



**Voorbladfoto**

"Tuiskoms"

**Cover Picture**

"Coming Home"

# MILITARIA

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# World War I

# Eerste Wêreldoorlog 1914 – 1918



The Archduke Francis Ferdinand seen here with his family, was the heir to the Austrian throne. His assassination on 28 June 1914 by a Bosnian student Gavrilo Princip on behalf of Serbian Nationalists, set the world on fire and led to a bloody war; the flames of which also spread to the newly-found Union of South Africa.

*Aartshertog Francis Ferdinand, troonopvolger van die Huis van Habsburg, en sy gesin. Op 28 Junie 1914 word hy in 'n sluipmoordpoging deur 'n Bosniese student, Gavrilo Princip, om die lewe gebring. Dié moord het 'n bloedige wêreldoorlog ontketen waarby die nuutgestigte Unie ook betrek is.*

# Rebellion and Homefront

# Rebellie en Tuisfront

1914 – 1915



Prime Minister, General Botha (left) and General Smuts, the Minister of Defence. At the outbreak of war Botha and Smuts not only accepted responsibility for the entire defence of the Union, but also declared themselves willing to liquidate German Southwest-Africa as a base for German communications and naval strategy in the South Atlantic. The intention was announced on 8 September 1914. He could not have foreseen what this resolution would involve . . . when Botha did mobilise his troops, it was to crush a rebellion led by his former comrades in arms De Wet, Beyers, Kemp, Fourie and Maritz.

*Die Eerste Minister, generaal Botha (links) en generaal Smuts, Minister van Verdediging. Botha en Smuts het met die uitbreek van die oorlog nie net verantwoordelikheid vir die verdediging van die Unie aanvaar nie, maar het hulle ook bereid verklaar om Duits Suidwes-Afrika, wat as 'n Duitse vloot- en kommunikasiebasis gedien het, uit te wis. Botha kon egter nie voorsien watter gevolge die besluit sou inhou nie . . . toe hy sy troepe mobiliseer, was dit nie om Suidwes binne te val nie, maar wel om die Rebellie wat uitgebreek het, te stuit.*



Botha's bodyguard leaving for operations against the rebel forces in the Rustenburg area, 26 October 1914.

*Generaal Botha se Lyfwag vertrek na die Rustenburg-distrik om die rebellemagte daar teen te staan.*



Loyal 'burgers' mobilise to suppress the rebellion. Divergent political views led to many families being torn asunder. It was a period noted for its emotional bitterness.

*Burgers getrou aan die Kroon word gemobiliseer om die rebellie te onderdruk. Dit was 'n bittere tydperk waarin huisgesinne in twee geskeur was as gevolg van verskillende politieke sieninge.*

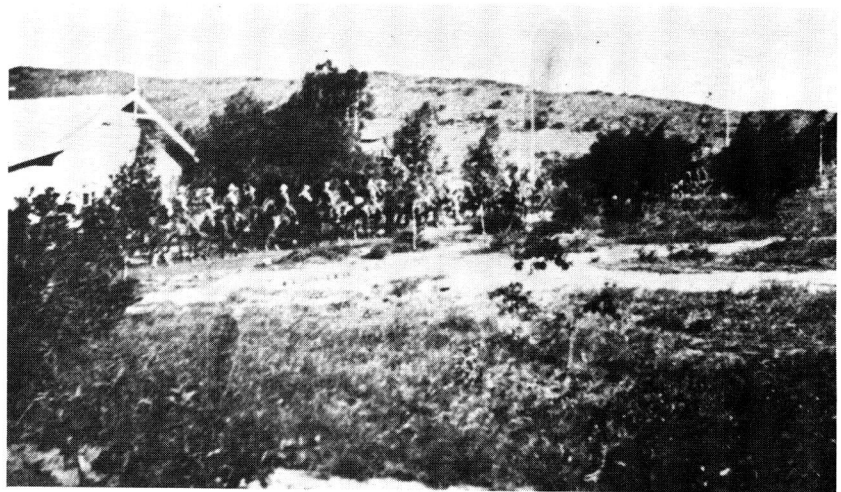




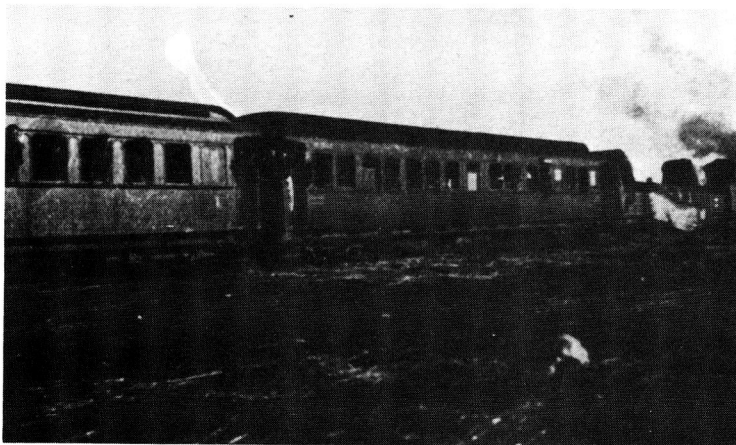
Burial of a SA Policeman shot on 9 November 1914 near Rustenburg. Loyalist casualties were, with a few exceptions relatively light on the occasions they clashed with rebel forces.

*Die begrafnis van 'n SA Polisieman wat op 9 November 1914 naby Rustenburg doodgeskiet is. Min ongevallen het onder die ondersteuners van die Kroon in die botsings teen die Rebelle voorgekom.*

Troops returning to Pretoria after the skirmish at Nooitgedacht in which Captain Jopie Fourie, a rebel leader was captured. Fourie was a Defence Force officer and his execution was to become one of the most emotional issues in Afrikaner history.



*Bo: Troepe keer terug na Pretoria ná 'n skermutseling by Nooitgedacht waarin die Rebelleier, Kaptein Jopie Fourie, gevange geneem is. Sy teregstelling was een van die mees emosionele gebeurtenisse wat verreikende gevolge in die geskiedenis van die Afrikanervolk gehad het.*



Left: General Botha's train leaves the Orange Free State after the crushing of the Rebellion in that province. Noteworthy clashes in the Free State were at Doornberg and Mushroom Valley. The latter saw De Wet's rebel commandos soundly defeated by Botha. De Wet himself was captured on 1 December 1914 in the Vryburg district.

*Generaal Botha verlaat die Oranje-Vrystaat nadat die Rebelle suksesvol in die provinsie onderdruk is. Merkwaardige botsings in die Vrystaat het by Doornberg en Mushroom Valley plaasgevind. By laasgenoemde is De Wet se rebelle-kommando terdeë deur Botha verslaan. De Wet self is op 1 Desember 1914 in die Vryburg distrik gevange geneem.*



The pursuit of Kemp. The latter, after an epic trek through the Kalahari joined forces with Maritz. They succeeded in defeating a UDF column at Nous, but were in turn defeated at Upington in January 1915. Kemp surrendered.

*Die agtervolging van Kemp. Na 'n epiese trek deur die Kalahari sluit hy by Maritz aan en slaag daarin om 'n Unieverdedigingsmag-kolonne by Nous te verslaan. Die gesamentlike magte van Kemp en Maritz word egter in Januarie 1915 by Upington verslaan en Kemp gee homself oor.*



Lt Col S.G. (Manie) Maritz. On 9 October 1914 he went over to the German side taking some 500 men with him. After joining up with Kemp's force, they attacked Upington but were defeated. Maritz fled to Angola, but returned to the Union in 1924.

*Lt-kol S.G. (Manie) Maritz. Op 7 Oktober 1914 loop hy en 500 van sy manne na die Duitsers oor. Na sy aansluiting by Kemp se magte word hulle by Upington verslaan waarna Maritz na Angola vlug en eers in 1924 na die Unie terugkeer.*



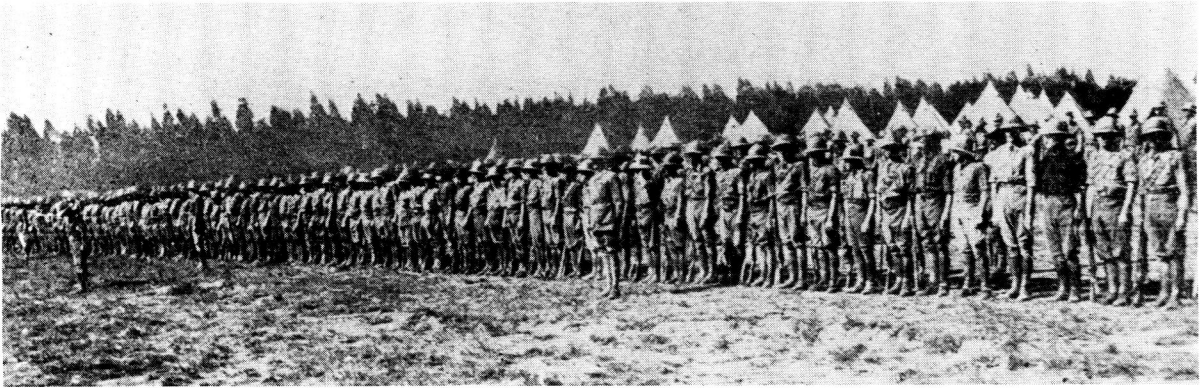
The ignominy of defeat. Captured rebels on foot being escorted to prison. Although the rebellion was a military failure, it would have a long-term influence on the politics of South Africa.

*Die skande van 'n neerlaag. Rebelle word na die gevangenis begelei. Alhoewel die Rebelle 'n militêre mislukking was, het dit 'n langdurige invloed op die Suid-Afrikaanse politiek gehad.*

# German Southwest Africa

# Duits Suidwes- Afrika

## 1915 – 1916



The Imperial Light Horse on parade. With the Rebellion something of the past, Botha could now forge ahead with his plans to invade German Southwest Africa. To this objective he assembled and trained a force of 50 000 men, mostly mounted, with field artillery.

*Die Imperial Light Horse op parade. Na die suksesvolle onderdrukking van die Rebelle kon Botha voortgaan met sy planne om Duits Suidwes-Afrika in te val. Hy het 'n mag van 50 000 man vir die doel saamgestel en in veldartillerie opgelei.*

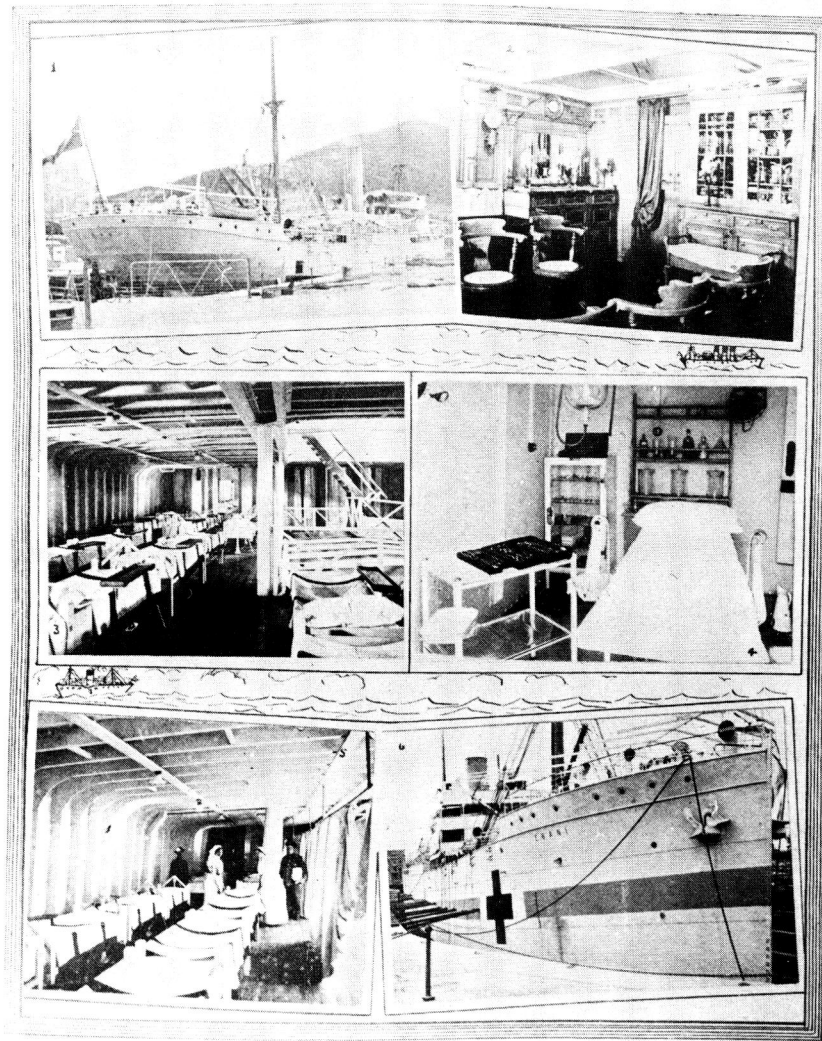


PREHISTORIC PEEPS.—Young man, why aren't you in khaki?

The NONGQUAI, the South African Forces Magazine comments on the mobilization.

*Die Suid-Afrikaanse Magte Tydskrif, die NONQUAI, lewer kommentaar oor mobilisasie.*





**VIEWS OF THE S.S. "EBANI"—THE SOUTH AFRICAN HOSPITAL SHIP.**

The "Ebani" was of the same line as the "Falaba," torpedoed and sunk in the English Channel recently. Capt. FAHLL, of the "Ebani," was at one time in command of the "Falaba." General Botha and Staff returned from the campaign to Cape Town from Walvis on the "Ebani."

1 and 6. In Dock at Cape Town. 2. A corner of the Saloon. 3 and 5. Hospital Wards. 4. The Operating Theatre.  
(Sitting by C.S.T., Pretoria.)  
 Photos by Arthur Elliott, Cape Town.

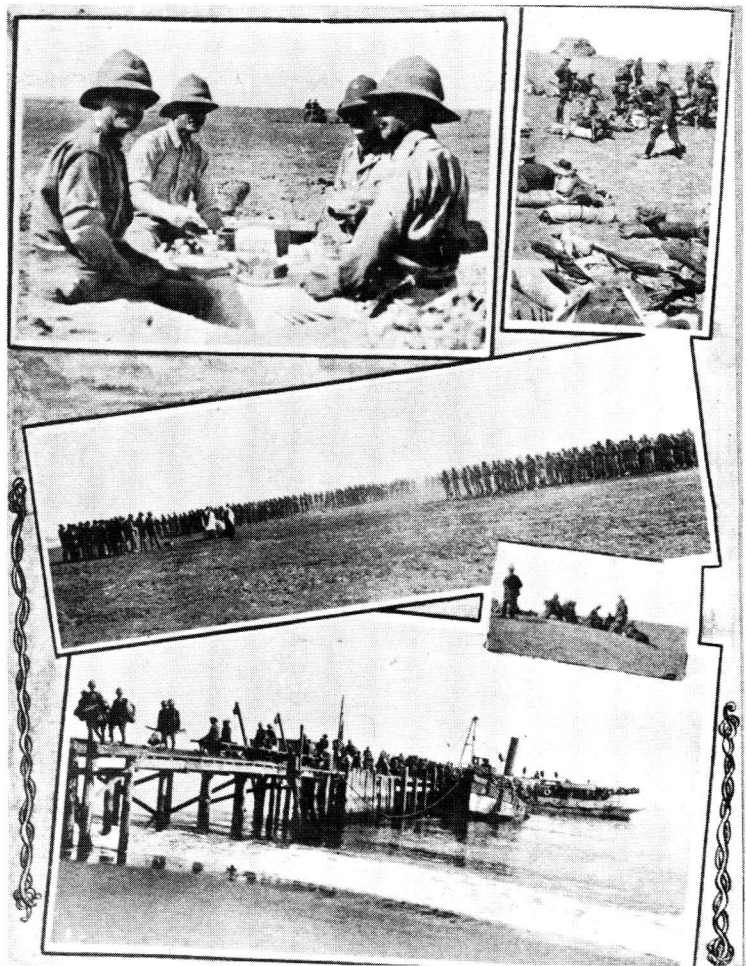
Views of the SS 'Ebani', the South African hospital ship which accompanied the Union forces to South West Africa.

*Die SS 'Ebani', die Suid-Afrikaanse hospitaalskip wat die Uniemagte na Suidwes-Afrika vergesel het.*

Union Troops awaiting disembarkation from transport.

*Uniemagte wag om aan wal te gaan*





1st and 2nd SAMR arrive at Walvis Bay.

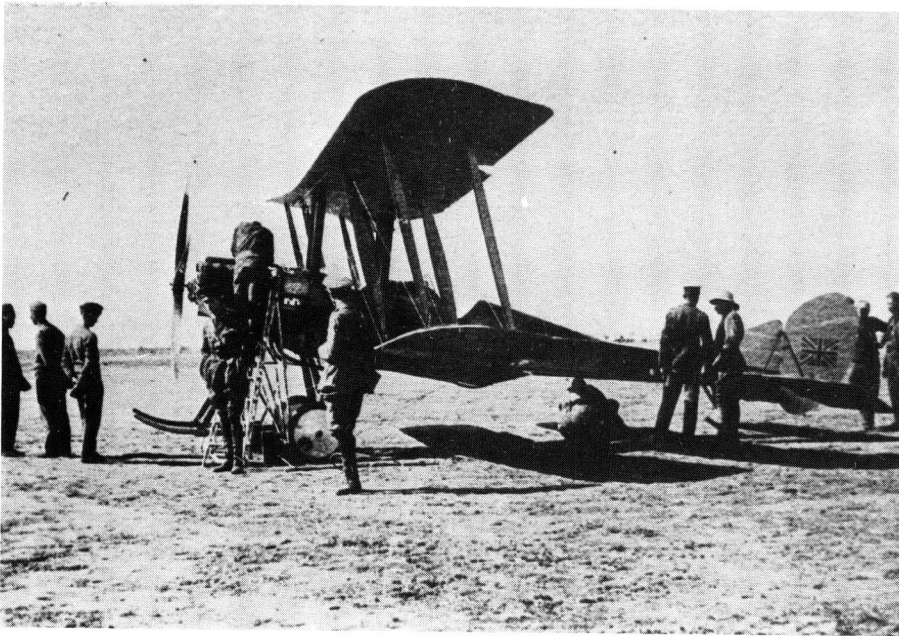
*Die eerste en tweede SAMR (beredskutters) arriveer in Walvisbaai.*



The trek inland begins; crossing the great sanddunes near the coast. Botha planned a three-pronged attack upon the German colony; from the South, Lüderitzbucht and from Walvis Bay.

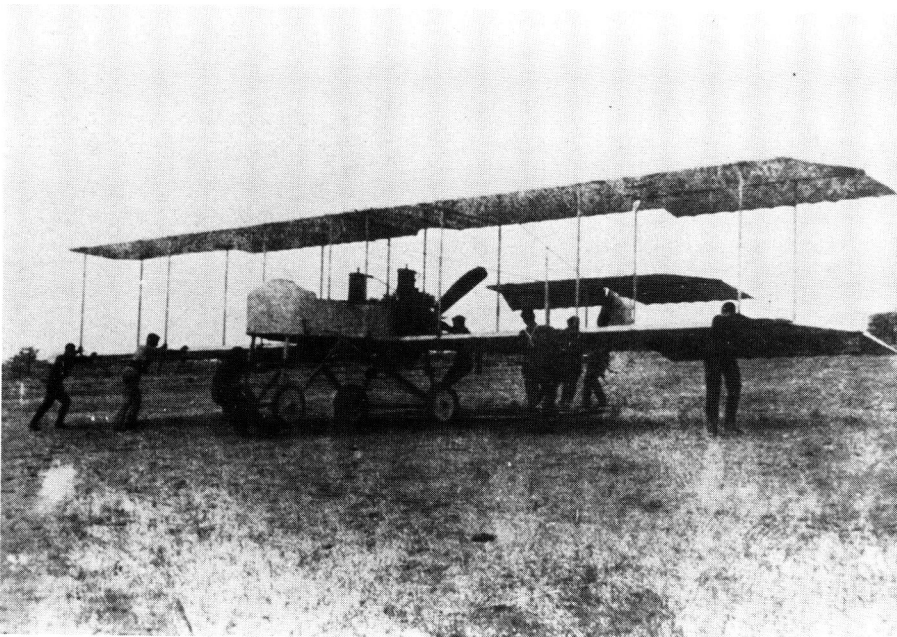
*Die trek oor die groot sandduine by die kus na die binneland begin. Botha beplan 'n gelyktydige drieledige aanval op die Duitsers; vanaf die suide, Lüderitzbucht en Walvisbaai.*





A BE-2c of the South African Aviation Corps. The South Africans employed two of these aircraft in the South West campaign. The BE-2c's were, however, not a success in this theatre, the engine not being powerful enough to give effective height in the rarefied atmosphere.

*Bo: 'n BE-2c van die SA Vlieënierskorps. Die Suid-Afrikaners het twee van die vliegtuie in die Suidwes-velddtog gebruik. Die BE-2c was egter nie 'n sukses nie, aangesien die enjins nie kragtig genoeg was om 'n effektiewe hoogte in die dun atmosfeer van Suidwes te bereik nie.*



Left: One of the four Henry Farman aircraft employed by the SAAC in South West. Made of steel, and powered by one 9-cylinder, water-cooled radial, the Henry Farman proved to be ideally suited for its role as a reconnaissance aircraft, and light bomber.

*Een van die vier Henry Farman vliegtuie wat deur die SA Vlieënierskorps in Suidwes gebruik is. Daar is gevind dat dié vliegtuie, wat van staal gemaak is en met een 9-silinder, waterverkoelde enjin aangedryf is, ideaal geskik is vir die rol van 'n verkenningsvliegtuig en ligte bomwerper.*



TEAM OF FORTY OXEN DRAWING A BRITISH GUN IN GERMAN SOUTH-WEST AFRICA.

Above: A team of oxen drawing a 4.7 inch artillery piece of the Union Artillery. The ox-drawn guns moved with the infantry Brigades, while the mule drawn batteries were successful in keeping pace with the rapid advance of the Commandos.

*Bo: 'n Span osse trek 'n 4.7 duim artilleriesstuk van die SA Artillerie. Die swaar artillerie wat deur osse getrek is, het saam met die Infanterie Brigades beweeg, terwyl dié wat deur muile getrek is met die snelle opmars van die Kommando's kon tred hou.*



MAN AND BEAST IN THE DESERT : BOTH ABSOLUTELY SPENT

Right: Life in the harshness of South West.

*Regs: Die lewe in die haglike toestande van Suidwes.*



LOOKING FOR WATER IN THE RIVER BED



[To face page 2].

A HALT IN A RIVER BED : GENERAL BOTHA HAS LUNCH







MAXIM GUN, 4TH S.A.M.R., KEETMANSHOOP. Col

Above: Machine-gun position of 4th SAMR at Keetmanshoop, April 1915.

Bo: 'n Masjiengeweer posisie van die 4e SAMR by Keetmanshoop, April 1915.

Left above: The German commander, Col von Franke. He led a force heavily outnumbered by the invader, in a country where the harsh terrain limited the Germans' powers of manoeuvre.

Bo links: Die Duitse bevelvoerder, kol Von Franke. Hy het teen 'n oormag geveg in 'n land waar die nuwe terrein die beweeglikheid van die Duitsers beperk het.

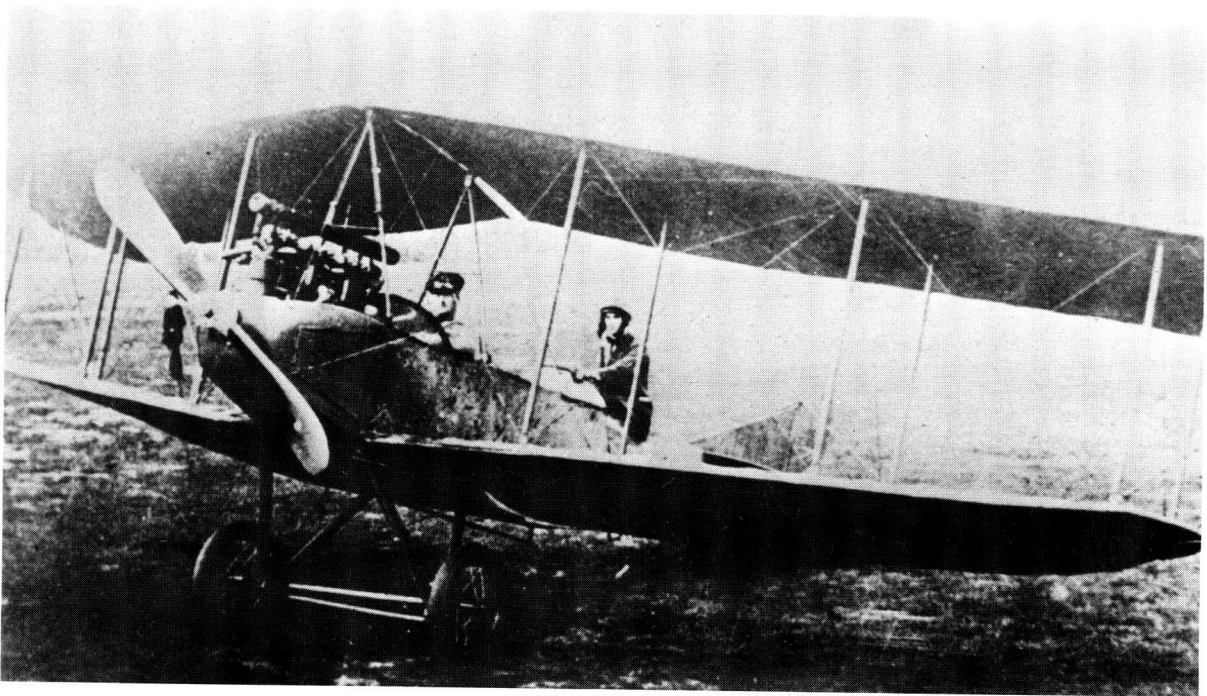
Left below: General Botha and his staff reconnoitring. Botha was in command of the northern force of the three-pronged attack, with the headquarters in Swakopmund. The central force was commanded by Brig-Gen Mackenzie, working inland from Lüderitzbucht. The Southern force consisted of three groups with their point of convergence at Keetmanshoop.

Links onder: Generaal Botha en sy soldate op 'n verkenningstog. Botha was in beheer van die noordelike magte van die gelyktydige drieledige aanval, met die hoofkwartier in Swakopmund. Die sentrale mag was onder beheer van Brig-genl Mackenzie wat vanaf Lüderitzbucht gewerk het. Die suidelike magte het uit 3 groepe bestaan met 'n gesamentlike hoofkwartier by Keetmanshoop.



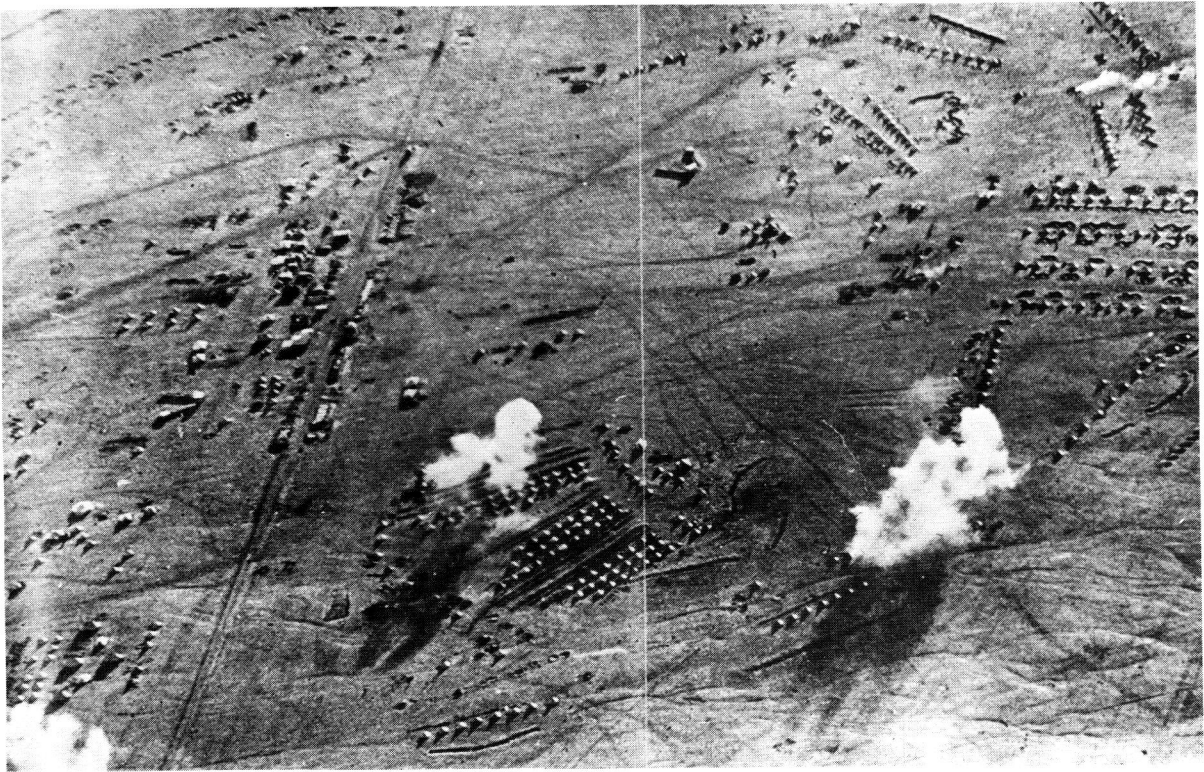
In the hands of the enemy. Union troops captured by the Germans, probably at Sandfontein, where a small detachment of the Southern force was forced to surrender after a sharp and heated clash that lasted for 10 hours.

*Bo: In die vyand se hande. SA soldate wat moontlik by Sandfontein deur die Duitsers gevange geneem is, waar 'n klein afdeling van die SA magte gedwing is om ná 'n hewige 10 uur-lange skermutseling oor te gee.*



The aerial eyes of the enemy. The Aviatik of the German aviator Truck, known as 'Fritz' to the Union troops. 'Fritz' religiously refrained from flying after the cool of the early morning. This was due to the heavy pattern of the aircraft, which did not have a sufficiently powerful engine to permit any effective flying in the extreme heat of the later hours of the day.

*Die vyand se oë in die lug. Die Aviatik van die Duitse vlieënier Truck, wat as 'Fritz' onder die SA troepe bekend gestaan het. 'Fritz' het nooit na die vroeë oggendure gevlieg nie. Die rede hiervoor was die swaar ontwerp van die vliegtuig sowel as die gebrek aan 'n kragtige enjin wat hom verhinder het om in die hitte van die dag te vlieg.*

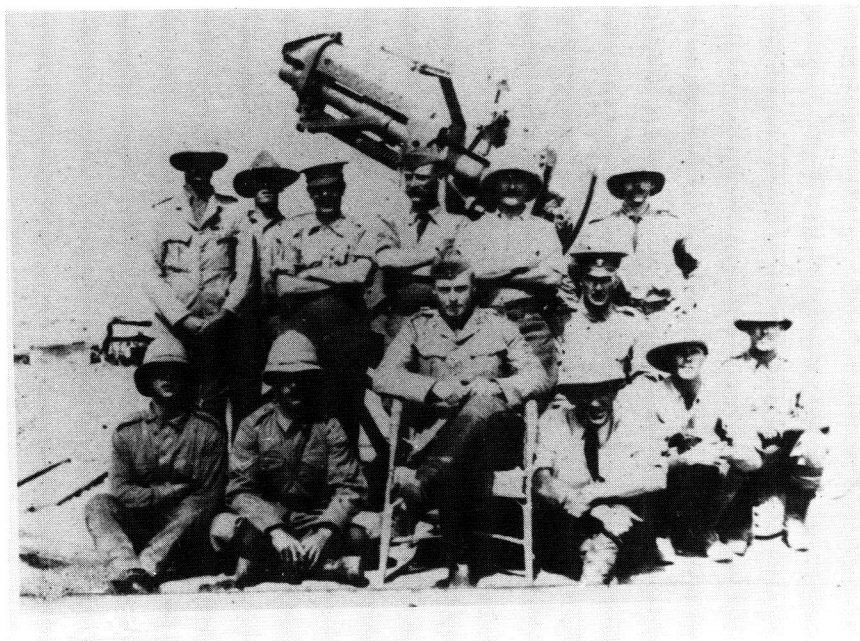


'Fritz' in action. This photo was taken at a height of 6 000 feet by 'Fritz' at Tchaukaub. His bombs are seen bursting to the south of the railway station and over the Pretoria Regiment (centre of picture). On the top righthand corner the naval 4.7 inch gun can be seen firing at the German. Where the third bomb is bursting a tent was destroyed.

*'Fritz' in aksie. Dit is vanuit die vliegtuig teen 'n hoogte van 6 000 voet by Tchaukaub geneem. 'n Mens kan 'Fritz' se bomme suid van die spoorwegstasie en oor die Pretoria Regiment (middel van foto) sien ontplof. In die boonste regterkantse hoek skiet 'n 4.7 duim vlootkanon op die Duitser. Die derde bom het 'n tent vernietig.*

'Skinny Lizzy', the South Africans' answer to 'Fritz'. The gun was not very effective in its anti-aircraft role and performed much better as a field gun.

*'Skinny Lizzy' was die Suid-Afrikaners se antwoord op 'Fritz'. Die kanon was nie baie doeltreffend in sy rol as 'n lugafweergeskut nie en het beter as 'n veldkanon gefunksioneer.*

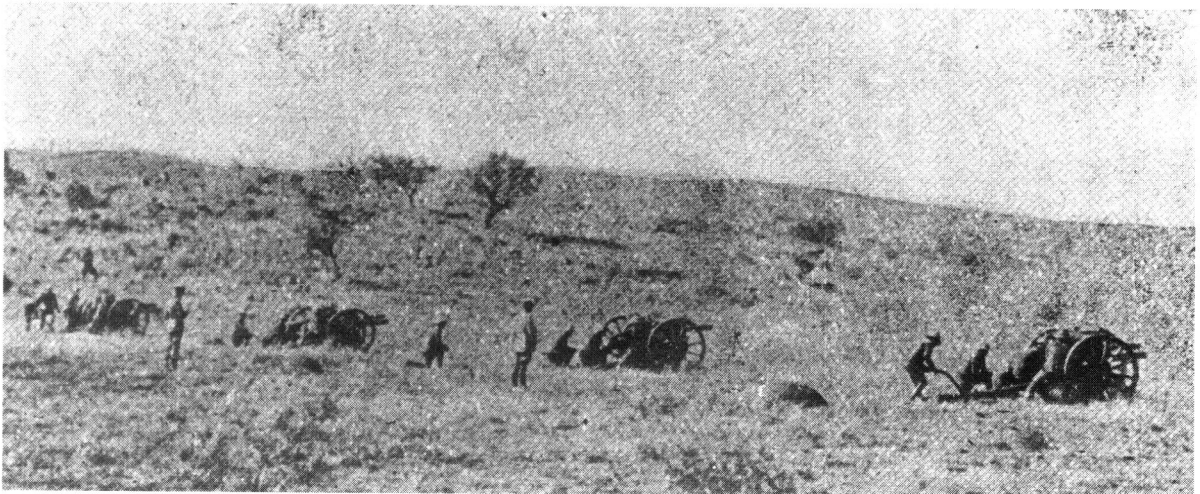






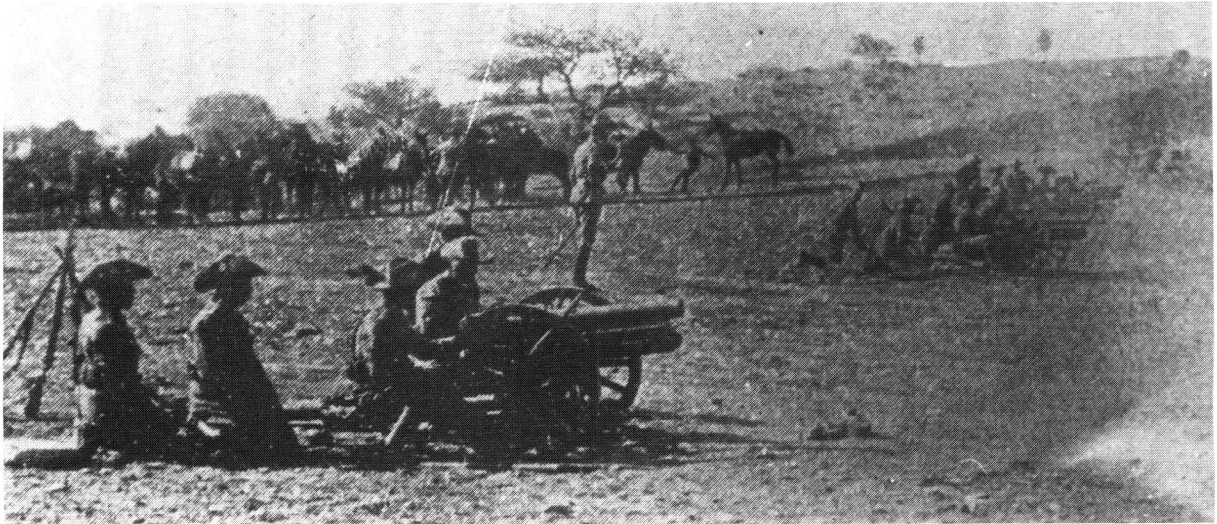
Mounted German troops in German Southwest Africa.

*Berede Duitse soldate in Duits Suidwes-Afrika.*



Gunners of the South African Police in Action.

*Kanonniërs van die Suid-Afrikaanse Polisie in aksie.*



Von Franke's artillery in action. Thought of as being formidable, the German artillery proved to be not so effective during the campaign.

*Von Franke se artillerie in aksie. Alhoewel die Duitse artillerie as gedug beskou is, was hulle nie so doeltreffend tydens die Suidwes-veldtog nie.*

The surrender of  
Windhoek, 11 May 1915.

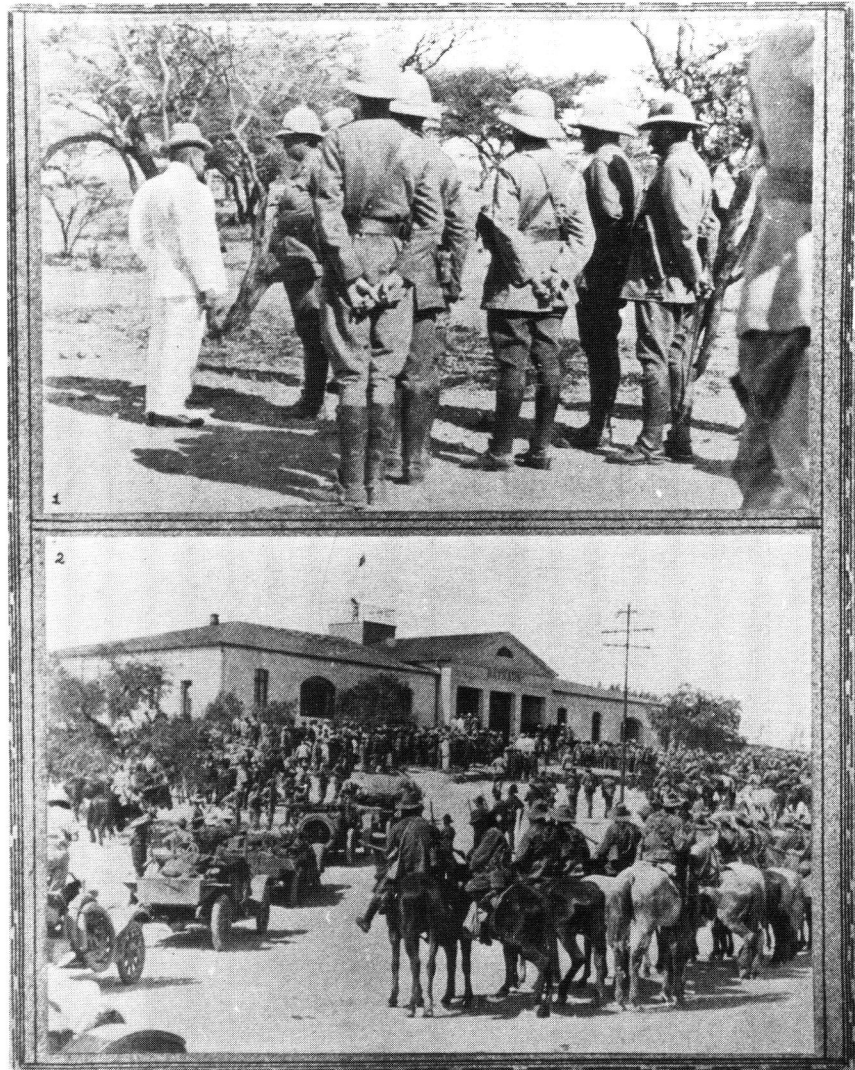
*Die oorgawe van  
Windhoek, 11 Mei 1915.*

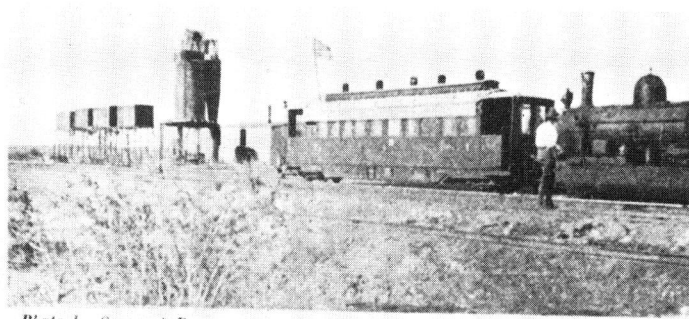
Right: General Botha  
receiving the formal  
surrender of the capital from  
the Burgomeister.

*Regs: Generaal Botha  
ontvang die formele  
oorgawe van die hoofstad  
by die Burgomeister.*

Right below: Sergeant-  
Major Mahony hoisting the  
Union Jack on the Rathaus.  
The same flag had been  
hoisted over every captured  
place and extensively  
inscribed with names.

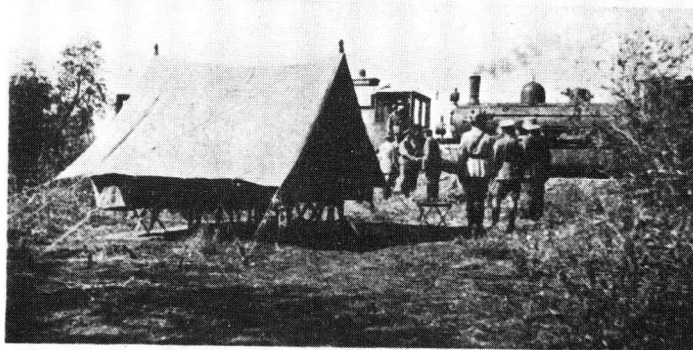
*Regs onder: Sers-maj  
Mahony hys die Union Jack  
by die Rathaus. Dieselfde  
vlag is in elke verowerde  
dorp in Suidwes gehys en  
elke dorp se naam is daarop  
geskryf.*





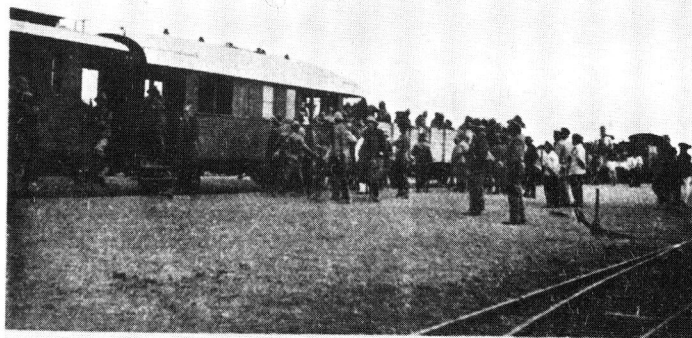
*Photo by Sergeant Ramsay.]*

THE LAST PHASE. THE GERMAN WHITE FLAG TRAIN JUST ARRIVING



*Photo by Sergeant Ramsay.]*

THE LAST PHASE. GENERAL BOTHA MEETS VON FRANKE AT 500 KILOMETRES



*[To face page 62.]*

THE LAST PHASE. TROOPS ENTRAINING TO RETURN HOME

The last phase. The final surrender of the German forces in South West Africa 9 July 1915.

The train of surrender arriving.

Colonel Von Franke and Governor Seitz shake hands with General Botha.

Union troops entraining to return home.

*Die laaste stadium. Die finale oorgawe van die Duiste magte in Suidwes-Afrika, 9 Julie 1915.*

*Die trein van oorgawe arriveer.*

*Kolonel Von Franke en Goewerneur Seitz skud generaal Botha se hand.*

*Unie troepe gereed om huiswaarts te keer.*





Captured German infantry.  
Note the rifle on the right.

*Duitse gevangenes. Let op na die geweer aan die regterkant.*

The return of the victor.  
General Botha in the forum,  
Union Buildings, Pretoria,  
30 July 1915.

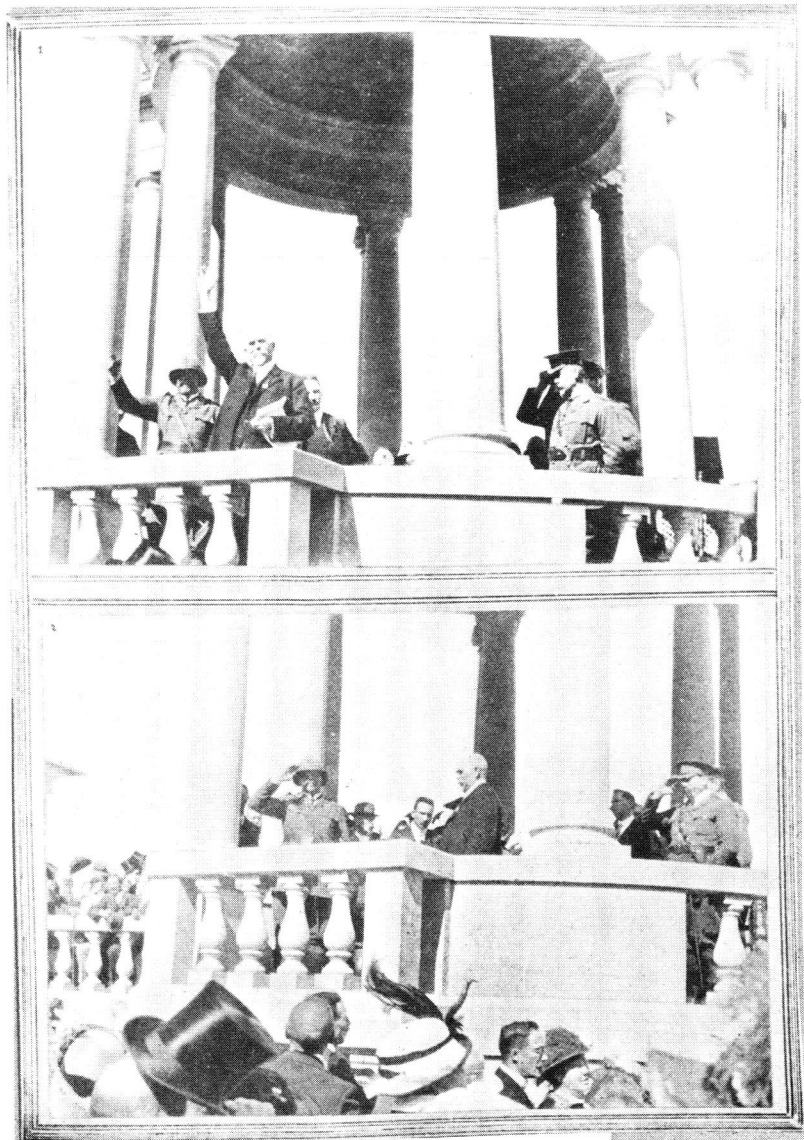
The Mayor of Pretoria and  
General Botha leading three  
cheers for General Smuts, seen  
at the right of the picture.

General Botha with hand at  
salute at the singing of 'God  
Save the King'. Brig-Gen Van  
Deventer on the right.

*Die aankoms van die  
oorwinnaar General Botha  
in die Forum by die  
Uniegeboue in Pretoria, 30  
Julie 1915.*

*Die Burgemeester van Pretoria  
en generaal Botha juig  
generaal Smuts (regs) toe.*

*Generaal Botha salueer terwyl  
'God Save the King' gesing  
word. Brig-genl Van Deventer  
staan regs van hom.*





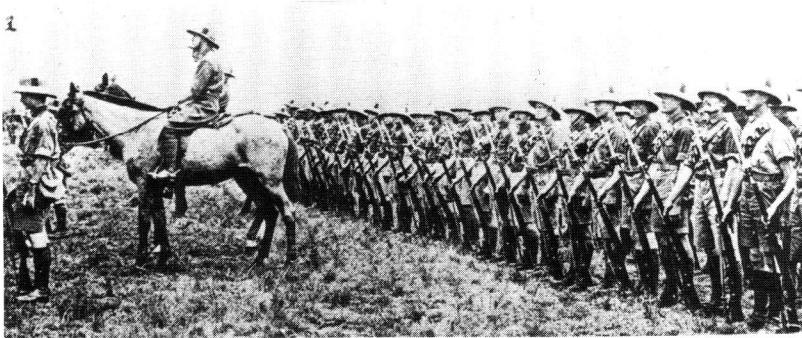
A British cartoon depicting Botha's success in Southwest Africa. During the campaign South African casualties amounted to 113 killed in action and 263 wounded. The Germans surrendered 4 740 troops with 37 guns.

*'n Britse spotprenttekenaar beeld Botha se sukses in Suidwes-Afrika uit. 113 SA soldate het gedurende hierdie veldtog gesterf terwyl 263 gewond is. 4 740 Duitse troepe met 37 kanonne het oorgegee.*

# German East Africa

# Duits-Oos- Afrika

## 1916 – 1918



Mobilising for the East African campaign. 2nd SA Infantry Brigade at Potchefstroom prior to their departure for Tanganyika. For this campaign the Union government recruited two infantry brigades, three mounted brigades, a Cape Corps battalion and some artillery batteries.

*Die mobilisering vir die Oos-Afrika veldtog. Die Tweede SA Infanterie Brigade in Potchefstroom voor hul vertrek na Tanganyika. Die Unieregering het twee infanterie brigades, 3 berede brigades, 'n Kaapse Korpsbataljon en talle artillerie batterye vir die Oos-Afrika veldtog gewerf.*

General J.C. Smuts, the man who commanded the British and South African forces during the first phase of the campaign. Smuts arrived in East Africa in February 1916. At that stage the British and South Africans had already suffered serious setbacks at the hands of the well-led German troops.

*Generaal J.C. Smuts, wat die Britse en SA-magte deur die eerste stadium van die veldtog gelei het. Met sy aankoms in Oos-Afrika in Februarie 1916, het die Britse en SA-troepe reeds 'n paar terugslae onder die Duitse troepe gely.*







Colonel Paul Emil von Lettow-Vorbeck, Smuts' wily opponent. At the start of hostilities the German commander had at his command a force of 3 000 Europeans and 11 000 Askaris. In Von Lettow the South Africans met a trained soldier who, as the campaign progressed, would turn himself into an expert on guerilla warfare.

*Kolonel Paul Emil von Lettow-Vorbeck, Smuts se geslepe teenstander. Aan die begin van die vyandelikhede het die Duitse bevelvoerder 'n mag van 3 000 Europeërs en 11 000 Askari's onder sy bevel gehad. Die Suid-Afrikaners het hom leer ken as 'n goed opgeleide soldaat en soos die veldtog gevorder het, het hy homself as 'n deskundige op die gebied van guerilla-oorlog bewys.*

Below: Askaris of the German Schutztruppe. They were experts in bush fighting.

*Onder: Askari's, kenners van bosoorlog, was deel van die Duitse Schutztruppe.*





Camplife in East Africa. South African troops preparing a brew.

*Die kampelewe in Oos-Afrika. Suid-Afrikaanse troepe sorg vir innerlike versterking.*



Botha visiting the South African General Hospital at Muthaiga, Kenya. Casualties due to fever and dysentery were high. Repeated attacks led to some troops being turned into physical wrecks. By the end of 1916 about 12 000 White troops had to be repatriated.

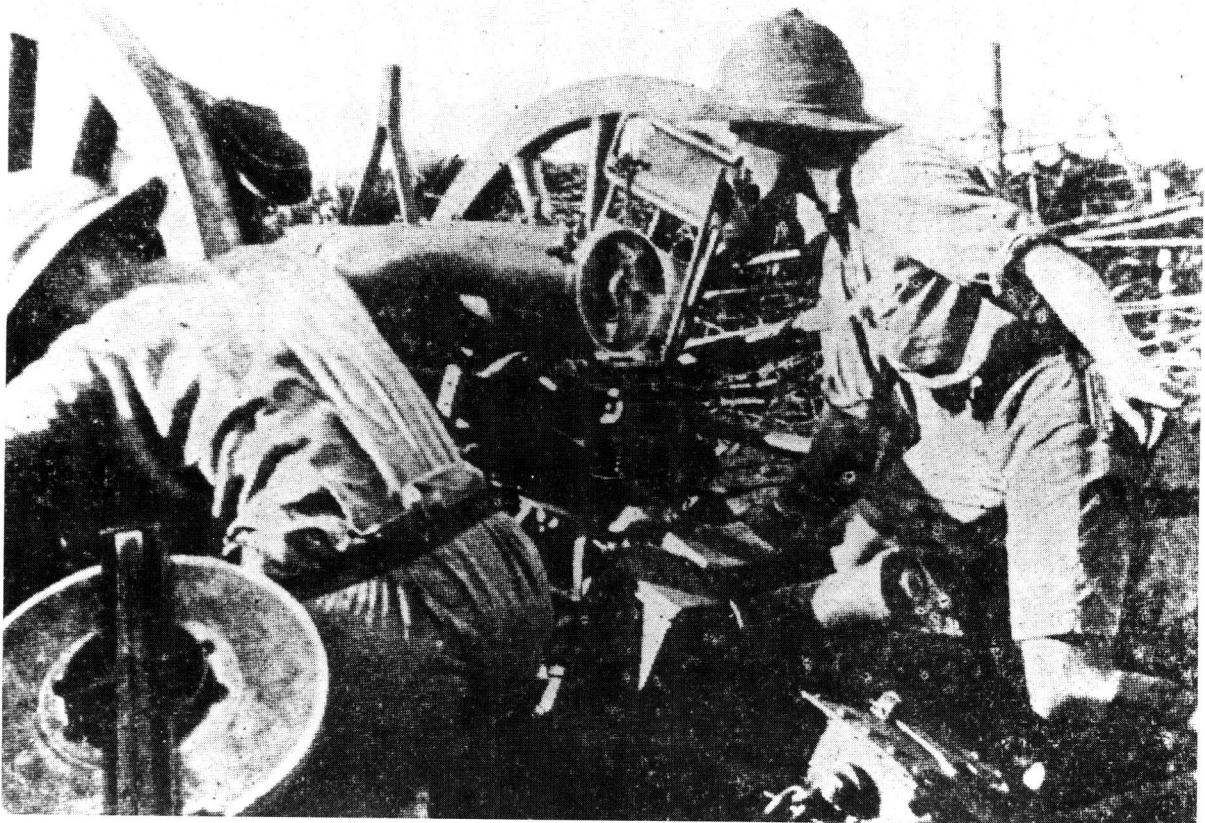
*Botha bring 'n besoek aan die SA Algemene Hospitaal by Muthaiga. Koors en buikloop het veral veroorsaak dat die ongevallesyfer gestyg het. Herhaalde aanvalle daarvan het 'n fisiese stremming op die troepe geplaas. Teen die einde van 1916 moes 12 000 Blanke troepe gerepatrieer word.*



NONGQUAI's comment on the campaign in East Africa.  
*NONQUAI se kommentaar oor die veldtog in Oos-Afrika.*

Below: Union artillery in action. The SAFA (South African Field Artillery) arrived in East Africa in mid-February 1916 and in the six months ending in August 1916, they took part in the campaign under General Smuts which cleared the entire area north of the Central Railway.

*Suid-Afrikaanse artillerie in aksie. Die SA Veldartillerie het middel-Februarie 1916 in Oos-Afrika aangekom en het tot Augustus 1916 onder leiding van generaal Smuts die gebied noord van die Sentrale Spoorwegstasie oorwin.*





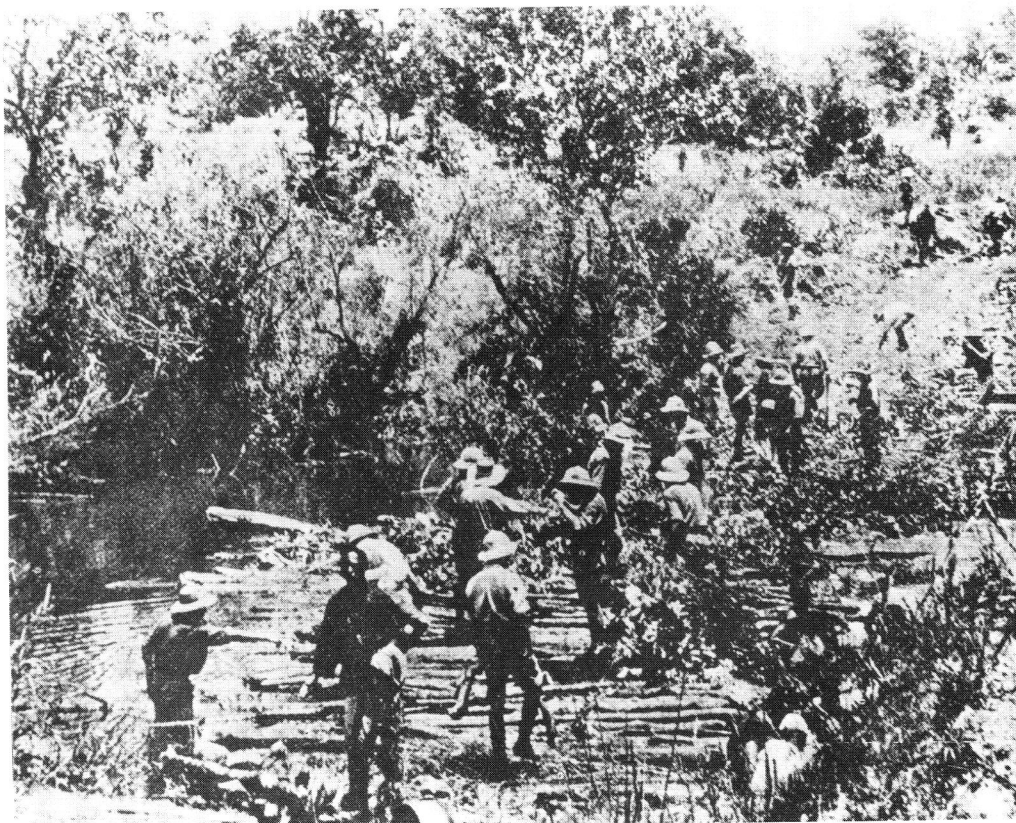
Lt Gen Sir J.L. van Deventer. He succeeded Smuts in January 1917 as commander-in-chief when the latter left the theatre to attend the Imperial Conference in London.

*Lt-genl (Sir) J.L. van Deventer. Hy het Smuts in January 1917 as opperbevelhebber opgevolg toe laasgenoemde na Londen vertrek het waar hy die Imperial Conference bygewoon het.*



Below: South African Engineers constructing a makeshift bridge. By the middle of 1917 the war had entered its guerilla stage.

*Onder: Suid-Arikaanse ingenieurs konstrueer 'n tydelike brug. Die guerilla-stadium van die oorlog is teen die middel van 1917 ingelei.*

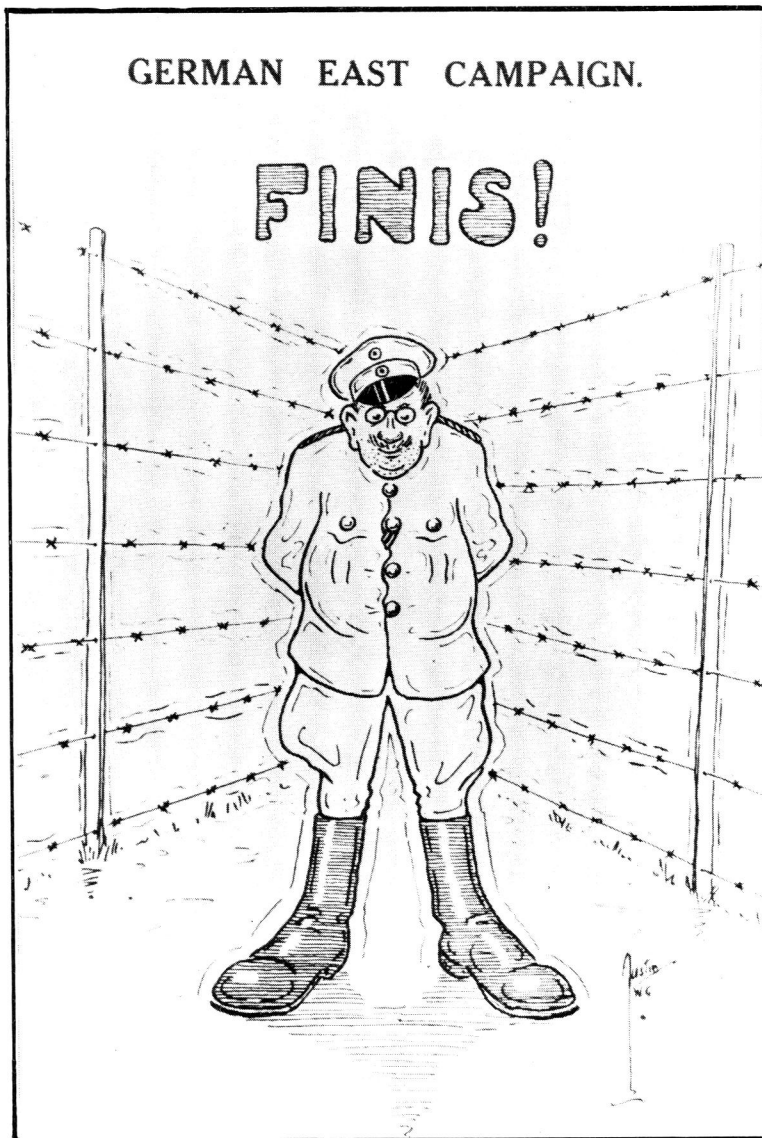






German machine gunners on the lookout for British aircraft. By 1918 Von Lettow described his Schutztruppe as being a 'nomadic tribe which must survive by its wits'.

*Duitse masjiengeweskutters op die uitkyk vir Britse vliegtuie. Teen 1918 het Von Lettow sy Schutztruppe as 'n 'nomadiese stam wat deur middel van hul vernuf moet oorleef', beskryf.*



Finis! At the time when this cartoon appeared the NONGQUAI was expressing a conclusion at which formidable guerilla leaders like Smuts and Van Deventer had both prematurely arrived. In fact, it was only on 25 November 1918, 14 days after the armistice in Europe, that Von Lettow's army 'that had not lost, capitulated to an army that had not won'!

*Finis! Toe dié spotprent verskyn het, het die NONQUAI tot dieselfde gevolgtrekking gekom wat die gedugte guerilla-leiers Smuts en Van Deventer 'n paar weke vantevore al bereik het. Von Lettow se krygsmag het intendeel eers op 25 November 1918, 14 dae ná die wapenstilstand in Europa, hulself oorgegee aan 'n mag wat nie gewen het nie.*

# **Middle East**                      *Midde-Ooste* **1916 – 1917**





Above: South African positions at Gaza 1917. It was during the Gaza battles that the South African Field Artillery Brigade distinguished itself. Fighting under rifle fire at ranges down to 1 200 yards, the Brigade helped repel counter-attacks by the Turks.

*Bo: Suid-Afrikaanse stellings by Gaza, 1917. Die Suid-Afrikaanse Brigade het hulself tydens die veldslae by Gaza bewys. Hulle het oor 'n skootafstand van 1 200 treë, teenaanvalle deur die Turke afgeweer.*

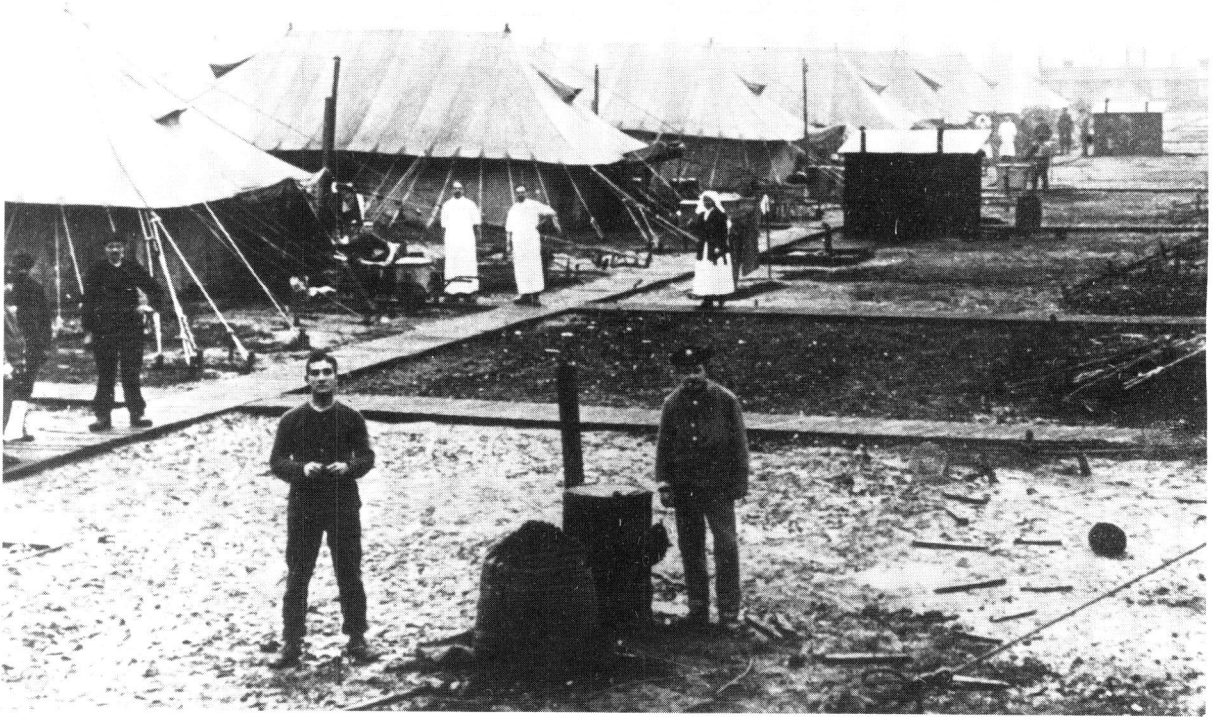
Left above: South Africans in Egypt. After the close of the South West African campaign an infantry brigade was rapidly raised in the Union for service in France. The new formation was, however, first sent to Egypt to assist the British against the Senussi and the Turks. The South African Brigade landed at Alexandria early in January 1916.

*Links bo: Suid-Afrikaners in Egipte. 'n Infanterie brigade is vinnig ná die Suidwes-veltdog in die Unie byeengebring om in Frankryk te gaan veg. Die brigade is egter eers vroeg in Januarie 1916 na Alexandrië, Egipte gestuur om die Britte in hul stryd teen die Turke en Senussi by te staan. Die Suid-Afrikaanse brigade het eers vroeg in Januarie 1916 in Alexandrië aangekom.*

Left below: Turkish infantry on their way to the front. The Turks were known as fierce fighters. The battles in Palestine did not belie this fact.

*Links onder: Turkse infanteriste op pad na die front. Die gevegte in Palestina het bewys dat die Turke verbete vegters was.*





Another hospital scene in France. Note the tents and wooden walkways (duck-boards); the latter a measure against the ever-present mud.

*Nog 'n hospitaaltoneel in Frankryk. Let op na die tente en die hout loopvlakke; dit is aangebring as voorsorgmaatreël teen die alomteenwoordige modder.*



**The  
South  
African  
Ambulance**

x D. & A. CASULLIS  
xx SISTER ARCHER  
o.D. MAX ACKERMAN

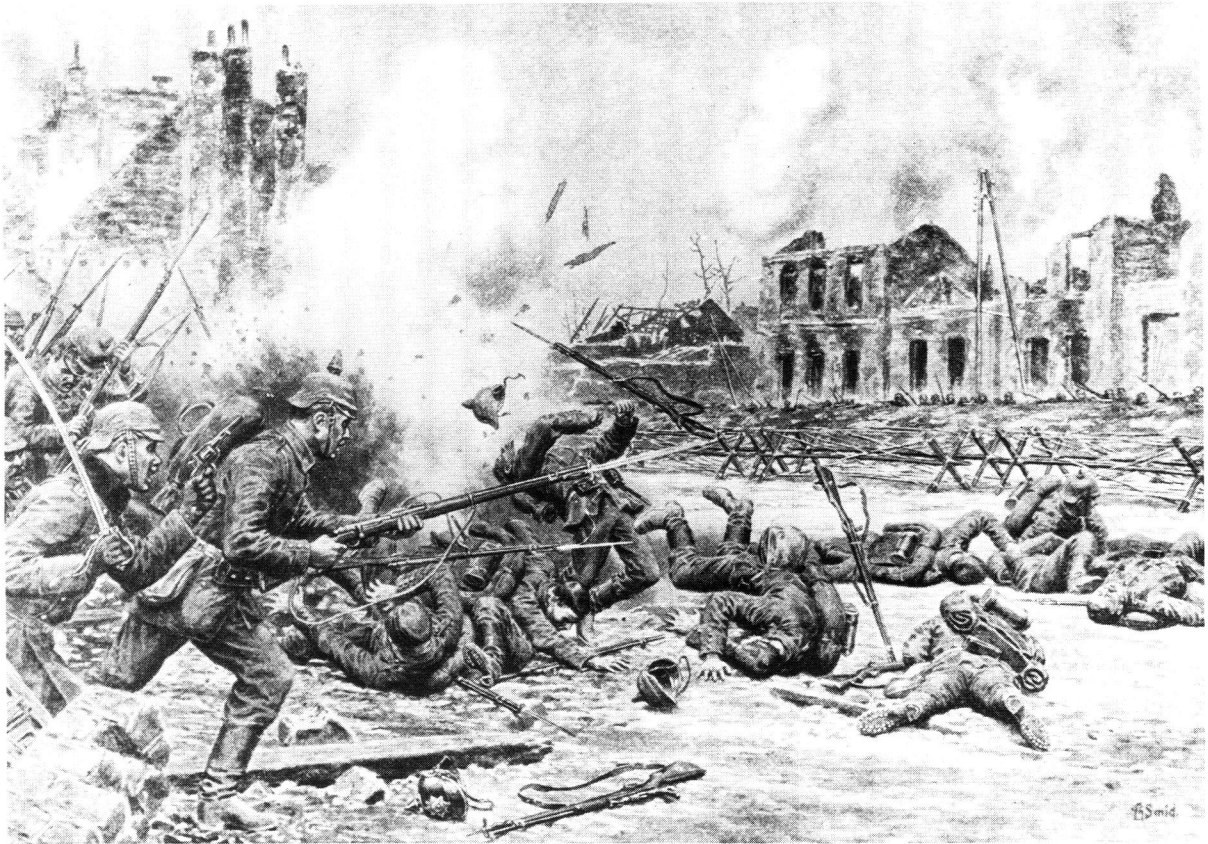
The South African Ambulance in France. The Ambulance provided a gallant and praiseworthy service in an effort to alleviate the horrible suffering of the men in the trenches.

*Die Suid-Afrikaanse Ambulans in Frankryk. Die ambulanspersoneel het dappere en prysenswaardige dienste verrig in 'n poging om die verskriklike lyding van die manne in die loopgrawe te verlig.*

*11 "BEAU RIVAGE" CANNES SOUTH of FRANCE  
February 1915 to March 14/17 1919.*

## Conditions on the Western front

## Toestande aan die Wesfront

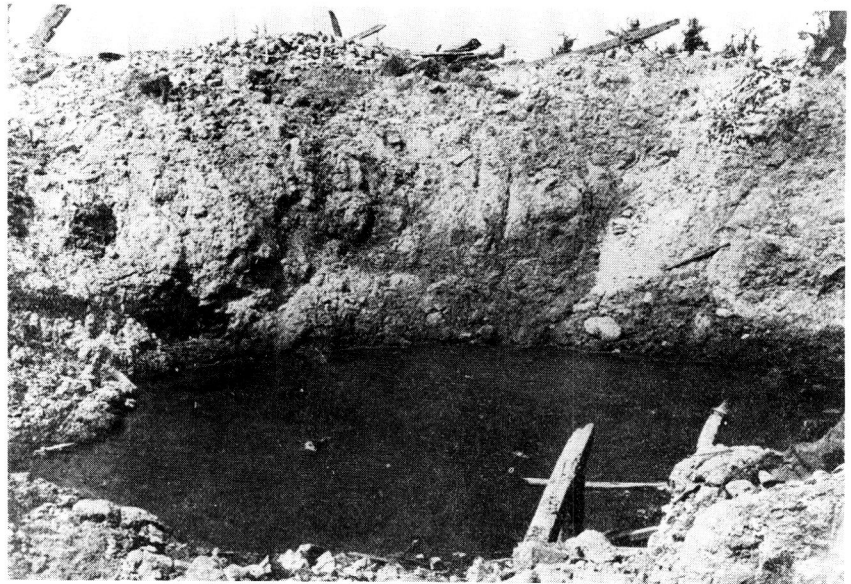


### CONDITIONS ON THE WESTERN FRONT

The South Africans were used to a mobile type of warfare in open country viz Anglo-Boer War, Rebellion, South West Africa Campaign; but on the Western Front they were confronted with static warfare and conditions totally alien to South Africans. Massive infantry charges resulting in unbelievably high casualty rates.

### TOESTANDE AAN DIE WESFRONT

*Die Suid-Afrikaners was gewoon aan 'n meer beweglike tipe van oorlogvoering oor 'n oop landskap soos dit die geval in die Anglo-Boereoorlog, Rebelleie en SWA-velddtog was, maar aan die Wesfront het hulle met statiese oorlogvoering en omstandighede te kampe gehad wat vir die Suid-Afrikaners heeltemal vreemd was. Die hewige infanterie-aanvalle het ongelooflik hoë ongevallesyfers teweeggebring.*





Above: Soldiers suffering the effects of a gas attack. The first use of chemical weapons occurred in October 1914 when teargas was used, but the first use of poison-gas occurred at Ypres in April 1915 when chlorine was used. Other lethal agents included mustard gas and phosgene.

*Bo: Soldate wat aan die nuwe-effekte van 'n gasaanval ly. Chemiese wapens is vir die eerste keer in Oktober 1914 in gebruik geneem toe traangas gebruik is, maar die eerste gebruik van gifgasse het in April 1915 by Ypres voorgekom toe daar van chloorgas gebruik gemaak is. Ander gevaarlike gasse soos mosterdgas en fosgene is ook gebruik.*

Left top: Monstrous artillery pieces, in this case a Skoda Mortar.

*Links bo: Monsteragtige kanonne, in dié geval 'n Skodamortier.*

Left middle: The effect of a huge shell – an enormous crater. This kind of obstacle made movement across no-man's land extremely difficult.

*Links middel: Die enorme kraters wat deur bomme veroorsaak is, het die beweeglikheid van die soldate beperk.*

Left bottom: Moving behind the lines was also a hazardous operation, as the fate of these French soldiers clearly illustrate. Sunken roads such as this one, became a route of moving up reinforcements and supplies to the trenches. The artillery of both sides had these roads pinpointed and could bring terrific bombardments to bear on them within seconds.

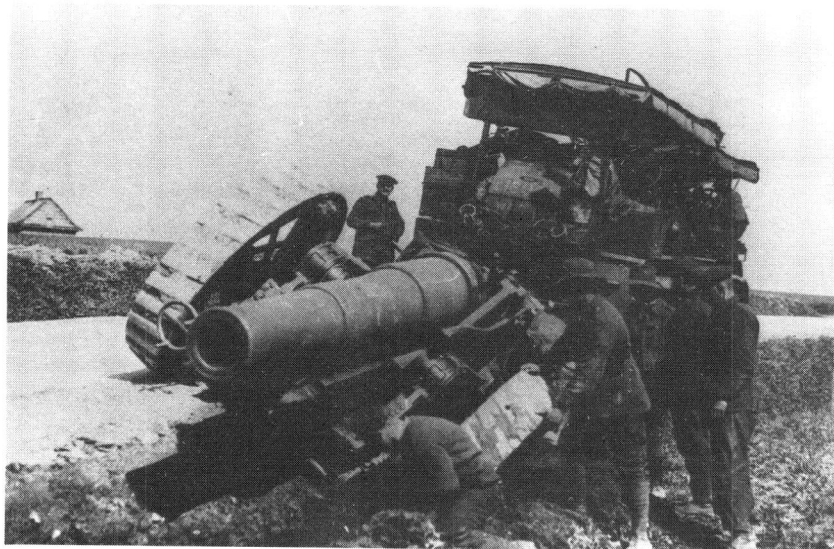
*Links onder: Die lot van dié Franse soldate was 'n klinkklare bewys van die gevaar wat ook agter die linies geskuil het. Versonke paaie soos dié een is as 'n roete vir die vervoer van versterkings en voorrade na die loopgrawe gebruik. Die geskut van beide kante het dikwels die roetes as teikens vir bombardemente gehad.*





British Western Front in France. The German offensive: A huge British gun which was used to resist the German advance.

*Die Engelse aan die Westelike front in Frankryk. Die Duitse offensief: 'n groot Britse kanon wat gedurende die Duitse opmars gebruik is.*



The bad conditions on the Western Front caused many problems. Soldiers are trying to heave the huge British gun back on the road.

*Die haglike omstandighede aan die Wesfront het baie probleme veroorsaak. Soldate probeer die groot Britse kanon terug op die pad lig.*



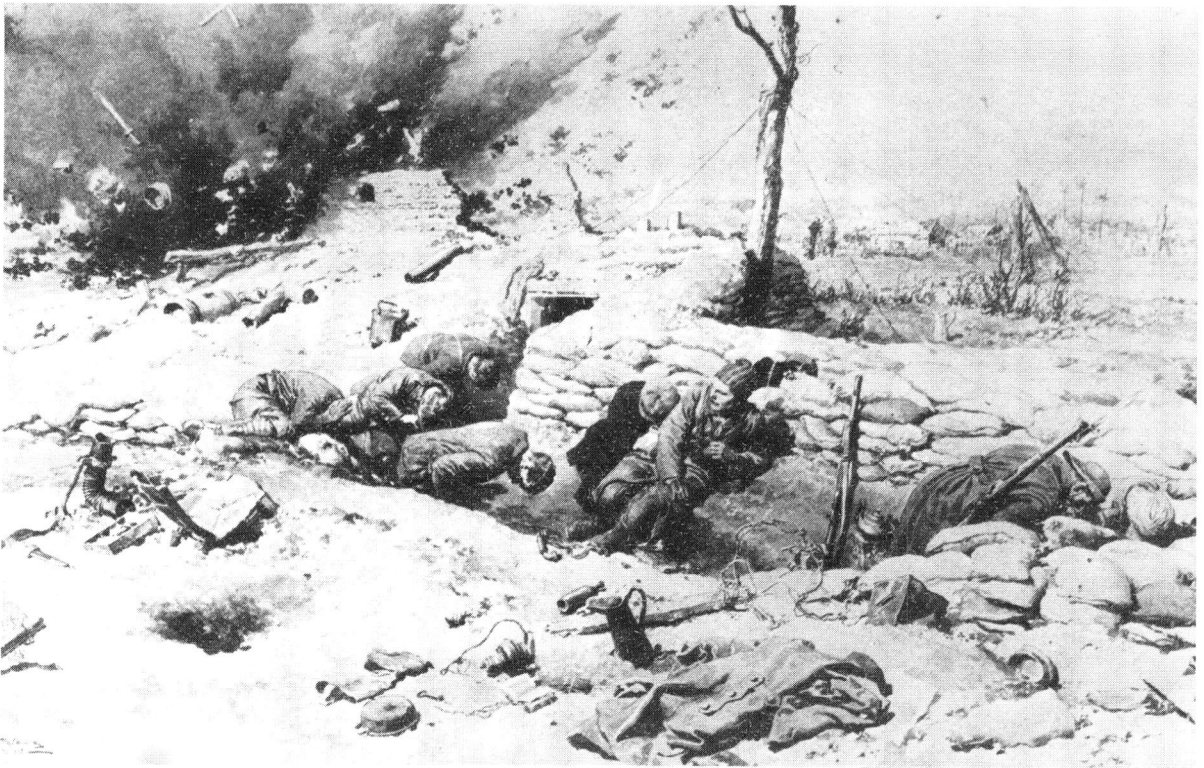
Soldiers unloading ammunition during the British advance on the Western Front.

*Artilleriste laai ammunisie af gedurende die Britse opmars aan die Wesfront.*



Captured enemy guns which were damaged by our artillery.

*Buitgemaakte vyandelike kanonne wat deur ons artillerie beskadig is.*



Under bombardment in the trenches. Bombardments of the trenches sometimes continued for days on end, until the defences were totally pulverized.

*Soldate in die loopgrawe word gebombardeer. Bombardemente het soms vir dae lank aangehou totdat alle verdedigingswerke totaal vernietig is.*



Caught in the barbed wire. Barbed wire entanglements screening the defensive lines sometimes resembled forests and could have depths of 100 yards or more. These could be swept by well-placed defensive machine gun positions which could exact an incredible toll on attacking infantry caught in entanglements.

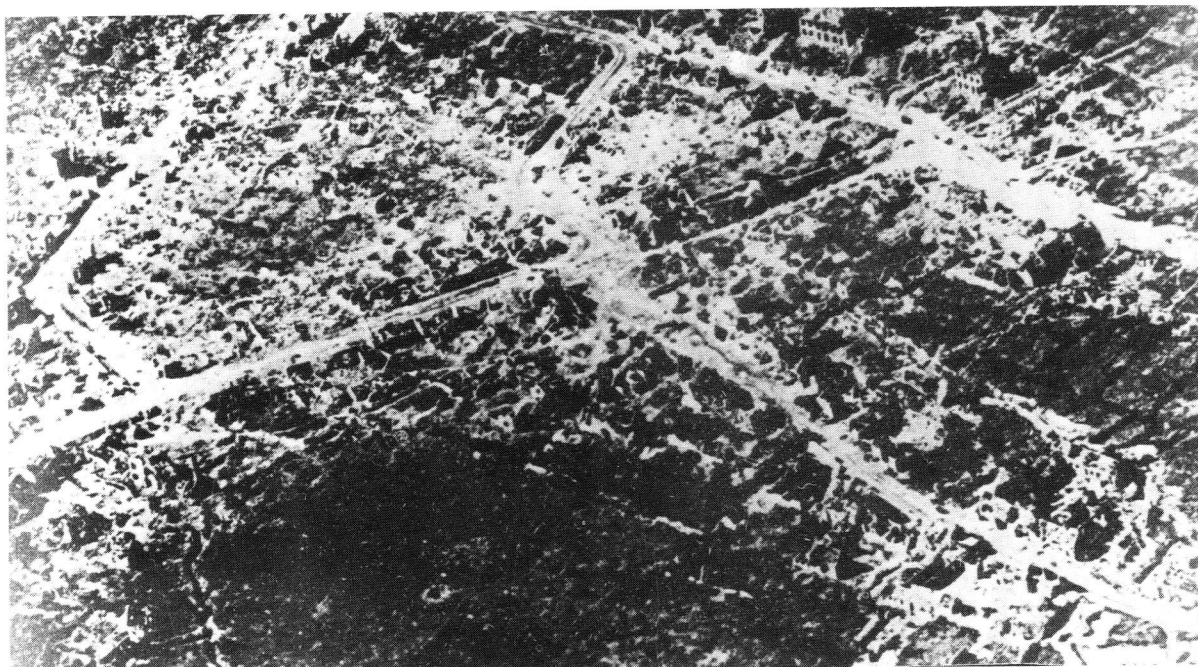
*Vasgevang in doringdrade. Doringdraadversperrings, wat die verdedigingslinies beskerm, het soms ooreengekom met woude en kon dieptes tot 100 treë of meer gehad het. Goedgeplaasde masjiengewere het 'n ongelooflike tol geëis van die voetsoldate wat in die versperrings vasgevang was.*





Desolation and the ever-present corpses. A scene typical of the whole Western Front. The desolation was brought about by the massive rolling artillery barrages which flattened woods, cities and churned the ground to powder.

*Verwoesting en die altyd-teenwoordige lyke; 'n tipiese toneel aan die Wesfront. Die verwoesting is veroorsaak deur die swaar, kruipende artillerievuur wat die woude en stede plat gegee het en die grond tot poeier gemaal het.*



The remains of the town of Loos, illustrating the destructive power of massive artillery bombardment.

*Die oorblyfsels van die dorp Loos ... 'n goeie voorbeeld van die vernietigende krag van swaar artillerie bombardemente.*





A British 60-pdr in position; one of the 1 537 guns the British massed on a 30 000 yard (27 300 m) front for their 1916 Somme offensive. The offensive was designed to break the stalemate on the Western Front and to relieve the pressure on the French at Verdun. It was the first offensive that the South Africans were to participate in. The battle opened on 24 June 1916 with a tremendous artillery barrage of the German lines, which lasted a week and consumed over 1 million shells.

*Bo: 'n Britse 60-pdr in posisie; een van die 1 537 kanonne wat die Britte langs 'n front van 30 000 treë (27 300 m) vergader het vir die Somme-offensief in 1916. Dië offensief was veronderstel om die dooë punt aan die Wesfront te verbreek en die druk op die Franse by Verdun te verlig. Dit was die eerste offensief waaraan die Suid-Afrikaners sou deelneem. Dië veldslag het op 24 Junie 1916 begin met 'n verskriklike artillerie spervuur van die Duitse linies wat 'n week lank geduur het en waartydens meer as 1 miljoen bomme afgevuur is.*



On 1 July 1916 the British infantry rose from their trenches, confident of an easy victory . . .

*Op 1 Julie 1916 staan die selfversekerde Britte uit hul loopgrawe op, seker van 'n maklike oorwinning . . .*

... but the Germans were ready and waiting, having survived the avalanche of steel and flame the British had unleashed upon them, by sheltering within deep dugouts reinforced with steel. As the bombardment ceased the Germans realised that the infantry assault was imminent and hastily prepared new defences in the lunar landscape.

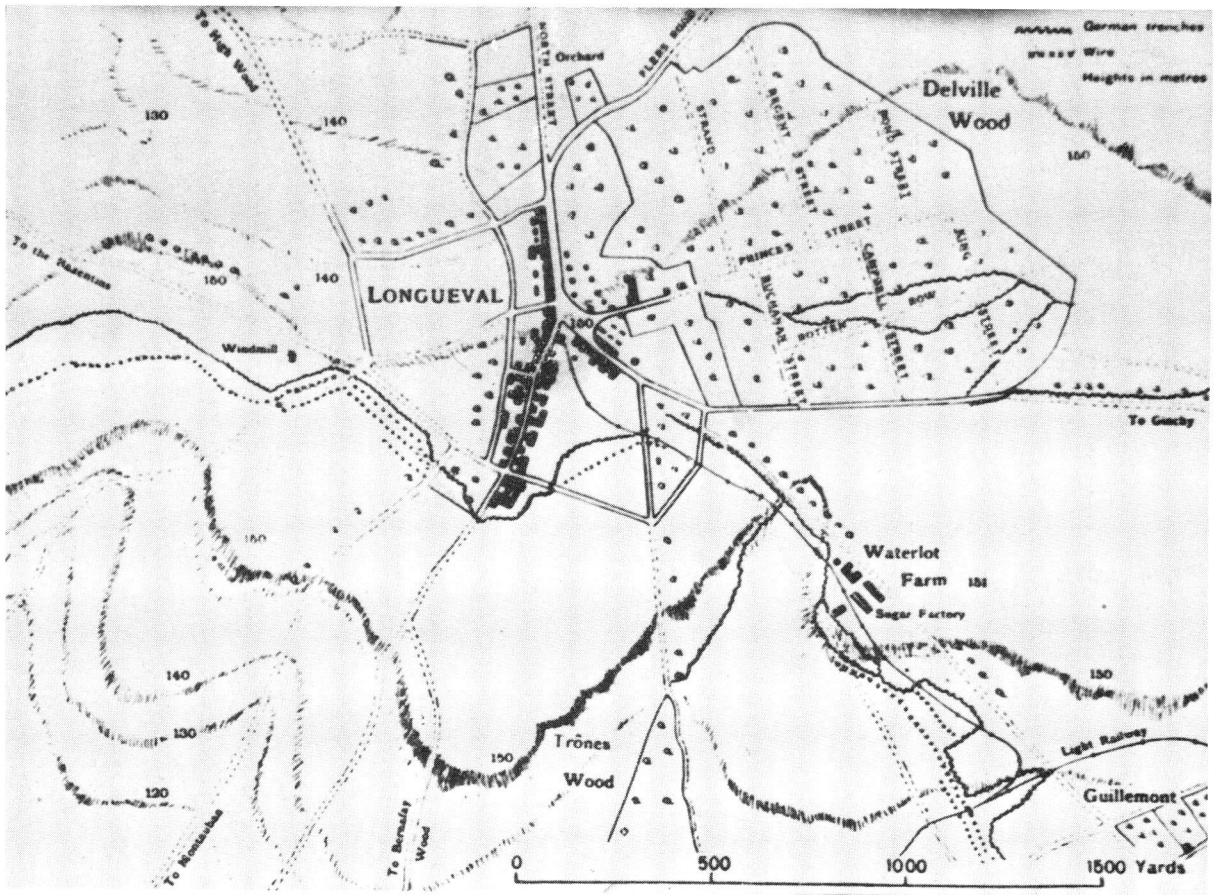


... maar die Duitsers het die onmoontlike reggekry. In staal versterkte uitgrawings (skuilings) het hulle die vlammesee wat die Britte op hulle neergestort het, oorleef en was dus voorbereid op 'n verdere aanval. Namate die bombardemente afgeneem het, het die Duitsers besef dat 'n aanval deur die Britse infanteriesoldate onvermydelik is en haastig nuwe stellings in die maanagtige landskap, waarin die gevegte sou plaasvind, ingerig.



The first day of the battle saw the British infantry carrying the first German line with horrifying losses; in fact, the 60 000 casualties suffered were the highest ever recorded in a single day by the British Army. The slaughter was to last into November 1916 and bring the total of casualties on the Allied side to 630 000, with no worthwhile territorial gains.

Die Britse infanterie het die eerste dag van die geveg groot verliese gely; die 60 000 ongevallende was die hoogste syfer wat die Britse leër ooit in een dag gely het. Die slagting het tot in November 1916 voortgeduur met 'n totaal van 630 000 ongevallende onder die Geallieerdes, terwyl geen verdere grond verower is nie.



Delville Wood and adjacent areas. Although the South African Brigade had participated in the fringes of the battle, it was at Delville Wood that they really got their first taste of the battle on the Western Front. On the morning of 14 July the 9th Division of which the South African Brigade was a part, received orders to attack the German line at Longueval and Delville Wood. It was one of the most difficult sectors in the front. Apart from the fact that the attack would be launched into a salient, the land sloped upwards from Bernafay and Trônes Woods to Longueval village. To the east and north-east of the hamlet stretched the wood of Delville. It was seamed with grassy rides, obscured by scrub, and the Germans had dug lines of trenches along and athwart them. The attack on Longueval proved that Delville Wood was the key.

*Delvillebos en aangrensende gebiede. Die Suid-Afrikaanse Brigade het hier hulle eerste voorsmaak van die oorlog aan die Wesfront gekry. Die oggend van 14 Julie het die 9de Divisie, waarvan die SA Brigade 'n deel was, opdrag gekry om die Duitse linie by Longueval en Delvillebos aan te val. Dit was een van die moeilikste sektore aan die front. Buiten die feit dat die aanval in 'n spitshoek geloods is, was die area vanaf Bernafay en die Trônes woude tot by Longueval 'n redelike steilte. Aan die oostelike en noordoostelike kant van Longueval het die digbegroeide Delvillebos gestrek. Alhoewel die bos uiters ruig was, het die Duitsers hulle loopgrawe deur en dwarsoor die talle graspaadjies in die bos gegrawe. Dit het gebyk dat Delvillebos die sleutel tot die aanval op Longueval was.*



15 July 1916 saw the South African Brigade attacking the wood under heavy fire. They reached their objective, but found it almost impossible to dig themselves in and wire the ground they had won. The ordeal was about to begin. For six days the South Africans had to endure massive artillery bombardments, some of which lasted for seven and a half hours. On the 17th the battle reached a pitch with an attack by 9 battalions of German infantry on the South African positions. Eventually the situation became so confused that the commanders on both sides lost control of the battle. It became a bloody brawl with men clawing and slashing at each other with bare hands and bayonets.

*Op 15 Julie 1916 val die SA Brigade die bos onder hewige vuur aan. Hoewel hulle hul doelwit bereik het, was dit 'n onmoontlike taak om skuilings in te rig; sowel as om die verowerde gebiede te verskans. Die beproewing het begin . . . ses dae aaneen moes die Suid-Afrikaners hewige bombardemente verduur waarvan sommige vir sewe en 'n half ure lank aangehou het. Die slag het op die 17de 'n hoogtepunt bereik met 'n aanval deur 9 Duitse bataljonne op die Suid-Afrikaanse stellings. Toestande het so chaoties geword dat die bevelvoerders aan beide kante heeltemal beheer oor die slag verloor het. Dit het in 'n bloedige slagting verander waar mans mekaar met hul kaal hande en bajonette beveg het.*







The skeleton of Delville Wood after the battle. Only after strong representations had been made to the high command were the South Africans relieved. On the evening of 20 July 1916, 2 officers and 140 other ranks marched out of the Wood to rejoin the remainder of the Brigade. Of the original 132 officers and 3 530 men who had gone into action at the start of the offensive, only 29 officers and 751 men had survived.

*Die geraamte van Delvillebos ná die slag. Eers nadat talle verhoë aan opperbevelhebbers gerig is, is die Suid-Afrikaners onttrek. Slegs twee offisiere en 140 ander soldate het op die aand van 20 Julie 1916 uit Delvillebos gemarsjeer om by die oorblywende Brigadelede aan te sluit. Van die oorspronklike 132 offisiere en 3 530 soldate wat aan die offensief deelgeneem het, het slegs 29 offisiere en 751 soldate die slag oorleef.*



A member of the 4th Regiment SAI posing with 'Nancy' the Regiment's mascot in the remains of Delville Wood. The Springbok accompanied the 4th Regiment to Egypt and then to France, where she was with the Brigade in all its battles. 'Nancy' was wounded in 1917 and died at Hermeton in Belgium in 1918.

*'n Lid van die 4de Regiment van SAI staan in die oorblyfsels van Delvillebos by 'Nancy', die regiment se gelukbringer. Die springbok het vanaf Egipte tot in Frankryk saam met die 4de Regiment deur al die veldslae beweeg. 'Nancy' is in 1917 gewond en is in 1918 by Hermeton, België dood.*



Digging trenches in the snow. Members of the SA Native Labour Corps. They gave sterling service on the Western Front. After the Battle of Delville Wood the South African Brigade was 'rebuilt', but in October 1916 it suffered 1 150 casualties during operations in the Butte de Warlincourt area. During winter the Germans built a new defensive line known as the Hindenburg Line.

*Loopgrawe word in die sneeu gegrawe. Lede van die SA Naturelle Arbeiderskorps. Hulle het voortreflike dienste aan die Wesfront gelewer. Die SA Brigade is ná die slag van Delvillebos opgebou, maar het weer in Oktober 1916 1 150 ongevallye tydens operasies in die gebied van Butte de Warlincourt gely. Gedurende die winter het die Duitsers 'n nuwe verdedigingslinie, die Hindenburg-linie, gebou.*

A South African watching the German lines during January 1917.



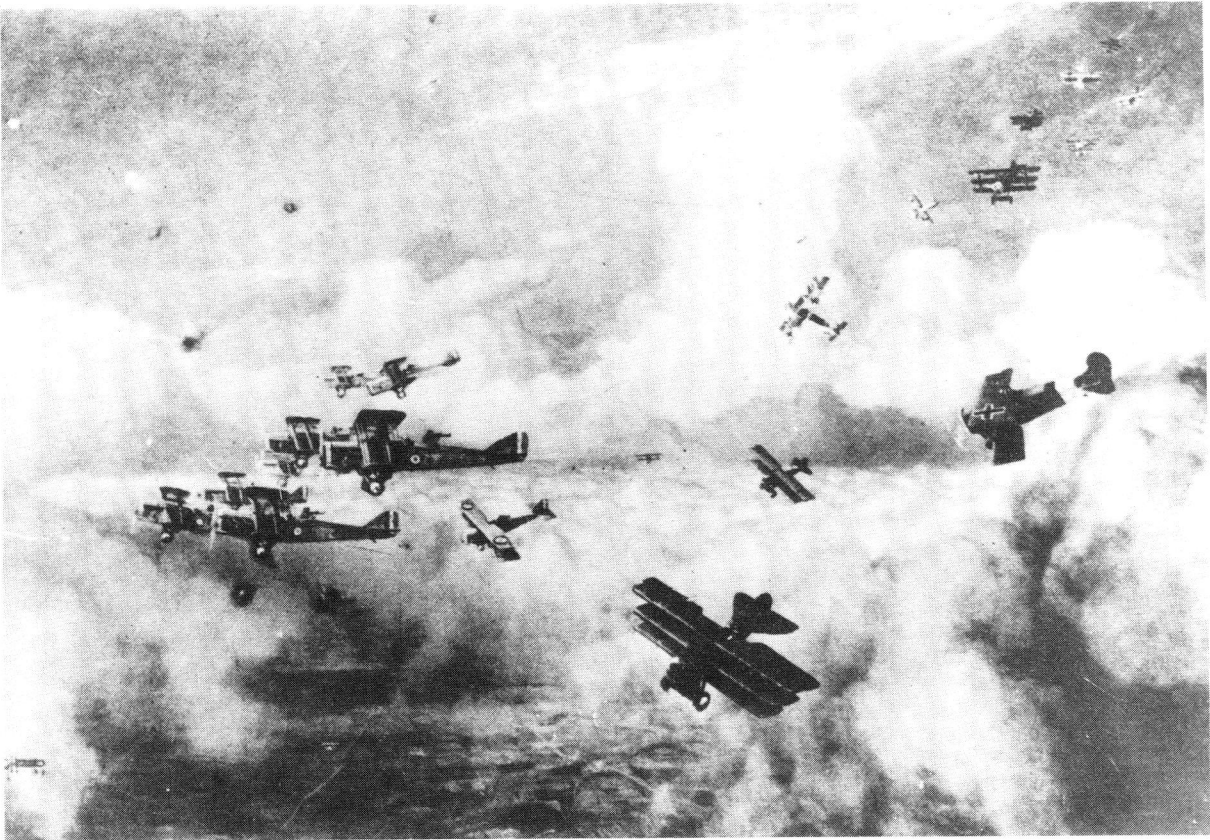
*'n Suid-Afrikaner hou die Duitse linies gedurende Januarie 1917 dop.*



German sappers digging a tunnel towards the British lines. They would eventually end up below the main British trench where a huge amount of explosives were placed. The result would be the total destruction of a large portion of the enemy's defences. It was usually followed by an infantry assault. Both sides engaged in this kind of operation and this would sometimes result in vicious underground skirmishes as the mining parties accidentally broke into each other's tunnels.

*Duitse sappeurs grawe 'n tonnel na die Britse linies. Hulle sal uiteindelik onder die belangrikste Britse loopgrawe uitkom waar 'n groot aantal plofstowwe geplaas word. Die tonnel word dan ontruim en die plofstowwe gedetoneer. Dit sou die totale verwoesting van 'n groot deel van die vyand se verdedigingsmagte veroorsaak het, wat gewoonlik opgevolg is deur 'n infanterie aanval. Beide kante het aan sulke operasies deelgeneem wat partykeer op noodlottige ondergrondse skermutselinge uitgeloop het as die 'mynende' geselskappe per ongeluk in mekaar se tonnels ingebreek het.*

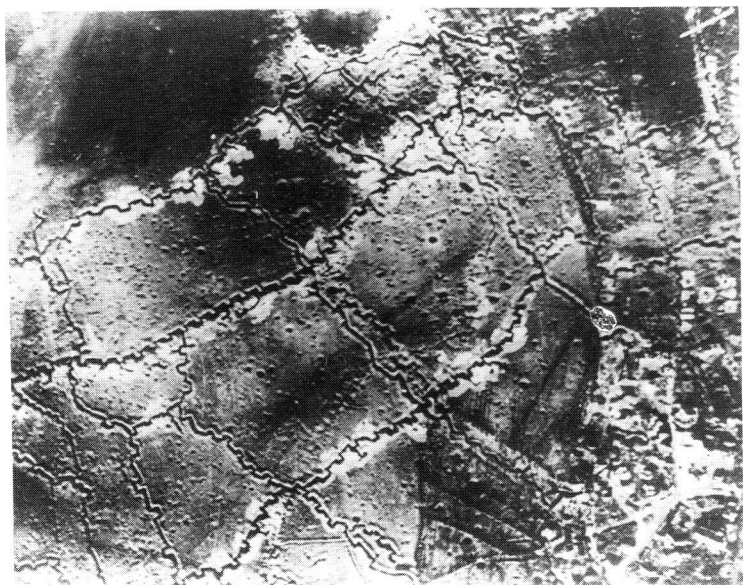




An air battle over the Western Front. Air warfare during World War I was still regarded as being a 'gentleman's war'. The aircraft were quite primitive and aircrew seldom were allowed to wear parachutes. The picture depicts a battle between British Bristol F-2 fighters and Von Richthofen's famous Fokker circus. The famed Red Baron's Fokker 'Dreidekker' can be seen in the foreground.

*Luggevegte oor die Wesfront. Gedurende WO I is dit as 'n 'gentleman's' oorlog beskou. Die vliegtuie was primitief gewees en die bemanning is selde toegelaat om vaskerms te dra. Die foto toon 'n geveg tussen Britse Bristol F-2 vegters en Von Richthofen se bekende Fokker 'sirkus'. Die beroemde 'Dreidekker' Fokker van die Rooi Baron kan op die voorgrond gesien word.*

An aerial view of a section of the Western Front. The landscape has a rather lunar appearance. Note the trenches criss-crossing the landscape, the shell craters and the remains of the town (top right hand corner of photo) and the flattened wood just below the town.



*'n Deel van die Wesfront vanuit die lug gesien. Die landskap het 'n taamlik maanagtige voorkoms. Let op na die loopgrawe wat kruis-ends dwars oor die landskap voorkom, die bomkraters, die oorblyfsels van die dorp (bo aan die regterkant van die foto) en die platgeveegde woud naby die dorp.*





Keeping a close watch on no-man's land by periscope. In 1917 Sir Douglas Haig desired to undertake a new offensive in Flanders. The spot chosen was Arras. During the months of preparation a close watch was kept on the enemy. Meanwhile the South Africans underwent intensive training.

*Niemandslan word deur 'n periskoop dopgehou. Sir Douglas Haig besluit in 1917 om 'n nuwe offensief in Arras, Vlaandere te ondemeem. Gedurende die voorbereidings is die vyand goed dopgehou. Ondertussen het die Suid-Afrikaners intensiewe opleiding ondergaan.*



Moving up to the Front along a sunken road, April 1917.

*Soldate beweeg na die Front, April 1917.*



Carrying the enemy trenches by bayonet. On 9 April 1917 the battle opened with a terrific barrage that dwarfed that of the Somme. The Allied infantry went over the top and crossed no-man's land under the protection of a canopy of shrieking steel. They found very little resistance, for the first two lines of enemy trenches had been battered into a hummocky waste of craters and broken wire. The South African Brigade suffered 720 casualties in three days near Fampoux. The offensive petered out in a deluge of rain and gales.

*Vyandelike loopgrawe word met bajonette aangeval. Die slag begin 9 April 1917 met 'n geweldige artillerievuur wat die gevegte by die Somme na 'n teeparty laat lyk het. Die Geallieerde Infanterie het niemandsland oorgesteek onder beskerming van 'n 'dak' van fluitende staal. Hulle het min teenstand ondervind aangesien die vyand se eerste twee linies van loopgrawe onder spervuur bestook is in 'n puin van kraters en gebroke drade. Die Suid-Afrikaanse Brigade het in drie dae 720 ongevalle naby Fampoux gehad. Die offensief het in 'n oorstroming van reën en stormwinde doodgeloop.*

Haig was, however, determined to stay on the offensive and on the last day of July 1917 he launched another offensive in the Ypres salient. Popularly known amongst the troops as the Battle of Passchendaele, the Third battle of the Ypres became known as a hopeless struggle in a sea of mud. The photo illustrates South African gunners trying to manoeuvre a field gun into position.



*Haig was egter vasbeslote om op die aanval te bly en het op die laaste dag van Julie 1917 nog 'n offensief naby Ypres begin. Die derde slag van Ypres, wat onder troepe as die slag van Passchendaele bekend gestaan het, was 'n hopelose stryd in 'n see van modder. Die foto illustreer die pogings van SA Artilleriste om 'n veldkanon in posisie te plaas.*



Lt Col D.M. McLeod, DSO, MC, DCM, Commander of 4th Regiment SAI.

*Lt-kol McLeod, DSC, MC, DCM, Bevelvoerder van die 4de Regiment van die SA Brigade.*



2nd Lt W.H. Hewitt of 2 Regiment SAI. He won the Victoria Cross as a Lance Corporal during Third Ypres battle in September 1917. He attacked a German 'Pill-box' single-handed and even though severely wounded, succeeded in blowing it up.

*2de Lt W.H. Hewitt van die 2de Regiment. Hy het as onderkorporaal die Victoriakruis in September 1917 tydens Derde Slag van Ypres ontvang. Hewitt het eiehandig 'n Duitse bunker aangeval waar hy swaar gewond is, maar afgesien daarvan het hy daarin geslaag om die bunker op te blaas.*



The horror of war. The decaying corpse of a German soldier lies in the terrible attitude he had fallen at the moment of death. Such scenes were very common in the muddy trenches of the Western Front where thousands lived amongst the corpses and the rats that fed on them.



*Die afgrypslikheid van oorlog. Die ontbinde lyk van 'n Duitse soldaat lê in dieselfde posisie waarin hy geval het met die tyd van sy dood. Sulke tonele was algemeen in die modderige loopgrawe van die Wesfront waar duisende soldate tussen die ontbinde lyke en krioelende rotte probeer oorleef het.*



Men of the Field Ambulance bearing a stretcher in the mud of Passchendaele. During this battle these men faced the hardest task ever, for their posts were under constant shellfire. By the 20th September 1917 the battered countryside had become unrecognizable. The elements seemed to have blended with each other to make it a limbo outside mortal experience and almost beyond imagining. Movement had become almost impossible and men collapsed with the effort. Drowning in the mud had become a very real danger; a fate which many of the wounded no doubt suffered. In November the struggle at Ypres ended. The South African casualty list alone stood at over 1 500 men.

*Lede van die Veldambulans dra 'n draagbaar deur die modder van Passchendaele. Tydens die slag het die soldate 'n moeilike taak gehad aangesien hulle stellings gedurig onder spervuur was. Teen 20 September 1917 was die landskap onherkenbaar verwoes.*

*Dit het voorgekom of die elemente saamgesmelt het om van die slag 'n onbeskryflike ondervinding te maak. Beweging het onmoontlik geword en talle soldate het ineengestort. Om in die modder te verdrink, het 'n groot gevaar geword; 'n gevaar waaronder die gewondes definitief gely het. In November het die stryd by Ypres geëindig. Die Suid-Afrikaanse ongevalle alleen was meer as 1 500 manne.*





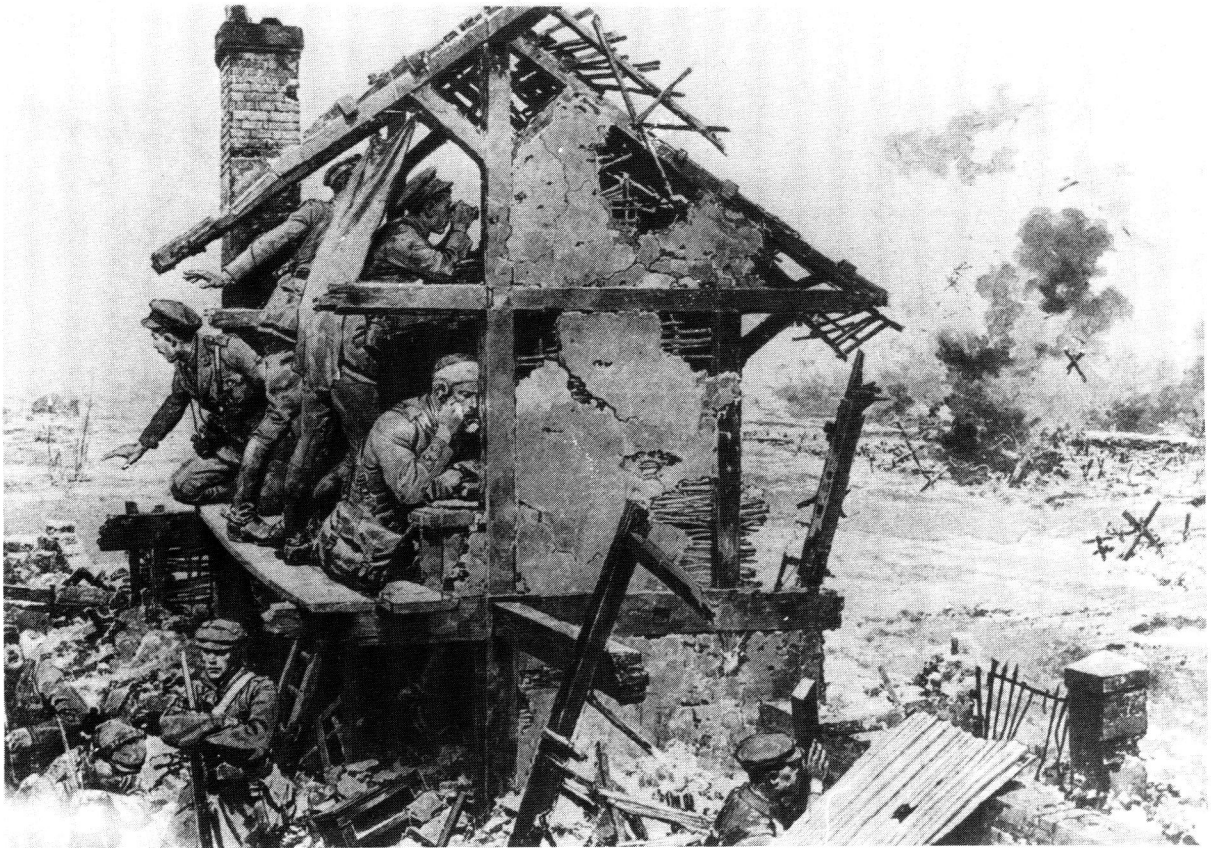
On 17 February 1918 the South African Brigade held a memorial service amongst the shattered tree-stumps of what was once the wood of Delville. A cross was erected in memory of the fallen. Little was it realized that within the next few months, the enemy flood would once again pour over the wastes of Delville, and the flower of South Africa would once again be embroiled in another blood-bath.

*Die SA Brigade het op 17 Februarie 1918 'n gedenkdiens tussen die boomstompe, wat eens Delvillebos was, gehou. 'n Kruis is ook opgerig ter nagedagtenis aan gestorwe soldate. Min het hulle geweet dat die vyand binne 'n paar maande weer oor die oorblyfsels van Delvillebos sou stroom – die soldate van Suid-Afrika sou weer eens in 'n bloedbad gedompel word.*



With the collapse of Imperial Russia in December 1917, the Germans could now throw the major part of their forces into the Western Front. The entry of the United States into the war made it imperative that Germany should force a decision on the Western Front before this new source of manpower could tip the scales in favour of the Allies. The picture depicts German soldiers hauling a heavy howitzer into position in preparation for the 'Great Spring Offensive'.

*Met die ineenstorting van Imperiale Rusland in Desember 1917 was die Duitsers nou in staat om al hul magte aan die Oosfront na die Wesfront te stuur. Die toetrede van die VSA tot dié oorlog het dit vir Duitsland noodsaaklik gemaak om tot 'n besluit te kom t.o.v. die Wesfront voordat die nuwe bron van mannekrag die skaal in die Geallieerdes se guns laat swaai. Die foto toon Duitse soldate wat besig is om 'n swaar howitser in posisie te sleep ter voorbereiding vir die 'Great Spring Offensive'.*



A British observation post reporting on the German artillery barrage. At 4.30 am on Thursday, 21 March 1918, 6 000 German guns unleashed a barrage all along the front of the British 5th and 3rd Armies. The 9th Division, under which the South African Brigade resorted, found itself on the extreme left of the 5th Army. The South African sector covered some 2 000 yards in the Gouzeaucourt area.

*'n Britse uitkykpos doen verslag van die spervuur deur die Duitse artillerie. Op Donderdag 21 Maart 1918 om 4.30 nm laat 6 000 Duitse kanonne 'n spervuur langs die front van die Britse 5de en 3de Leërs los. Die 9de Divisie, waaronder die Suid-Afrikaanse Brigade ook geval het, het hulself aan die heel linkerkant van die Vyfde Leër bevind. Die Suid-Afrikaanse sektor het omtrent 2 000 tree in die Gouzeaucourt gebied gedek.*

The Germans also deluged the British positions with gas which, in the foggy morning air of 21 March, clung to the ground in swirling, nauseating eddies.

*Die Duitsers het die Britse stellings ook met gas oorstrom wat op 21 Maart in die mistige oggendlug aan die grond vasgekleef het.*





German storm troops in the assault. The main weight of the attack was launched at 9.40 am. The attack itself came as no surprise, but its magnitude and power did. German tactics were wholly different from the classic World War I massed infantry assault type. The new tactics of 'infiltration' made use of storm troops who, armed with light machine guns, light mortars and flame throwers, pressed on along the paths of least resistance. They were followed by small, composite bodies of infantry, who avoided machine gun nests and other strong points; the reduction of which was left to the following waves of infantry.

*Duitse stormtroepe op die aanval. Die hoofaanval is om 9.40 geloods. Die aanval was op sigself nie 'n verrassing nie, maar die omvang en krag daarvan wel. Die Duitse taktiek het totaal verskil van die klassieke Wêreld Oorlog massa-infanterie tipe. Die nuwe taktiek van 'infiltrasie' het gebruik gemaak van stormtroepe, bewapen met ligte masjiengewere, ligte mortiere en vlamwerpers. Hierdie troepe het die weg van die minste weerstand gevolg en hulle is gevolg deur klein, saamgestelde infanterie afdelings, wat masjiengeweeemeste en ander sterk punte vermy het; die vernietiging daarvan is vir die volgende golwe van infanterie gelaat.*



General F.S. Dawson, CMG, DSO, ADC, who succeeded Lukin as commander of the South African Brigade after the latter's promotion as commander of the 9th Division. When the German assault threatened to break the South African line at Gauch Wood, he directed the fire of all the guns at his disposal on the Wood. By the afternoon the South African line was still intact, but the Brigade was being threatened with encirclement. The Brigade was ordered to retreat to the reserve lines of the battle zone. As the pressure mounted against the British lines, Dawson formed up his Brigade Headquarters staff and put them in the trenches. However, these desperate measures could not stop the enemy advance.

*Generaal F.S. Dawson, CMG, DSO, ADC, wat Lukin opgevolg het as bevelvoerder van die Suid-Afrikaanse Brigade na laasgenoemde se bevordering as bevelvoerder van die 9de Divisie. Toe die Duitse aanval gedreig het om die Suid-Afrikaanse linie te Gauche Bos te breek, het hy die leiding geneem en al die artillerie tot sy beskikking op die bos laat rig. Teen die middag was die Suid-Afrikaanse linie nog steeds ongeskonde, maar die Brigade is bedreig deur omsingeling en hulle is beveel om terug te trek na die reserwe linies van die gevegsone. Toe die druk teen die Britse linies verhoog is, het Dawson sy Brigade se Hoofkwartierpersoneel bymekaar gekry om die loopgrawe te beman. Hierdie desperate maatreëls kon egter nie die vyand se vordering stuit nie.*



Lt Col Christian, DSO, MC, commander of 2nd Regiment SAI. During the withdrawal the 2nd Regiment was almost trapped, but Christian succeeded in extricating a large part of the Regiment. 'B' Company was destroyed, fighting to the last

*Lt-kol Christian, DSO, MS, bevelvoerder van die 2de SAI Regiment. Gedurende die onttrekking, is die 2de regiment amper gevang, maar Christian het daarin geslaag om 'n groot deel van die regiment te red. B-Kompanie is egter vernietig, maar het tot die laaste geveg.*







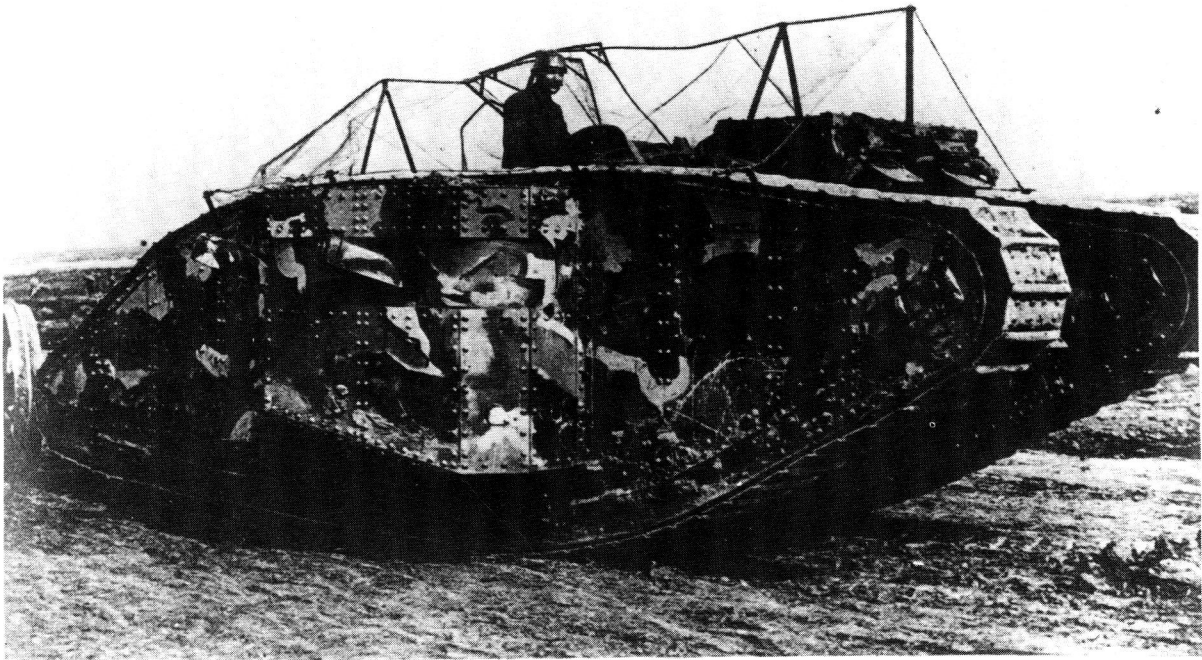
'What passing-bells for these who die as cattle?' (Wilfred Owen) As the German flood rolled on, the battle left behind its toll of human dead amongst the wreckage of the trenches.

'What passing-bells for these who die as cattle?' (Wilfred Owen). Die geveg het sy tol van dooie mense in vernietigde loopgrawe agtergelaat, terwyl die Duitse vloed voortgaan.

Below: Lt Col F.H. Heal, DSO, commander of 1st South African Regiment. By Sunday, 24 March 1918 the South Africans were holding a patch of front which, along with Delville Wood, is the most famous in the annals of the South African Brigade. The South Africans seemed fated to have their greatest deeds linked with woodlands. The splintered corpse of Marrières Wood was another. For seven hours 500 men, grey with fatigue, poisoned by gas, tortured by ceaseless bombardment and totally cut off from the retreating British, held the relentless enemy at bay. During all this, Colonel Heal refused to be depressed. He kept 'cheery through all the hell' (quoted from a letter of a South African officer who survived the ordeal), even though he was wounded. At about three o'clock he was killed. By that stage the Brigade had reached the end of its tether. There were only 100 South Africans left, with not a cartridge left in the front line. Between 4.15 and 4.30 on 24 March the Brigade ceased to be, and the remnants were marched off into captivity.

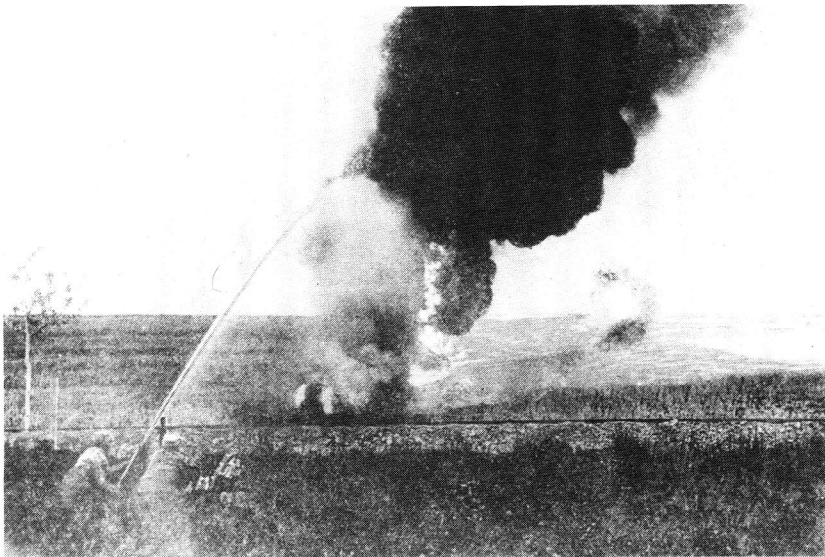


Lt-kol F.H. Heal, DSO, bevelvoerder van die 1ste Suid-Afrikaanse Regiment. Teen Sondag, 24 Maart 1918, het die Suid-Afrikaners 'n deel van die front beset, wat tesame met Delvillebos, die bekendste in die annale van die Suid-Afrikaanse Brigade is. Dit het gelyk of die Suid-Afrikaners bestem was om al hul grootste dae aan woude gekoppel te hê. Die oorblywendes van Marrièresbos was 'n ander voorbeeld. 500 manne, grys van uitputting, deur gas vergiftig, gepynig deur onophoudelike bombardemente en totaal van die terugtrekkende Britte afgesny, het die onverbiddelike vyand vir sewe ure afgeweer. Deur al hierdie terugslae het kolonel Heal geweier om neerslagtig te word. Hy het 'opgeruimd deur al die hel gebly' (aangehaal uit 'n brief van 'n Suid-Afrikaanse offisier wat die geveg oorleef het) al was hy gewond. Teen drie-uur die middag is hy dood en op daardie stadium het die Brigade die einde van sy paadjie bereik. Daar was slegs 100 Suid-Afrikaners oor, terwyl die voorste linie nie 'n enkele patroon meer gehad het nie. Tussen 4.15 en 4.30 op 24 Maart het die Brigade opgehou skiet en die oorblywende soldate is gevange geneem.



A British Mk I (Female) tank. Employed for the first time at Cambrai in 1917 with relative success, the tank strength had grown to fourteen tank battalions by March 1918. They played a major role in the more mobile campaigns of 1918.

*'n Britse Mk I ('Vroulike') tenk. Die tenk is vir die eerste keer in 1917 te Cambrai met relatiewe sukses gebruik. Teen Maart 1918 het die sterkte van hierdie tenks egter gegroei tot veertien tenk-bataljons en dit het 'n groot rol gespeel in veral die mobiele veldtogte van 1918.*



The German answer to the tank, the 'Flammenwerfer'. The introduction of the flamethrower introduced a new dimension of terror to the horrors of war.

*Die Duitse antwoord op die tenk, die 'Flammenwerfer'. Die bekendstelling van die vlamme werper het 'n nuwe dimensie van terreur tot die afgryse van oorlog gevoeg.*

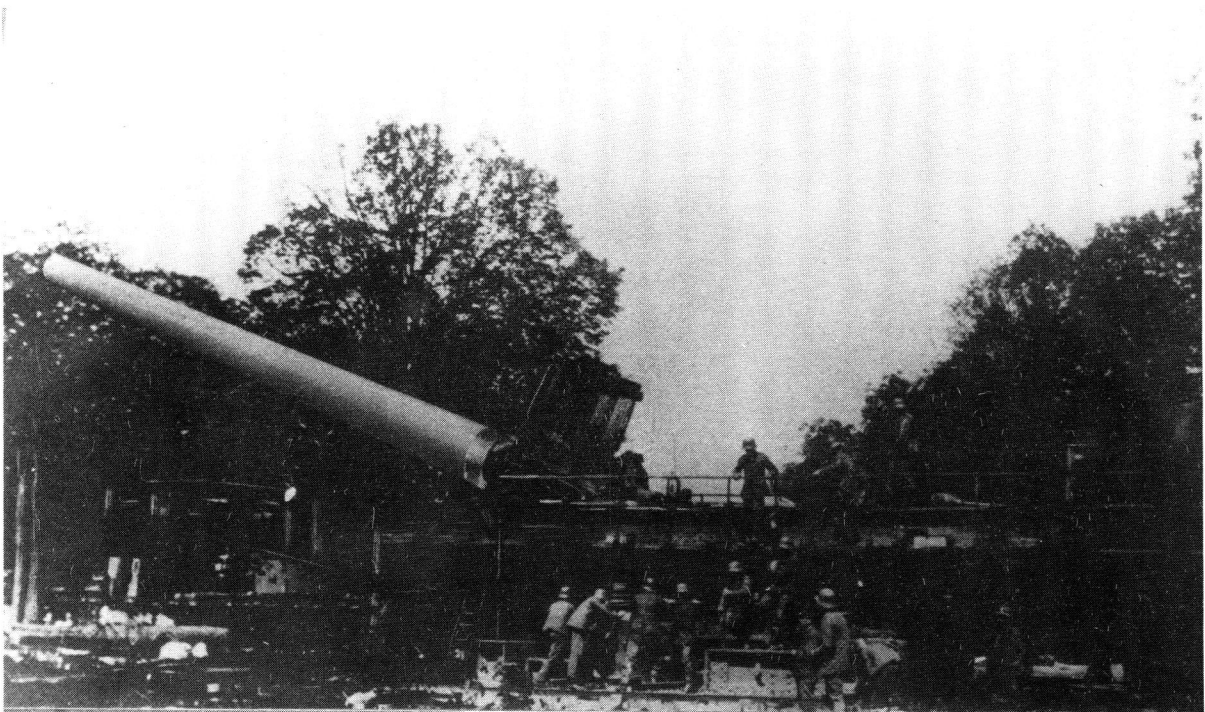


Back in the line. The destruction of the old Brigade did not mean the end of the South African participation in the struggle on the Western Front. The reorganization of the Brigade was immediately begun, and General Tanner became the new commander. The new Brigade had a strength of 39 officers and 1 473 other ranks. On 10 April 1918 the new Brigade went into action at Messines Ridge, where it succeeded in delaying the enemy's advance in that sector for thirty hours. But it paid a heavy price with 639 casualties. By April 23 it was clear that the Brigade could not continue, the drafts received having been used up in the heavy fighting on the Messines-Wytshaete Ridge. The South Africans were now organized into one battalion. The new composite unit was commanded by Lt Col H.W.M. Bamford, MC, and had a strength of 59 officers and 1 527 other ranks. The reorganization was still in progress when the South African Battalion was sent forward into the line, where it incurred more casualties. By the 5th May 1918 the German offensive ran out of steam and the Battle of the Lys came to a close.

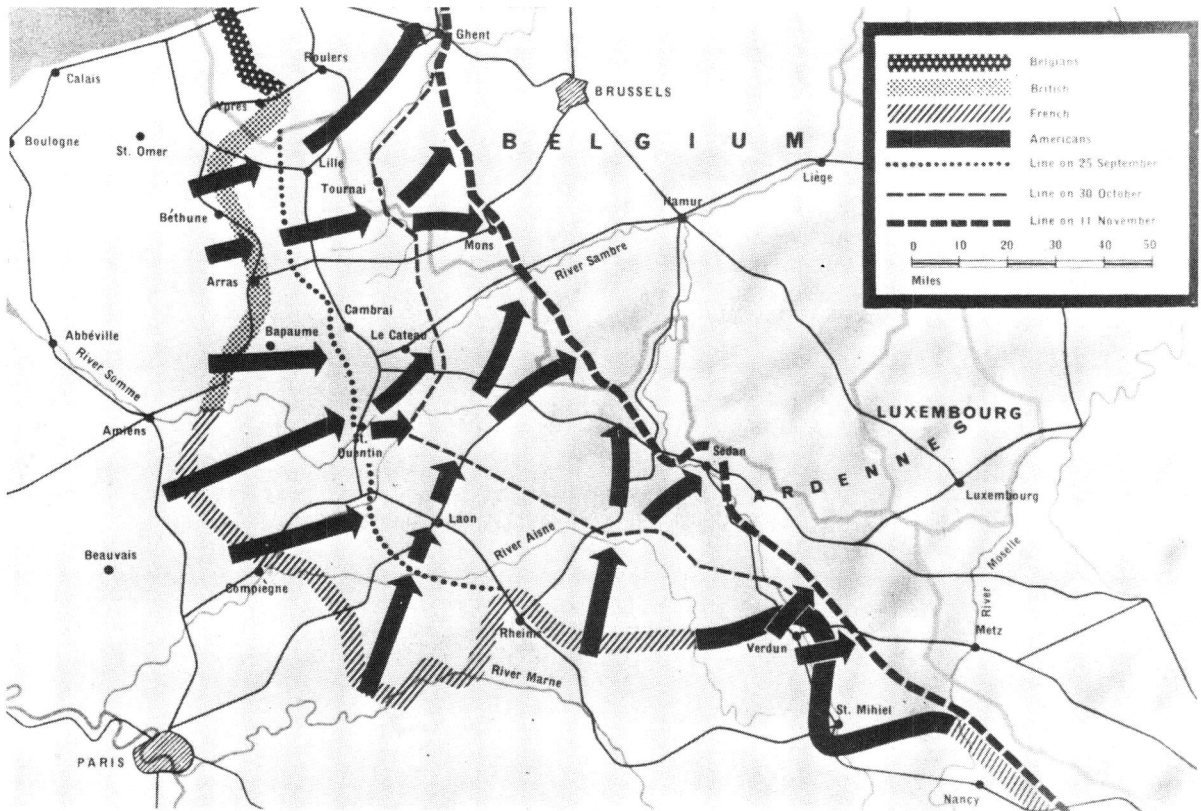
*Terug in die linie. Die vernietiging van die ou Brigade het nie beteken dat dit die einde van die Suid-Afrikaanse deelname aan die stryd aan die Wesfront was nie. Die herorganisasie van die Brigade het dadelik begin en generaal Tanner het die nuwe bevelvoerder geword. Die nuwe Brigade het 'n sterkte van 39 offisiere en 1 473 ander range gehad. Op 10 April 1918 het die nuwe Brigade begin by Messines Ridge, waar hulle die vyand se vordering vir 30 uur suksesvol vertraag het. Teen 23 April was dit duidelik dat die Brigade nie kon voortgaan nie, want die troepe wat ontvang is, is opgebruik tydens die hewige gevegte op die Messines-Wytshaete Ridge. Die Suid-Afrikaners was daarna in een bataljon georganiseer. Lt-kol H.W.M. Bamford, MC, was die bevelvoerder van hierdie nuwe saamgestelde eenheid met 'n sterkte van 59 offisiere en 1 527 ander range. Die Suid-Afrikaanse Bataljon is vooruit in die linie gestuur terwyl hulle nog besig was met die herorganisering en hiermee het nog meer ongevallen voorgekom. Teen 5 Mei 1918 kon die Duitse offensief nie meer voortgaan nie en het die Slag van die Lys aan sy einde gekom.*

German heavy railway gun being readied for action. With their drive against the British being stopped at the Lys, the Germans shifted their attention to the French. In May 1918 the Third Battle of the Aisne flared up. The preliminary German bombardment slaughtered the French troops in the forward zone, with the effect that the Germans found scarcely any French reserves to bar their advance. Ludendorff's armies surged toward Paris. In seventy-two hours the Germans advanced more than thirty miles and reached the Marne; to the anxiety of the inhabitants of Paris. With the assistance of the newly-arrived Americans, the Germans' advance was stopped. Paris itself was subject to sporadic shelling by monstrous guns such as is illustrated.

*'n Duitse swaar spoor-kanon word gereed gekry vir aksie. Nadat die Duitsers se offensief teen die Britte by Lys gestop is, het hulle hul aandag na die Franse verskuif. In Mei 1918 het die Derde Slag van Aisne opgevlam. Die voorlopige Duitse bomaanvalle het die Franse troepe in die voorste sones s6 uitgewis dat die Duitsers skaars Franse reserwes gevind het om hulle vordering te bemoeilik en Ludendorff se le6rs het voort gerol na Parys. In twee-en-sewentig uur het die Duitsers meer as dertig myl gevorder en die Marne bereik, tot die ang van die inwoners van Parys. Met die hulp van die Amerikaners, is die Duitsers se vordering gestop. Parys self was die onderwerp van sporadiese bombardering deur monsteragtige kanonne soos wat ge6llustreer is.*







The Allied offensive 1918. During the summer months the Allies had succeeded in warding off the German onslaught and by July they were in a position to go on to the offensive. The Allied offensive commenced on 18 July 1918 and by the 24th, after putting up a fierce resistance, the Germans began a gradual retreat to their last defensive lines, where they hoped to stand fast.

*Die geallieerde offensief 1918. Gedurende die somermaande het die geallieerdes die Duitse aanslag suksesvol afgeweer en teen Julie was hulle in 'n posisie om met die offensief voort te gaan. Die Geallieerde offensief het op 18 Julie 1918 in werking getree en teen die 24ste, nadat 'n sterk weerstand opgebou is, het die Duitsers begin om stelselmatig terug te val na hul laaste verdedigende linies, waar hulle gehoop het om te bly.*



German prisoners being marched through ruined Ypres. Note the remains of the once majestic Cloth Hall.

*Duitse gevanges word deur die vernietigde Ypres gemarsjeer. Let op na die oorblyfsels van die eens grootse Cloth Hall.*

A sign of success. By October, the South African Brigade found itself in the line at Bony where, supported by a creeping barrage, the South Africans succeeded in a swift eviction of the enemy. On 17 October the Brigade was thrown into its last great battle at the Le Cateau. Covered by fog, the Brigade attacked at 0805 hours. From the outset the attack encountered heavy machine gun fire and belts of wire. By the 19th their casualties were 47 officers and 1 229 men, but they had succeeded in carrying the German lines.

*'n Teken van sukses. Teen Oktober het die Suid-Afrikaanse Brigade hulle in die linie te Bony bevind waar, ondersteun deur 'n kruipende spervuur, die Suid-Afrikaners geslaag het in die vinnige uitsetting van die vyand. Op 17 Oktober is die Brigade vir die laaste keer by La Cateau in 'n groot stryd gedompel. Beskerm deur mis, het die Brigade om 0805 uur aangeval. Van buite af het die aanval swaar masjiengeweevuur en draadgordels teëgekom en teen die 19de was hulle ongeveer 47 offisier en 1 229 manne, maar hulle het daarin geslaag om die Duitse linies te oorwin.*



ONE PENNY.

# Cape Times

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## LATEST WAR NEWS THE GERMAN RETREAT

### ALLIES OCCUPY OSTEND AND LILLE.

### 90,000 PRISONERS AND 800 GUNS TAKEN.

London, Thursday (Reuter).

The Admiralty announces that Air Force Contingents attached to the Navy landed at Ostend this morning, and reported it clear of the enemy.

Admiral Keyes landed at Ostend in the afternoon.

British forces have entered Lille.

LONDON.

Thursday.—Latest reliable news of to-day's new advance from Le Cateau reports that the Allies made progress for two miles. The Allies are now five miles from the Valenciennes-Brussels Railway and eight miles from Valenciennes itself.

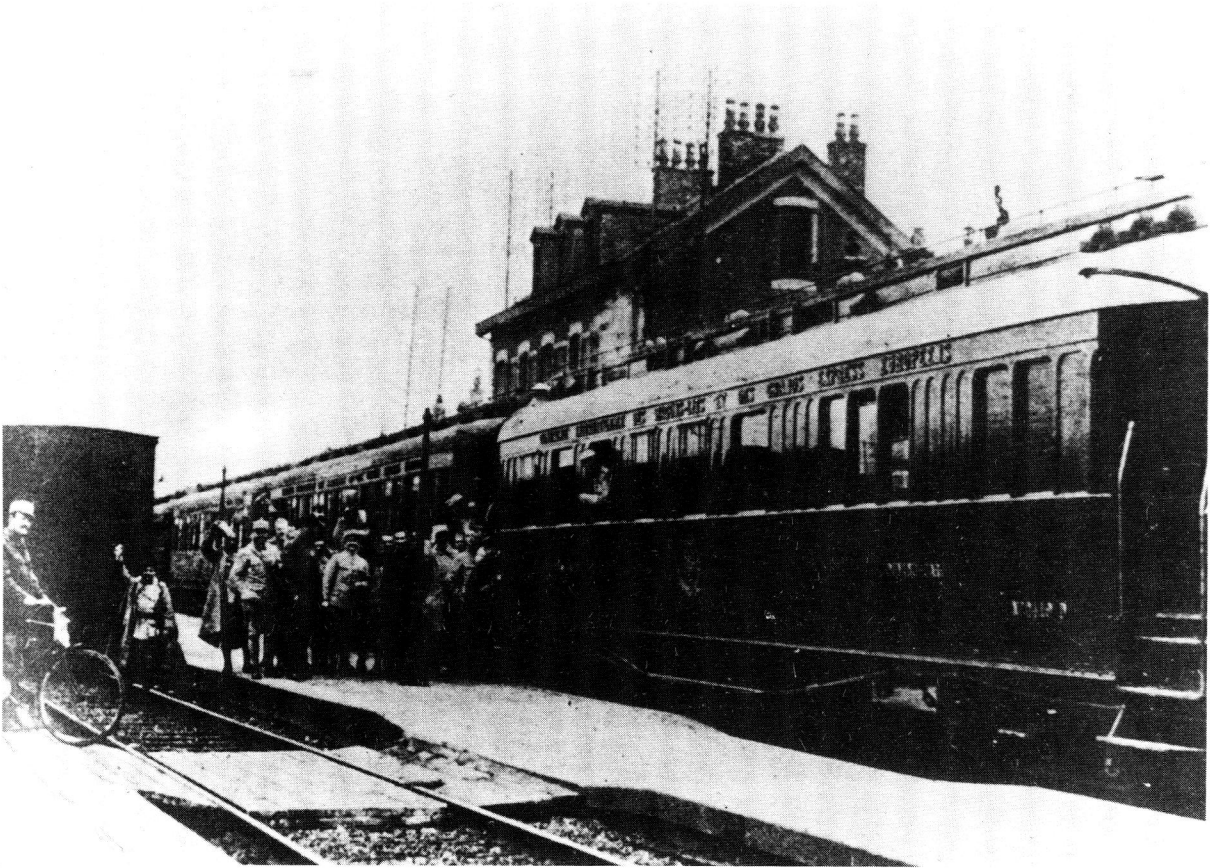
The Belgians crossed the Yser near Nieuport, and are advancing on Ostend, the enemy probably withdrawing to a line running from Brussels and Namur to the right bank of the Meuse.

The Allies have taken 90,000 prisoners and 800 guns.—Reuter.

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News headlines in South Africa 1918. Reports like these were a sure indication that the German war machine was on the verge of collapse.

Nuusopskrifte in Suid-Afrika 1918. Verslae soos hierdie was 'n definitiewe aanduiding dat die Duitse oorlogsmasjien besig was om te verkrummel.



The 'peace train'. Marshall Foch's special train just before it set off to the forest of Compiègne near Rethondes, where the final armistice discussions were held. The armistice was signed on the morning of 11 November 1918. The 'Cease Fire' sounded along the battle line at 11 am and hostilities came to an end after 1 561 days of bloody warfare.

*Die 'vredestrein'. Maarskalk Foch se spesiale trein net voor dit vertrek het na die woud van Compiègne, naby Rethondes, waar die finale onderhandelings vir 'n wapenstilstand plaasgevind het en ondertekening daarvan is op 11 November 1918 gedoen. Die nuus van die vuurstaking is teen 11 vm aan die linies meegedeel en die vyandelikhede het na 1 561 dae van bloedige oorlog tot 'n einde gekom.*



## Peace and Aftermath

## Vrede en Nawerking

Declaration of the armistice in South Africa. His Excellency the Governor-General (Viscount Buxton) reading the terms of the armistice from the forum in the amphitheatre of the Union Buildings, Pretoria, Monday, November 11, 1918.

*Die bekendmaking van die wapenstilstand in Suid-Afrika. Sy Eksellensie die Goewerneur-generaal (Viscount Buxton) lees hier op 11 November 1918 die terme van die wapenstilstand vanaf die forum in die amfiteater van die Uniegeboue in Pretoria.*





*'In Flanders fields the poppies blow/ Between the crosses, row on row.'* (John Macrae)

Civilians tending soldiers' graves; some of the many thousands which serve as a legacy of man's madness. The total cost in human lives amounted to 13 million. The total number of South Africans killed during the First World War was 12 452, of whom 8 551 were Europeans, 709 Coloured men and 3 192 Africans. Although small when compared with the total; to sparsely populated South Africa, the losses were enormous. Not only in terms of numbers, but in terms of quality and kind. Those who served were all volunteers, and it is in the nature of things that a volunteer army takes a proportion of the best men of a nation.

*'In Flanders fields the poppies blow/ Between the crosses row on row.'* (John Macrae)

*Burgerlikes versorg die grafte van die soldate, party van die duisende wat gedien het as 'n erfenis van die mens se waansin. Die totale koste aan menselewens het op 13 miljoen te staan gekom. 'n Totaal van 12 452 Suid-Afrikaners is gedurende die Eerste Wêreldoorlog gedood waarvan 8 551 Blankes, 709 Gekleurdes en 3 192 Swartes was. Alhoewel dié getalle in die geheel gesien klein was, was dit ontsaglik, gemeet aan die dun gesaaide bevolking van Suid-Afrika. Nie net in terme van getalle nie, maar ook in terme van kwaliteit en aanleg. Die soldate wat gedien het, was almal vrywilligers en dit is 'n algemene feit dat 'n vrywillige leër van die beste manne van 'n volk trek.*