

rse, deported over the bowler.  
 far more general and intense was not only the interest  
 & the excitement and indignation experienced by all  
 tions of the community alike when it was reported in  
 on that Kafirs had made a raid across the north-  
 tern border into the Transvaal at Secordepoot, and  
 & not only had burghers been killed, including Mr  
 H. Barnard, Member <sup>of the</sup> First Volksraad for Rustenburg,  
 also several women and children, and that some of the  
 ter had been carried away by the natives into their own  
 ntry. What ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> the serious aspect  
 the further assertion that the blacks were under  
 command of British officers, and ~~were~~ <sup>had</sup> with  
 least one maxim, besides being armed with rifles.  
 regards the truth of such an assertion I express no  
 ion, but that it was generally believed throughout the Trans-  
 l, on several affidavits being sworn to by sufferers  
 the native raid and sent to Pretoria, was an  
 doubted fact, and great was the disgust and indignation  
 ressed in consequence. And only those who have lived  
 considerable length of time in South Africa and

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e studied the conditions prevailing there can properly under-  
 stand and appreciate the depth and intensity of that feeling.  
 There is one thing in South Africa which is considered the  
 pardonable sin it is the arming and incitement of blacks  
 against whites, by whomsoever done. And rightly so. When  
 consider the vast preponderance of blacks over whites  
 about 7,000,000 to 700,000 - ; how easily the war  
 passions of the former are aroused and with what  
 difficulty appeased; how easily, considering the  
 precariousness of the situation - a general uprising of blacks against  
 the British might have been precipitated, and  
 an absolute necessity for curbing instead of inflaming  
 the eagerness for war, - in view of these and other  
 considerations it is no exaggeration to say that if  
 were done by either side, such an action as engaging  
 in a war against whites was worse than a  
 crime, - it was an infamy. Whether, then, <sup>in</sup> this speci-  
 fic instance, <sup>such a thing</sup> really occurred or not, the allegation  
 itself, supported, as I have said, by affidavits, is alone of  
 the highest importance to warrant the strictest in-  
 vestigation after the war is over.



Taking all things into consideration, Dec. was about the most exciting month, so far as war news was concerned at we had during the whole period covered by the present volume. Following the Derdepoort incident, we had in rapid succession the triple catastrophes to the British arms at Stormberg on the 8<sup>th</sup>, at Scholtzneyr (Magersfontein) on the 11<sup>th</sup>, and at Colenso on the 15<sup>th</sup> weeks which will long be remembered by Briton and Boer alike. The incredulity with which the news of these disasters ~~was~~ was at first received by the Britishers as to a great extent ~~was~~ <sup>accepted</sup> by the Boers in a undemonstrative manner in which it was ~~accepted~~ a rule, by the Boers. It seemed simply incredible that such stupendous happenings, such <sup>wonderful</sup> ~~great~~ successes should cause the smallest sign of elation or of public rejoicing. And so it was. Nothing seemed able to provoke them out their ordinarily staid and phlegmatic demeanour, and at excitement there was in Johannesburg and Pretoria confined almost <sup>entirely</sup> ~~entirely~~ to the Britishers on the one side and the hilllander sympathisers with the Boers on the other.

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The annual festival known as  
 seen at the celebration of <sup>which was held</sup> Lingaan's Day, at the Wanderers  
 the 16<sup>th</sup> of the month only the merest passing reference  
 is made <sup>to</sup> these events by the various speakers, and then  
 as showing, according to their idea, that Providence  
 is fighting on the Boer side. At this function, by the  
 4. the large numbers of men women and children alike  
 clad in the sable trappings of mourning testified in  
 a most impressive manner to the havoc already  
 wrought by the war.

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For a month or so before Christmas special efforts  
 were made by collectors in the various districts to receive some extra  
 for the Burglers at the front for the occasion and a  
 very generous response was made; truck-loads of  
 things in the way of plum-puddings, fruit, mince-  
 pie, sweets etc. as well as liquors of every description  
 were sent to the various laagers. The contributions of  
 Johannesburg alone amounted to the following enor-

ous amounts of the leading articles sent:

- 2,050 tins biscuits; weight 20,250 lbs.
- 700 tins sweets; weight 8,510 lbs.
- 24 cases plum-pudding; weight 9,520 lbs.



- 35 cases cables; weight 3,680 lbs.  
 10 cases plums and ginger preserves; weight 820 lbs  
 80 cases tobacco; weight 8,950 lbs.  
 6 cases chocolate sweets; weight 1,200 lbs.  
 21 cases pickles; weight 2,310 lbs.  
 23 cases cheese; weight 2,012 lbs.  
 16 cases hams; weight 4,295 lbs.  
 2 cases bacon; weight 448 lbs  
 3 cases pipes; number 14,500.  
 5 cases cigars; number 26,950.  
 4 cases cigars; number 11,000.

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Beside the above there were, <sup>sent away</sup> 26 large cases weighing aggregate of 5,460 lbs of small quantities and odds and ends comprising practically every article of woodstuffs, from sugar to spices, and from bottled oil to candied peel, <sup>and all this besides</sup> thousands of parcels sent to individual burglers by friends and relations. ~~It~~ whatever may be said of the Boers, they certainly not neglect their men in the field or the laager. The above was, of course, in addition to the ordinary rations provided the government and was solely the result of private efforts by relations, friends and sympathisers.



## Chapter VI

Christmas in Johannesburg - mails stopped by British authorities - Transvaal mails improperly sent to Durban - Government officials kept busy - commissariat supplies sent to the front - the Johannesburg newspapers - "Standard and Lager" - news - "high palatine" of Boer officers - rare outside papers - rumours - rumour-mongers cautioned.



It is doubtful if any Britisher amongst those remaining in  
 amnestberg ever spent a quieter Christmas than that of  
 99. Needless to say, the few shops remaining open for  
 business did not make any special display of goods for the Christ-  
 mas season, and decorations were simply non-existent.  
 Led by far the greater number, <sup>even</sup> of those still doing business  
 & the windows barricaded right through the war, the  
 number of shops with the windows entirely exposed, even  
 during business hours, did not exceed two or three dozen  
 personally, so little impression did Christmas Day make  
 on me, that nearly two, or <sup>at least</sup> eight months after  
 the event, I could not say positively how I spent the day  
 till I found by reference to my diary that after a  
 day dinner at home, I spent the rest of the day with  
 my friends at <sup>principally in playing billiards.</sup> ~~part town~~. This will serve to show the  
 most lethargic condition into which we had relapsed  
 Johannesburg.

One thing which greatly contributed towards making our  
 existence far more monotonous and depressing than it  
 otherwise would have been, was our practical isolation  
 in the outside world. What was considered by many



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distinct grievance, as constituting an unnecessary hardship upon the people remaining in Johannesburg was the action of the British authorities in stopping all mails from going into the country. This action seemed to be quite un-  
 derstandable for, seeing that the majority of those still there were  
 civilians and non-combatants, being for the most part  
 French, German, American, Italian and other subjects  
 of neutral countries, not to mention the four or five  
 thousand Britishers remaining there. The Transvaal  
 Government in this matter acted far more reasonably, as  
 well as generously in permitting all mail matter, New  
 York addressed to Great Britain and British countries  
 the neutral port of Lourenço Marques, whence  
 was despatched as opportunity offered. Surely the British  
 authorities might have displayed as much magnanimity  
 to the Boers in this respect. Censoring our correspondence  
 could have understood and no one could reasonably  
 be objected to it; but there was absolutely no necessity  
 to stop it altogether, as was done.

In connection with this question of stopping and censoring  
 correspondence by the British authorities in South Africa

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me rather fine points regarding international rights  
 & usages might be raised. The right, as distinguished  
 on the necessity, of refusing communication between  
 British territory and the Transvaal by the British authori-  
 ties is admitted. But by what right was correspondence  
 addressed to German subjects residing in Germany from a  
 country at peace with Germany and forwarded via a  
 neutral country consequent to British territory and there  
 censored and censored; as was done by the British authori-  
 ties at Durban? That this <sup>certainly</sup> was ~~actually~~ done was proved by

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own experience of a large number of correspondences -  
 principally "copy" sent to magazines etc - addressed to  
 friends in Berlin was delayed in some cases for  
 months, and some of it has not come to hand to this  
 day; whilst such of it as was delivered, showed by  
 postmarks, etc, that it had been sent round to Durban  
 and there opened and examined.

Now in sending the Transvaal mails to Durban  
 all the Portuguese authorities at Delagoa Bay  
 did distinctly mala fide, since there was absolutely  
 no necessity to do so. The services conveying the



European mails from Delagoa Bay - the French and  
 German East Coast services - leave the latter port after Durban  
 when they ~~call~~ <sup>call</sup> here at all, which they do not always do,  
 and proceed direct from Delagoa Bay to France and Germany  
 respectively. Consequently, the Portuguese authorities  
~~did not actually have~~ <sup>simply went</sup> out of their way to send the  
 Transvaal mails to Durban, ~~as they would have~~ <sup>as they would have</sup> to be brought  
 back to Delagoa Bay for conveyance to Europe. Whether  
 they acted on their own initiative, in a spirit of trust-  
 ing to Great Britain in thus violating international  
 rights and usages, or pressure was brought to bear upon  
 them by the British authorities is a point upon which I can  
 express no opinion; but in either case such action  
 as an outrage upon the ordinary rights of neutrals  
 and non-combatants, and ~~therefore~~ <sup>deprecated</sup> cannot be too  
 strongly ~~opposed~~ <sup>deprecated</sup> by all lovers of fair play.

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We were thus cut off from not only all intercourse but all  
 news of the outside world, except for such meagre scraps  
 news as happened to reach the local newspapers  
 the Standard and Diggers' News and the Rand Post  
 which was <sup>during the greater part of the time</sup> very little indeed.



But if existence, generally speaking, was more or less  
 acutely dull for the British and other non-combatant civilians,  
 it was very far from being so for the Government officials.  
 In the first place the ordinary routine work was nearly done  
 by those who remained <sup>at their posts</sup> by the withdrawal of a large proportion  
 of their ~~own~~ number for service at the front. Practically all  
 Government officials of <sup>whatsoever</sup> ~~any~~ grade, from heads of  
 departments, <sup>judges and members of the Government down</sup> to clerks and policemen, post and telegraph  
 officials etc., went <sup>to the war</sup> in rotation, and resumed their ordin-  
 ary duties on their return. But besides the increase of  
 work due to this cause, ~~it was the war~~ the war  
 itself created a vast amount of work, and also  
 necessitated the formation of entirely new branches of  
 public service.

Perhaps the most important of these, and the one entailing  
 the heaviest work was that <sup>established</sup> for the collection and for-  
 warding of supplies to the fighting brigades. A visit I  
 made to the commissariat forwarding depot at the railway  
 sheds about the middle of Dec. reminded me of  
 Whiteley's or the Army and Navy Stores; vast quan-  
 tities of almost every conceivable commodity in clothing



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