

In this land the two great white races of Southern Africa should find their meeting place, and the chief aim of any publicist and politician should be to prevent any favoured policy to Dutch and English. We do not want any Afrikaner or Hollander clique, and Englishmen do not need any special privileges. All should live under the same laws. Let it be Rhodesia's proud destiny to rewrite the two white races of South Africa."⁷⁶

Nevertheless, Rhodes, by means of his promise to Afrikaners, although relatively vaguely defined, persuaded them to demonstrate their loyalty to the British supreme authority in Rhodesia.

Conclusion

The first ten years after the inception of Rhodesia are regarded as the most tumultuous time in the history of the country. On the whole, the local wars and rebellions in Rhodesia had a direct effect on the Afrikaner minority population. Many Afrikaners found themselves in the crossfire of conflicts, as in the case of the Matabele war of 1893, while others fought and died on the side of the British. Compared to similar military units, it can be stressed that the Afrikaner Corps may be regarded as an auxiliary force, as the Afrikaner volunteers regarded it necessary to lend support to the dominant colonial British forces.

The Afrikaner volunteers undoubtedly considered their involvement in the corps as an obligation towards the protection of their families residing in the countryside, as well as a gesture of loyalty to the British colonial forces in Rhodesia. The motivation of Afrikaners could therefore be attributed to causes, which arose from necessity and choice rather than by means of coercion by the British authorities. The role of the Afrikaner Volunteer Corps during the Matabele rebellion of 1896 was nevertheless decisive. They contributed markedly in two of the important battles and eventually succeeded in tilting the balance of these battles. Aided by their advanced weaponry they inflicted heavy casualties on the Matabele and forced them onto the defensive.

Despite their military victories and achievements, it is a presumption that their very presence as Afrikaners, reminded as they were of their past hostilities towards and struggle against the British forces during the First Anglo-Boer War in South Africa, created a stigma against Afrikaners as a group. The lack of recognition and equal rights towards these Afrikaner volunteers after the death of Rhodes

