

# A BIOGRAPHY OF ROBERT DE KERSAUSON, FRENCH VOLUNTEER WITH THE BOER COMMANDOS

## Descent

One of the most colourful foreign volunteers in the Boer army in 1900-1902 was Robert de Kersauson de Pennendreff; young, handsome, gallant and devoted to the Boer cause until the bitter end of the war. His love for South Africa brought him after an absence of almost 40 years back to this country to find a quiet place to live when many other countries were suffering in the Second World War.

He belonged to an old family in Brittany, France's most Western province, surrounded by sea on three sides. The name Kersauson is said to mean "house of the Saxon"; ker is a frequent prefix in Breton family names. It is quite possible that one of his ancient ancestors was a Saxon from Great Britain, for there were many migrants between Brittany and Britain. The Britishers in both countries belonged to the same race and spoke the same Celtic language, still used in Brittany. Robert's second family name, Pennendreff, is said to mean head of the village. The De Kersausons belonged to the landed gentry and were according to an old family-tree published in 1886, a large family.<sup>1</sup> In the old archives at Nantes, the name of Pierre de Kersauson is first mentioned in 1057. The first Robert of whom we know, accompanied King Louis IX on his crusade to Egypt in 1249. Several De Kersausons served as officers in the French army or navy or as priests in the Roman Catholic Church. Our Robert came from a family with a long military tradition.

His grandfather was commander of the **Borda**, a training ship, and was married to a daughter of the notary public, Bérulies. Their son, Hippolyte, took up his grandfather's career in Brest. He was associated with Monsieur Bellami who ruined the firm, was responsible for their bankruptcy and imprisoned on account of fraud. Soon thereafter, on 20 February 1886, Hippolyte died. According to family tradition their bankruptcy came as a

result of the liquidation of the French Panama Company, which ruined many Frenchmen. Since this happened in 1889 — three years after Hippolyte's death — it could not have been the cause of his financial debacle.<sup>2</sup>

His widow was Isabelle du Plessis-Quinquis, daughter of Louis du Plessis-Quinquis and Cécile de Kersauson-Kerjan. She brought as her dowry the stately country house Château de Kéroualle at Guilers near Brest when she married Hippolyte in 1872. The mansion of Kéroualle exists at present in its 17th century Renaissance style. It was the home of an old Breton family and gave its name to a famous concubine of King Charles II of England who died in 1685. She was Louise Renée de Kéroualle, the elder of the two daughters of Guillaume de Penancöet, Sieur De Kéroualle, and she became Charles' mistress in 1670.<sup>3</sup>

## Robert's youth, 1879-1900

In the mansion of Kéroualle the seven children of Hippolyte and Isabelle were born: Jeanne (7/1/1875), Marthe (25/1/1877), Robert (15/2/1879), Cécile (13/2/1881), Henri (1883, died in the same year), Henriette and Madeleine (both 18/7/1884). Robert was the only surviving son.

Hippolyte's death was a major family tragedy. Isabelle emigrated in 1887 to California in the United States, possibly to escape the social disgrace of bankruptcy and the creditors. She left all or several of her children in France, probably in the guardianship of the family de Kersauson. One of her daughters followed her later to the United States and married there a Breton, Mr Trébaol; they had 14 children. As Trébaol, a teacher of French, died early, his family had a difficult time. Their descendants now live in California and other states.

Robert was only seven years old when his father died, but he received a relatively good education at a French secondary school in Nantes. He was a clever and handsome boy. During his school years he visited California,

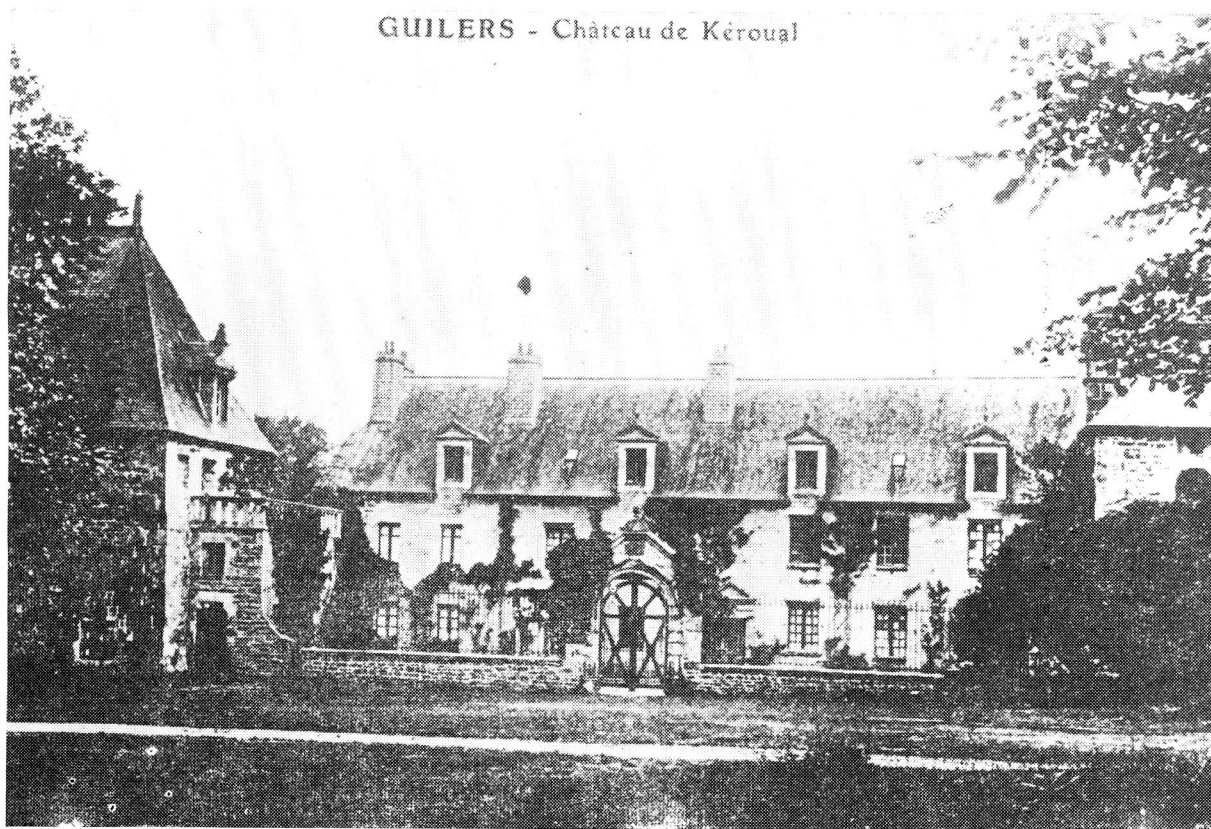


Photo of Château de Kéroual (or Kérouals) at Guilers, a suburb of Brest in Bretagne. This mansion dates from the 16th or 17th century and was the property of the family of Isabelle du Plessis-Quinguis. Here Robert de Kersauson and his five sisters were born.

(Courtesy of General Robert Counte de Kersauson)

probably to see his mother. There he learned to speak English but retained a North American accent which caused the Boers later to refer to him as 'the American Frenchman.' He was on the point of registering with the military academy to join the French army and follow the career of many of his ancestors when the war in South Africa broke out. He was swept along by the wave of enthusiasm for the Boers, rising mainly from dislike for the British who had thwarted French expansion in Africa at Fashoda in 1898. Robert listened to the propaganda of the Boer committees in France who collected funds for the Boers and exhorted men to volunteer for service in the Boer forces. One of these committees was active in Nantes where Robert had studied and had relatives. According to him the president of the Boer committee in Nantes was Mr. de Villebois, an elder brother of Col G. de Villebois-Mareuil who won tragic fame in South Africa, and he adds that this president was his uncle, a statement which has not been confirmed. He decided to enlist in

the Boer army but waited for his majority on his 21st birthday, 15 February 1900, in order to dispose over his part in the parental heritage. Probably the Boer supporters provided him with letters of introduction which he showed upon arrival at Machadodorp in June 1900 to the representatives of the Transvaal government.

#### **Warrior in South Africa, 1900-1902**

Towards the end of April he embarked at Marseilles in the steamer **Admiral** of the German East Africa Line. The ship sailed via the Suez Canal and arrived towards the end of May in Lourenço Marques. On board were many young men of various nationalities who intended to join the Boer forces or the British army. The relations between most members of the two groups who would fight each other, were remarkably cordial.

Until July 1900 a great number of foreigners flocked via Lourenço Marques into Transvaal to serve as volunteers with the Boers in their

struggle against Britain. After the surrender of Genl P. A. Cronjé at Paardeberg and the relief of Ladysmith by the British, towards the end of February 1900, the Boer commandos retreated everywhere and abandoned railways and towns step by step. The foreign volunteers also withdrew and when the regular war came to an end in August, most of them returned to Lourenço Marques and left South Africa. Some, however, remained with the commandos and participated in the ensuing guerrilla war. One of these foreign 'Bittereinders' was the young Frenchman, Robert de Kersauson.

In June 1900 he came to the seat of the Transvaal government at Machadodorp. After the fall of Pretoria on 5 June, the authorities fled to this village and took up quarters in a few railway carriages. With his letters of introduction, Robert called on the State Secretary, F. W. Reitz, and this official presented him to President Kruger. Robert tells that on 14 June, in the presence of both gentlemen, he was sworn in as a citizen of the South African Republic.

In Middelburg, Transvaal, he first joined a group of foreign volunteers. It was no coincidence that their commanding officer was Capt De Kertanguy, also from Brittany. Soon Robert ascertained that foreigners were unpopular with the Boers and deliberately decided to join the Middelburg commando. The reasons for the foreigners' unpopularity were due to their lack of experience in field life, conceitedness, theft or drunkenness. Thanks to his visit to California, Robert could speak English well, but he had to learn Afrikaans and field life. He exerted himself to be helpful and brave and thereby became popular among his comrades as well as the Boer generals. Because of pronunciation difficulties the Boers called him 'Robert die Fransman' and because of his nobility, 'the marquis', though his rank of birth granted him no higher title than count. He served in the war to the 'bitter end' and described his war adventures in a diary which was translated and published in 1960 under the title *Ek en die Vierkleur*.<sup>4</sup>

Between June and September 1900 he fought at Bronkhorstspuit, Dalmanutha, Warmbad and Lydenburg. In October he joined two of De Wet's despatch riders and accompanied them to De Wet in the Free State. Apparently — as with other foreigners — he was

attracted to De Wet by his fame. He joined the renowned Theron's Verkennerkorps or TVK, founded by Danie Theron. Most members were young and a mixture of Afrikaners and foreigners from many countries. They complemented each other in an excellent way and gained fame as an outstandingly capable corps.

After the death of their beloved leader Danie Theron on 5 September 1900, the TVK chose his cousin Jan Theron as commandant. But Jan had a much less commanding nature and also lacked Danie's charming personality. The TVK soon split into groups but many of its members rose to high ranks.

Robert was under Jan Theron in the Free State and was present during the fights at Bothaville on 5 November and Dewetsdorp on 21 to 23 November 1900. He participated in De Wet's first abortive raid to the Cape Colony, December 1900, and again in the second raid in January-February 1901. These roving brought him into contact with several of the most daring Boer fighters in the war, such as Gideon Scheepers, Wynand Malan and S. G. (Manie) Maritz. They were ex-TVK members and under De Wet's command before they crossed the Orange River to start the rebellion and guerrilla war in the Cape Colony. Robert entered the Colony under Theron's command. They were 35 men but Manie Maritz (who was one of the party) quitted Theron's commando soon afterwards with Robert in his following, the latter probably being attracted by Manie's dash and daring. Robert became officer adjutant and they were companions for more than a year. After the war he kept company with this Boer hero for almost another two years.

In those days 'Robert die Fransman' could already understand and speak Afrikaans well and sympathized wholeheartedly with the 'Bittereinders'. In July 1901 the supreme command of the republican forces sent him with a report of the war situation to the government representatives of the republics in Europe. Passing through German South West Africa, he managed to reach Europe and handed the report to President Kruger and Dr W. J. Leyds. Robert avoided a visit to his family in France — because there he was liable to conscription — and returned through German South West Africa to the Cape commandos in April 1902. At that time Genl J. C.

Smuts was in command of the Cape commandos.

He describes the spirit of the local loyal population and the commandos. They were confident of a victory. Among the burghers on commando there appeared to be more sceptics. They realized that many difficulties faced the rebels, even if the republics could retain their independence. As things turned out, the peace treaty stipulated that they would not be tried by British military courts but by the governments of the Cape Colony and Natal. The privates had to surrender their arms, sign a document admitting their guilt whereupon they were summarily disfranchised for life. The rebel officers, however, were to be tried by civil authority and received only the assurance that capital punishment would not be inflicted.

At the end of the war 11 166 men in the Transvaal, 6 455 in the Free State and 3 625 in the Cape Colony laid down arms on the Boer side.<sup>5</sup> All ages between 14 and 70 were represented in the Cape commandos, but the average age was probably much lower than that in the Transvaal and Free State commandos because particularly young men left the republics to share the adventure of the second invasion into the Cape Colony, or rebelled.

#### The last weeks of war

In his book *Ek en d'e Vierkleur*, pp. 130-141, Robert gives a summary of the weeks following Smuts' departure to Vereeniging. His diary deals mainly with war operations. Upon his arrival in France he extended the diary's facts, leaving a colourful narrative, charged with emotion. He described the burgher's painful uncertainty, the population's hesitation between fear and hope, Smuts' return and the general mental confusion of the fighters when he told them that the republics had ceased to exist on 31 May... This narrative was published in the French magazine *L'illustration* on 24 January 1903 in Paris. It omits only few details from his diary. A Dutch translation of Robert's story appeared in the *Bataviaasch Nieuwsblad* in the Dutch East Indies on 11 April 1903, merely stating that the article was a translation from French but did not mention the source.<sup>6</sup>

After Smuts's announcement that peace had been concluded, Robert heard that he and other Boer officers would be summoned to court. Robert joined Cmdts Christoffel Schoeman, Jaap Naser and Lategan, as well as Andries de Wet, H. van Doornik, Okkie de Villiers and more who had decided to flee to German South West Africa and to leave for Europe. At Warmbad in German territory, Robert and a few comrades awaited the arrival of Maritz and other officers who refused to swear loyalty to the King of Britain. As a group they travelled by oxwagon, dromedary and train via Windhoek to Swakopmund, where they embarked in a German vessel for Europe.<sup>7</sup> Robert accompanied Maritz who travelled to the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium and France and presented him to reputable French families in Paris and elsewhere. Eventually Maritz accepted the invitation of Genl Galliéni, Governor-General of Madagascar, and went to this island towards the end of 1902.

#### Further career, 1902-1940

During his visit to the Netherlands, Robert met Genl C. R. de Wet in The Hague in September 1902 and obtained from him a favourable testimonial to help him in the French army,<sup>8</sup> for he was obliged to fulfil military service in France. On 14 November 1902 he enlisted as a private, second class. From 10 March to 13 July 1903 he saw service in Madagascar, where he met Maritz and the Reitz brothers, sons of the former State Secretary of the Transvaal. They had moved to the French island because they refused to swear loyalty to the British Crown, but Madagascar gave them no means of existence and after a spell of illness, they returned to South Africa. On 1 November 1903 Robert was dismissed as a reserve officer in the French army. For one year he lived at De Paarl and in 1904 he married a French girl of great beauty, Marie Louise Coutorbe, in Cape Town. On this occasion he sent signed photos of his bride and himself — a handsome couple — to Leyds in Europe.<sup>9</sup>

The De Kersausons returned to Europe. They had no children. In 1913 Genl C. F. Beyers offered him a position in the Union Army, but he declined. In August 1914, soon after the outbreak of the First World War, he of-



Photo of Robert de Kersauson in Cape Town in 1904 at the time of his marriage; copy signed by him and sent to W. J. Leyds in Europe. The photo is in the Leyds Archives, State Archive, Union Buildings, Pretoria.

ferred his services to Genl Jan Smuts, then Minister of Defence. Smuts asked him whether he was a licenced air pilot.<sup>10</sup> Apparently this was not the case and Robert remained in Europe. On 2 August 1914 he was called up and, as an officer, he saw service in the French colonial army against Germany. He was promoted several times and upon demobilisation concluded his military service on 27 February 1919 as Lieutenant. Thereafter he spent four years in French Equatorial Africa and the Belgian Congo (1919-1922) and four in British East Africa (1928-1932). On 30 December 1924 he was promoted reserve captain. He received the French War Cross and on 8 November 1926 the order of the Légion d'Honneur.<sup>11</sup>

After 1932 he settled again in France. Between 1932 and 1938 he was employed as **inspecteur commercial** by André Citroën in

Paris.<sup>12</sup> In 1938 he lived in the village of Sanary near the French naval base of Toulon on the Mediterranean Sea. After many years of service in tropical Africa he probably preferred life in a mild Mediterranean climate to the cooler climate of his windswept native Brittany.

At Sanary he received the coveted decoration for faithful service with the Boers in South Africa. By Ordinance No 2307 of 21 December 1920 the Governor-General of the Union had instituted this token of honour. The ordinance was published in the Government Gazette of 24 December 1920. The decoration was awarded to brave officers in the former republican army; a silver medal for officers and burghers alike with a ribbon for those who were wounded. They had to be officers or privates in the subsequent Defence Forces or in the Army reserve.



Photo of Marie Louise Coutorbe, wife of Robert de Kersauson in 1904, born in St. Etienne 10-9-1880, deceased Franschoek 17-3-1972. Photo probably made in Cape Town in 1904 and offered by Robert to W. J. Leyds in Europe. It is now in the Leyds Archives, State Archive, Union Buildings, Pretoria.

In Central Africa in 1922 Robert met an Afrikaner who told him of the new decoration. From Plouescat in Brittany in 1922, he applied for this token of honour, but his application was rejected because he was not a British subject. Robert, however, did not let the matter rest with this specious argument. In 1925 he asked the new Prime Minister, Genl J. B. M. Hertzog, for the decoration, but again without success.

After 1930 the narrow interpretation of the ordinance of 1920 was apparently widened so that also non-members of the Union Defence Forces and foreigners could qualify for the decoration, medal and ribbon. In 1938 and 1939 a large number of veterans received these tokens of honour. Among them were several foreigners.<sup>31</sup> Robert's attention was drawn to the fact and for the third time he applied for the decoration. In an eloquent letter in English, he refers to his former status as citizen of the South African Republic, granted by the late Transvaal Government to foreign volunteers. He also stressed the fact that he had sufficient means to make a living in the Union.<sup>14</sup> This time his application succeeded and he received the decoration and the ribbon for war wounds.<sup>15</sup>

He could, however, not execute his plan to emigrate to South Africa. On 2 September 1939 amidst the war crisis he was called up as a reserve officer. As a veteran from Africa, he was sent to Algeria. On 14 February 1940 he turned sixty years old and retired from the army.

#### Robert back in South Africa, 1940-1971

In June 1940 France capitulated to Germany. Robert and his wife emigrated in the same year from Algeria to South Africa. Towards the end of 1940 they were in a caravan park in Cape Town. Robert's old friend Manie Maritz died shortly thereafter in a motor-car accident in Pretoria,<sup>16</sup> before they could arrange a rendezvous.

Robert and his wife settled in Franschhoek and bought there a house called 'L'Ermitage'. He adapted himself easily, thanks to his knowledge of Afrikaans and to his old friends. They lived inconspicuously and quietly. They were always treated with great respect and sometimes he was invited as the guest of

honour to festivities.<sup>17</sup> At the meeting of despatch riders of Franschhoek and De Paarl on occasion of the inauguration of the Voortrekker Monument in Pretoria in December 1949, he was a guest of honour and was photographed sitting on his horse in spite of his 70 years.<sup>18</sup> He was one of the first donors to the Huguenot Society and a respected member.<sup>19</sup> He gave a short speech to the officers of the French warship *Jeanne d'Arc*, when they paid a visit to the Huguenot Monument in Franschhoek.<sup>20</sup>

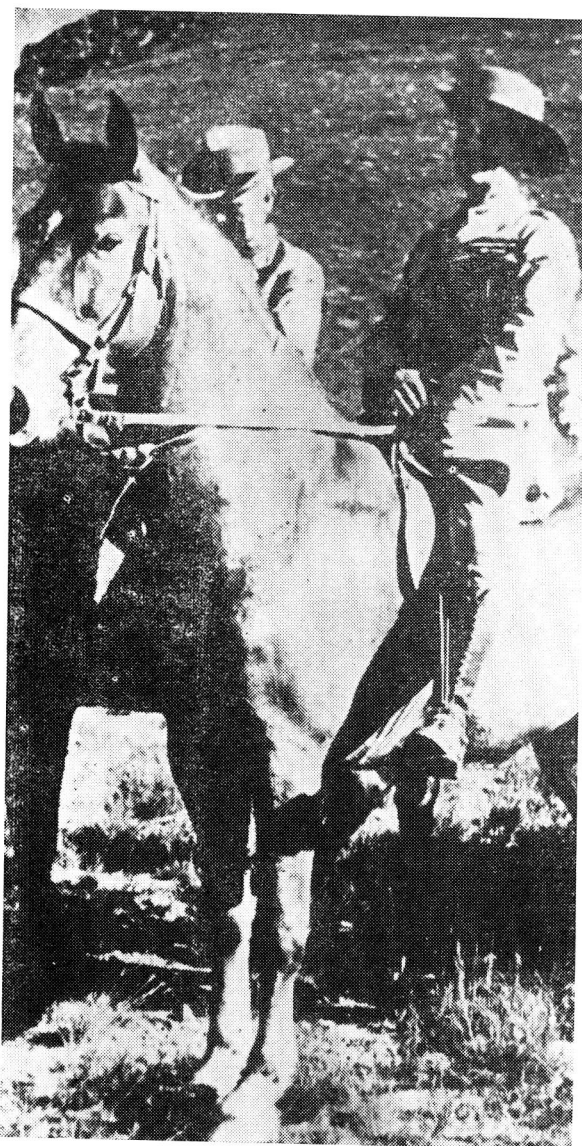


Photo of Robert de Kersauson as a 'despatch rider' from Franschhoek in Paarl in October 1949 on the occasion of the preparation of the opening of the Voortrekker — Monument in Pretoria.

(Courtesy of Afrikaanse Pers-Boekhandel).

During the last years, he and his wife were invalids. He died on Friday 11 June 1971.<sup>21</sup> Though he was Roman Catholic by birth, a Protestant clergyman, Ds C. du T. Muller, read the funeral service.<sup>22</sup> His widow died on 17 March 1972.<sup>23</sup> They bequeathed their house and property to the Huguenot Society. Robert's papers and medals are in the Huguenot Memorial Museum at Franschhoek, including his original war diary and his decoration for service in the Anglo-Boer War.

#### NOTES

1. J. de Kersauson, *Historie genealogique de la Maison De Kersauson*, Nantes 1886, a copy of which is in the Huguenot Memorial Museum at Franschhoek. This genealogy of the De Kersauson family has apparently not been continued after 1886.
2. I owe unpublished information on the family to the generosity of a nephew and namesake of Robert de Kersauson, Mr le Général Comte de Kersauson at La Trinité sur Mer, Brittany. This nephew's greatgrandfather was Armand Marie, 1791-1874, an artillery officer of Napoleon I and a brother of our Robert's grandfather. Armand's son, also baptized Armand (died 1925), graduated at the Military Academy of St. Cyr. His son, Henri (died 1959), was the father of another Robert born in 1902. He studied at St. Cyr in 1922-24, joined the cavalry campaign in Morocco and Syria between the two World Wars, became a liaison officer at Genl Wavell's headquarter in Cairo in 1940, joined Genl de Gaulle's forces after France's capitulation, participated as a captain of the 7th Hussar Regiment (British) in the first campaign in Libya, was commandant in Sudan, fought against the forces of the Vichy government in Syria in 1941 and as a commandant of a regiment of **Auto-mitrailleurs** (armoured cars) in the second campaign in Libya. Here he met several South Africans who told him of his uncle Robert who had settled in the Cape Province in 1940. He fought in Italy in 1943-44 and returned to liberated France. He was a colonel of the French army in Austria and in Indochina in 1948-51. He returned to France and was pensioned in 1959 with the rank of brigade general. In 1955 he married Anne d'Aboville. They had no children and live in La Trinité sur Mer. He was appointed Commandeur de la Légion d'Honneur and received the Order of the British Empire and the bronze Star of the USA.
3. Louis Melville, *Nell Gwyn, The story of her life*, New York, 1926, pp. 331; 'Louise de Keroualle, Duchess of Portsmouth', pp. 249-290 etc. Charles II met this handsome girl of 20 years from a noble Breton family at Dover in 1670. He made her his mistress and Duchess of Portsmouth. After Charles' death in 1685 she faded into oblivion and is said to have returned to Kérouralz.
4. Robert de Kersauson, de Pennendreff, *Tk en die Vierkleur*; Johannesburg-Cape Town 1960.
5. C. J. Scheepers Strydom, *Kaapland in die Tweede Vryheidsoorlog*. (Cape Town 1973) p. 184-188. This author owes his christian name, Scheepers, to the famous Boer hero, Gideon Scheepers.
6. Boer narratives on the Second Anglo-Boer War refer often to 'Robert die Fransman'. The Dutchman H. Verloren van Themaat, *Twee jaar in den Boerenoorlog*. Haarlem 1903, mentions on p. 254 Robert, 'een Amerikaansche Franschman' and states on pp. 352-353: 'In Gibeon (German South-West Africa, April 1902) I met quite unexpectedly an old acquaintance, a comrade of the TVK, Robert (the marquis de Kersauson) an American Frenchman. He had been with reports to Europe and is now on the return journey. He was with Steuerwalt when he fell, and described his death. It is tragic that this smart Dutchman also had to give his life', J. J. C. Pieterse. **Oorlogsavonture van Genl. Wynand Malan**, Cape Town, 1946, mentions on p. 139 as one of the 35 burghers who accompanied Malan into the Cape Colony, 'the French nobleman, the marquis de Kersauson' and the adds in a note: 'Recentiy, atfer the debacle of France (in 140), the marquis de Kersauson returned to South Africa and he intends to stay here permanently'. D. Reitz, **Commando. A Boer journal of the Boer War**, London 1932, p. 312: 'With him (i.e. Maritz) went the Marquis de Kersauson, a young French adventurer who had been his constant associate since the war began''.
7. This journey has been described in detail by Andries de Wet, H. v. Doornik and G. C. du Plessis, **Die Buren in der Kapkolonie im Kriege mit England, herausgegeben und übersetzt von A. Schowalter**, München, (no year). In the last chapter Andries de Wet mentions Robert only once in passing. Another report of this journey is in O. T. de Villiers, **Met de Wet en Steyn in het veld**, Amsterdam, 1903. He was a Cape rebel and described the last weeks with the Cape commandos under Maritz and the journey through South West Africa, but he does not mention Robert de Kersauson. There is a strange story connected with Manie Maritz' flight with a handful of 'irreconcilables' to German South West Africa. Doctor Hero Tilemann, who assisted the Boers as a physician during the whole war 1899-1902 and whose war diary was published in 1908. states on p. 525 that a man accompanied him and Genls Botha, De Wet and De la Rey on the Union-Castle liner **Saxon** to Britain in 1902 who was a real nuisance aboard, frequently entering upon confidential seditious communications. According to him Manie Maritz had crossed with 400 men and much ammunition into German South West Africa with the avowed intention to resume the war against the British. Tilemann did not believe this story. Hero Tilemann, **Tagebuchblätter eines deutschen Arztes aus dem Burenkriege**. München 1908, p. 525. In September 1914 Maritz was an officer in the Union Defence Forces, stationed on the German South West Africa border. When the Botha and Smuts Ministry declared war against Germany, Maritz rebelled, fought with his sympathizers against the Union Defence Forces and joined the German Army in South West Africa. From there he fled to Angola and Europe. After World War I he returned to South Africa, was condemned for his rebellion but released from prison by the ministry of Hertzog in 1925. He became a farmer in Transvaal and a political agitator against democracy and the Jews.
8. This testimonial by C. R. de Wet, is reproduced in **Ek en die Vierkleur**, pp. 140-141.
9. One signed photo of Robert and two photos of Marie Louise are in the State Archives, Union Buildings, Pretoria, which were presented by W. J. Leyds to the Archives.
10. Dr Jan Ploeger, historian of the S.A. Defence Forces in Pretoria, saw a copy of J. C. Smuts' letter to Robert in the archive of the S.A. Defence Force.
11. The data regarding Robert as a French officer are taken from his 'État de service'. Ministry of Defence, Paris, France.
12. Coincidentally Mr A. van den Hoek, Zevenhuizen, Netherlands, showed me part of a letter with the heading Robert de Kersauson, Inspec-

- teur Commercial, André Citroën, 143 Quai de Javel, Paris XVe (now Quay de André Citroën). It contained a copy of the English poem on Christiaan de Wet printed on pp. 15-16, **Ek en die Vierkleur**. The Company of Citroën lost part of its archives in June 1940 so that no further information on Robert's employment could be traced.
13. 'Government Gazette Union of S.A.' No 2307, 21 December 1920, reprinted in **Military History Journal** Vol 1 No 1, December 1967, published by S.A. Military History Society, Johannesburg. Robert de Kersauson is mentioned in the list of decorated Boer officers in the **Government Gazette** of 27 May 1938 p. 628. Names of decorated officers appeared in **Military History Journal Vol 1 No 1**, December 1967 and Vol 1 No 2, June 1968.
  14. Letter of Robert from Sanary, 15 July 1938, Personal file, Robert de Kersauson, Archive Dekoraties voor trouwe dienst 1899-1902, SA Defence Force, Pretoria.
  15. **Ibid.**
  16. Information, prof. C. J. Barnard. Pretoria.
  17. Illustrated articles regarding Robert and his wife appeared in **Fleur**, March 1948, p. 11-13: 'Robert die Fransman', and **Die Huisgenoot**, 23 Desember 1949, author Piet Rossen, 'Rapportrit van 14 000 myl', p. 16-19 and 54.
  18. Photo opposite title page in **Ek en die Vierkleur** and photo in M. C. Botha, **Die huldejaar 1949**, Johannesburg, 1952, p. 43; caption, 'Rapportryers van Kaapstad na Pretoria op 27 Oktober 1949 in Paarl', and p. 48; 'Franschhoek se twee rapportryers, D. Hugo en Robert de Kersauson regs, 'n eertydse rapportryer van generaal C. R. de Wet'.
  19. Ons donateurs, **Bulletin of the Huguenot Society of South Africa**, No 2, 1964, p. 13, with portrait.
  20. 'Visits to the Monument and Museum' in **Bulletin of the Huguenot Society of SA**, No 2, 1964, p. 11.
  21. 'Robert de Kersauson oorlede 11.6.1971' in **Bulletin of the Huguenot Society of S.A.**, 1971, p. 12 with portrait, **Die Burger**, Cape Town. 12 June 1971, obituary; **Paarl Post**, 14 June 1971, obituary.
  22. 'Robert de Kersauson oorlede 11.6.1971', **Bulletin of the Huguenot Society of S.A.**, 1971; p. 12 note on Mrs Marie Louise de Kersauson's death.