

**SATURDAY / SATERDAG**

**17<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2019 / 17 AUGUSTUS 2019**

**UNVEILING OF A MONUMENT TO COMMEMORATE THE ANIMALS THAT  
DIED DURING THE SIEGE OF ELANDS RIVER/BRAKFORTEIN  
4 TO 16 AUGUST 1900 AS A RESULT OF BEING EXPOSED TO ARTILLERY-  
AND RIFLE FIRE.**

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**ONTHULLING VAN 'N MONUMENT OM DIE DIERE TE GEDENK WAT  
TYDENS DIE BELEG VAN ELANDSRIVIER/BRAKFORTEIN 4 TOT 16 AUGUSTUS  
1900 GEDOOD IS AS GEVOLG VAN BLOOTSTELLING AAN ARTILLERIE- EN  
GEWEERVUR**

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**ELANDS RIVER ANIMAL MONUMENT COMMITTEE**

**ELANDSRIVIER DIEREMONUMENT KOMITEE**

**HOSTED BY THE GREATER MARICO HERITAGE SOCIETY**



(After the Siege – Dead animals moved to the west side of the camp)

### The Siege of Elands River/Brakfontein 4 - 16 August 1900

During August 1900 the British supply depot at Elands River consisting of 505 men from Rhodesia, Australia, Britain and Canada was besieged by a Boer force under General J.H. de la Rey. At the beginning of the siege there were 1540 animals - horses, oxen and mules - in the camp. From the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> August the camp was subjected to artillery- and rifle fire and from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> by rifle fire. The animals in the camp suffered severely. Reverend James Green who was attached to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Victorian Bushmen summed up the fate of them who had no choice but to obey their masters in the following words: "*....out of 1540 animals - horses, oxen and mules - we had only 211 left, leaving 1329 either killed or missing....*"

FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH  
THEY HAD NO CHOICE  
THEY HAD NO VOICE  
AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN  
AND IN THE MORNING  
WE WILL ALSO REMEMBER THEM



### Die Beleg van Elandsrivier/Brakfontein 4 - 16 Augustus 1900

Gedurende Augustus 1900 is die Britse voorradepos by Elandsrivier bestaande uit 505 man van Rhodesië, Australië, Brittanje en Kanada onder beleg geplaas deur 'n Boeremag onder bevel van generaal J.H. de la Rey. Aan die begin van die beleg was daar 1540 diere - perde, osse en muile - in die kamp. Van 4 tot 10 Augustus was die kamp onderworpe aan artillerie- en geweervuur en vanaf die 11de tot die 16de aan geweervuur. Die diere in die kamp het swaar verliese gely. Rev. James Green wie verbonde was aan die 3<sup>rd</sup> Victorian Bushmen het die lot van hulle wie geen keuse gehad het as om die stem van hul meesters te gehoorsaam opgesom in die volgende woorde: "*....uit 1540 diere - perde, osse en muile - het ons net 211 oorgehad, wat ons gelaat het met 1329 of gedood of vermis....*"

Rev. James Green on the first day of the siege: “.....The Boer marksmanship was undoubtedly accurate.....the shells began to fly past our ambulance waggons and pitch among the horse lines. The horses fell in sixes and sevens; it was awful to see the poor beasts mown down.....I saw one shell take down six horses.....The Boer gun-fire now found out the oxen and began to deal death amongst them. It was a double danger, for the oxen not only drew the fire upon the men but the maddened creatures were dragging at their rheims and bearing down on the men, some of whom might have been trampled to death. Ham ordered Troopers Fortune, Hillier.....to cut the animals adrift.....”

Colonel Hore's report 4 August 1900: “.....The shell fire on the Norris Mules and cattle was most destructive and I calculate that there were killed and missing 135 horses, 40 mules and 300 head of oxen.....”

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**FROM THE MEMOIRS OF SOME WHO VISITED THE SITE OF THE CAMP  
AFTER THE SIEGE**

**From the Diary of Major Frederick Joseph William Porter, Royal Army Medical Corps**

“.....August 16<sup>th</sup> 1900.....The whole of the oxen and horses were killed and were laid out in rows at one end of the camp. The stench was awful...  
August 19<sup>th</sup> 1900. We had to march at 4.45 a.m.....The stench as we passed the dead horses was perfectly awful.....”

**Report by Major-General H.L. Smith-Dorrien, 16<sup>th</sup> August 1900.**

“.....During the first two days they had had 2000 shells pitched into them, and had almost all their animals killed.....”

**From the Diary of Lieutenant G.A. Burgoyne, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Rhodesian Field Force**

“.....Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> (Wed.) (1900).....Visited Col. Hoare's old camp. Past rows & rows of dead horses & cattle which still were pretty high.....”

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## MONUMENTE BY ELANDSRIVIER / MONUMENTS AT ELANDS RIVER



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ANIMAL  
MEMORIAL



ENIGE BYDRAES TOT HIERDIE PROJEK SAL WAARDEER WORD / ANY CONTRIBUTIONS  
TOWARDS THIS PROJECT WILL BE APPRECIATED

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