

# KRUGER'S WAR

Chris Ash



## Contents

Timeline .....	8
Author's Note .....	17
Introduction .....	25
Chapter 1 Making the Transvaal .....	36
Chapter 2 All about Gold .....	76
Chapter 3 Who Started It? .....	86
Chapter 4 The Road to War .....	115
Chapter 5 Arrogance, Over-Confidence and the Kruger Raid .....	173
Chapter 6 Opening Shots .....	193
Chapter 7 Black Week and Black Month .....	251
Chapter 8 Guerrilla War or Terrorism? .....	307
Chapter 9 Methods of Barbarism .....	351
Chapter 10 Refugee Camps or Death Camps? .....	387
Chapter 11 We Rely on Your Generals .....	424
Chapter 12 The Superhuman Boer .....	468
Chapter 13 Hidebound by Tradition .....	498
Chapter 14 Who was Fighting the White Man's War? .....	548
Chapter 15 A Hopeless Cause? .....	569
Afterword .....	579
Endnotes .....	582
Selected Bibliography .....	601

# Timeline

## 1852–1910

**1852**

Sand River Convention: Great Britain recognizes the independence of the Transvaal/South African Republic, though with certain caveats including a ban on slavery.

**1854**

Orange River Convention: Great Britain recognizes the independence of the Orange Free State.

**1856–64**

Spluttering on again / off again ‘civil war’ fought between the various micro-states which finally form the South African Republic.

**1857**

Abortive attempted invasion of the OFS by Transvaal forces under Kruger.

**1858**

First attempt by the Orange Free State to invade Basutoland ends in failure.

**1865–68**

Further attempts by the Orange Free State to invade Basutoland finally prompt the British to annex the territory in March 1868.

**1877**

Transvaal annexed by Great Britain to prevent the Pedi and Zulu from rampaging through the essentially bankrupt state.

**1879**

Zulu War—British forces break the power of the Zulu Empire.

**1871–80**

The short-lived ‘Diggers Republic’ ends when—at the request of the paramount Griqua chief—the much disputed diamond fields of Griqualand West are first taken under British protection (1871) and then officially annexed to the Cape Colony (1880).

**1880–81**

The First Boer War sees rebel forces regaining their independence from Great Britain. The British Army is dealt a humiliating defeat in the last battle of the war, Majuba Hill.

**1882**

The ZAR grabs two portions of Bechuanaland, naming them Stellaland and Goshen  
First congress of the Afrikaner Bond held in Graaff-Reinet, declaring its ultimate objective to create a ‘United South Africa’.

**1883**

Kruger is formally elected president of the ZAR, an office he will hold for the remainder of the century.

**1884**

The Warren Expedition ends peacefully and annexes British Bechuanaland—including Stellaland and Goshen—to the Crown, thus preventing more westward expansion by the ZAR.

Down in Zululand, however, ZAR forces annex a large chunk of land, naming the territory ‘The New Republic’.

**1886**

Gold is discovered on the Witwatersrand and the resultant Gold Rush sees large numbers of foreigners—dubbed uitlanders—flood into the ZAR, and the establishment of Johannesburg, ‘the Gold Reef City’.

**1887**

The New Republic is incorporated into the South African Republic.

Kruger’s first attempt for offensive alliance with Orange Free State is rejected at a conference in Bloemfontein by President Jan Brand of the OFS.

**1888**

President Jan Brand dies. Leadership of the Orange Free State passes to F. W. Reitz.

**1889**

F.W. Reitz signs the Convention of Potchefstroom—alliance with the ZAR.

**1890**

The Klein Vrystaat—land seized from Swaziland by Transvaal frontiersmen—is formally absorbed in the ever-expanding ZAR.

**1893**

Kruger remains president of the ZAR after narrowly defeating Joubert in a very bitterly—many thought unfairly—fought election campaign. Neither the uitlanders, nor the massive non-white population of the Transvaal, were permitted to take part in such elections.

**1895**

Drifts Crisis—tensions between the ZAR and the Cape Colony continue to simmer as Kruger shuts the drifts over the Vaal River to try and force traffic onto his over-priced rail network. Kruger backs down in the face of British pressure.

**1895/6**

As part of an elaborate coup attempt against Kruger’s regime, the Jameson Raid is launched but the expected uitlander uprising from within Johannesburg fails to materialize, and Dr Jameson and his raiders are captured at Doornkop.

**1897**

Lord Milner arrives in Cape Town in May, to take up the twin roles of high commissioner of Southern Africa and governor of the Cape Colony.

**1899****July**

Lord Milner meets with Kruger in Bloemfontein to discuss the uitlander situation

**September**

27 Transvaal mobilizes her forces.

29 Transvaal military takes control of the nation’s railways.

**October**

- 3 Orange Free State mobilizes her forces.
- 7 British Army begins to mobilize the reserves.
- 10 Boer ultimatum delivered.
- 11 Ultimatum expires and war commences.
- 12 Boers invade Natal and Griqualand West; armoured train captured at Kraaipan.
- 14 General Buller departs Southampton; Boer attack on Mafeking driven off.
- 15 Martial law declared in northern Natal after Boer invasion.
- 16 Kimberley invested.
- 20 Battle of Talana Hill (Natal front) ends in British victory.
- 21 Battle of Elandslaagte (Natal front) ends in British victory.
- 22 Yule commences retreat of the 8<sup>th</sup> Brigade from Dundee to Ladysmith.
- 25 Assault on Mafeking driven off.
- 30 Battle of Nicholson's Nek (Natal front) ends in Boer victory.
- 31 General Buller arrives in Cape Town.

**November**

- 1 Boers cross Orange River to invade Cape Colony, breaking Steyn's promise.
- 2 Siege of Ladysmith begins.
- 9 First major assault on Ladysmith driven off with heavy loss.
- 12 Lord Methuen takes over command (western front).
- 13 Boer attack on Kuruman driven off; Aliwal North captured by Boers.
- 15 Armoured train incident at Chieveley Siding (Natal front); Winston Churchill captured.
- 16 General Gatacre arrives at East London.
- 21 Lord Methuen commences his advance on Kimberley (western front).
- 22 General Buller leaves Cape Town for Natal.
- 23 Battle of Belmont (western front) ends in British victory; battle of Willow Grange (Natal front) ends in Boer victory but also Boer retreat.
- 25 Battle of Graspan (western front) ends in British victory; successful but controversial attack on Boer laager at Derdepoort using black Kgatla auxiliaries from Bechuanaland—swiftly disowned by High Command.
- 28 Battle of Modder River (western front) ends in British victory.
- 29 First Canadian contingent arrives in Cape Town.

**December**

- 4 Boers entrench at the Magersfontein hills.
- 7 Successful night raid on republican guns at Ladysmith; Prinsloo attacks Enslin (western front) but is driven off.
- 10 Battle of Stormberg (central front) ends in Boer victory; second successful night raid on Boer guns at Ladysmith.
- 11 Battle of Magersfontein (western front) ends in federal victory.
- 13 Boer attack near Arundel (central front) driven off.
- 15 Battle of Colenso (Natal front) ends in Boer victory.
- 18 Lord Roberts appointed Commander-in-Chief, Kitchener as his Chief of Staff.
- 29 Boers invade Upington district of Cape Colony.

**1900****January**

- 1 General French attacks Colesberg; Colonel Pilcher captures laager at Sunnyside; Kuruman surrenders after seven weeks of siege.
- 3 Republican attack on Cyphergat (modern day Syphergat) driven off.
- 6 Battle of Wagon Hill (Natal front) ends in British victory.
- 10 Lords Roberts and Kitchener arrive in Cape Town.
- 14 Colonel Plumer occupies Gaberones.
- 24 Battle of Spion Kop (Natal front) ends in Boer victory.
- 25 General Buller withdraws back across the Tugela River.

**February**

- 5 General Buller captures Vaal Krantz (Natal front).
- 7 Vaal Krantz evacuated.
- 10 General Buller's force returns to Chieveley.
- 11 Lord Roberts commences his great flank march.
- 14 Buller seizes Hussar Hill, starting the battle of the Tugela Heights (Natal front).
- 15 Kimberley relieved.
- 16 Cronjé evacuates from Magersfontein (western front).
- 17 Cronjé surrounded at Paardeberg (western front); Cingolo Hill captured (Natal front).
- 18 Monte Cristo captured (Natal front).
- 19 Hlangwane Hill captured (Natal front).
- 20 De Wet's attempt to relieve Cronjé driven off (western front).
- 23 Further federal attempts to relieve Cronjé driven off (western front).
- 27 Cronjé surrenders with over 4,000 men, ending the battle of Paardeberg.
- 28 Ladysmith relieved; Colesberg reoccupied by Imperial troops.

**March**

- 4 Labuschagnes's Nek captured by Brabant's Colonial Division.
- 7 Battle of Poplar Grove (western front) ends in British victory; Colonel Plumer captures Boer laager at Gopani.
- 10 Battle of Driefontein ends in British victory.
- 13 Bloemfontein captured.
- 14 Gatacre and Clements cross the Orange River at Bethulie and Norval's Pont respectively.
- 27 General Joubert dies.
- 28 Wepener occupied by units of Brabant's Colonial Division.
- 31 Battle of Sanna's Post (Korn Spruit) ends in Boer victory.

**April**

- 3 Royal Irish surrounded by de Wet's commando at Reddersburg (central front).
- 5 Lord Methuen's force destroys Villebois-Mareuil's small commando at Boshof.
- 9 Wepener bombarded by de Wet's commando.
- 10 De Wet begins his attacks against Wepener—all are driven off with heavy loss.
- 23 Sanna's Post waterworks recaptured by Ian Hamilton's men.
- 24 Explosion at the Begbie armaments factory in Johannesburg; foul play suspected.
- 25 Siege of Wepener raised; de Wet retreats in the face of a relief column.
- 30 Remaining British subjects expelled from the Transvaal.

**May**

- 1 Boers driven from Houtnek by Ian Hamilton.
- 3 Lord Roberts occupies Brandfort.
- 4 Ian Hamilton drives the Boers from Babiaansberg.
- 5 Action at Rooidam ends in British victory.
- 9 Mafeking relief column under Colonel Mahon reaches Vryburg (western front).
- 10 Lord Roberts forces a crossing over the Zand River.
- 12 British occupy Kroonstad; Boer attack on Mafeking defeated and Commandant Eloff captured.
- 13 Colonel Mahon's column beats off an attack at Koedoesrand.
- 14 General Buller drives the Boers from the Biggarsberg (Natal front).
- 15 Dundee and Glencoe liberated by Buller (Natal front).
- 16 De la Rey defeated at Israel's Farm by Mahon and Plumer (western front).
- 17 Mafeking relieved.
- 18 Newcastle liberated by Buller (Natal front).
- 20 Bethune's Mounted Infantry defeated at Scheeper's Nek, near Vryheid.
- 22 Roberts's main force moves out from Kroonstad.
- 24 Annexation of the Orange Free State announced; French crosses the Vaal River, near Parys.
- 27 Roberts's main force crosses the Vaal River, near Vereeniging.
- 29 Main army captures Germiston; battle of Doornkop ends in British victory.

- 30 Kruger flees Pretoria for Machadodorp.
- 31 Johannesburg captured by the British; 500 Irish Yeomanry surrender at Lindley.

**June**

- 5 Pretoria captured.
- 6 British POWs liberated at Waterval.
- 7 4<sup>th</sup> Derbyshires overwhelmed by de Wet at Rhenoster River.
- 11 Battle of Alleman's Nek ends in British victory.
- 12 Battle of Diamond Hill ends in British victory.
- 14 Boer attack on Zand River Post repulsed.
- 22 Boer attack on Katbosch Post driven off.
- 23 Heidelberg captured by Ian Hamilton.

**July**

- 4 Roberts and Buller join hands at Vlaktefontein.
- 7 De Wet driven out of Bethlehem by General Clements.
- 11 General French drives the Boers from Tigerfontein Ridge.
- 21 Boer attack on Zuikerbosch Post repulsed.
- 26 British capture Naauwpoort Nek.
- 27 Middleburg occupied by the British.
- 28 British capture Slaapkranz Nek.
- 30 General Prinsloo surrenders with over 4,000 men in the Brandwater Basin.

**August**

- 4 Siege of Elands River begins.
- 5 Carrington's attempt to raise the siege of Elands River driven off.
- 7 General Buller occupies Amersfoort.
- 12 Lord Methuen captures de Wet's wagons.
- 16 Lord Kitchener raises the siege of Elands River.
- 24 Belfast occupied by the British.
- 27 Battle of Bergendal (also known as Belfast) ends in British victory.
- 30 British capture Nooitgedacht and release over 2,700 half-starved prisoners.

**September**

- 1 Annexation of the Transvaal proclaimed.
- 5 Boer attack on the Canadians at Pan Station repulsed.
- 6 Buller occupies Lydenburg; French occupies Carolina.
- 8 Buller drives Botha from positions at Paardeplaats.
- 11 Kruger flees to Lourenço Marques.
- 13 Lord Roberts issues proclamation calling on Boers to surrender.
- 25 British occupy Komati Poort.

**October**

- 8 Lord Milner appointed administrator of the two new colonies.
- 9 De Wet driven across the Vaal.
- 16 Boer attack on Jagersfontein repulsed.
- 17 Lord Methuen defeats Tollie de Beer near Schweizer-Reneke.
- 19 Kruger flees Lourenço Marques on a Dutch navy cruiser to Marseille.
- 20 French occupies Bethal; de Wet invests Barton at Frederikstad.
- 24 Lord Methuen defeats Lemmer at Kruisrivier.
- 25 De Wet's investment of Frederikstad ends in failure.
- 26 Boer attack on Koffyfontein repulsed.
- 27 De Wet's guns and wagons captured at Rensburg Drift.

**November**

- 6 De Wet routed at Bothaville—all his guns captured.
- 19 Boer attacks on stations at Balmoral and Wilge River defeated.
- 22 Kruger arrives in Marseille.
- 23 De Wet captures Dewetsdorp.
- 29 Lord Kitchener replaces Lord Roberts as Commander-in-Chief.

**December**

- 3 De la Rey captures convoy at Buffelspoort.
- 5 De Wet forced to abandon his raid into the Cape Colony.
- 7 De Wet's attack on Highland Light Infantry post at Commissie Bridge driven off.
- 11 Lord Roberts sails from Cape Town.
- 12 Boer attack on Vryheid repulsed.
- 19 Hertzog captures Philipstown.

**1901****January**

- 4 Commander-in-Chief's bodyguard ambushed and captured at Kromspruit.
- 5 Colonel Grey drives de la Rey from positions at Cyferfontein.
- 7 Boer attacks on Belfast and other stations on the Delagoa railway line all repulsed.
- 10 Boer peace emissary, Morgendaal, murdered by de Wet's men near Kroonstad.
- 17 Martial law extended to all of the Cape Colony except ports and native territories.
- 18 De la Rey defeated near Ventersburg.
- 31 Smuts captures Modderfontein.

**February**

- 2 Cunningham's attack on Smuts at Modderfontein driven off.
- 7 Additional 30,000 mounted troops ordered to South Africa.
- 10 De Wet crosses the Orange River at Sand Drift in another attempt to invade the Cape Colony.
- 12 Colonel Plumer in touch with de Wet's invasion force; de Wet's men attack Philipstown but are driven off by the small garrison.
- 13 Lord Kitchener approaches Louis Botha to discuss peace terms.
- 18 Lord Methuen defeats de la Rey at Haartebeestefontein.
- 19 De Wet abandons his disastrous invasion of the Cape.
- 23 De Wet's guns captured.
- 28 Peace talks between Botha and Kitchener at Middelburg.

**March**

- 3 De la Rey's attack on Lichtenburg driven off.
- 7 Botha formally rejects Kitchener's peace proposals, as discussed at the Middelburg Conference.
- 15 Park captures Boer laager at Kruger's Post.
- 24 De la Rey defeated by Babington at Wildfontein.

**April**

- 1 Colonel Plumer occupies Nylstroom.
- 6 Scheepers captures a small detachment at Zeekoegat, near Craddock.
- 8 Colonel Plumer occupies Pietersburg.
- 14 Rawlinson and Babington capture a Boer laager and two guns at Goedvooruitzicht.
- 16 Viljoen and Muller defeated at Palmietfontein.

**May**

- 10 Boer council of war meets near Ermelo.
- 29 De la Rey attacks Vlakfontein and is driven off.

**June**

- 2 Jamestown captured by Kritzinger.
- 6 De la Rey and de Wet attack Major Sladen near Reitz and are driven off.
- 12 Victorian Mounted Rifles overrun at Wilmansrust.
- 21 Kritzinger captures detachment of Midlands Mounted Rifles near Maraisburg.

**July**

- 5 Kruger telegraphs Botha to continue fighting.
- 11 Broadwood captures Orange Free State Government and Steyn narrowly escapes.
- 14 French drives Scheepers out of the Camdeboo Mountains; Myburg defeated and his laager captured.



21 Lategan's commando broken up by Cape Colony drive.

30 Viljoen defeated at Crocodile Drift, near Middelburg.

#### August

1 Smuts surprised and attacked at Grootvlei.

6 British parliament votes £6,500,000 grant to the Transvaal and Orange River Colony.

8 Commandant de Villiers captured at Warmbaths.

12 Kritzinger driven out of the Cape Colony.

13 Kritzinger's commando routed near Steynsburg.

16 19<sup>th</sup> Hussars ambushed by Muller at Vrieskraal.

17 South African Constabulary capture laager near Middelburg.

#### September

3 Smuts invades the Cape Colony at Klaarwater Drift.

5 Lotter and his commando captured by Scobell near Craddock.

7 Botha commences his invasion of Natal.

10 Scheepers's commando routed near Laingsburg.

17 Botha cuts up Gough at Blood River Poort; Smuts surprises detachment of 17<sup>th</sup> Lancers at Modderfontein.

19 200 mounted infantry and South African Constabulary captured at Slangfontein.

20 Detachment of the Lovat Scouts surprised and cut up at Quaggafontein.

26 Botha's attacks on Fort Prospect and Itala driven off with heavy loss.

30 De la Rey's night attack on British positions at Moedwil driven off.

#### October

9 Martial law extended to the Cape ports.

11 Commandant Lotter executed; Commandant Scheepers captured near Blood River Station.

20 Three Boer laagers captured near Nylstroom.

22 Benson surprises Boer laager at Klippoortje.

29 Maritz captures British convoy between Lambert's Bay and Clanwilliam.

30 Botha overruns Benson's rearguard at Bakenlaagte.

#### November

1 Colonel Kekewich captures van Albert's laager.

11 Du Toit's laager captured at Doornhoek.

20 Commandant Buys captured near Villiersdorp.

26 Commandant Joubert captured.

29 De Wet attacks Rimington at Spytfontein; confused action ends with Rimington's retreat.

#### December

4 Botha surprised by Bruce Hamilton at Oshoek, near Ermelo.

6 Colonel Plumer engages Botha at Kalkoenskraal.

7 National Scouts formed from surrendered Transvaal Boers.

10 Bethal Commando surprised by Bruce Hamilton at Trigaardtsfontein.

12 Viljoen's laager captured by Bruce Hamilton.

15 Commandant Badenhorst captured by Colonel Colenbrander.

16 Kritzinger captured near Hanover Road.

18 De Wet's attack on the ILH under Colonel Dartnell at Tigerkloof Spruit driven off.

19 14<sup>th</sup> Mounted Infantry ambushed by Britz near Ermelo; Boer attack on Elandspruit driven off.

20 Wessels surprises a small force under Colonel Damant at Tafelkop.

25 De Wet captures camp at Tweefontein.

29 General Erasmus captured near Ermelo.

### 1902

#### January

10 Bruce Hamilton captures Major Wolmarans's laager near Ermelo.

17 Scheepers executed at Graaff-Reinet.

25 General Ben Viljoen captured near Lydenburg.

**February**

- 3 Colonel Garratt defeats Commandant Mears at Roodekraal.
- 4 Commandant Albert and 130 of his men captured at Gruisfontein, Western Transvaal.
- 5 British convoy captured by Malan near Beaufort West.
- 17 Judge Kock captured in the Cape Colony.
- 20 Commandant Muller surprised by Colonel Park.
- 22 Grobler's commando captured near Lake Chrissie.
- 24 Convoy captured by de la Rey at Ysterspruit, but only after several attempted charges by mounted Boers are driven off with considerable losses.
- 26 End of drive in eastern Free State, with Meyer and 600 prisoners taken.

**March**

- 7 Battle of Tweefontein ends in Boer victory, with Lord Methuen taken prisoner.
- 15 Bruce Hamilton captures General Emmett near Vryheid.
- 26 Cecil John Rhodes dies in Cape Town.

**April**

- 1 Maritz captures Springbok.
- 4 Smuts invests Okiep.
- 8 Colonel Colenbrander defeats Beyers near Pietersburg.
- 11 Kemp's horsemen charge Colonel Kekewich at Roodewal and are driven off with heavy loss.
- 12 Lord Kitchener meets Boer peace delegation in Pretoria; Smuts attacks Okiep.
- 16 Schweizer-Reneke (Western Transvaal) stormed in dawn attack, 57 bittereinders captured.
- 18 Peace delegation leaves Pretoria to consult with the commandos.

**May**

- 3 Siege of Okiep raised.
- 15 Opening of Vereeniging conference.
- 27 Commandant Malan captured near Jansenville.
- 31 Boer surrender signed.

**1906**

Self-rule granted to the Transvaal.

**1908**

Self-rule granted to the Orange River Colony.

**1910**

Union of South Africa—former Boer commando leader, General Louis Botha elected as the first Prime Minister of the new nation.

## Author's Note

The great enemy of the truth is very often not the lie, deliberate, contrived, and dishonest—but the myth, persistent, persuasive, and unrealistic.

– John F. Kennedy

The measure of intelligence is the ability to change.

– Albert Einstein

Even if you are a minority of one, the truth is the truth.

– Mahatma Gandhi

The great menace to progress is not ignorance but the illusion of knowledge.

– Daniel J Boorstin, *American Historian and Librarian of Congress*

In 2014, after having lived in South Africa for many years and listened to endless nonsense about the Boer War\* around a thousand braais, I released *Kruger, Kommandos and Kaké*, a book which sought to shatter some of the more dearly-held myths that still surround the conflict. Many think they 'know' everything about the war but in the vast majority of cases their 'knowledge' is utterly flawed, simplistic, and biased. It would not be an exaggeration to say that the commonly held view is that the British were the baddies, intent only on stealing gold and murdering women and children while the Boers were the goodies—noble, innocent people desperate just to be left in peace.

*KK&K* sought to challenge these misconceptions but the Defenders of the Myth quickly swung into action, encouraging their sheep-like followers to keep their blinkers on, and I quickly became one of the most hated men in South Africa, even receiving a series of lunatic death threats. Few (if any) of my critics bothered to read the book before condemning it—instead, they busied themselves with sending me offensive emails and questioning my parentage on Facebook. One of my very favourite crackpot claims was that I was the offspring of a dalliance between my late father and a black maid—something the old bugger may well have enjoyed, but given the extreme paucity of black maids in the Shetland Isles, it

---

\* Indeed, one South African website postulates, 'The South African War ... is a subjective term used by the British' and therefore 'not acceptable'. It then goes on—bizarrely—to claim that the long-used 'Boer War ... is also not acceptable, the British was [sic] the aggressor and, following this line of argument, it should be called 'the English War'. This incoherent gibberish is reason enough, I feel, to stick with the established name of 'the Boer War' and I shall do so throughout this book.

was not likely to have happened, and my mother assures me it is not the case. For reasons I am unable to fathom, one particular gentleman declared that I must be a Pakistani Muslim. Another decried me as a liberal. It is difficult to decide which accusation is less accurate.

I never pretended that *KK&K* was an exhaustive or comprehensive account, but I did hope that it would torpedo a few of the more commonly held misconceptions about the war and, better yet, make readers re-evaluate their view of the conflict. I think it would be fair to say that the one thing it really taught me was the truth behind the old saying: There are none so blind as those who will not see.

Many of my voluble gaggle of detractors simply dismissed the book altogether without feeling any need to explain why. When asked which particular aspect of the book they disagreed with (and for what reason) they would, with touching loyalty to their cause, invariably refer to a 'review' written by a leading Defender of the Myth whose opinion was slavishly believed, despite his never having stated which of my many hundreds of references he considered to be invalid or why. Instead, he dedicated an inordinate section of his critique to speculations about what I wore under my kilt (the answer is 'nothing', in case this particular reviewer still retains his perverse fascination with my undergarments).

\* \* \*

A constant refrain from others who decided they did not like *KK&K* was that I rely 'solely on jingo sources'—a claim which a quick glance at my bibliography will refute immediately, unless, of course, one considers missionaries, French political commentators, Orange Free State volksraad members, Irish barristers, American journalists, Afrikaans judges, Natalian bishops, Swiss foreign affairs experts, and Austrian gentleman travellers—not to mention Boer generals and burghers, all to be 'jingo sources'; in which case one is beyond rational debate.

It has also never been explained who gets to decide what a 'jingo source' is and what is not. And even if an account of a certain event *is* written by a so-called 'jingo', it remains a first-hand account and cannot simply be dismissed just because some readers (born decades after the event took place) do not like what they had to say. There is no rational reason why, for example, an account of events written by a Boer bittereinder should automatically be considered more reliable than one written by a British tommy, a Canadian mounted infantryman, an uitlander, a Coloured clerk, or an American war correspondent; or why British Government Blue Books should simply be dismissed as 'Imperial propaganda', whereas third-hand 'family anecdotes' about British wickedness should be treated as gospel. This outlook was never explained to me by those who so disliked