

Russia's share in medical aid to the Boers is assessed in Chapter 11. In January 1900 a fully-equipped Red Cross ambulance corps, as well as supplies of surgical instruments mainly subsidised by the Russian government, was despatched to the Boer forces. At almost the same time another medical detachment, the Russo-Dutch ambulance corps, was sent to South Africa. It had been equipped entirely by private Russian funds. Both detachments established hospitals and did some very useful work, nursing the sick and wounded Boers.

Among the Russians who came to South Africa to join the volunteers fighting on the Boer side were professional men, advocates, teachers, and even a woman (a medical doctor) who, disguised as a man, fought alongside the Boers. In the last chapter the reminiscences of four Russian volunteers provide informative reading-matter.

For her contribution in bringing new historical perspectives to the Anglo-Boer War, Mrs Foxcroft deserves the thanks of anyone keenly interested in this stirring episode in South African history. The thorough way in which she has scrutinised documents hitherto closed to most researchers, and the objective presentation of her facts, are also highly commendable.

Included in the publication are some 30 photographs and illustrations of historical figures and of Russian gifts to the Boers; eighteen interesting and elucidatory appendices, some with facsimiles of relevant documents, supplement the text. The bibliography is extensive and the index useful. A Russian map of the theatre of war, published in 1900 (but unfortunately not mentioned in the table of contents), appears on the fly-leaf at the end of the book.

The typography is excellent and only a few printer's errors occur, e.g. *wee* (p. 40); *calculatig* (p. 58); *possibe* (p. 85); *Benckendorf* (p. 95); *Lamsdorf* (p. 98); *Campbell Bannerman* (p. 112); *Commander in Chief* (pp. 145–146, 179 and 227); *miltiary* (p. 158); *Anglo-Board War* (p. 164).

This well-written work is indeed a welcome addition to the literature on the Anglo-Boer War and can be recommended unreservedly.

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J. H. BREYTENBACH en J. PLOEGER. *Majuba gedenkboek uitgegee ter herdenking van die Boere se stryd ter verkryging van hul onafhanklikheid 'n eeu gelede*. CUM-Boeke: Roodepoort, 1980. 226 pp. Geïllustreerd. R26,00 (eksklusief). ISBN 0 86984 184 X.

*Majuba gedenkboek* is nie maar net nog een van verskeie publikasies wat uitgegee is ter herdenking van die Eerste Vryheidsoorlog 'n-eeu gelede nie. Dit is kennelik liefdesarbeid van baie jare wat in hierdie pragpublikasie vergestaltung gevind het.

Alhoewel dr. Breytenbach en kol. dr. Ploeger albei gesaghebbende beoefenaars van militêre geskiedskrywing is, is hierdie werk uitdruklik nie bedoel om 'n omvattende en uitputtende werk oor die Transvaalse Boere se onafhanklikheidsstryd te wees nie. In woord en beeld word 'n kort oorsig aangebied van die oorsake en verloop van die Eerste Vryheidsoorlog wat ook vir die oningewyde leser interessant sal wees en as prikkeling kan dien tot verdere studie oor die onderwerp.

In 'n inleidende hoofstuk word die omstandighede rondom die anneksasie van die Zuid-Afrikaanse Republiek deur Groot-Brittanje op 12 April 1877 kortliks uiteengesit. In die volgende hoofstuk kom die pogings van die Eerste Vryheidsdeputasie om die anneksasie opgehef te kry, aan die orde. Op 1 Junie 1877 vertrek S.J.P. Kruger, E.J.P. Jorissen en W.E. Bok uit Algoabaai na Engeland in 'n vergeefse poging om die saak van 'n verdwaasde Transvaalse volk aan die Britse regering te stel. Hoewel die sending misluk, demp dit nie die opstuwende nasionalisme nie en die versetbeweging gee uitdrukking aan sy doelstellings in 'n besluit om nog eens 'n deputasie na Engeland te stuur. Die werk van die Tweede Vryheidsdeputasie word in 'n afsonderlike hoofstuk bespreek.

Die pogings van die Boereleiers om die Britse administrateur in Transvaal, sir Owen Lanyon, te oorreed om in gesprek met die ontvreemde burgers te tree, word in 'n kort hoofstuk 3, met die onvanpaste opskrif "Die memorie aan die koningin", bespreek. Die onsuksesvolle pogings om die onafhanklikheid deur onderhandeling te herstel, het die besef laat posvat dat lydelike verset moet plek maak vir daadwerklike verset. Die besluit om die onafhanklikheid dan langs ander weë te herstel, word in hoofstuk 4 bespreek.

In die volgende ses hoofstukke word die uitbreek en verdere verloop van die oorlog tot voor die besetting van Amajuba deur die Britte op 27 Februarie 1881 bespreek. Aan die belangrikste veldslae, naamlik dié by Bronkhorstspuit, Laingsnek en op Skuinshoogte, word afsonderlike hoofstukke gewy. 'n Besondere plek word aan die gebeure wat op Amajuba betrekking het, toegeken. Afgesien van twee hoofstukke waarin die Britte se besetting en die Boere se verowering van Amajuba behandel word, is daar myns insiens die onvanpaste slothoofstuk waarin die obsessie van die Engelse omtrent die nederlaag en die uitwissing van die smaad van Majubadag gedurende die Tweede Vryheidsoorlog in behandeling geneem word.

Hoofstuk 13, wat eintlik die slothoofstuk is, het betrekking op die vredesonderhandelinge. Op 6 Maart 1881 is 'n skietstakingsooreenkoms deur die strydende partye onderteken as voorspel tot die sluiting van die konvensie van Pretoria op 3 Augustus 1881. Hierdeur het die Transvalers hulle onafhanklikheid slegs gedeeltelik terugontvang. Eers met die sluiting van die konvensie van Londen op 27 Februarie 1884 is die ZAR se soewereiniteit volledig herstel.

Hierdie andersins keurige publikasie word enigsins ontsier deur onnodige nalatighede, soos die versuim om te metriseer, bv. *myl* i.p.v. *kilometer* (p. 5), verskrywings, bv. *Republeik* (p. 7), en *London* (p. 10), en spelfoute *Johannes Hen(d)ricus Brand* (p. 196).

Die werk word netjies afgerond met 'n kort maar bruikbare register van persoons- en plekname.

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M. D. NASH. *Bailie's party of 1820 settlers: a collective experience in emigration*. A. A. Balkema: Cape Town and Rotterdam, 1982. 174 pp. Illustrated. R19,50 (exclusive). ISBN 0 86961 140 2.

A considerable number of books about the 1820 settlers have already been published — especially in connection with their struggle against the Cape government and the Xhosa. Mrs Nash's study, however, makes the quarrels between two contending parties a basis for the politics of the Albany settlement. She also comes up with an astonishing analysis of class-distinction among the settlers — a prejudice brought with them from Britain. This book not only puts the prevailing problems on the eastern frontier in broader perspective, but also takes into account the government policies in both South Africa and Britain, although the central theme remains Bailie's settler party. Based on an MA thesis, the publication forms the 26th volume in the series *S.A. biographical and historical studies*.

Chapter I deals with the general background in Britain as well as the disputed eastern border. Reasons why only upper-class settlers were able to assimilate with the so-called joint-stock parties are also given here. Descriptions of the 84 settlers of the party as well as their social and economic background are found in Chapter II. As far back as their journey on board the *Chapman*, two different classes can be distinguished. The chapter ends with the settlement of the immigrants in Albany and their early hardships and discontent with government policy. Chapter III has valuable information for the regional historian on the occupation of that part of the country and the establishment of towns like Bathurst and Cuylerville. Against the background of the difficult initial stage and the lack of sufficient labour, friction between the upper-class immigrants (as in Bailie's party) and the local authorities, and between employers and employees, soon emerged. This led to the formation of opposing political factions in Albany, largely based on class differences (the labourers versus the land-owners).

The divergent policies of the Governors, Donkin and Somerset, a further reason for friction, are discussed in Chapter IV. Here we see how the lower class eventually ended up in the towns to fill a variety of occupations. Chapter V deals with the politics of Albany from 1823 to 1824, in particular the struggle between the so-called "Radicals", who supported Somerset's policy, and the "Serviles" who were in favour of Donkin's leadership. It was the "Radicals" who represented the settlers' interests against the "Serviles" or "landdrost's supporters". Apart from a description of land grants to the immigrants, interesting pieces of information on such matters as the navigation of the Fish River, Somerset's visit, and the development of trade are given in Chapter VI. It is easy to see why Bailie's party of 1820 settlers formed the backbone of the Albany settlement. In the concluding chapter the author pays attention to the good and bad fortunes of the settlers at the Cape. Although Bailie's scheme failed, the contribution made by his party to the Colony was indeed exceptional in both quality and quantity.

It is unfortunate that the author gives source references only for direct quotations, because it is not always easy to obtain a copy of a fully-documented MA thesis. Some interesting and valuable details about personal data, party lists, life on board the ship, and land grants are included in the five appendices. The biographical list of party members (33 pages) could be useful to a series like the *South African biographical dictionary*. The book ends with an impressive and well-arranged bibliography and a fairly complete index. It is neat in appearance but like most other slender history publications, the price of almost R20 is perhaps a little high. The study is highly scientific in character and puts the 1820 settlers in a new perspective against the general background: clash of interests, class differences, and the nineteenth-century influence of philanthropy. For the regional and the local historian, and everybody else interested, this book can be considered a welcome contribution.

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