

# **WAR GRAVES REGISTERS, MONUMENTS, HEADSTONES AND CROSSES WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE WAR OF 1880-1881**

**G. A. Chadwick\***

## **Introduction**

The study of warfare, military matters and battles has a great romantic appeal and in recent years has attracted a great deal of public interest. Evidence of this is seen in the growth of military museums or the military sections of museums, the large number of books on military matters which are published and the plethora of magazines, periodicals and newspapers dealing with almost every aspect of warfare and the history of war. Some of the most popular radio and TV programmes deal with war or military matters. Many societies confine themselves exclusively to military history, war models, war games, etc. Amongst the most popular excursions are those to battlefields. Many of the most popular novels of our time deal with war and the aftermath of war, while many teachers are using this growing interest to introduce their pupils to history.

While the study of warfare may have a romantic appeal and a very real academic value, we too easily overlook the endless suffering, despair and death caused by wounds inflicted during battle. A special aspect of military history is the care of the wounded, but this cannot be discussed in detail here. Because of the increasing attention paid to military matters, there has been a resurgence of interest in military graves, headstones and monuments.

Over the years there have been great changes in the way the bodies of those who died in battle have been treated. As is well known, in ancient times the bodies were often left lying on the battlefield for the birds and beasts of prey to devour, or the heads of the vanquished might be piled into cairns as a warning to others. Much the same practices were followed during the barbarian invasion of Western Europe, but it must be remembered that in both cases mass burials were made if there was a danger of polluting the environs of a town or a village. The only records we have of the dead are vague numbers and the names or ranks of some of the important leaders.

During the Middle Ages it became an established practice to bury the dead in mass graves on the battlefield and this was carried on well into modern times. Examples are the burials at Hastings, Agincourt, Bosworth Field, Culloden, Ulm, Friedland, Waterloo, etc. Here again, some rough estimate was made of the number killed and the only detailed record referred to well-known personalities. With the growth of well organised regiments in Britain, Germany and France, the units themselves often kept detailed records of the names, etc., of those killed in battle. These included officers, non-commissioned officers and private soldiers. From the beginning of the 18th Century onwards, the army authorities began keeping records of the numbers of other ranks and the names of officers killed in any particular action. The other ranks were usually buried in mass graves on the battlefield, while the officers were removed to a separate cemetery, usually near the headquarters camp, for individual burial. The culmination of this practice in the British army can be seen at Laing's Nek (28 January 1881) where the other ranks who fell were buried in mass graves on the battlefield and the officers were removed to Mount Prospect for individual burial. The official return gives losses as a total of other ranks killed and names of officers, but the 58th Regiment kept their own record and inscribed all the names on a central monument.

## **Burials in South Africa prior to 1899**

As far as can be ascertained, there were no large scale wars in pre-Bantu times and we know nothing of military burials. The wars which resulted from the southward movement of the Bantu tribes were often on a large scale, but it would appear that few burials were undertaken. The large numbers of birds and beasts of prey in Southern Africa would soon have reduced the bodies to skeletons. Even in some of the major battles, such as KwaGqokli (Shaka versus Zwibe, 1818) there is no evidence of burials and only vague numbers for those killed in battle.

After the Dutch occupation of the Cape, military burials took on a European pattern, as is evidenced by some of the earliest burials in Cape Town and the Simon's Town military cemetery. After the British occupation there was no essential change, but as military commitments increased, so the number of war graves grew. The records for the Frontier Wars are often scanty and inaccurate.

As the Whites expanded into the interior, the European practice was followed, but as the number of Whites who fell in action was usually very small, the names were often remembered and recorded. Thus, the names of the Voortrekkers wounded at Blood River (16 December 1838) and killed at the Battle of the Umfolozi (27 December 1838) have been recorded. The records of the settlers killed at the Battle of the Tugela (17 April 1838) are ambiguous and it is difficult to calculate the exact number who fell. It is obvious that the Zulus would have followed the usual Bantu practice of leaving the dead on the battlefield. In the nature of things, no written record was kept. It is interesting to note that the names of the Voortrekkers who fell at the Battle of Italení (11 April 1938) are known and it is certain that most of them were buried, but a great controversy rages over the location of the battlefield and thus the graves.

During the Anglo-Zulu War of 1879 large numbers fell on each side and where the British remained in possession of the battlefield, they buried both their own and Zulu fallen. At Isandlwana the Zulus buried a few of their own fallen in a donga. The British army still kept records of the totals of other ranks and the names of officers killed and it is a major task to compile a list of the British fallen at Isandlwana. The 24th Regiment, the Natal Carbineers and the Natal Mounted Police kept detailed records, but the names of other ranks attached to other units are most difficult to ascertain. It is often asked why there are no, or very few, memorials to the Zulu on the Anglo-Zulu War battlefields. The answer is simple. Most of the monuments were erected by British regiments or private persons. The Zulu regiments disintegrated after the war and could erect no monuments, which at that time, were not in the Zulu tradition in any case. The National Monuments Council simply erects cairns and inscribed plaques, not monuments, but in recent years has always attempted to place the Zulu wording first on sites in KwaZulu. It is only recently that some Zulu have shown interest in some type of memorial. During the Centenary of

the Anglo-Zulu War, cairns marking the approximate positions of the Zulu mass graves at Rorke's Drift (buried by the British) and plaques recording the names of the units, Zulu and British, which fought at Isandlwana and Ulundi, were unveiled, the first to specifically mark Zulu graves or record Zulu regiments.

The War of 1880-1881 is dealt with in a separate section.

### **Burials during the Second Anglo-Boer War, 1889-1902**

By the time this war broke out, warfare had become a highly organised affair and both sides had made prior provision for the evacuation and care of the wounded and burial of the dead. There were organised burial parties and the sides which remained in possession of the battlefield buried all the dead, sometimes with the assistance of the opposition, as at Spioenkop.

Units or commandos kept detailed records of the dead and wounded and the names were regularly published by the War Office or in the *Staatskoerant*. In the haste of burial it was often difficult to identify the dead, so that the grave in which a soldier was buried might be unknown, but by means of taking a roll call, the names of the dead could be fairly accurately ascertained. As one who has had experience in modern war fare, the author can confirm that even this method can lead to mistakes. As the war progressed, Boer records became more scrappy and the *Staatskoerant* was no longer published. This led to large gaps in our knowledge of burials.

It was still the practice of the British to bury the dead found on the battlefield in mass graves, as they did with their own in the bend of the Tugela at Ambleside (Battle of Colenso, 15 December 1899), at Spioenkop (24 January 1900) and with the Boers in the trench between Hart's and Railway Hills (Battle of Tugela Heights, 27 February 1900). Where the dead were scattered over a wide area, some were buried where they fell, but in many cases, small numbers were brought together for burial, while in other cases, they were moved to softer ground where graves were easier to dig. It has often been stated that graves give an indication of the course of the battle because the men were buried where they fell. While this may be true in a very general way, we now have no means of knowing which bodies were moved before burial and the evidence of graves accepted without a very critical assess-

ment might be misleading. Where the Boers were solely responsible for burials, they usually dug individual graves.

Those who were evacuated to, and died at dressing stations, were usually buried nearby. Some who died during evacuation might have been buried on the spot, which could further complicate the evidence. In many cases, graves were marked temporarily with a wooden cross, which sometimes bore an inscription. The possibility of mistakes being made in this process was legion and has not been entirely eliminated by modern record keeping, name tags, etc.

### **The original survey and compilation of records, 1901-1904**

During 1900 the British army made special arrangements to draw up a list of all graves, showing the names or numbers of those buried in each grave. The site of each grave was established, a plan drawn and a list of names compiled. As could be expected, this was a function of the Royal Engineers and most of the Natal plans were signed by G. H. Sim, Lt Col, Chief of the Royal Engineers, Northern Natal. The task was completed by 1904 when the War Office issued the *Register of Graves in Natal*. (Similar registers were also issued for the Cape, Transvaal and the Orange Free State.) Each burial site and grave is numbered, the list of names or numbers of unidentified burials is given, and the number of the site refers to a plan or sketch plan of the burial site or cemetery. In this process, the graves of Boers were included. In Natal, a general access servitude was registered on the graves included in this survey. It should be noted that this register referred to 1899-1902 only. Where burials were made in a municipal cemetery, a plan was not always prepared. However, certain military cemeteries predating the war were included, eg., Mount Prospect.

### **The care of graves and erection of monuments to 1956**

Shortly after the Anglo-Boer War, an organisation known as the *Loyal Women's Guild of South Africa* was established in the Cape and very soon established branches in all the then Colonies. Its main objects were to mark, compile a register of, and care for the graves of soldiers who died in the 1899-1902 war. Despite their name, they also gave attention to Boer graves. Funds were collected by voluntary subscription, standard iron crosses were ordered and erected, a register was

drawn up and some graves were moved. As can be imagined, many errors were made and full records were not kept. If no names were available, the cross was inscribed, 'Here lies a brave Burgher/British Soldier'. Later, the activities of the Guild were taken over by the Victoria League, but in 1912 this aspect of the work apparently ceased. *The Record Book of Graves: Natal* was in the possession of a private person, while that for the Northern Cape was found in the stock room of the Kimberley Library. To date, the files and other records have not been discovered. It is interesting to note that the first page of the Natal book contains requests for flowers to be laid on graves, etc., eg., 'From Mrs Feathers, 31 Montpelier Square, London, S.W., for wreaths of evergreen to be placed on the grave on the 26th of every month — will send yearly subs. Maritzburg Branch will do this in Fort Napier Military Cemetery, cost £2-15-0 per annum'.

This register contains a few pre-1899 names.

Commencing immediately after the peace settlement, the Dutch Reformed Church played a major part in recording particulars of all Boers who died in the War. This included soldiers as well as men, women and children who died in concentration camps or elsewhere. No monuments or headstones were erected on battlefields, but in many cases, monuments bearing the names of the fallen from a particular district, were erected in church yards or town squares. Very fine examples of this are to be seen in front of the Dutch Reformed Churches in Utrecht and Vryheid.

During the 1920's an organisation known as the *Soldiers' Graves Association* was established to care for the graves of British soldiers. It concentrated mainly on the period 1899-1902 and did sterling work. It is still in existence. A similar organisation, known as the *Burgergrafte-komitee*, cared for Boer graves, but ceased to exist when its functions and most of its members were absorbed into the South African War Graves Board. Many volunteer organisations, private persons and regiments also concerned themselves with the erection of monuments and headstones and the care of graves.

Most regiments which fought on the British side erected monuments to their fallen, often at a point where they fought an important action. On such a monument, the names of all who fell in a particular campaign might be recorded, eg. Inniskilling Fusiliers monument on Hart's Hill includes all the casualties suffered in the area. In some cases,

special headstones or monuments were provided, eg., the small white crosses for the Devons, the specially cast iron crosses for the Constabulary, the specially engraved headstones for the Canadians, a typical monument for Imperial Light Horse and Scottish granite monuments for the Gordon Highlanders.

Private persons, both on Boer and British sides, provided headstones or monuments for relatives or loved ones. In some cases, the Boers removed the remains of their relatives for burial on family farms without going through the legal formalities, which further confused the records. A fine example of a Boer headstone, erected long after the war, was to be found at the foot of Spioenkop and is now included in the Garden of Remembrance at Caesar's Camp, near Ladysmith.

As the Boer commandos disappeared after the war, they were unable to erect monuments on battlefields as did the British regiments. A fine battlefield monument to the Boers is to be found at Spioenkop and was erected with funds collected by the Second Field Force Battalion after being stationed at Carolina during World War II. Boer monuments in churchyards and towns have been mentioned.

The four post-war colonies and later, provinces, sometimes interested themselves in war graves. The Transvaal issued a printed graves register in 1905, which was very similar to the 1904 War Office one, but seems to have taken no further action. Natal made a survey which appears to have commenced in 1905, but which concluded in the 1940's. This included graves from pre-1899 and is a very useful source, but it contains many errors. During the 1940's Natal appointed war graves curators and eventually an Historical Sites and War Graves Advisory Committee, which operated up until 1966, when its functions were taken over by the South African War Graves Board. Natal assisted with the erection of many monuments, eg., to the Boer fallen in the Battle of Congella, 24 May 1842 in Maydon Wharf Road, Durban; the concentration camp at Merebank, as well as gardens of remembrance, eg., Onderbroekspruit and Clouston. The war graves curators, while dedicated, were often not well-educated and must have made errors in renewing inscriptions, repainting names and the re-erection of crosses.

### **The South African War Graves Board**

This is a Government board, first appointed in

1956 and currently operating under the Minister of National Education, who appoints the members. It receives a Government grant and has offices in Pretoria. According to the Act, it is responsible for drawing up a register of all graves of Voortrekkers, soldiers, rebels and those who died in concentration camps, for caring for the graves and establishing gardens of remembrance. It has two committees, concentrating on Boer and British graves respectively, but operates as a unit. Examples of its work can be seen at Howick, Mooi River, Chieveley, Ladysmith, Elandsplaagte Naval Cemetery, Vryheid, Simon's Town, Kroonstad, Magersfontein, Barberton, etc.

In terms of the Act and various agreements made with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, the South African War Graves Board is responsible for the graves of soldiers who died during the period 1652-1910. Voortrekkers are defined as those who actually accompanied the Great Trek, but died before 1854, which reduces the numbers considerably. The graves of South African soldiers who died overseas during the two world wars are cared for by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, with which the South African Government has a special arrangement. It is obvious that the most difficult problem with which the South African War Graves Board has to deal, are the graves of Boer prisoners of war who are buried in Ceylon, India, St Helena, Bermuda, etc. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission deals only with the period 1914 onwards. It is interesting to note that South Africa is one of the few countries in the world which cares for war graves dating from before 1914. The British Government normally makes an annual report grant because of the large numbers of British soldiers buried in South Africa (some 22 000), but does not officially recognise these as war graves in terms of its legislation.

### **The Monuments and Graves of the War of 1880-1881**

#### **In the Transvaal**

As is well known, the cause of the war was the dissatisfaction which arose as a result of the British annexation of the South African Republic which then became known as the Transvaal.

The first action occurred at Bronkhorstspuit on 20 December 1880 when the British lost 65 officers and men, while the Boer losses amounted to 2. Of necessity, the British were buried in several mass graves on the battlefield,

but in 1961 these were concentrated into a single mass grave with a central monument on which all the names are inscribed. The Boers were buried at a nearby farm. The Fort at Potchefstroom, which was occupied by the British, was subjected to a long siege by the Boers. Casualties suffered by the former were buried in a nearby plot which is now a Garden of Remembrance, while the Boers who fell were interred in the town cemetery. Both sets of graves are under the care of the South African War Graves Board. Minor casualties were suffered by both sides at Lydenburg, Wakkerstroom, Standerton and Pretoria, where the graves are usually to be found in the town cemetery.

### In Natal

The main actions of the war occurred in Natal as a result of the occupation of Volksrust by the Boer forces, commanded by Genl P. J. Joubert, in an attempt to prevent the British troops of Maj Gen Sir G. Pomeroy Colley using the main road as a route to bring relief to the besieged garrison in the Transvaal.

### The Battle of Laing's Nek

On 1 January 1881 Genl Joubert crossed the Natal border and moved forward to occupy Laing's Nek, through which the main road passed. British troops had been concentrating at Newcastle and on 23 January, Genl Colley advanced to occupy Mount Prospect, some 8 kilometres away, where he established a fortified camp. On 28 January the British attacked the Boer positions, but were repulsed with considerable loss. British casualties totalled 7 officers and 76 other ranks killed, 2 prisoners and 111 wounded, some of whom later succumbed to their wounds. The Boers lost 14 killed and 27 wounded.

The Boer dead and seriously wounded were taken back to the base hospital near Volksrust, where the latter were cared for by Dr Merensky. All the dead were buried in a nearby communal grave, with the exception of D. Uys, who was buried within the walls of his ancestral home, by then no longer in use. This area is now included in the Volksrust commonage, a few kilometres east of the town and is easily accessible by road. It should be noted here that the Boers never followed the European practice of distinguishing between officers and men in burial.

Adhering to their normal practice, the British

buried the men who were killed in action in mass graves near the spot where they fell. Most of the casualties were suffered by the 58th (Northamptonshire) Regiment and the 7 mass graves show their line of advance up the slopes of Deane's Hill. The mounted men who fell in the attack on Brownlow's Kop were buried in a mass grave half-way up the slope near where they fell. The bodies of the officers who fell were taken back to Mount Prospect for burial, where their graves were the beginning of the present military cemetery. Later, the 58th Regiment erected a monument bearing the names of the fallen on Deane's Hill, while the headstones at Mount Prospect were erected by the brother officers of the fallen.

### The Battle of Skuinshoogte

As a result of Boer interference with his lines of communication with Newcastle, Genl Colley, on 8 February 1881, moved back along the road to clear it of Boer Patrols. When his force, consisting of two artillery pieces, about 240 infantry and 38 mounted men, reached Skuinshoogte it was confronted by a Boer commando numbering some 300 and led by Comdt N. J. Smit. The British were virtually surrounded, but the action was broken off after a heavy storm at 17h00. Both sides withdrew, but the British left their dead and wounded on the battlefield.



H. A. H. Davel's headstone, Schuinshoogte. Note how the sandstone is weathering. Photograph: L. Hyde

The Boers removed the bodies of the 8 Burghers who were killed for burial about 5 kilometres west of the battlefield. Two later died of wounds and were buried near Volksrust. All the British dead, 7 officers and 69 other ranks, were buried in mass graves on the battlefield, while the wounded were removed to Fort Amiel near Newcastle. Those who died later were buried in the Fort Amiel military cemetery. Four days after the burials, the bodies of the British officers were exhumed and taken back to Mount Prospect for reburial. The unit which suffered the highest casualties was the 60th Rifles, which later erected a fine memorial bearing the names of the fallen. Several years ago this was vandalised and had to be replaced by the South African War Graves Board. There are two large graves on the battlefield.

### The Battle of Majuba

As is well known, Genl Colley left his camp at Mount Prospect at 20h00 on 26 February 1881 and after dropping three companies on the way, occupied the crest of Majuba with approximately 390 men at about 03h30 the next morning. The Boers, who had camped near the foot of the mountain, were disconcerted but soon rallied to attack the British in a three-pronged movement. Making good use of dead ground and covering fire, they were able to storm the crest and drive the British off.

The Boers suffered one casualty on the battlefield and one who died of wounds a few days later. Both were buried near Volksrust. The British lost 9 officers and 125 other ranks on the day of the action, while some wounded died later. The latter were buried in the Mount Prospect military cemetery. British burial parties were at work on 28 February. A large mass grave was established on the top of Majuba, but the Hon Captain Maude was buried separately. The bodies of the other officers were removed to Mount Prospect. The Boers removed Colley's body to their main camp, but later handed it over to the British for burial at Mount Prospect. Many British casualties were caused by Boer fire from the crest directed on those fleeing back to camp. Bodies found on the slopes were apparently moved down to O'Neill's Cottage and buried there. The 58th Regiment later erected a monument near the cemetery on Majuba, while a fine headstone was provided for the Hon Captain Maude. The 92nd Regiment (Gordon Highlanders) and the Naval Brigade erected monuments bearing lists of names in the Mount Prospect cemetery. A Boer memorial, bearing no names, was erected on Majuba in



Mount prospect: The Elaborate and well Preserved headstone of surgeon major H. Cornish. Photograph: G. A. Chadwick



Mount prospect: The reasonably well preserved headstone of lieut O'Connell, 60th Rifles but it shows signs of deterioration. Note the wall in the background, some badly weathered sandstone headstones and the iron crosses on unidentified 58th Regiment graves. Photograph: G. A. Chadwick

1935, while the National Monuments Council erected a cairn with a short wording and marked the lines of the Boer advance and British company positions in 1973.

The wall around the Mount Prospect cemetery was erected by the 3rd Battalion, 60th Rifles and built into the corners are interesting dressed stones bearing the inscriptions, WD I, II, III, IV and a broad arrow. (WD = War Department and the arrow indicates War Department property). An interesting feature is that the crosses on the mass graves on Majuba and at O'Neill's Cottage are in the shape of an element of the 60th Rifles badge, leading one to believe that members of the regiment are buried there although it took no part in the action. The explanation is probably that the regiment assisted with the burials, built the surrounding walls and erected their distinctive crosses which were easily available to them. This unit was well-known as great wall builders. The cemeteries at Fort Amiel, Skuinshoogte and Mount Prospect were consecrated by the 'Bishop of Maritzburg' during April 1881, a reminder of the division in the Anglican Church in Natal at the time.

### **The Role of the South African War Graves Board**

Subsequent to the establishment of the British cemeteries, sporadic maintenance was undertaken, but some photographs taken at the turn of the century and in the 1920's show them overgrown and neglected. From 1947 onwards all the cemeteries in Natal, including the Boer graves at Skuinshoogte, were cared for by the Natal Provincial Administration until this function was transferred to the South African War Graves Board. At the moment, regular maintenance and treatment with weedkiller keeps the cemeteries in good order. However, most of the monuments and officers' headstone were cut from sandstone, which, in many cases, has reached the end of its natural life and nothing can be done to save it. The Boer monument at Skuinshoogte is in fairly good shape, but access is difficult, while the surround of the mass grave near Volksrust needs attention. Access to Mount Prospect cemetery is also difficult.

The Board has already placed orders for granite tablets duplicating the wording on various monuments and headstones and will have these positioned before the Centenary. Some very badly weathered sandstone crosses will be removed and replaced with a simple cement one,

bearing no wording. The iron crosses are of very stout material and are currently being repainted. A process of interpolation has revealed the identity of some soldiers buried in unmarked graves at Mount Prospect and appropriate plaques will be erected. The Boer grave near Volksrust will be renovated, while proper access is being negotiated to the Boer graves at Skuinshoogte and the British cemeteries at Laing's Nek and Mount Prospect. On each battlefield a plaque will be erected, indicating where the fallen are buried. It is hoped to integrate the unveiling of some of these restored military cemeteries into the Centennial programme.

### **The Role of the Natal Provincial Administration and the National Monuments Council**

Under powers given to the Provinces by a recent amendment of the Financial Relations Act, these two bodies are co-operating in erecting situation maps and toposcopes, as well as marking company and camp positions or lines of advance at Mount Prospect, Laing's Nek and Skuinshoogte, while at Majuba there will be two, one at the foot for those who do not wish to climb the mountain and one on the summit for more active persons.

## **THE CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION OF THE BATTLE OF MAJUBA**

### **Background**

The farm on which the battle took place recently passed into the hands of the Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education. A Board of Trustees has been established to deal with the Centennial functions. The main aim of the Centennial is to commemorate an important historical event, to honour the brave men who fought on both sides and to further unity and it is in this spirit that the functions are being planned.

### **Various projects**

It is hoped to organise an essay competition for the various school phases, as well as Universities, Teachers' Colleges and Technikons. Radio quizzes and debating competitions are also envisaged. A torch run from various parts of the country is being organised. Application has been made to the Post Office to issue centenary stamps and a first day cover, while various publishers and bodies are planning special

centenary publications. There will undoubtedly be a series of radio talks, while special emphasis is being placed on the musical aspect of the Centennial. Arrangements are under way to make a wide range of souvenirs available.

### **The Programme**

#### **Friday, 27 February 1981**

1. A limited amount of accommodation on the site will be available.
2. During the afternoon there will be an opportunity for various bodies to arrange functions. It is envisaged that the South African War Graves Board will arrange to unveil restored military cemeteries, that the Majuba marathon will take place and that the Torch Run will arrive.
3. **19h30** - Opening, with Bible reading and prayer.  
Welcome by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Prof T. van der Walt.  
An account of the course of the 1881 War, with emphasis on Majuba by Mr. G. A. Chadwick, assisted by torch bearers on the slopes and SADF spotlights, to conclude with a commemorative bonfire on top of the mountain.  
The National Anthem.

#### **Saturday, 28 February 1981**

- 06h00 Reveille and flag raising by Boy Scouts, Girl Guides and Voortrekkers.
- 08h30 Programme for the youth.
- 11h30 Arrival of the State President
- 12h00 The State President is taken to the top of the mountain. Certificates of attendance will be handed to various bodies and organisations which are officially represented at the function.
- 13h00 - Lunch  
14h00
- 14h30 Arrival of the State President at Arena.  
Military and/or Cadet Bands.  
Parade of banner bearers.  
The South African Police horses.  
The State President's address.  
Unveiling of a memorial plaque.

17h00 - Supper

- 19h00 Community singing with orchestral accompaniment.  
A camp fire programme (students and youth).  
Recitals.  
Evening service.

#### **Sunday, 1 March 1981**

- 10h00 Morning service.  
11h00 Conducted tour of the battlefields and military cemeteries.

### **General Information**

1. Accommodation at the camping site at the foot of Majuba is very limited, but arrangements have been made to book all hotels, caravan parks and camping sites in the vicinity. Those requiring accommodation should apply to:  
Reservations Official  
Centennial Commemoration: Battle of Majuba  
P.O. Box 48  
VOLKSRUST  
2470
2. A very attractive certificate of attendance is being offered by Historical Association of South Africa (Natal Branch) to organisations which send representatives to the Centennial. Application for a certificate should be made to:  
  
The Honorary Secretary  
Historical Associations of South Africa (Natal Branch)  
c/o P.O. Box 902  
DURBAN  
4000
3. Senior SADF officers will be present, but it is impossible to invite representatives of the Boer commandos as these ceased to exist after 1902. However, invitations have been issued to the successors of the British regiments which took part, to send representatives to the functions.
4. Boy Scouts, Girl Guides and Voortrekkers are being trained as guides to accompany interested persons or groups to the various historical sites connected with the campaign.

5. The Directorate's address is:

Telephone: 031-63631

Director  
Centennial Commemoration: Battle of Majuba  
P.O. Box 902 (Room 501, N.P.A. Building  
Acutt Street)  
DURBAN  
4000

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