

# *The* GENOCIDE *of the* BOERS

## *A Pictorial History & the Role Rothschild Greed Played in the Crime*

THE SECOND ANGLO-BOER WAR (1899-1902) remains unique in the annals of modern history. For the first time in the modern era, war was deliberately waged by a supposedly civilized nation on innocent women and children. Not only were Dutch settler (Boer) homes destroyed by the British forces by means of a scorched earth policy, but the Boer women and wee ones were then herded into deplorable concentration camps. Women and children whose menfolk were still in the battlefield were subjected to starvation rations, which resulted in widespread disease and death. At the heart of the conflict was the desire of the Rothschild banking dynasty to control the mineral wealth of regions inhabited by the Dutch pioneers who had tamed the wild lands of southern Africa. To fund the unending British atrocities, the Rothschilds dug deep.

### By Stephen Mitford Goodson

**A**lthough the British had signed, on July 29, 1899, the Hague Convention, which strictly forbade the mistreatment of civilians in combat theaters, they were egged on by the rapacious Rothschilds to contravene every one of the convention's articles in the latter's maniacal pursuit for complete control of the gold mines of the Transvaal, as this article will show.

The men who implemented this cruel and immoral method of subjugation were the secretary for the colonies, Joseph Chamberlain, the high commissioner for South Africa, Alfred Milner, and field marshals Frederick Roberts and Horatio Herbert Kitchener. Their barbaric policies and atrocities eventually became widely known, and were condemned not only in

continental Europe, but also by large sections of the British and Irish populations. However, conditions were not ameliorated, as the Rothschilds ruled (and still rule) the roost not only in Britain, but throughout most of the world through their control of the banking system, which is based on debt and usury.

Cecil John Rhodes, who was one of the principal schemers of the Second Anglo-Boer War and a faithful servant of the Rothschilds, frequently claimed that the Brits were the finest and most honorable race in the world. As the reader will discover in the following pages, this was not their finest hour.

Note that, during the rule of the National Party (1948-94), the concentration camps were omitted from school history syllabi. On Prime Minister Hendrik Verwoerd's instructions, research on the camps was not permitted at Afrikaner universities. This policy was adopted in the



**DISEMBARKATION OF BRITISH TROOPS:** Some of the hundreds of thousands of British troops who disembarked from Durban Harbor during 1899-1902 to fight comparatively small Boer civilian forces.

interest of promoting unity between the Afrikaans- and English-speaking peoples. The author disagrees with that approach and believes that awareness of what had happened would have promoted greater respect and sympathy amongst English speakers for Afrikaners.

### EARLY HISTORY OF SOUTH AFRICA

The Dutch<sup>1</sup> ruled the colony of the Cape of Good Hope from 1652 to 1795. Thereafter it was occupied by the British, until it was finally granted to them with the signing of the Anglo-Dutch Treaty of August 13, 1814. The following year, after the French lost the battle of Waterloo on June 18, 1815, Nathan Rothschild secured

ownership of the Bank of England. This enabled him to control the money supply and finances of Great Britain and her empire,<sup>2</sup> of which the Cape Colony constituted one of its territories. In 1843 Natal, which is situated on the east coast of South Africa, was added to the empire and by extension to Rothschild's domains.

Many of the Dutch settlers were dissatisfied with British rule for the following reasons:

- The Dutch settlers had received inadequate compensation<sup>3</sup> for their slaves after slavery was abolished.
- Land was becoming scarce after the arrival of 5,000 British settlers in the eastern Cape in 1820.
- Anglicization of their culture and in particular the downgrading of their mother tongue, Dutch.



All three of these Rothschild kin were great-grandsons of the founder of the Rothschild dynasty, Mayer Amschel Rothschild, partners in N.M. Rothschild & Sons and close friends of King Edward VII. Together, they helped wield the financial might of the Rothschilds to fund the British war effort in southern Africa and destroy the tenacious Boer republics. **Above left: Lord Nathan Mayer Rothschild (1840-1915). Center: Alfred Charles de Rothschild (1842-1918).** Alfred was the first Jewish man to be appointed a director of the Bank of England (1868), but was sacked in 1889 for his involvement in inappropriate behavior. **Right: Leopold de Rothschild (1845-1917)** was a prominent breeder of thoroughbred racehorses.

- Lack of British support in containing the conflict with the Xhosa tribes on the eastern frontier.
- Criticism and interference by many of the Christian missionaries.
- The elevation of the colored people to equal status with whites.

## ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BOER REPUBLICS

Between 1835 and 1837 the Dutch settlers, better known as Voortrekkers, trekked northward and by 1854 had settled in the two Boer republics of the Orange Free State (OFS) and Transvaal. On January 17, 1852 the Sand River Convention, which guaranteed the Boers the right to govern themselves, was signed by the Transvaal Boers and the British government. Two years later on February 24, 1854 at the Convention of Bloemfontein, the British abandoned all claims to the OFS and guaranteed her future independence.

On February 12, 1869, the Treaty of Aliwal was signed between the OFS and Britain, which renewed British pledges and guarantees of non-interference and independence. One month later an 83-carat diamond was discovered in the southwestern region of the OFS. A Griqua chief, Nicolaas Waterboer, at the behest of the British, claimed the area, using the latter as his advocate. A farcical arbitrament was set up under the lieutenant

governor of Natal, Robert Keate, who, in an act of naked aggression, awarded the territory to the British on October 17, 1871. British troops were sent in to occupy the territory immediately.

In 1876, the president of the OFS, Johannes Brand, took the British government to court, and, although the British judge agreed that the annexation had been unlawful, he declared that it was too late to return the territory to its rightful owners, as the population was now British. He offered £90,000 in compensation for the richest diamond mine in the world. As the historian James Froude has written: "This transaction [was] perhaps the most discreditable in the annals of English colonial history."<sup>4</sup>

## ANNEXATION OF TRANSVAAL

On April 12, 1877, the British government, using a fictitious pretext based on false rumors spread by certain missionaries that slavery was being practiced in the Transvaal Republic and that it was too weak to maintain law and order, issued a proclamation that permitted its annexation.

Then-Vice President Paul Krüger led delegations to London in May 1877 and April 1878 demanding the return of their independence, which had been solemnly granted by the British at the Sand River Convention in 1852, but

he was snubbed.<sup>5</sup>

Toward the end of 1880 the Boers decided to take matters into their own hands and attacked various garrison towns. There were four main engagements in which the British were defeated. At the final, incredible battle of Amajuba (Majuba Hill) on February 27, 1881, a 2,000-foot-high mountain occupied by Maj. Gen. Sir George Pomeroy Colley and 560 men was stormed by 100 Boers. The Brits lost 226 dead and wounded, and Colley was killed. The Boer losses were one killed, five wounded.

## REESTABLISHMENT OF TRANSVAAL REPUBLIC

On March 6, 1881, an armistice was declared, and the country was returned to the Boers on August 3, 1881 after the signing of the Convention of Pretoria. The London Convention of February 27, 1884 removed British suzerainty over Transvaal. The only restriction was contained in Article IV, which prohibited the Transvaal from signing treaties with foreign states, the only exception being the Orange Free State.

The discovery of gold on the Witwatersrand in June 1884 irrevocably changed the prospects of the Transvaal Republic existing peacefully. This “reef” and its extensions in both westerly and easterly directions contained over 47,000 tons of gold, which is the amount that was extracted between the years 1886 and 2004.

As the gold mines developed and became more profitable, pressure increased on the Boers to accommodate the imperialist designs of the British and their ultimate controllers, the Rothschild banking syndicate.



**QUEEN'S SOUTH AFRICA MEDAL:** The Queen's South Africa Medal, a service decoration, was issued with the years 1899-1900 engraved on it, as it was anticipated that the war would be over in a few months. The first batch of 50,000 medals had to be withdrawn and have the dates machined off.



**COMPLIMENTS CARD:** In December 1901 the Rothschild brothers provided “their” troops in the field with a Christmas hamper containing sweets, some stationery, a portion of tobacco, a pipe, 12 packets of cigarettes, a book, a chocolate cake, a plum pudding and a deck of cards.

## BRITISH AGITATION FOR THE FRANCHISE

By the early 1890s streams of foreign workers and speculators had arrived in the country, and they soon started to outnumber the Boers. Some of them were British, but an even larger number consisted of “mostly Russian, Polish and German Jews, with roving propensities and no strongly rooted attachment to an old country.”<sup>6</sup> The gold mine owners were almost entirely Jewish. The leading company was the Eckstein group, named after its managing director, Hermann Eckstein, one of the few non-Jewish mine owners. This combination included Consolidated Goldfields and S. Neumann & Co. Prof. John Atkinson Hobson writes in *The War in South Africa: Its Causes and Effects* in 1900 that “Rothschild has a controlling interest in Goetz & Co.” and that, “Rothschild stands for the Exploration Company, which is in effect Wernher, Beit and Rothschild.”<sup>7</sup> Furthermore he adds that the dynamite monopoly and “the rich and powerful liquor trade, licit and illicit, is entirely in the hands of the Jews”; “the stock exchange, is, needless to say, mostly Jewish,” and “the press of Johannesburg is chiefly their property.”<sup>8</sup>

In January 1896, after the abortive Jameson Raid, which tried to overthrow the Transvaal government, the South African League was set up as a front of the Rothschilds in order to agitate for the granting of voting rights to the *uitlanders* or foreigners. However, this agitation was nothing more than “a sham grievance.”<sup>9</sup>

Capt. L. March Phillips writes in *With Rimington* as follows:

As for the *uitlanders* and their grievances, I would not ride a yard or fire a shot to right all the grievances they ever invented. The mass of the *uitlanders*, i.e. the miners and working-men of the



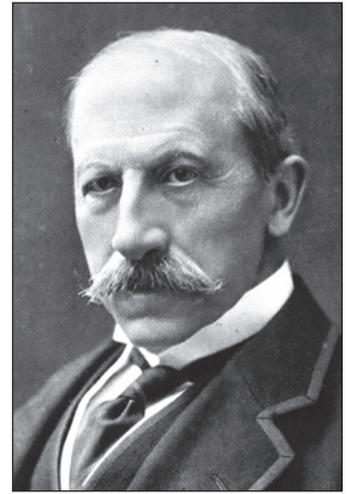
**PAUL KRÜGER**



**MARTINUS STEYN**



**JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN**



**ALFRED MILNER**

Stephanus Johannes Paulus Krüger was president of the Transvaal Republic (1883-1900). The discovery of gold eventually placed his country in jeopardy and resulted in the British seizing it on behalf of the Rothschilds. Martinus Theunis Steyn was the sixth president of the Orange Free State (1896-1902). When war broke out he said that he “would rather lose the independence of the Free State with honor than retain it with dishonor.” He was a “bittereinder” (bitter ender), and on several occasions when the Transvaalers were considering surrender, he intervened and urged them to fight on. Joseph Chamberlain was secretary of state for the colonies (1895-1903). He was arrogant, ruthless and much hated. He deceived the Boers into believing that he was sincere in his efforts to reach a settlement regarding the voting rights of the *uitlanders* (foreigners). Capt. J.J. McCord has remarked that, “No man has stood more completely condemned of blood guilt than Chamberlain . . . and as the cause of endless strife in a country.” Lord Alfred Milner was high commissioner for southern Africa (1897-1901) and thereafter was appointed as administrator of the Boer republics. He hated the Boer people and tried to eliminate them as a separate race and culture by forcing them to anglicize—a policy in which he failed.

Rand, had no grievances. I know what I am talking about, for I have lived and worked with them, I have seen newspapers passed from one to another, and roars of laughter roused by *The Times* telegrams about these precious grievances. We used to read the London papers to find out what our grievances were, and very frequently they would be due to causes of which we had never even heard. I never met one miner or working-man who would have walked a mile to pick the vote up off the road, and I have known and talked with scores and hundreds.<sup>10</sup>

In a similar vein, E.B. Rose writes in *The Truth About the Transvaal* as follows:

I could take every one of the numerous grievances which we *uitlanders* were alleged to be suffering under, and could show in much the same way how hollow were the pretenses, how flimsy were the grievances which had any basis in fact at all, and how in the main these so-called grievances were simply part and parcel of the crusade of calumny upon the Boers, having for its object eventual British intervention and destruction of Boer independence, an object which has now only too successfully been accomplished.<sup>11</sup>

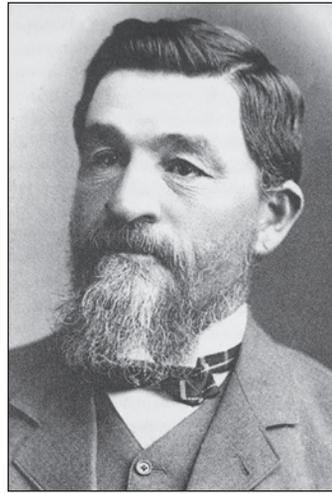
In order to protect their status, the Boers would only grant the franchise after a period of 14 years of residence. On May 30, 1899, at a conference held in Bloemfontein, the capital of the Orange Free State, President Paul Krüger of the Transvaal Republic, offered to reduce the period of residence to seven years, but this major concession was not accepted. In August 1899 an offer was made to reduce the period of residence to five years. The British high commissioner, Sir Alfred Milner, remained unmoved and held to his point of view that it was “reform or war.”<sup>12</sup>

### **CIVILIZED STATE**

It needs to be observed that, by 1899, the Transvaal Republic had developed into a democratic and progressive state. A local government system was in place with municipalities having elected councilors. Pretoria and the Witwatersrand had railroad links to the ports of Delagoa Bay (Maputo), in Mozambique, Durban and Cape Town. The first tramways were constructed in 1889. A postal delivery service was established in 1870, a telegraph service was introduced in 1887, and a telephone service was installed in 1894. There was an extensive grid of piped water, the first gas mains were laid in 1892, and electricity was also provided. A hospital board was



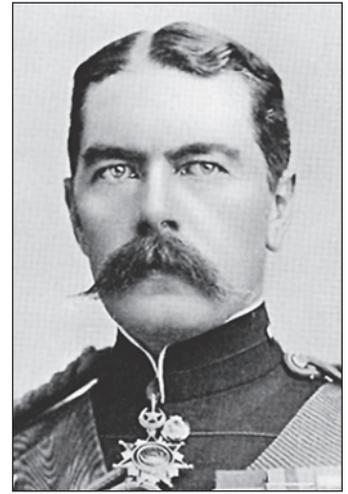
**GEN. KOOS DE LA REY**



**GEN. C.R. DE WET**



**FREDERICK ROBERTS**



**H. HERBERT KITCHENER**

General Koos de la Rey (1847-1914), also known as the “Lion of the Western Transvaal,” was one of the strongest military leaders of the Transvaal Republic. He excelled in guerrilla fighting and defeated the British in numerous engagements. Gen. Christiaan Rudolph de Wet (1854-1922) was a formidable general who continually evaded capture by the British. He was one of the “bittereinders,” who argued against signing the Treaty of Vereeniging on May 31, 1902. Lord Frederick Roberts preceded Kitchener as a commander-in-chief of the British army. After his son, Frederick, was killed at the Battle of Colenso on December 17, 1899, he became increasingly embittered toward the Boers and on June 16, 1900 instituted the policy of scorched earth. Lord Horatio Kitchener was a misogynist, sadist and pervert who was impervious to the death and destruction he inflicted on the Boer people.

established, and foodstuffs, water and liquor were subject to inspection and analysis. There was an independent judicial system, and the Volksraad or parliament had 24 members.

As a result of the mining development taking place in the Transvaal, it rapidly became industrialized. This was anathema to the British government, whose policy was to import raw materials from the colonies and to retain all production in the mother country and oblige its colonies to import all their manufactured requirements at an immense profit.

There was no income tax, and the gold mines were not taxed on their profits, and no levies were imposed. There were only a few insignificant taxes, such as a nominal tax of 10 shillings per morgen (1.6 acres) on an original claim, prospectors’ licenses and diggers’ licenses. The state derived most of its revenue from customs duties, a 4% duty on the transfer of land and a poll tax.

## **SECOND ANGLO-BOER WAR**

In September 1899 the British secretary of state for the colonies, Joseph Chamberlain, continued to deceive the Boers by intimating to them that a settlement would shortly be agreed upon, but, at the same time, British troop reinforcements were being secretly dispatched to South Africa. An ultimatum sent on October 9, 1899 that her majesty’s government cease “the constant bringing up of troops to the borders of the

republic, and the sending of war reinforcements from all parts of the British empire”<sup>13</sup> was ignored. Two days later war broke out.

The overconfident British expected a brief campaign or tea-time war that would be over by Christmas. In anticipation thereof they issued the Queen’s South Africa Medal, a service decoration, with the years 1899-1900 engraved on it. These dates had to be removed when it transpired that they were opposed by a formidable foe, and instead the war lasted for two years and eight months, from October 11, 1899 to May 31, 1902. [See photo of the medal on page 7.—Ed.]

Although the Boers had only a part-time army of mounted horsemen, they enjoyed stunning successes in the initial phases of the war. They were the first combatants to introduce trench warfare, which later became the preferred way of fighting in World War I. However, they were ultimately outgunned, outnumbered and, in some instances, poorly led.

After the capture of the capital cities of the Orange Free State and Transvaal, Bloemfontein and Pretoria<sup>14</sup> respectively, in March and June 1900, the Boers resorted to guerrilla warfare. A tiny force of never more than 6,000 active Boers was able to frustrate and tie down 448,725 troops of the world’s largest empire.

[Even brilliant Confederate guerrilla tacticians Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest, Col. John S. Mosby and Gen. John Hunt Morgan would have to admit this was an absolutely amazing feat.—Ed.]



**CROWN REEF GOLD MINING COMPANY LIMITED:** Crown Reef Gold Mining Company Limited was the first mine to be established on the Witwatersrand with a capital of £70,000.

## GUERRILLA WARFARE & SCORCHED EARTH

As the British were unable to defeat the Boers in the field, from June 16, 1900 onward they resorted to a scorched earth policy. The purpose of this policy was to prevent the Boer commandos from obtaining food, horses and other supplies. By placing the Boer women and children in concentration camps, the British hoped to undermine their fighting capacity and to lower their morale and thereby hasten their surrender. This policy, to wage war on women and children, was in complete contravention of the Hague Convention on July 29, 1899 with Respect to the Laws and Customs of War on Land, to which convention Great Britain was a high contracting party, and thus broke all the rules of war.

### SECTION II, HAGUE CONVENTION

#### On Hostilities

Chapter I, Article 25: The attack or bombardment of towns, villages, habitations or buildings which are not defended, is prohibited.

Article 28: The pillage of a town or place, even when taken by assault, is prohibited.

### SECTION III

#### On military authority over hostile territory

Chapter V, Article 46: Family honors and rights,

individual lives and private property, as well as religious convictions and liberty, must be respected.

Private property cannot be confiscated.

Article 47: Pillage is formally prohibited.

The Boers were a cultured people. Many of them possessed beautifully crafted furniture, well stocked libraries, and almost every home had a piano or pump organ. When British troops entered their homes, they were only allowed 10 minutes to clear out their personal possessions. All the contents of the homesteads were destroyed, including children's toys and bibles. The British would then smash everything in sight that had not been removed. Windows were shattered, and window frames, doors and flooring were ripped out and then piled up with the furniture and set alight. Besides the homesteads, stables and out buildings were burnt. A Boer woman related her experience as follows: "When the troops had gone I had nothing to eat, and all the objects on the house had been thrown about. When I begged one of the officers to leave a little food for my children, he hit me with his fist so that I nearly fell to the ground."<sup>15</sup>

All farming equipment, such as plows, wagons and carts, were wrecked, while all crops, including bales of wool, were destroyed. Vegetables, and even flower beds, were dug up, and orchards were chopped down.<sup>16</sup> The

Rothschilds' troops showed unbelievable cruelty toward animals. If sheep and cattle were not bayoneted or shot, they would be herded into a kraal (corral) and then dynamited, and the badly mauled would be left to die. On other occasions sheep would be rounded up, the surrounding grass would be set alight, and they would be roasted alive. In some instances, the tendons of the animals were cut—to save ammunition—and they were left to die an agonizing death. All of these horrific events would be witnessed by the distraught women and children.

At night the sky was reddened with the glow of burning homesteads.<sup>17</sup>

### HARDSHIPS OF THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Women and children were carted away on overcrowded wagons. Family photographs and portraits would be deliberately thrown off the wagons by the soldiers and crushed by the rolling wheels. A Mrs. H.P. van Bruggen-Oosthuizen recorded that: "You can crush the portraits into little pieces, but the spirit of the Boer nation will live as long as there is a Sun shining in the sky. This old farm will one day be witness to your barbarism."<sup>18</sup>

The first wagon would be used to carry women, children and elderly people, while the second one would

convey their needs in the concentration camp, such as food, clothes, medicines and blankets. As soon as the convoy started, the Brits would invariably set the second wagon alight.<sup>19</sup> When there were no oxen available, the women would have to pull the wagons.

Deaths were common while traveling. If conditions were not safe and the British believed they were being tracked by Boer commandos, requests to bury a dead child were refused, and the child was flung into a ditch. When a Boer woman had to give birth, she was dumped in the veld with a blanket. Boer commandos frequently found women and their infants lying dead, and in winter completely frozen.<sup>20</sup>

Women and children were also transported in open and closed railway cars. They were packed like sardines and traveled day and night for up to 72 hours without any sanitation and in some cars had to sit on wet cow dung.<sup>21</sup> Usually only one stop per day was allowed. 155,000 women and children—or almost two-thirds of the Boer population—were imprisoned in these extermination camps.

### LIFE IN THE CAMPS

The Boers were not allowed to bring their own thicker tents, but were accommodated in thinner single-layer Bell tents. The tents were grossly overpopulated, and the



**GRAND HOTEL:** The Grand Hotel, Johannesburg, after occupation by the overwhelming British forces, May 31, 1900.



**ABOVE: BRITISH SOLDIERS LOOTING BOER POSSESSIONS:** British soldiers looting Boer possessions in contravention of Article 47 of the Hague Convention prior to the destruction of a homestead. The piano and harmonium may have been used or broken up for firewood, as there was a great shortage of wood on the highveld. **BELOW:** Boer homesteads go up in flames, just two of the 32,000 homesteads destroyed by British troops.



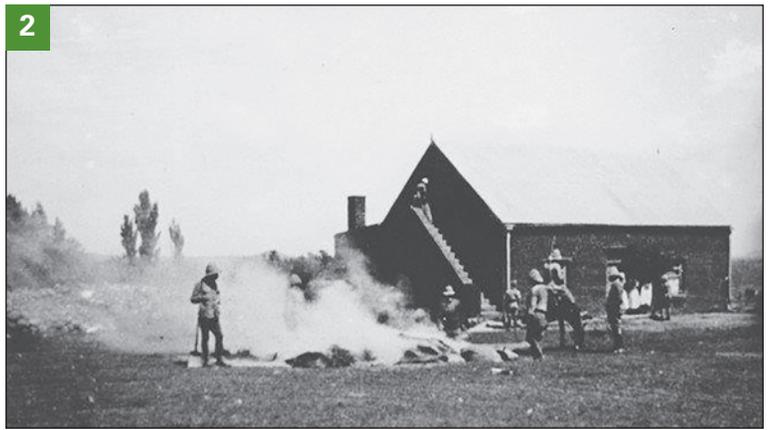
inmates, who had previously slept on feather or straw beds, had to sleep on the ground, as there were hardly any mattresses and no beds. The tents leaked, and there were never enough blankets. In summer the heat was unbearable, while in winter temperatures often fell below freezing.<sup>22</sup>

Candles were scarce, and soap was virtually unavailable. All candles had to be out by 8:30 p.m. Mothers with dying children had to experience their deaths in pitch darkness, and, if a light was found on, a fine would be imposed or the already scanty rations withheld.<sup>23</sup> When a mother wished to attend the funeral of her child, permission was often denied, and the child would be

dumped in a wagon and carted away somewhere.

Anyone who complained about the conditions was deemed a troublemaker and immediately had his or her rations halved. When a few women in the Standerton camp complained about some rotten meat which had been served, the response of the camp commander was: "As your punishment for your brutality to dare to complain, you will receive no meat for eight days!"<sup>24</sup>

The men's toilet was a long ditch covered by canvas or rolling logs through which children often fell. Young boys who did not adhere to the rules of the toilet were thrown into the sewerage. By way of example, at the Aliwal North camp there was one latrine for every 177



**SCENES OF CARNAGE:** 1. Boer farmhouses burning. At night the sky was reddened with the glow of blazing Boer homesteads. 2. Sacks of grain are set on fire at a Boer homestead. 3. Women and children being transported in open railroad cattle cars. They were forced to travel day and night for up to 72 hours without any sanitation. In some cars they had to sit on wet cow dung. 4. A Boer family loads up a wagon with all of its worldly possessions. It is doubtful any of their draft animals were left alive by British troops to pull the wagon. 5. Church in Carolina, eastern Transvaal, destroyed by British soldiers. It was fully restored after the war. 6. Sheep and cattle in a kraal shot and left to rot by British troops.

women and children, while at the Merebank camp, outside Durban, one bath house served 5,154 people.<sup>25</sup>

Women and children whose menfolk were still fighting for their freedom and independence had their meager rations cut in half. William (Wickham) Thomas Stead, a famous London journalist and editor of *Review of Reviews*, who later drowned on the *RMS Titanic* on April 15, 1912, helped launch the "Stop the War Campaign." In January 1900 he wrote:

When the helpless women and children were incarcerated in these prison camps, a careful difference was made between those who had husbands, brothers and fathers still on commando and those whose male relatives were already killed, captured or had surrendered. Those in the last category were provided with what was called "full rations." . . . Then it was decided to subject the women and children of those men and fathers