

# BOER WAR 1899-1902 • RESERVE FORCES DAY 2012

## The Boer War 1899-1902 A Small 'Colonial Campaign'

The conflict in South Africa began as a small Colonial campaign, but soon escalated into a large-scale National Effort involving Colonial forces, including Australia, New Zealand, Canada, India and the South African Colonies.

The war was fought by 23,000 Citizen Soldiers (including 60 Army Nurses) who became the first troops from Australia to serve overseas and to serve under the Federation of the Commonwealth after 1st January 1901. Permanent forces were small in number with only a Permanent Force Artillery unit and a number of staff officers and soldiers serving in the war. 6000 New Zealanders also fought in the war.

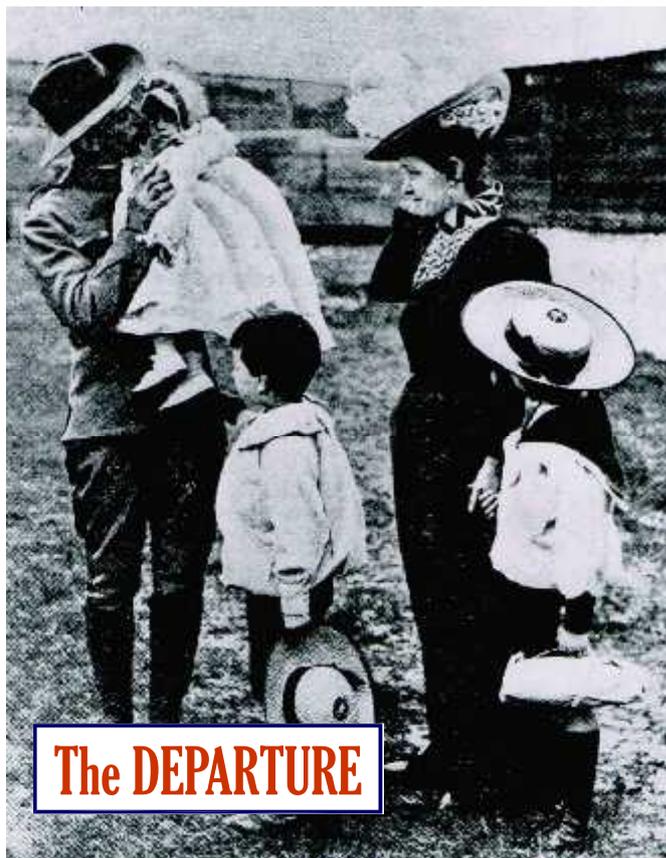
Of those, approximately 1000 Australians and 232 New Zealanders paid the 'Supreme Sacrifice'.

They were really the first ANZACS.

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During the Boer War, news updates were posted on banners hung outside the offices of 'The Herald' in Hunter Street.

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"Saying Goodbye" - The Departure of the NSW Troops for South Africa, 28th Oct 1899  
(Images from the 'Sydney Mail')

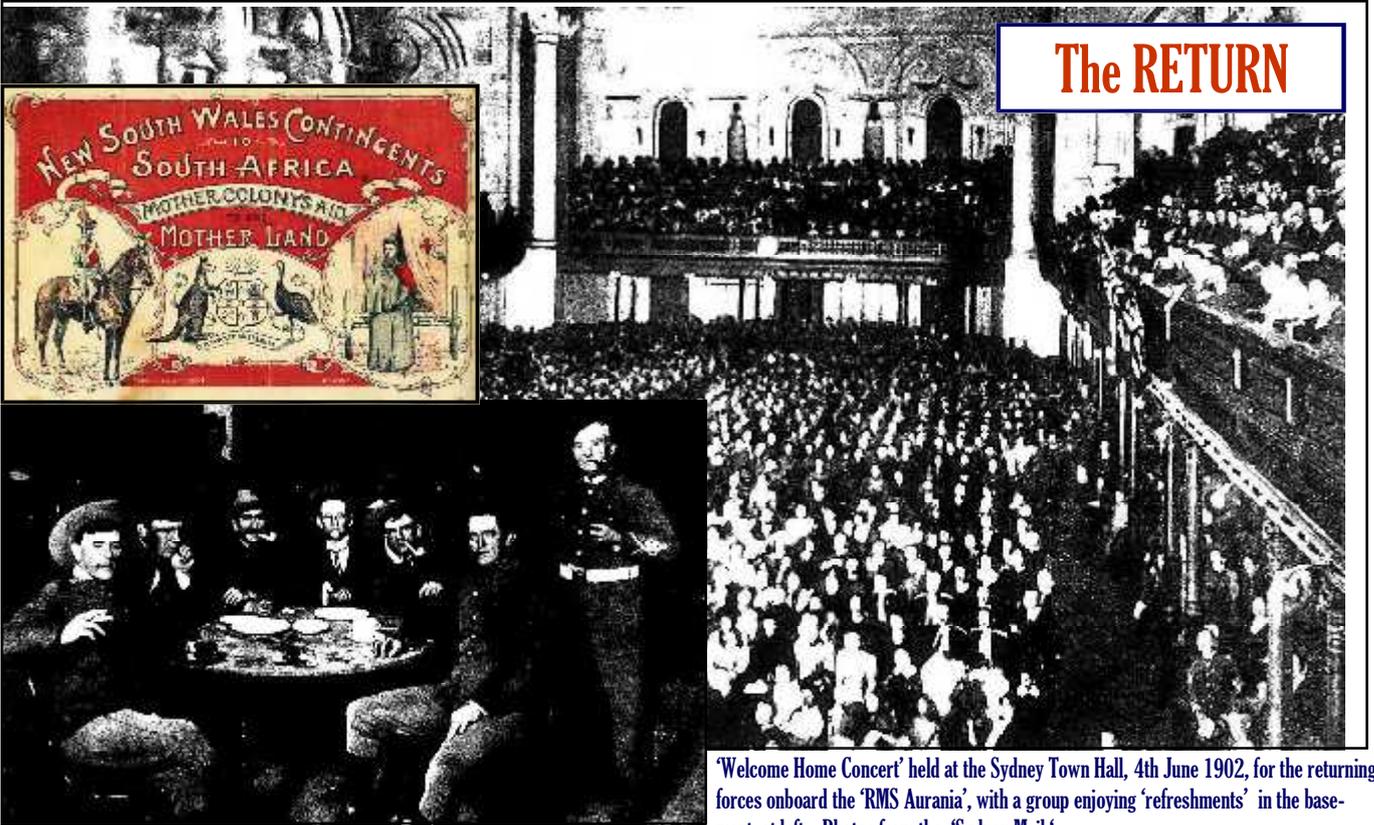
A crowd swells outside 'The Herald' c.1901



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Souvenir of the Reserve Forces Day National Parade, Sydney Town Hall, Sunday 1st July 2012  
(1st July is the Official date of RFD, being the date the Citizen Military Force / Army Reserve was reformed in 1948 after WWII)

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## The RETURN

'Welcome Home Concert' held at the Sydney Town Hall, 4th June 1902, for the returning forces onboard the 'RMS Aurania', with a group enjoying 'refreshments' in the basement, at left. Photos from the 'Sydney Mail' ...

### The National Boer War Memorial

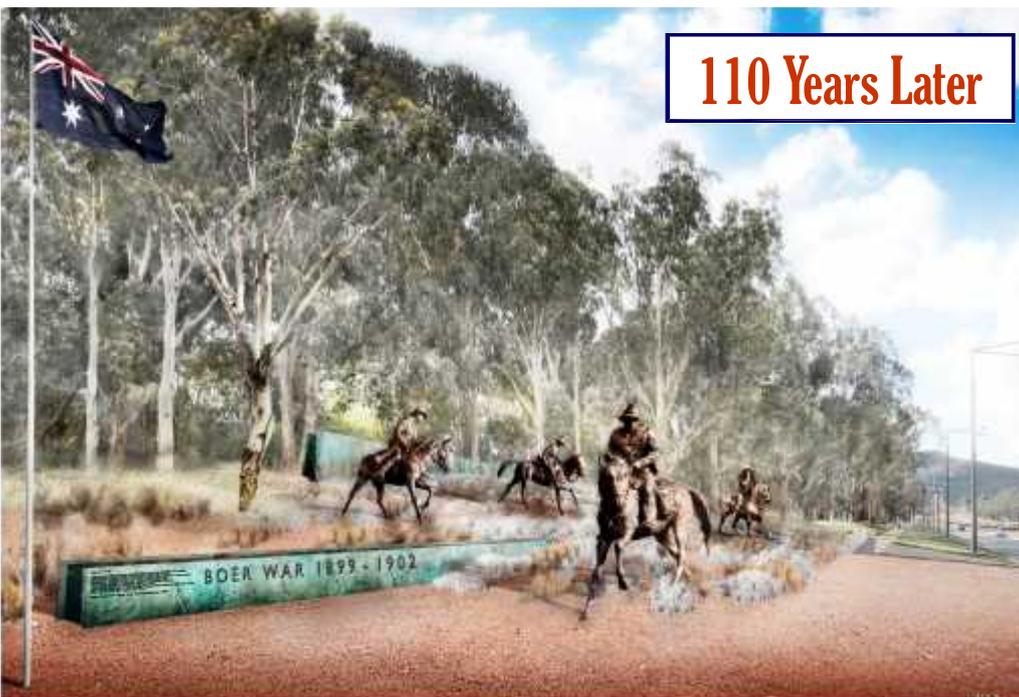
Australia's contribution was significant; with many awarded for gallantry in the Boer War, including six Victoria Crosses. The winning design (see below), captures the spirit of those who served and was unveiled by General David Hurley AC DSC, Chief of the Defence Force on the 1st March 2012.

Now 110 years have passed since the end of hostilities. Work on the NBWM must commence this year to be completed in time for the ANZAC centenary commemorations on 25th April 2015, to ensure that we honour the memory of those who served and fought in Australia's first war as a nation. It is imperative that the sacrifice of our Boer War veterans receives the recognition so rightly deserved, and that they too are remembered along with all Australians who

served their nation in subsequent wars.

To achieve this goal we must raise \$225,000 in donations by 30th November 2012, to commission a sculptor to commence work on the four mounted horses of the memorial, so that it will be completed in time for this national remembrance.

Please send your donation and ideas on how you could help with fund raising to the National Treasurer NBWM Association Building 96 Victoria Barracks Paddington 2021.



## 110 Years Later

"The patrol's horses step carefully through the sparse and arid landscape sloping down from the back wall of the memorial. Each soldier keeps an eye on his mates while looking out for signs of booby traps or potential for an ambush, for the tell-tale wheel tracks of big guns or supply wagons. For snipers. Smoke from campfires. Friend or foe. ..."



The Reserve Forces Day Council  
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