoria eastwards towards the Belfast district. His force included 'M' Battery BHA, the 3rd Mounted Infantry Regulars, some Queensland Mounted Infantry, and Queensland Bushmen, temporarily commanded by Colonel Cradock of the 2nd New Zealand; **the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd New Zealanders, whose strength had fallen to 16 officers and 226 men, under Major Robin;** the 79th Yeomanry, Imperial Light Horse, and Lumsden's Horse. After a forced march Mahon joined French at Carolina, south of the railway, to take part in the movement on Barberton (see Imperial Light Horse). Barberton was occupied on the 13th, after some wonderful marching and hill-climbing and no little stiff fighting.

*A Maltese cross was presented to the family in memory of Eric and was almost always worn by his mother. A memorial plaque was also put up in the Anglican Church in Stratford, Taranaki.

(This information derived from the book "Cousins & Double Cousins" by Mary Ross Sinclair, ISBN 0-908608-76-4)

Grave of Pte (Private) L.E. Smith, New Zealand, 06-05-1900 (sent to me by Terry Cawood on the 4 August 2020 in an email exchange, and not seen previously). Refer my email exchanges with him further in this report.



I wanted to add this photo here ... it is of the memorial stone placed on the outside wall of Stratford District High School, where Uncle Eric attended from 1897 to 1898. It was unveiled on 6 May 2000, exactly 100 years to the day when Uncle Eric died in South Africa



The following letters are taken from Eric's service record via NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE PERSONNEL RECORDS. They paint a shocking picture of how little was communicated to his parents about his demise. I cannot say whether his parents (Pops parents) ever found out how he was killed or where he was buried, as the records stop on the 25 March 1901. Some of the text is hard to read but I have tried as best to convey it here verbatim, (I have attached a copy of it to this report also for your records)

- 16 July 1900 Memo to the Commander of the Forces "Has any word been received in your office about the Smith referred to in attached message?" W. Grow, Wgtn.
- 16 July 1900 "None except ? Capt. Haqhurst (?) informed me that Mister Smith had died of his wounds" A.P. Penton? Wgtn.
- 22 July 1900 Cape Town to Premier Wgtn. "Preddie Joined Petoria constabulary 480 Smith did die wounds. 6 May. Pilcher"
- 29 Aug 1900 Memo from Defence Office Wgtn NZ (Col R.A. commander of NZ forces) to the officer commanding Wellington district, Wellington asking for names of relatives of Smith who lost his life in S.A.
- 25 Sept 1900 Letter from HP Smith (father) to Richard Seddon (Premier NZ) saying ... "I received your letter of the 18th with the extract from Trooper Gillespie's letter enclosed ... Thanks him for his updates and also asks for the site of the grave in case in future he may wish to visit.
[Note – Trooper Arthur Richard Gillespie, # 310, Second Contingent – from Wellington. He is listed on the Embarkation Rolls, where you will also find Eric's name https://sooty.nz/southafricacontingents.html](https://sooty.nz/southafricacontingents.html)
Sadly there was no copy of his letter in Eric's service record
- 29 Sept 1900 **Richard John Seddon** sends telegram to HP Smith, Stratford stating "your letter received and I shall communicate with our agent in South Africa. I ask him to endeavor to comply with your wishes".
- 29 Sept 1900 NZ Under-secretary of Defence (Wgtn, NZ) writes to Mr Henry Percy SMITH (father) to say acknowledge your letter to Premier and have reached out to Capetown to ascertain grave of son.
- 29 Sept 1900 NZ Under-secretary of Defence (Wgtn, NZ) writes to HC Pilcher Esq, Govt Agent in Capetown to ascertain grave of L E Smith, adding Father is anxious to know the spot where he is buried as he may someday desire to visit the grave, also timely now to ask some of those who know it before they leave the country.
- 5 Feb 1901 NZ Govt Agency Capetown repeats Lt. Todd message (but dated before?)
- 26 Feb 1901 Lt Todd reports he trying to trace his grave and effects
- 25 Mar 1901 2nd application War Office London to ask why no death certificate received for Smith
[The above is the last entry in Eric's service record which is sent as a 'pdf to this document and titled "Service Records Lionel Eric SMITH #480"](#)
- 8 May 1901 Second and Third Contingents arrive back at Port Chalmers, New Zealand having completed their one year of service in the Boer War.
- 31 May 1902 The Boer War ends when the Boers and their supporters surrender.

The Battle of Coetzee Drift @ the Vet River, 5 May 1900 (where Lionel Eric SMITH fought and died)

Extracts from different publications about this battle follow. The NZ Second Contingent fought with the British and Australian forces in this battle.

Vet River viewed from Coetzee's Drift (Misgunsfontein)



Extracted from the book produced by Chris Coulthard-Clark, *Where Australians Fought - The Encyclopaedia of Australia's Battles*, Allen and Unwin, Sydney, 1998, pp. 75-76

1) From: *The Australasian*, 12 May 1900, p. 1039.

Coetzee's Drift, an action during the Second South African War, fought on 5 May 1900 along the Vet River in Orange Free State. After seizing the town of Brandfort two days earlier, the British commander, Field Marshal Lord Roberts, sent forward mounted forces to meet Boer forces under General J.H. De la Rey who were preparing a new line of resistance at the Vet River. The advance was conducted with **Major-General Edward Hutton's** brigade (which included several Australian units) on the left of the northern railway, and the mounted infantry division commanded by Lieut.-General Ian Hamilton on the right. The latter had secured Welkom Drift (ford) on 4 May and camped there overnight in readiness for Roberts' general push across the river the next day

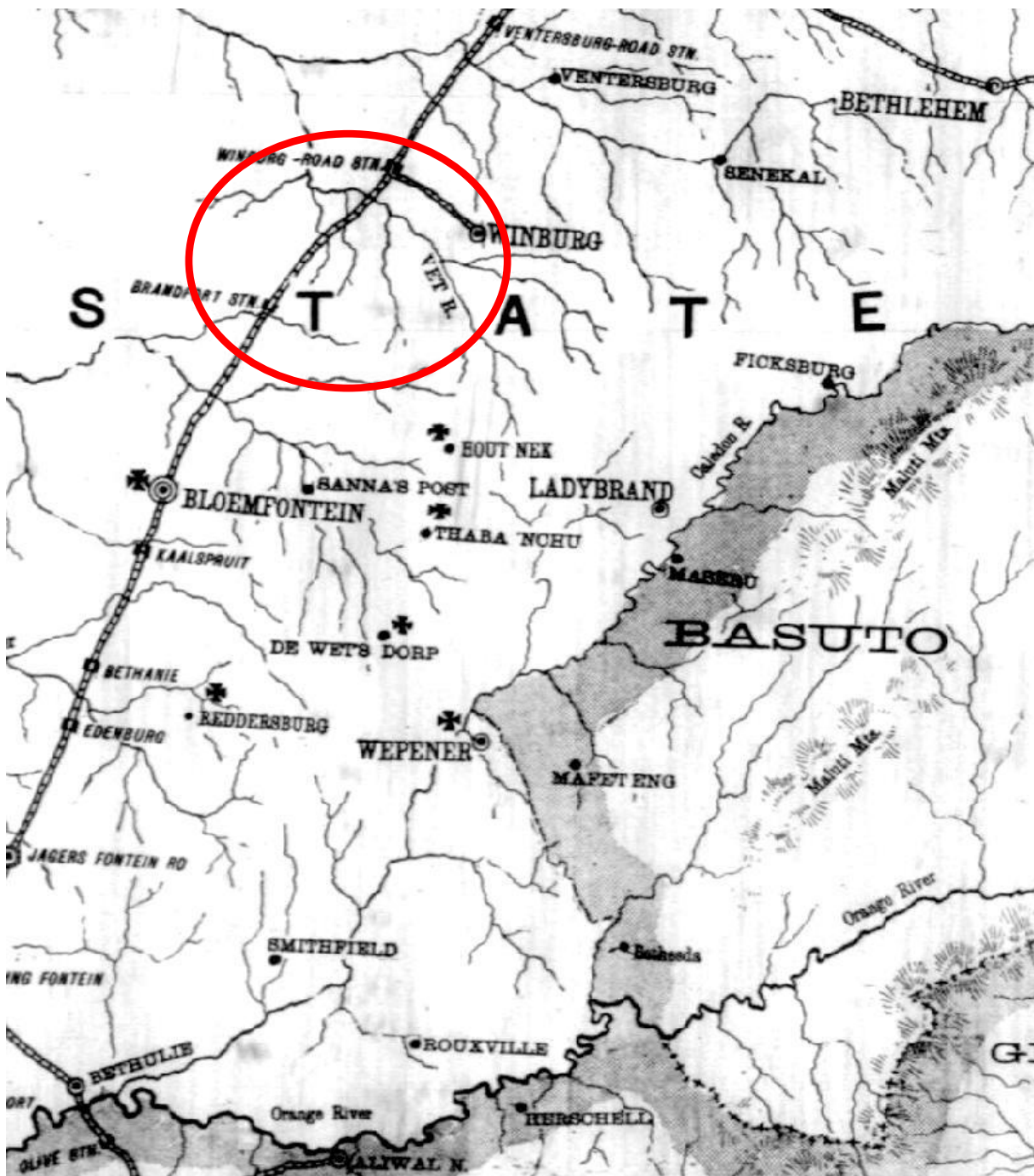
When the advance began on 5 May Hamilton had an easy march to Winburg, which he occupied that afternoon. Hutton, meanwhile, faced a more difficult task on the western flank, where the bulk of De la Rey's 1,500 burghers were posted in widely dispersed positions at the main crossing points. Arriving at noon at Coetzee's (or Misgunsfontein) Drift, ten kilometres west of the railway, Hutton found this so strongly defended that he was deterred from making a frontal attack. Learning from a local farmer of the existence of another disused ford four kilometres further west, he sent a British battalion supported by two companies of Canadians across in a flanking movement at this point. Once he saw that these troops were in a position to bear in against the right flank of the Boers occupying the high ground overlooking the main drift, he ordered the New South Wales Mounted Rifles, supported by the Queensland Mounted Infantry and **New Zealand Mounted Rifles**, to cross the river and attack.

The task given to the men of the NSWMR was a difficult one, for once on the other side they found themselves within a sort of basin formed by steep mimosa-covered banks which the Boers occupied in increasing strength. The pressure on the attacking Australians was relieved by the action of a flanking British battalion, which-having discovered another ford further east-took the initiative of crossing without waiting for orders and began driving in against the enemy's left. At this, the Boer defenders yielded the high ground and began withdrawing. An impetuous assault by the New South Wales men surprised the enemy party covering the retirement of several guns, and inflicted 23 casualties on this rearguard. By 4.45 p.m. Hutton himself crossed over the river to take possession of the Boer positions. The action had cost his force only four men wounded, due to the effective way in which it was managed rather than being indicative of the severity of the fighting involved.

Although Roberts now had both his flanks across the Vet, he was still held up in the centre where De la Rey had posted commandos on two kopjes (low hills) south of the river. When a body of the 2nd West Australian Mounted Infantry operating in advance of the 11th Division came within range of the Boer guns mounted on these hills, they were unable to make much headway until these weapons were subjected to counter-fire from three field batteries and other heavy guns. The kopjes were not occupied until just on dusk, after the WAMI made a spirited bayonet charge which prompted the Boers to withdraw before the attack's full weight could be delivered. The hour was now too late for the British to take effective follow-up action, so that the Boers were able to maintain their pattern of avoiding significant defeat and simply falling back in front of the British advance while imposing delay.

2) "The main advance began on 3 May. It was a 'grand sight to see the troops leave', a South Australian nurse wrote. By midday Hutton's brigade was pushing the Boers out of the village of Brandfort. It was an encouraging start. Australian troops took casualties at Karee Siding on the 3 May as well as other more serious tussles at the crossing of the Vet River on 5 -6 May and the Zand River on 10 May. Kroonstad was occupied on 12 May and on 24 May the army crossed the border at the Vaal river and entered the Transvaal. If the Boers could not always be rounded up, at least the countryside that sustained them could be ravaged. Pilkington's Western Australian Mounted Infantry, posted as scouts to the infantry division of General Reginald Pole Carew (pronounced 'pool carey'), a Guards officer, ransacked local farms next day - 'and what a glorious time we had', boasted young Trooper Frederick William Bretag, 'rounding up all the stock we came across and going through the houses, taking everything that is of any use to us.' That night, over on the right flank with Hamilton's column, Lieutenant Frederick Dove did more for Australia's reputation when he and his scouts took an engineer thirty kilometres behind Boer lines to cut a telegraph cable and destroy a railway line."

3) "Next morning, on 5 May, the army engaged perhaps 5000 Boers along the Vet. While the infantry and guns crawled toward the ruined railway bridge over the river, Hutton's brigade fought its way across the river ten kilometres to the west at Coetzee's Drift. The Canadians crossed the river enthusiastically against heavy rifle fire, but Ricardo sheltered his Queensland Mounted Infantry in a creek bed and refused to budge. Fortunately the Boers began to run when Hutton launched the New South Wales Mounted Rifles straight at them in a wild charge down to the river, over the drift, up the steep banks and on through long grass, in the Advance from Bloemfontein to Pretoria. A dash by some MI forced the remaining Boers to saddle up and flee."



There were 232 deaths from the ten New Zealand Contingents. The General Registry Office (GRO) list has all but 9 of the 185 who died in South Africa, plus one who died in Beira, Portuguese East Africa and one who was seriously injured but survived (L. A. Ditley).

The details/site where Lionel Eric SMITH is buried

I have been communicating with Terry Cawood who is the National Coordinator of the South Africa War Graves Project. The question was more about how and where Uncle Eric lay ...

18 Jul at 20:38

Helen Bull <helenjbull@yahoo.co.uk>

To: terry@webafrica.org.za <terry@webafrica.org.za>

Hello Mr. Cawood, I am conducting research on behalf of my New Zealand family. My grandfather's brother was Lionel Eric Smith of the New Zealand second contingent. He arrived in Cape Town on the 25 February 1900 on the Waiwera. Sadly he was seriously wounded on the 5 May 1900 at the Vet River, in the Battle of Coetzee Drift. He died the next day 6 May 1900.

I am trying to locate his grave and remains. Are you able to help me Terry please? I found your name on the S.A. war graves project...but am hitting a wall to find out where he might be. Any advice would be very welcomed.

Kindest regards, Helen Bull

19 Jul at 07:18

Terry Cawood <cawoodt@gmail.com>

To: helenjbull@yahoo.co.uk

5 files 3.5MB Download all

Hi There Helen, As you have researched, our relation died of wounds at the Vet River on 6 May 1900. He was buried at a site known as the Vet River Pump Station. This is a small fenced cemetery in the middle of nowhere at S28 28 43.7 E26 40 40.6. (If you enter these co-ordinates into Google Earth, you will see the site)

He was one of 9 casualties (the only New Zealander) that the exact location of the grave is unknown. Over the years some of the crosses/grave markers have gone missing although some of the graves are still visible. I visited the site back in 2010 and have attached some photo's for you. Not all the graves at the site are in the fenced off area so I am unable to determine if all the graves date from the 1900's, there may be some locals also buried here (the site is on a farm).

The info is from the book 'In Memoriam' by the late Steve Watt but if you want a photo of the entry, let me know and I will mail it to you.

Regards, Terry Cawood
SA National Coordinator



19 Jul at 08:10

Helen Bull <helenjbull@yahoo.co.uk>

To: cawoodt@gmail.com <cawoodt@gmail.com>

Terry, thank you so much for the rapid update and the information/photos. I would be very grateful for the extract from Mr. Watt's book please that you have referenced.

Huge personal thanks and warm regards, Helen Bull

19 Jul at 08:37

Terry Cawood <cawoodt@gmail.com>

To: helenjbull@yahoo.co.uk

1 file 172kBDownload all

Hi Helen, Here you are.



REGT NO	RANK	NAME	INIT	REGIMENT	CAS	PLACE	DATE	INTERRED	MNMT	REMARKS	REFERENCE
797	PTE	SMITH	LE	LONDON CITY IMPERIAL VOLUNTEERS	DOD	PRETORIA	11-11-1900	PRETORIA 1	6	#374	
480	PTE	SMITH	LE	NEW ZEALAND 2	DOW	VET RIVER	06-05-1900	VET RIVER PUMP STA	U2		
5627	PTE	SMITH	M	CAMERON HIGHLANDERS 2	D	PRETORIA?	07-07-1905	PRETORIA, THABATSWANA	7	A23	
17659	GNR	SMITH	M	ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY 42	DOW	LADYSMITH, MODDER SPRUIT	30-10-1899	LADYSMITH, TOWN 1	1A	W30-10-1899 \$CE	
2648	RFM	SMITH	MH	KINGS ROYAL RIFLES 1	DOD	DE AAR	07-03-1902	DE AAR	-	#75	
3410	PTE	SMITH	NW	YORKSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY 2	KIA	BELFAST NR LILLIEFONTEIN	03-08-1901	BELFAST?	27		VIDE SMITH, J IS REPEATED
298	PTE	SMITH	O	CANADIAN MTD RIFLES 1	DOS	PAN STANR	17-08-1900	MIDDELBURG, MP	50		

Rgds Terry

2 Aug at 18:28

Helen Bull <helenjbull@yahoo.co.uk>

To: Terry Cawood <cawoodt@gmail.com>

Hi Terry, again thank you so much for your valuable support with my great uncle. I wanted to keep you in the loop of what I have been discussing with my full family. We found it very tragic that Uncle Eric's father and mother, (and my grandfather when he grew up as he was only 3 years old when his older brother fell), never did find out where their son/brother was buried.

I did write to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission asking about the possibility of having his remains found and sent back to New Zealand to be laid with his family in Hawera, Taranaki. Thanks to your update, we know that he was the only New Zealand soldier who was killed with the group on the 5/6 May 1900, and depending on protocols one could offer that he would be identifiable by his uniform. Of course it may be difficult to determine which stone relates to him, but I was hoping there may be some way to ascertain his remains.

They have yet to respond Terry, but I wanted to update you on what we have done ... of course it may not happen, but we would like to try to right a wrong with regards to the terrible way his family was treated with regards communication and information on the demise of their son.

kindest regards, Helen

2 Aug at 20:58

Terry Cawood <cawoodt@gmail.com>
To: 'Helen Bull' <helenjbull@yahoo.co.uk>

Hi There Helen, Thanks for the mail and the info. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission has a limited Mandate covering the dates 4 Aug 1914 to the 31 Aug 1921 and then again from 3 Sep 1939 to the 31 Dec 1947, which is covered (as in many other countries) by local Government legislation (in South Africa this is the Commonwealth War Graves Act (1992)). The CWGC has, in the past, done some work, on an agency basis for the British MoD in revamping the larger cemeteries from the Anglo Boer War but they would have no say or responsibility for these graves as graves older than 60 years fall under the Heritage Resource Agency of the SA Government. You would need to apply to them for permission to exhume. It is unlikely that you will be able to recover your relations remains as little would remain after 120 years and there is no way of identifying which grave contains the remains. The graves are, for the most part, badly defined and the entire area would need to be excavated to identify the unmarked graves, an idea that would not find favour with the Agency. I would rate the chances of success as negligible, I can't recall any successful attempt to do this (even Queen Victoria's grandson's remains were never taken back to England) and there are approx. 25 000 Imperial casualties from the Boer War buried here in South Africa.

Regards, Terry

3 Aug at 21:35

Helen Bull <helenjbull@yahoo.co.uk>
To: Terry Cawood <cawoodt@gmail.com>
2 files 13.7MB Download all

Hi Terry, and thank you for the update ... wow! I was not aware of Queen Victoria's loss. You are right, if she failed what chance have i? However I will at least approach them and see their response rather than wondering what if? for the next 20 years.

Terry, I am not sure if you are interested but I attach the work that I did for the family for my Great Uncle Eric, as you had a big part to play in its execution I wanted to share it with you.

On behalf of my family, I wanted to thank you for everything you have done over the years for the men & women who were lost in the Boer War. It is a very special thing, and my family and I were moved and humbled by your personal efforts.

With deepest thanks, Helen

4 Aug at 09:04

Terry Cawood <cawoodt@gmail.com>
To: 'Helen Bull' <helenjbull@yahoo.co.uk>

Hi Helen, Many thanks for the info on you relation and your thanks, It makes interesting reading! We still have reminders of the Boer War in the cosmos flowers that are seen along the roads here in South Africa. They were brought into the country in the horse feed , from South America.

Regards, Terry

4 Aug at 09:36

Terry Cawood <cawoodt@gmail.com>
To: 'Helen Bull' <helenjbull@yahoo.co.uk>
1 file 1.6MB Download all

Hi There Helen, On the off chance, I went back to the original set of photo's I took in 2010 and guess what, I found a pic of his grave marker. I don't know why it was not loaded up with the others but here we are. It seems that Steve Watt's entry in 'In Memoriam' was not accurate (or he may have amended it in a later issue of the book.)

Regards, Terry



6 Aug at 21:17

Helen Bull <helenjbull@yahoo.co.uk>
To: cawoodt@gmail.com <cawoodt@gmail.com>

Hi Terry, our family cannot believe it...thank you so much for looking at your photos again. I was moved when I read your email and saw the image of Uncle Eric's gravestone 120 years on. We wonder if his parents, (my great grandparents) ever knew? Thank you again for helping us "find" Eric. This new information has helped us all to better understand the story of a young man's life, albeit tragic in its end.

Kindest regards, Helen

Note that for the Vet River **Pump** Station Cemetery, Free State, SA. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission maintains Anglo-Boer war graves in this site.

Following are some photos of the graves and site as well as coordinates to see it. Refer Google Earth coordinates at

S28 28 43.7 E26 40 40.6

Vet River Pump Station



Vet River

Cemetery Details

Cemetery Location: South Africa

NZ Casualties: 1

Total Known Casualties: 1

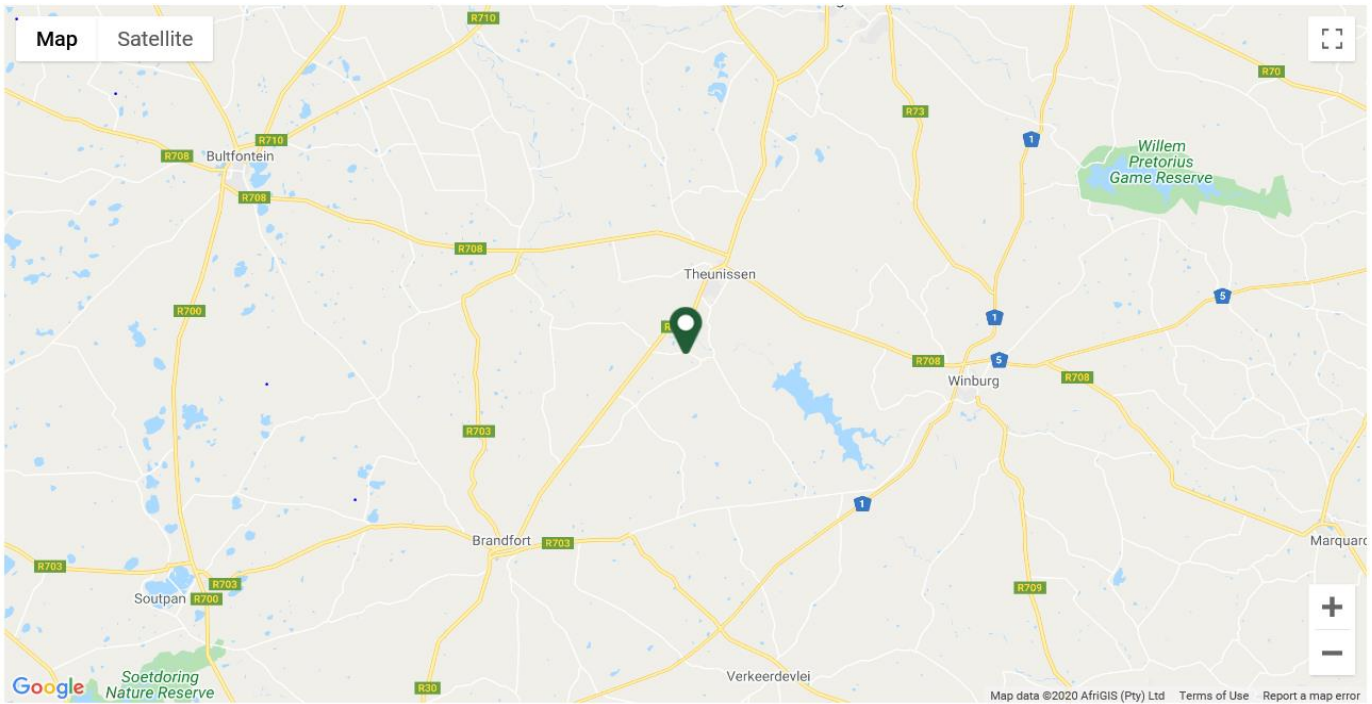
Listed Casualties

[Lionel Eric Smith](#)

<https://www.nzwargraves.org.nz/cemeteries/vet-river-pump-station>

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/5000654/vet-river-station-cemetery/>

Site of the Vet River **Pump Station Cemetery, Free State, SA.**



Following are photos of the graves found within the fenced area of the grave site as sent by Terry CAWOOD (refer email exchanges with me above)









Grave of Pte (Private) L.E. Smith, New Zealand, 06-05-1900 (sent to me by Terry Cawood on the 4 August 2020 in an email exchange, and not seen previously). Refer my email exchanges with him further in this report.



Email to the South Africa Government with regards bringing Uncle Eric home

Note – I sent this with an abridged version of Uncle Eric's war record

helenjbull@yahoo.co.uk>

To: info@sahra.org.za

Sat, 29 Aug at 18:09

Hello Ms. Malgas and Executive Team,

Your name and organization was provided to me by the South Africa War Graves Project, as the graves from the Anglo Boer War I understand fall under the jurisdiction of the South African Heritage Resource Agency. It is in relation to the war that I send you this email and question please.

I am a New Zealander with family links to the Boer War. My Great Uncle (Lionel Eric SMITH) sadly fought and lost his life on 6 May 1900. I have spent the last 5 months investigating records and speaking to the S.A. War Graves Project, and thanks to these resources I have a clear story of what happened to him. The sad part of the story is that when he fell, his parents back in New Zealand were never told how he died, nor where he lay.

Last week we finally found his grave which is marked in the attached study that I did, to understand his short service, and the timeline from when he first joined up in New Zealand until his death at the Battle of Coetzee Drift. His body lies in the Vet River Pump Station Cemetery, Free State, SA. Google Earth coordinates are **S28 28 43.7 E26 40 40.6**

My question Ms. Malgas and Executive Team is this ... My family is very keen to bring Eric's remains back to New Zealand. I therefore ask for your permission to exhume his body and have his remains sent back to N.Z.

I am at your disposal to answer further questions and would be very happy to speak further with a member of your team as you see fit. But first can I ask you to please consider this request?

Thank you in advance, and kind regards
Helen Bull

○

The service of Lionel Eric SMITH_Boer War.docx
12.4MB

[Bonga Mapundu](mailto:bmapundu@sahra.org.za) <bmapundu@sahra.org.za>

To: helenjbull@yahoo.co.uk

Mon, 31 Aug at 09:53

Dear Helen. This is to acknowledge the receipt of your communicate. I will forward it to the relevant unit that deals with burial and graves. I will encourage them to respond as soon as possible. Regards

[Bonga Mapundu](mailto:bmapundu@sahra.org.za) <bmapundu@sahra.org.za>

To: Adv. Lungisa Malgas

Cc: Mamakomoreng Nkhasi-Lesaoana, Mimi Seetelo, Phillip Hine, helenjbull@yahoo.co.uk

Mon, 31 Aug at 09:59

Dear CEO. An email below refers, the lady is requesting the permission from SAHRA for exhumation. I have copied APM and BGG Managers for their response in regard to the request. Regards

[Adv. Lungisa Malgas](mailto:imalgas@sahra.org.za) <imalgas@sahra.org.za>

To:Bonga Mapundu
Cc:Mamakomoreng Nkhasi-Lesaoana,Mimi Seetelo,Phillip Hine,helenjbull@yahoo.co.uk
Mon, 31 Aug at 10:43

Dear Bonga, Thank you
Best Regards, Lungi

From: Bonga Mapundu <bmapundu@sahra.org.za>
Sent: Monday, 31 August 2020 09:59
To: Adv. Lungisa Malgas <lmalgas@sahra.org.za>
Cc: Mamakomoreng Nkhasi-Lesaoana <mnkhasi@sahra.org.za>; Mimi Seetelo <MSeetelo@sahra.org.za>; Phillip Hine <phine@sahra.org.za>; helenjbull@yahoo.co.uk
Subject: Fwd: A request to you please re. the Boer War grave site of Lionel Eric Smith

Bonga Mapundu
CEO: Personal Assistant

South African Heritage Resources Agency
- A nation united through heritage -

T: +27 21 462 4502/ 8635 | **C:**+27 73 323 0079 | **F:**+27 21 462 4509
E: BMapundu@sahra.org.za | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town |

www.sahra.org.za

Adv. Lungisa Malgas
Chief Executive Officer

South African Heritage Resources Agency
- A nation united through heritage -

T: +27 21 4624502/ 8676 | **C:** | **F:**+27 21 4624509 **E:** LMalgas@sahraorg.za | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town

Ngqabutho Madida <nmadida@sahra.org.za>
To:helenjbull@yahoo.co.uk
Cc:Mimi Seetelo
Mon, 23 Nov at 13:40

Dear Ms Bull
Your request for the exhumation of the remain of Mr Lionel Eric Smith is being processed by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA). You will be notified of the decision once internal processes have been completed.

Sincerely, Madida

Ngqabutho Madida
Heritage Officer: BGG

South African Heritage Resources Agency
- A nation united through heritage -

T: +27 12 320 8490/ 4961 | **C:** | **F:**+27 12 320 8486
E: NMadida@sahra.org.za | Office 101, 1st floor, Sancardia Mall, 541 Madiba Street | Pretoria |

New Zealand Boy's Adieu

by Madame Pinn

(Dedicated to the N.Z. Contingents on the eve of their departure for South Africa)

I

The first whistle of the troopship *Wiawera*,
Has sounded aloud to the throng
As they stand on the wharf of Wellington
Bidding their loved one's 'so long.'
Many brave fellows of New Zealand,
Are leaving by her at sundown,
To make for the shores of South Africa,
And join in the fight for the crown.
Apart from the weeping and wailing,
Of Mother and sister and son:
Will be seen the form of the fair maiden,
Caressing some mother's brave son.
In her weeping and wailing of heart and
Her cry of despair could be heard:
"Oh Harry, it grieves me to lose you,
Tho' I know you will keep your word."
Up spoke the brave fellow quite cheerfully,
"Its only goodbye a short while dear."
With kisses and caresses, most fondly
he adds without sigh or tear.

Chorus:

"Goodbye my love, goodbye.
'Till we return again:
When the cruel war is over, and Victory we have won
I'll tell you of the pretty sights.
And our charging with a will
I'll meet no fair maids there your place to fill.
When the cruel war is over, I will come back my love to thee
I will come back to thee
Goodbye my love Goodbye, Goodbye my love, Goodbye.

II

Amidst the departure taking, sounds forth the second shrill whistle
And with struggling of arms and rushing,
They board the ship with much bustle;
To look down on the tear claimed faces,
They are leaving behind on the wharf
Amid the waving of 'kerchiefs and cheering,
A shower of trinkets fall forth;
In the grasping hands of the loved ones,
As the cry comes from above
"Take this token my dear from he, whose heart
is so full of love."
Who, wish wonderful courage & spirit
Has gone to the war to fight;

To show all he is worthy of honour, In his task he will delight.
Heave goes the anchor, "Heigh - a high- a-ho."
Shouting 'success' and "God - Speed's" away to war
they go.

Chorus

III

The third whistle has sounded most shrill
The ship, she heaves out to sea:
And soon, native land is forgotten, His fair one, he no longer
can see.

Thoughts of the Battlefield raves in his mind,
Wishing he'd wings that could fly
Quickly he'd take up his position, to fight for Victory or die.
He turns to his comrades saying "I mean to come back
with some honour.

A Major, or Colonel, or Victoria Cross, I will fight for my Queen & fellows.

Then strike up the music dear comrade.

And let us be merry once more:
In wishing our three Islands farewell,
For we no longer can see the shore.

Chorus.

Goodbye New Zealand Goodbye

"Till we return again

When the cruel war is over,

And Victory we have won.

We'll think of all the pretty sights

And our charging with a will.

We'll meet no fair maids there,

its our New Zealand girls' still.

When the cruel war is over.

We will come back dear ones to thee

We will come back to thee

Goodbye my love Goodbye

Goodbye my love Goodbye

*Hands and arms from across the sea.
New Zealand's Help to the Old Country.*

Further Supporting links and documents for Eric SMITH

- “The Times” History of the War in South Africa, Amery, L. S. (ed.), (7 vols., 1900–09)
- The Great Boer War, Doyle, A. C. (1901)
- The Colonials in South Africa, 1899–1902, Stirling, John (1902)
- Diary of the Second New Zealand Mounted Rifles, Cradock, M. (n.d.)
- The New Zealanders in South Africa, 1899–1902, Hall, D. O. W. (1949).
- The Battle of Coetzee Drift, South Africa, 5 May 1900
- A repeat of the link in the report (in case you missed it). Footage of the Second Contingent – amazing as it is the oldest film in existence in New Zealand https://ngataonga.org.nz/collections/catalogue/catalogue-item?record_id=73073
- Writings by those in the 2nd New Zealand Mounted Rifles (a.k.a. Second Contingent):
[Cradock, M.](#), Diary of the Second New Zealand Mounted Rifles on active service in South Africa: from 24th February, 1900 to 21st March, 1901; also from 1st April, 1901 to 8th May, 1901 (Dunedin: Evening Star, 1913)
Author: Cradock, M.,
Title: Diary of the Second New Zealand Mounted Rifles on active service in South Africa: from 24th February, 1900 to 21st March, 1901; also from 1st April, 1901 to 8th May, 1901
Publication Details: (Dunedin: Evening Star, 1913)
Person(s): Major Montegu CRADOCK
Campaigns: Orange Free State, Transvaal and Guerrilla Campaigns
Unit(s): 3 Coy and later commander, 2nd New Zealand Mounted Rifles
Date Range: Feb 1900-May 1901
Description: Brief chronological account of 2nd Contingent's role spearheading the invasions of the Transvaal and Orange Free State and the beginnings of the Guerilla Campaign.

[Twisleton, F.](#), With the New Zealanders at the front: a story of twelve months' campaigning in South Africa (Christchurch: Whitcombe and Tombs, c.1901)
Author: Twisleton, F.,
Title: With the New Zealanders at the front: a story of twelve months' campaigning in South Africa
Publication Details: (Christchurch: Whitcombe and Tombs, c.1901)
Person(s): 318 Cpl Francis Morphet TWISTLETON
Campaigns: Orange Free State, Transvaal and Guerilla Campaigns
Battles: Diamond Hill, Rhenoster Kop
Unit(s): 3 Coy, 2nd New Zealand Mounted Rifles
Date Range: Jan 1900-March 1901
Comments: Detailed account of Frank Twisleton's hard and continuous service with the 2nd Contingent, providing a frank other-rank's view of the war.
- **Watt, Steve. *IN MEMORIAM: Roll of Honour, Imperial Forces: Anglo-Boer War, 1899-1902*.** Pietermaritzburg: University of Natal Press, 2000. 479 p. ISBN: 0-86980-968-7 Provides the surname, initials, rank, regiment no. (in NZ's case contingent), cause of death, place of death, date, interred, monument remarks and reference of each individual of the Imperial Forces who died during the South African War 1899-1902, and those who died during the period of occupation up to 1913 and where they are buried, now this is not just New Zealand but the whole British Empire. The remarks and reference are sparse. The listing covers over 25,000 people who died and details. Includes those who died on Somes Island in Wellington harbour of pneumonia and other causes.

[Surname](#) ▲ [Forename/initials](#) [Regimental no](#) [Rank](#) [Notes](#)

Smith

L E

480

Private

Demise: Died of wounds 06 May 1900

Place: Vet River

Source: In Memoriam by S Watt

This is the link of the New Zealand Defence Force. It lists all the narratives from the wars. Interesting in here is the diary of Major Montagu Cradock who was the senior officer on board the Waiwera for the Second contingent (see above)

<http://www.nzdf.mil.nz/personnel-records/nzdf-archives/bibliography/personal-narratives/south-african-war/by-unit.htm>

Some other interesting links – this one a photo of the Waiwera

<https://teara.govt.nz/en/1966/26696/a-contingent-leaving-wellington-for-the-boer-war-ss-waiwera>

General information about the Boer War via the South African War Graves

<https://angloboerwar.com/>

<https://www.southafricawargraves.org/index.htm>

The top of the Dunedin Boer War Memorial. The memorial reaffirms New Zealand's dedication to the Empire. As McLean and Phillips said, the New Zealand Boer War Memorials are "tributes to the Empire and outpourings of pride about New Zealand's place" in the Empire.

