

NONGQAI

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SPECIAL EDITION

by Dirk Danschutter

NANCY the Springbok

"S.A. Scottish" mascot, WW1



"S.A.S" kilt,
true colour

YOUR SECURITY HISTORY MAGAZINE WITHOUT MALICE



EDITORS

The editor-in-chief and publisher of *NONGQAI* is retired Brigadier **Hennie Heymans** ("HBH") of the S.A. Police, who holds a Master's degree in National Security Studies and had represented the S.A.P. on the Secretariat of the State Security Council.

He is assisted by co-editor Dr. **Willem Steenkamp** ("WPS"), a retired attorney and ambassador who is a former member of the N.I.S. and D.F.A. Willem is also responsible for *NONGQAI*'s YouTube channel and BLOG, plus graphics.

There are three **sub-editors**: **Henning van Aswegen**, a former journalist and N.I.S. officer, now renowned author; **Frans Bedford-Visser** who served as warrant officer in the S.A. Railways Police and recently retired from the Scottish Police; and Colonel **Logan Govender** ("LG") pioneer historian in the SA Police Indian community, contributing social and retiree reporting.

Opinions expressed by any contributor (or by any editor), are entirely their personal responsibility, and should be attributed to them individually and **not to the magazine**.

REDAKSIE

Die hoofredakteur en uitgewer van *NONGQAI* is afgetrede Brigadier **Hennie Heymans** ("HBH") van die S.A. Polisie, wat 'n Meestersgraad in Nasionale Veiligheidsstudies het en die S.A.P. se verteenwoordiger was op die Sekretariaat van die Staatsveiligheidsraad.

Hy word bygestaan deur mede-redakteur Dr. **Willem Steenkamp** ("WPS"), afgetrede prokureur, ambassadeur en voormalige lid van N.I. en die D.B.S. Willem versorg ook *NONGQAI* se YouTube-kanaal en BLOG, plus grafika.

Daar is drie sub-redakteurs: **Henning van Aswegen**, gewese joernalis en N.I.-lid, nou wyd-gelese skrywer oor spioenasie; **Frans Bedford-Visser** ("FBV"), voormalige adjudant-offisier in die S.A. Spoorwegpolisie en onlangs afgetrede lid van die Skotse Polisie; en Kolonel **Logan Govender** ("LG"), pionier historikus in die SA Polisie Indiër-gemeenskap wat ook sosiale sake hanteer.

Enige menings uitgespreek deur enige bydraer of lid van die redaksie is hulle persoonlike verantwoordelikheid en moet hulle individueel toegereken word, **nie die tydskrif nie**.

Aim & Policy - Doel & Beleid

Our goal is to collect and record our national security history for publication in the *NONGQAI* for future generations.

Ons doel is om die nasionale veiligheids-geskiedenis in die *NONGQAI* aan te teken en só vir die nageslagte te bewaar.

We publish the articles and stories as we receive them from our correspondents; we only correct spelling mistakes. It's important to publish the stories in the form and context that we received them from our correspondents. Policemen and Defence personnel have their own language and sub-culture. We are not a scientific or literary journal. We only work with historical building blocks, as in the oral tradition.

Ons gebruik die artikels en stories soos ons dit van ons korrespondente ontvang; ons maak slegs die spelfoute reg. Dis belangrik om die stories te bewaar in die vorm en in die konteks soos ons dit ontvang. Lede van die veiligheidsmagte het hul eie taal en ons moet dit ook so aanteken. Ons is nie 'n letterkundige of wetenskaplike joernaal nie. Ons werk slegs met die boustene van die geskiedenis, in die orale tradisie.

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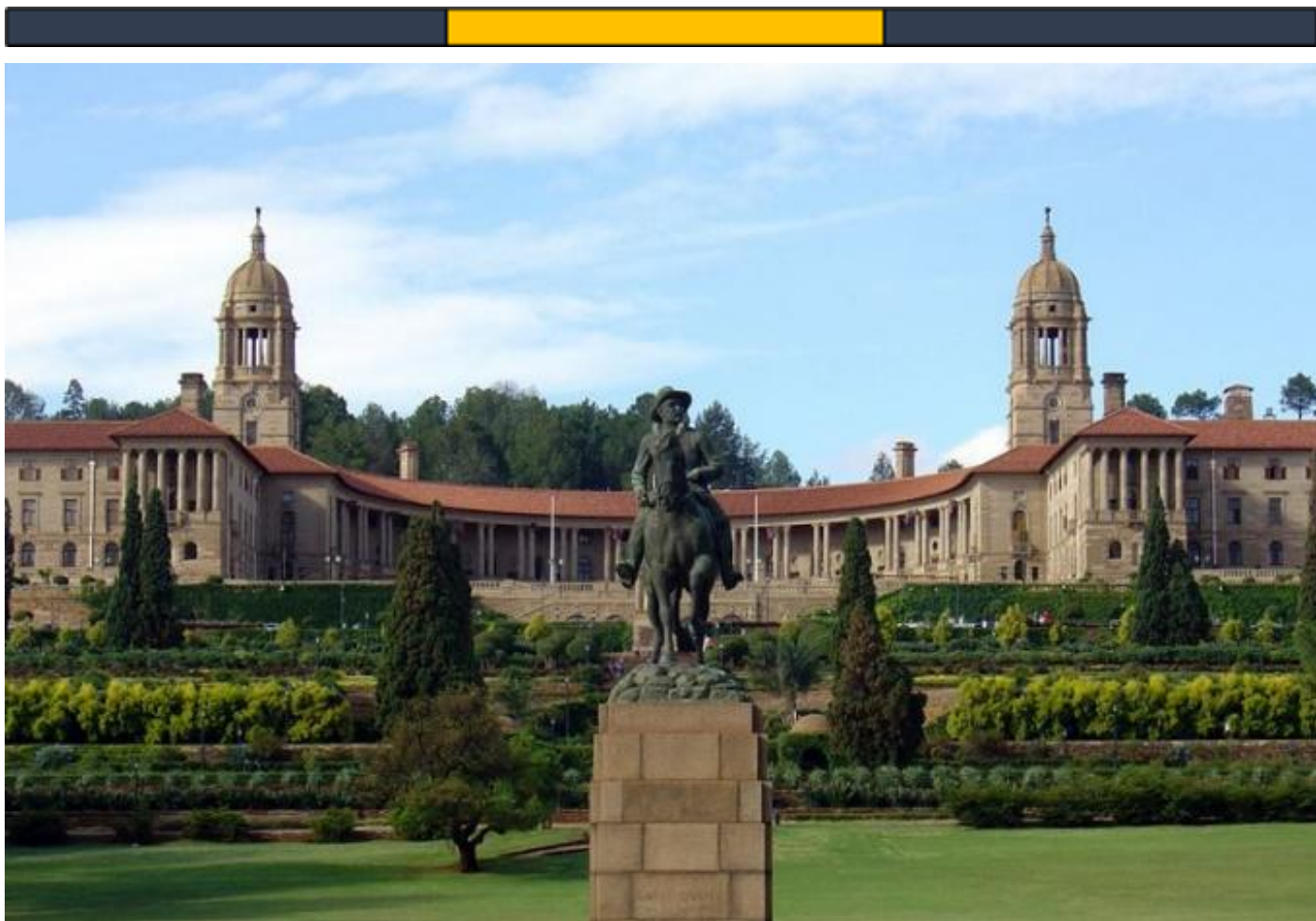
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The Union Buildings, Pretoria

NONGQAI

vanaf | since
1907

national security history without malice

**TO PRESERVE THE PAST,
WITHOUT LIVING IN THE PAST.**



Die **NONGQAI** e-tydskrif is 'n gratis aanlyn bewaarplek van herinneringe, historiese gegewens en ontledings rakende die nasionale veiligheidsgeskiedenis van Suid-Afrika. Dit dek van die heel onlangse tot die koloniale verlede van polisiëring, militêre ontwikkelinge, intelligensie en diplomاسie in die streek. Dit word gedoen met twee hoof oogmerke: om rou historiese gegewens en die insigte van werklike deelnemers, geboekstaaf in die tradisie van orale vertellings, te bewaar tot voordeel van toekomstige geslagte; en, tweedens, om aan veterane van die dienste en gewapende magte 'n platform te bied waardeur hulle hul verhale en foto's kan deel, vir die leesgenot van ou kamerade, vriende en familie. **NONGQAI** doen dit sonder om die verlede te verheerlik, en ook nie om die verlede weer te wil herleef nie. Ons wil help om die goeie in die verlede te koester, deur die geskiedenis sonder kwaadwilligheid te boekstaaf.

Die eerste **NONGQAI** het in Maart 1907 verskyn as die amptelike kwartaallikse tydskrif van die polisie van die kolonie Natal. Na die totstandkoming van die Unie van Suid-Afrika in 1910, en die daaropvolgende stigting van die Unie-weermag en die nasionale polisiemag in 1913, is besluit om die tydskrifte van die verskillende koloniale magte van voor die Unie, saam te voeg in een. Die naam **NONGQAI**, wat in Zoeloe beteken "die koning se wagte", is gekies vir hierdie saamgevoegde tydskrif, wat die tydskrifte van koloniale dienste soos *The Bandolier*, *The Qakamba*, *The South African Constabulary Journal* en *The Transvaal Police Magazine* vervang het. Die nuwe 1913-weergawe van die **NONGQAI** verteenwoordig dus al die uniformdienste van die Unie, insluitend die Polisie, Weermag en Gevangenisdiens.

Nadat die Unie die Republiek van Suid-Afrika geword het, het die verskillende dienste geneig om hul eie tydskrifte te ontwikkel, soos *Paratus* vir die weermag en *Servamus* vir die polisie. Die oorgang in 1994 na 'n nie-rassige demokrasie het 'n einde gemaak aan daardie era, maar nie 'n einde aan belangstelling in die geskiedenis van daardie epogmakende tye nie. Brigadier Hennie Heymans het daarom die **NONGQAI** in e-tydskrif vorm laat herleef as 'n bewaarplek van data, herinneringe en ontledings oor die nasionale veiligheidsgeskiedenis van Suid-Afrika.

NONGQAI word aan die begin van elke maand gepubliseer en word gratis op die **SA Mirror-** en **ISSUU-**platforms gedra. Byna elke maand word 'n aantal spesiale uitgawes, wat elk oor 'n spesifieke tema handel, ook gepubliseer. Die beleid van die redakteurs van **NONGQAI** is om nie in te meng met die inhoud van artikels wat voorgelê word nie, behalwe vir eenvormige opmaak en hersiening van spelling en grammatika. **Die inhoud is dus die verantwoordelikheid van elke outeur, en die tydskrif en sy redakteurs aanvaar geen aanspreeklikheid daarvoor nie.** Die doel is om die voormalige deelnemers so outentiek en direk as moontlik te laat praat, sodat historici dit as bron van rou historiese gegewens kan gebruik in hul historiografiese evaluering van gebeure van die verlede. **NONGQAI** self is dus ook nie 'n akademiese geskiedenis-publikasie wat aanspraak maak op wetenskaplike beoordeling of verifiëring van die inhoud wat sy vrywilliger bydraers op sy bladsye gedeel het nie.

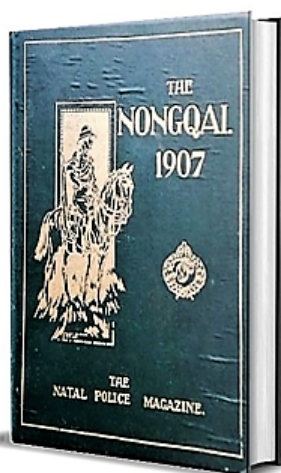
NONGQAI is heeltemal gratis en toeganklik op die internet, waar dit aanlyn gelees kan word of as .pdf-dokumente afgelaai kan word. Die argief van vorige uitgawes verteenwoordig 'n skatkamer van historiese gegewens, foto's, persoonlike herinneringe en staaltjies, sowel as ontledings van belangrike nasionale veiligheidskwessies van die verlede en die hede.

NONGQAI: ROOTS & GOALS

NONGQAI since 1907 our roots & goals



The NONGQAI e-magazine is a free online repository of memories, historic data and analysis relating to the national security history of Southern Africa. It covers from the very recent to the very ancient past of policing, military developments, intelligence, and diplomacy in the region. It does so with two main goals: to provide raw historic data and insights from actual participants, in the tradition of oral history, for the benefit of future generations; and, secondly, to provide ex members of the services and armed forces with a platform through which to share their stories and photographs, for the reading pleasure of old comrades-in-arms, friends and family. This NONGQAI does, without glorifying the past, nor wishing to live again the past. It helps cherish the good in the past, recording history without malice.



The original NONGQAI magazine had started out in March 1907 as the official quarterly magazine of the police of the colony of Natal. After the establishment of the Union of South Africa in 1910, and the subsequent founding of the Union defence force and the national police force in 1913, it was decided to amalgamate the magazines serving the different pre-union colonial forces into one. The name NONGQAI, which in Zulu means “the king’s watchmen”, was chosen for this amalgamated magazine, which replaced the pre-union colonial services magazines such as *The Bandolier*, *The Qakamba*, *The South African Constabulary Journal* and *The Transvaal Police Magazine*. The new 1913 version of the NONGQAI thus represented all the uniformed services of the new Union, including the police, the military and the prisons service.

After the Union became the Republic of South Africa, the different services tended to develop their own magazines, such as *Paratus* for the military and *Servamus* for the police. The 1994 transition to a non-racial democracy brought an end to that era, but not an end to interest in the history of that era. Brigadier Hennie Heymans thus revived the NONGQAI in e-magazine form, as repository of data, memories and analysis about the national security history of Southern Africa.

NONGQAI is published at the beginning of each month and is carried on the SA Mirror and ISSUU platforms. Almost every month a number of special issues, each dealing with a particular theme, are also published by NONGQAI as special editions.

The policy of the editors of NONGQAI is not to interfere with the content of articles submitted and deemed publishable, except for uniform formatting and reviewing spelling and grammar. ***The content is therefore the responsibility of each author, and the magazine and its editors accept no liability for it.*** The objective is to let the former participants talk, as authentically and directly as possible, for historians to use as source of raw historic data in their historiographic evaluations of past events. NONGQAI itself thus isn’t, nor does it pretend to be, an academic history publication laying claim to scientific assessment or verification of the content its volunteer contributors had shared through its pages.

NONGQAI is entirely free and accessible on the internet, where it can be read online or downloaded as .pdf documents. Its archive of past editions represents a treasure trove of historic data, personal recollections, and anecdotes, as well as analysis of important national security issues, past and present.



FOREWORD



NANCY THE SPRINGBOK

Western Front Celebrity of the First World War

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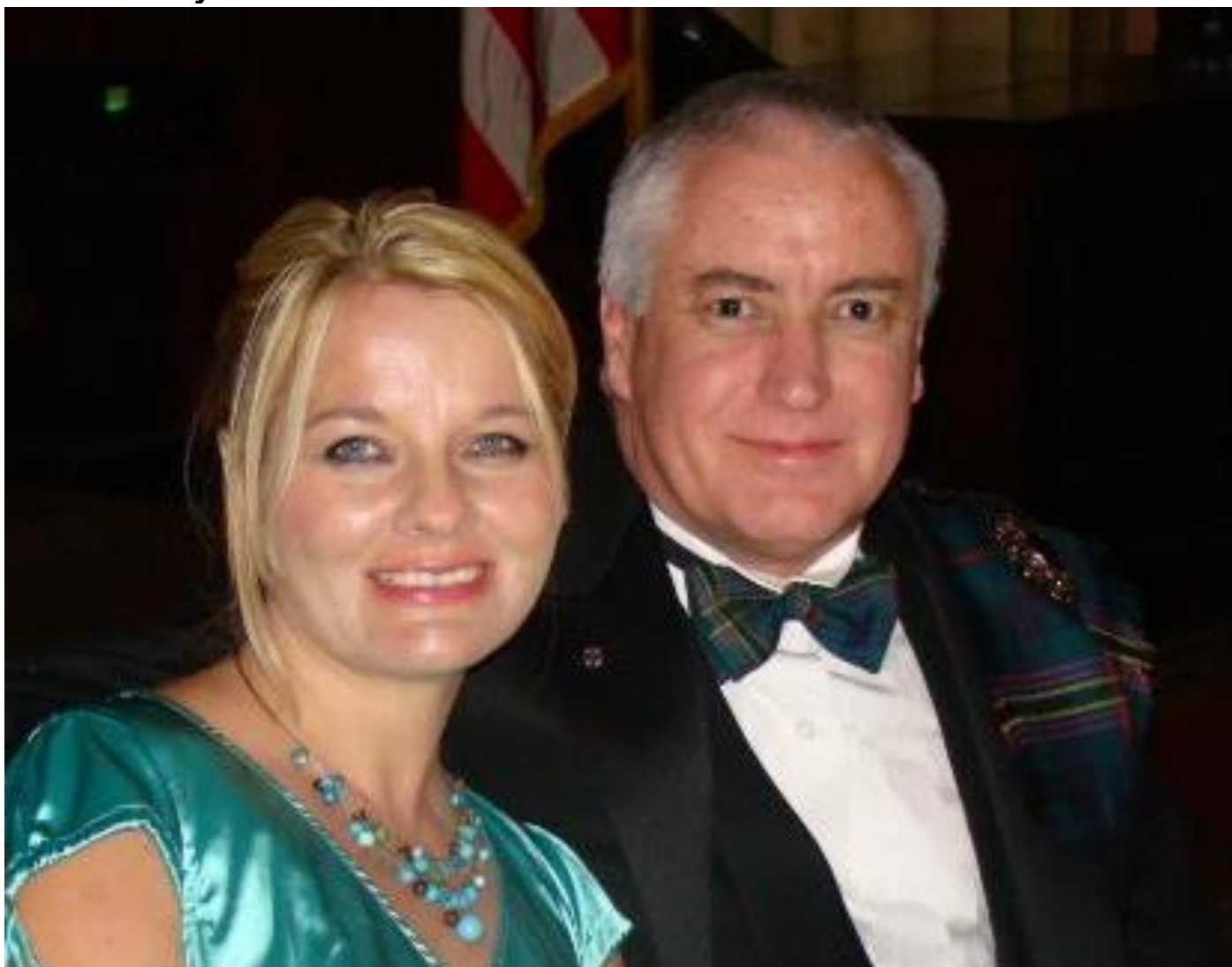
- About the author



Dirk Danschutter, MMSc, is a 63-year-old retired Assistant Professor in Emergency, Disaster and Combat Life Saving Medicine, Critical Care and ditto Transport (Free University of Brussels, Belgium; and the Università del Piemonte del Orientale Novara, Italy). Before his Master degrees (in Nursing Science and Disaster Medicine), he was an ICU Chief Nurse, who graduated as Certified Clinical Perfusionist (CCP) and, in a parallel life, as Veterinary Technician also. He is not a Historian but claims that Disaster Medicine is all about programming future responses from past (learned) experiences. History of Nursing and Medicine, the bond between humans and animals that proved to be existential in mankind until a compulsive obsession for germs separated them the last 4-5

decades, has always fascinated and intrigued him. Whether it is the bond between him and his cats and dogs, or observed in patients interacting with pets or therapy animals in the hospital, or during his humanitarian rotations abroad. Dirk is also an Army Veteran (Nurse Army Corps) and former CO of the Belgian First Aid & Support Team (BFAST) Field Hospital. He rotated to Banda Aceh (Great Indian Tsunami), Pakistan Administered Kashmir and Port-au-Prince, Haiti (two major Earthquakes). He treated casualties from the Gaza War. For about ten years he frequently rotated to a Spanish clinic for stray dogs, to assist the Vets. He started researching War Mascots, like Jackie the Baboon, Nancy the Springbok, Rin Tin Tin, and some other famous animals like Clever Hans, about 25 years ago. He was the Founding Father of Villa Samson, a building where patients (children and adults, inclusive end stage of life) can spend time with their favourite animal (pet, assistance or therapy). Villa Samson was erected five years ago and over that period has registered many thousands of animal-human interactions, in all kinds of disciplines.

- **Primary contributor**



David McLaren-Kennedy is a Lead Product Design Engineer working for a Tier 1 automotive supplier in Detroit, Michigan, USA. He was born in Johannesburg, South Africa and studied engineering at Natal Technikon (now Durban University of Technology) while employed as a co-op Engineering Student at Toyota SA. David has been involved in the design of a wide range of vehicles during his career in the automotive industry, ranging from a small Japanese commuter vehicle to exotic Italian sports cars, convertibles, and class 8 semi-trucks. His work has taken him to many countries including Japan, Austria, Germany, France, Sweden, Canada, Mexico, etc.

After graduating high school, he completed his National Service in the South African Army and took part in Operation Savannah in the Angola War 1975-1976. After completing his National Service, he was transferred to the Citizen Force (Rand Light Infantry). He was engaged in active duty in South West Africa/Namibia (3-month tours of duty) from 1977 until he immigrated to Canada in early 1986.

He is the grandson of David & Johanna McLaren Kennedy who gave Nancy to the South African Scottish Regiment as a mascot during WWI. David has had an interest in history since high school and more recently family history.

• Summary

An antelope from the “Orange Free State” (OFS) was by far among the most colorful war mascots of the First World War. Together with Jackie the Baboon,ⁱ ⁱⁱ Nancy the Springbok of the 1st South African Infantry (SAI) Brigade first saw action in Halazin and then in the desert of Agagia (south of Sidi Barrani, Egypt), after which the two arrived at Sidi Bishr, a suburb of Alexandria, from Marsa Matruh and El Salloum (“Solum”). ⁱⁱⁱ



*Figure 1. El Salloum in the west, Marsa Matruh in the east, and the desert of Agagia (yellow star).
© Google Maps.*

Both Nancy and Jackie the Baboon died prematurely from their wounds: Jackie not long after he lost a leg at Kemmel during the Spring Offensive of 1918, and Nancy two weeks after the armistice, suffering from the cold, an infection in the neck and pneumonia. Over the years quite a lot has been published on these two animals, about their involvement in military actions, how they got wounded, how and when they died, and where they were buried.

Remarkably, for a rather small “Western” SA contingent of Soldiers (compared to the numbers of British, French, Portuguese or even Belgian troops), narratives on Jackie and Nancy have never been amalgamated, the two mascots have always been considered separately.^{iv} Although daily reality must have been that the animals’ handlers shared the same bleak conditions in the Egyptian desert or in the trenches at the France-Belgium Western Front. Several local, mostly abandoned dogs and cats (“casualties of war”) were also kept as pets or anonymous mascots by troops and

Officers. One other “exotic” example of them is Jacko (or Billy) the baboon of the SA Heavy Artillery Brigade.^v

Nancy’s iconic status and the tributes paid to her by troops and military leaders has always been highlighted by every author telling her story. Besides introducing new facts this paper will also consider the legitimacy of all those claims. Nancy was undeniably loved, protected and honoured by the musicians of the Pipe & Drums Band, the Regimental Quartermaster and Transport Staff, and particularly by her handler Alfred Edmund Petersen. His role would have been the equivalent of the function of a British Goat Major.^{vi} Regarding the tame springbok he was the Buck Major, appointed to train her and to care for her. Nonetheless she was instrumental in helping to emphasize the association of the Caledonian Societies with the South African forces, that raised the 4th SAI Regiment, i.e., the South African Scottish (SAS), in August 1915.^{vii} Regrettably, it is not the aim of this paper to repeat all that has been published about Nancy, although leading references will be mentioned.

• Controversies to be dealt with

Investigating Nancy resulted in abundant new evidence, especially regarding her pre- and post World War One “period”. Exclusive material on Nancy consists of locating Barberpan # 452 where it all began, and the association between the Kennedys, John Buchan and Sir William Dalrymple making Nancy’s adoption by Major General Henry Timson Lukin seem much less spontaneous. Also, her wounding in the Armentières - Le Bizet sector (France-Belgium border), the location of her grave in lot 94C at Hermeton s/Meuse (Belgium), what happened to her after she had been taxidermized, along with a long-forgotten motion image of Nancy available at the Imperial War Museum (IWM) will be covered. Some men were photographed with Nancy, meaning that they played a role in her life at the Western Front. For this reason, the military records of these men have been disclosed and recounted in the upcoming chapters.

Allegedly, Nancy is the only animal ever to have been buried in an Allied cemetery, with full military honours.^{viii} Her death was mentioned in General Orders and subsequently all military parades were canceled.^{ix} Is there still evidence existing to validate such claims, or did it all evaporate like the Allied cemetery of Hermeton s/Meuse - that in fact never existed?

In the seventies, a few decades after Nancy had returned to Honorary Colonel William Dalrymple’s mansion at Johannesburg, taxidermized and mounted, there were suddenly two of her. After her stay at Glenshiel mansion (from 1919 on), Nancy went to a cabinet in the tobacco-smoke filled Officers’ mess at the Drill Hall. This was most likely after Sir Dalrymple, widowed since 1938, had passed away in 1941 and the mansion was sold soon after.





Figure 2. Taxidermized Nancy at the verandah of Honorary Colonel Sir William Dalrymple and Lady Isabel Rayner's Glenshiel mansion, Johannesburg. © Authors' collection.

Although it has been thinly established that Nancy of the Ditsongs' SA National Museum of Military History at Saxonwold ^x - formerly known as the SA National War Museum - is the original one, our research disclosed why Nancy at "The View" (i.e., Sir Thomas Cullinan's mansion at Parktown, Johannesburg) is a replica. Contrarily, the late Captain Peter KA Digby (1945-2021) has always claimed that "his" Nancy at The View was the authentic one. But according to tradition and in the context of the 50th anniversary of the Transvaal Scottish (TS) in 1952-1953, Nancy allegedly moved from the overcrowded and packed Drill Hall to the SA National War Museum. Alas, administrative documents supporting or documenting the transfer from The View to the SA National War Museum could not be obtained. To avoid any anachronism with the name given at the time (29 August 1947), the Ditsongs' museum (one of the seven) of Military History will from here on be referred to as the SA National War Museum.

Nancy was donated by the TS Regimental Council (TSRC), who saw the TS targeted by the unpopular and anti-British measures taken by the Minister of Defence, Frans Erasmus. ^{xi} In the seventies, Digby (who had become the curator of The View) persuaded the TSRC to claim Nancy back to the TS. His stubbornness to dispute the donation, converting it into a loan, resulted in bad feelings between the SA National War Museum and the Jocks. Nonetheless, some items were indeed returned (like a machine gun and fencing rifles) although Nancy never was. ^{xii}



Figure 3. The Drill Hall, between Plein and De Villiers Street longitudinally, Quartz and Twist Street transversally, Johannesburg. © The Heritage Portal.

It indeed appears that over the many years, the tales of Nancy, like those of Jackie, took many forms, probably as numerous as the number of authors who published her life story. In Egypt the troops feared that Nancy, their regimental mascot, had been served as dinner by the locals after she had disappeared for three days. She allegedly reappeared – out of the blue – when she heard the bagpipes skirl. Another tradition claims that it was the bugler's sound that she reacted to. Anyway, it is obvious that she dodged death at several occasions, particularly at the Western Front.



Figure 4. Nancy at her return from the desert, welcomed by troops and nurses. © Wiki Commons.

Over the past century, Nancy on her tiny legs kept evoking historical empathy among readers of all ages, therefore she will probably never vanish completely. Here lies the importance of telling her story as accurately as possible, with what has been left after the ravages of time.

Finally, this paragraph might not be the most appropriate section to question Digby's judgement regarding the contagious outbreak on board of the *Oriana*, but the controversy has to be dealt with anyway: here or in following chapter. Digby believed that an outbreak of "contagious beriberi fever" (p.98 of his book *Pyramids & Poppies*) led to the quarantine of all personnel on board this vessel. However, there exists not such a disease as "contagious beriberi fever". Beriberi is caused by severe vitamin b1 (thiamine) deficiency, which is a result of dietary choices (individually or population-based) and therefore not a contagious disease. Symptoms occur a month after complete depletion of vitamin b1 intake and may evolve to death. Until the end of the 19th century, before the root cause was established, some authors indeed believed that beriberi was a contagious and serious disease. While "an outbreak" would only occur in people following a similar dietary formula, depriving them from vitamin b1 uptake (e.g., in Indonesia and Japan). A century later, in 1993, Digby's misconception certainly added to the dramatic effect of the scourged journey overseas, but it is undeniably misleading information. It is remarkable that no author ever mentioned this blooper. It

can only mean that this section was either read superficially, or that the alleged medical condition was recognized without any question. To medical scientists, it raises the doubt how many of Digby's perceptions on medical conditions were sheer confabulated.

- **The first SA casualties on the Western Front**

William Frederick McKendrick (No 6321) from Wepener, died at Marseilles 2 May 1916, aged 42 (his death certificate mentioned 39, and the CWGC mentions 44). He was buried at Mazargues' Military Cemetery. William was the first SA Soldier to die on French soil. Or maybe he was the second one, that would depend on the exact time of death and on how a self-inflicted gunshot wound (suicide) that same day would have been considered at the time. William was married to Violet Behr Balne and the couple had a 17-year-old daughter, Ruby Ellen. The couple must have had their share of sorrow, because two children died in infancy, one of them ten-year-old Nancy Lydia in agony from appendicitis and paralytic ileus due to perforation peritonitis.

BRIGADE, SOUTH AFRICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

No. (Surname) *McKendrick* (Christian) *Wm. Frederick*
 Reg. No. *6321* Rank *C. 2nd S.A. Infantry*
 Battalion or Service *2nd S.A. Infantry*
 Religion *Pres.* Age *39*
 Next-of-kin—Relationship *Wife* if married—Certif.
 Name and Address *Violet Behr McKendrick*
c/o P.O. Wepener
146 Long St. Bloemfontein (O.F.S.)
 Children (if any):
 Name Date of Birth Name Date of Birth
Wheelwright over
 Remarks **DIED** *overseas cerebro meningitis 25.16 Marseilles*
Deprived of 7 days pay for disobedience of Order 20/13 9.5.16
Pension to widow at pres. 12/6 (Rw) - pa 20.10.16 (Marseilles)
 Papers, etc.

Figure 5. William Frederick McKendrick's death certificate, one of the two first SAI Soldiers to have died on French soil. © southafricawargraves.org

McKendrick was diagnosed with "contagious cerebro-spinal meningitis" onboard the Oriana, hence with an onset of neurologic symptoms before 20 April. It is possible that he embarked with symptoms, because the Base Command at Marseille mentioned that seven "sick" had boarded the Oriana, alas without mentioning or suggesting their individual conditions. The 9th Divisional ADMS

(i.e., Assistant Director of Medical Services) seemed to suggest that there was more than this one case, as he recorded “Quarantine because of contagious cerebro-spinal meningitis”. HQ however, recorded unambiguously “epidemic outbreak” on board (repeated by John Buchan), indicating that McKendrick was not the only person sick.

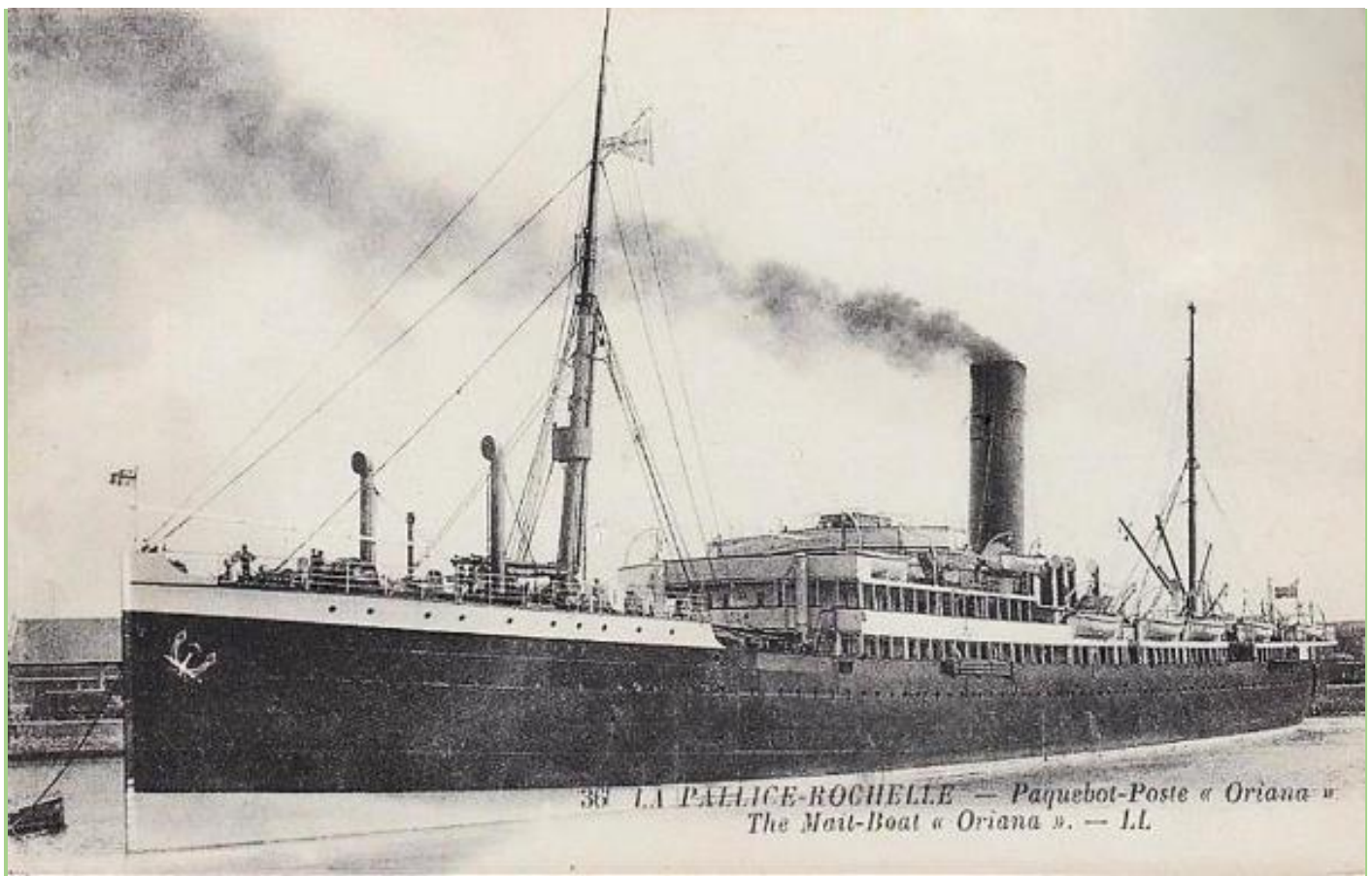


Figure 6. The HMT Orana, carrying Nancy's Regiment, the SAFA and half (two Companies) of the 1st SAI © Wiki Commons.

Any bacterial form of meningitis would have been a major concern (and still is), because the condition was contagious and it evolved to death, or severe brain and nerve damage (without existing antibiotic treatment at the time). Meningococcal meningitis - a major health concern among dense or confined populations (e.g., schools, dormitories, barracks, ships) or any other form of bacterial meningitis, were diseases known to be caused by pathogens, but apart from the injection of horse-serum into the spinal fluid of the patient, there was no treatment available those days.^{xiii}

However, it is unlikely that McKendrick succumbed to (untreated) bacterial meningitis because he suffered symptoms during at least 12 days – which would be amazingly long. That some other men were ill too, albeit without succumbing to the condition, pleads against the hypothesis of bacterial meningitis. Viral meningitis is also contagious, and debilitating during the acute phase too, but it is typically benign with a mortality rate below 1%. It has a longer course than bacterial meningitis. However, regarding the overall low mortality-rate of viral meningitis, West Nile Virus (WNV), the type of meningitis that is assumed to have killed Alexander the Great, is an exception.^{xiv} Given that McKendrick, and possible six or seven sick men boarded the Orana in Alexandria (Egypt), might be suggestive that he succumbed to WNV.

At the Western Front though, many of the SAI troops also presented to the Field Ambulances (FA) with malaria fever attacks (e.g., during the Spring Offensive). Cerebral malaria, the most severe complication of malaria, mimics bacterial meningitis, although with a typical latency of a few days up to more than a week after the onset of fever.^{xv} Hence, there is a hypothetical probability that McKendrick succumbed to cerebral malaria.^{xvi} However, that the “seven sick” would have suffered malaria fever too, without HQ or the ADMS recording this condition as such - is very unlikely. Conditions such as malaria and trench foot were mentioned “separately” (i.e., by name) in the British (and Dominions) war diaries, or in the individual’s file on Army Form, B. 179.

The controversy about this intriguing (older) Soldier does not stop here. The troops of the 2nd and 3rd SAI, along with those of the Army Service Corps (ASC), were sailing with the largest of the four ships, the Megantic. One Officer and nine Other Ranks (OR) of each Battalion (2nd included) would sail with the Tintoretto, along with the men of the Heavy Artillery (supposedly with their mascot “Jacko-Billy” the Baboon, unless they left the monkey in England), the 29th Divisional Base Details, some men of the Royal Engineers (RE) and ASC, and 209 horses. McKendrick was an “R” cold shoer (civilian occupation wheelwright), the “R” likely meaning Regimental. Why would a horse shoer and wheelwright of the 2nd SAI, someone with professional competence in handling horses, end up on a “wrong ship”? He should have been allotted to the Tintoretto where all the horses were, or at least to the Megantic with the others of his Battalion. McKendrick’s death certificate reveals that he was “Deprived of 7 days pay for disobedience of Orders”. Maybe he indeed should have been one of the nine OR of the 2nd SAI on the Tintoretto, but perhaps the Officer(s) on board this vessel did not want him around. As aforementioned, he was the first (or second) Soldier of the 1st SAI Brigade to die in France. Albeit the very same day, at 6 am, 2/Lt Edward Wilson of the 3rd SAI Regiment was found dead and would be the first to have died at the northern section of the Western Front (Steenwerck in France), by having committed suicide.

- **Diamonds and Coal are forever**

Not far from Potchefstroom, a young springbok, playful like a puppy, spent her days as a “tame” family pet on a farm at Vierfontein.^{xvii} Those days Vierfontein was dotted with farms and small-holdings in a coal mining scenery. After the (second) Anglo-Boer War had ended (1899-1902), it was British policy to attract English-speaking people. Farms were abandoned by either bankrupt or worse, Afrikaners killed in the war. British newcomers combined a daily job at the (diamond, gold, or coal) mine, mainly with shop-keeping. A minority of the English-speaking had opted for a small-holding in the (often) immediate vicinity of the mines, with disregard for, or unaware, of pollution (e.g., acid drainage) and dust-related health hazards.

In Perthshire, more specifically in Stanley, a 31-year-old Scot decided to join his uncle Finlay, who worked as an engineer at the workshop of the South African Railways & Harbours (SAR & H) in Pretoria. As South Africa lacked navigable rivers from the mines to the sea, the railways were vital to the booming mining industry. Finlay had immigrated to South Africa in 1908, to settle in Pretoria.^{xviii} Pretoria had just gained worldwide renown for yielding the Cullinan diamond, still the largest diamond ever found.^{xix} The home of Sir Thomas Cullinan (The View) is the TSR HQ (see paragraph above). Various fields of expertise and applied science following the overall mining success at Premier Mine, led to an exponential growth of employments since 1903.^{xx} Less than one km west of Premier Mine, Cullinan village opened its own railway station in 1909. In less than seven years the number of mineworkers had grown from the initial one hundred in 1903, mainly White Boer War

Veterans, to several thousands, many of them unskilled Blacks housed in compounds and living in very bleak conditions.

David Kennedy studied medicine in Scotland, but never completed his studies and did not become a doctor. He was an acquaintance of John Buchan (1875-1940), whom he met while salmon fishing in the river Tay, which flows past Stanley on its way to Perth and finally the sea. While living in the OFS David would not fish in the muddy waters of the Vals River and talked about the crystal-clear waters of the river Tay. Not much is known about the years when David left school and when he immigrated to South Africa, except that he worked in a butcher shop and became very proficient. His son Finlay recalled timing him when he slaughtered a sheep, skinned it and took out the insides in 13 minutes with no cuts on the inside of the skin.

As far back as the early twentieth century, mining magnates were well-aware of the existence of tuberculosis, silicosis and other dust-related occupational diseases, alas without ever considering preventive measures. As mining was (and still is) one of the most hazardous and unhealthy peacetime occupations, there was a high probability of a job waiting for David at one of the mines, or at the SAR & H; either in the medical field, or in one of the occupations requiring technical skills. Probably some of this came up in 1908, on the train from Cape Town, when a mine engineer from Klerksdorp, named Jack Scott, and an employee of the Vierfontein Coal Mine,^{xxi} persuaded David to change destination and to take the job of Medical Officer at the Mine. David agreed, informed his uncle and changed destination.

Shortly after arriving in South Africa, David added McLaren to his surname (he was an illegitimate son to Jane Kennedy, McLaren was presumably the name of his biological father in Perthshire). For an unknown reason he filed his birthdate as 3 August 1881, instead of 1877.^{xxii} Arriving at Vierfontein he started working at the coalmine as a Medical Officer. At the mine he would have learned mining skills that probably benefited him in later life, as he would later become a diamond digger during the depression and big drought.^{xxiii}

In 1908, six years after the Anglo-Boer War had ended, David would certainly have been among the advantaged in the system of a British, White minority ruling class. This was before the British handed South Africa “conditionally” back to the Afrikaners, when the two former Boer republics of the Transvaal and the OFS joined with the two former British colonies of the Cape and Natal to form the Union of South Africa in 1910. Three years after he had settled at Vierfontein, the new Union parliament passed legislation on mining, agriculture, and other industries. In 1911, the Mines and Works Act excluded Blacks from obtaining blasting certificates, getting educated and from performing skilled jobs on the mines. In 1913, legislation was further extended with the first Land Act, prohibiting inter-racial transfers of land. Blacks were not allowed to buy farms of Whites who had been ruined by the war, or whose families had been thinned out by the war, either in the field or in the British concentration camps. During David’s employment at the mine, Afrikaners experienced the mining industry as operated mainly in the interests of British and Jewish capitalists (even from abroad). Nonetheless the sustained discrimination between British and Afrikaner, the latter acquired the right (“divide and rule”) to protect themselves against competition from unskilled Blacks. The average White mineworker (British or Afrikaner) obtained a salary that was sixteen times that of the typical unskilled Black, which was yet not an entirely correct estimate as also food and accommodation (houses versus barracks) differed substantially, and this had its value too.

The mining industry with its migratory labour system, short-term contracts exclusively, and apartheid grew up together. Blacks were housed in large barracks, so-called compounds, because it was believed that this would prevent desertion, drunkenness and stealing. It did not prevent inter-tribal

aggression and fighting. Men were separated from their wives and children, which was thought to avoid permanent settlement of Blacks in supposedly “White” villages and towns. When the short-term contracts ended, Blacks returned to their rural homes, often infected with sexually transmittable conditions acquired from extramarital relationships, or pulmonary tuberculosis. Low wages were maintained throughout (by law, by the Chamber of Mines in 1900), with the clarification that the “homelands” of the Black were additional sources of income. When stepping from the train in Vierfontein, David probably unaware to its full extent, joined this system of the South African workforce. With skilled Whites at the top, semi-skilled and unskilled Whites in the middle, and unskilled Blacks at the lowest, the latter packed in compounds near the mine. Albeit Blacks were excluded by tradition and often also by law to perform skilled work, David was soon called “Baas Scotch” by them. He treated them well, he had learned to speak Fanakalo, the miners’ language, and he became much respected.^{xxiv} Many years later his son Finlay was working with the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association where thousands of mineworkers were registered daily, from all over Southern Africa. He became friendly with each mines’ African clerk who brought in the recruits. One of the clerks had known Baas Scotch in Vierfontein.



Figure 7. Barberpan #452 (red circle), Cadastral Map of Bothaville, 1913. The yellow arrow indicates the coal mine. Received from Busi Khangala (University of Cape Town Libraries).

Johanna Adriana Brits (1891-1974) had lost her mother at the age of ten, in 1903, shortly after the end of the Anglo-Boer War. She and her brother Michael were then cared for at the Dutch Reformed Church Orphanage in Vyfhoek (Potchefstroom). Johanna learned to sew, she had to dress and look

after the other orphans. Her father was a traveling peddler, known as a “smous” who could not look after such young children. He travelled around the Western Transvaal countryside with his donkey-drawn wagon often visiting relatives and friends. He said donkeys were better than horses because they did not suffer from horse sickness, which indeed was a problem in the veld those days. During the Anglo-Boer War, Johanna’s father had fought with the Boer forces of General Koos de la Rey. On her mother’s side, many of the de Beers too had fought and died in the conflict against the British, not only in combat, but also in the British concentration camps. Later, when she was a young woman, Johanna regularly travelled to the Vierfontein mine to visit her sister Martha, who was married to Daniel Burney, the coal mine manager. That is where she met David, the mine Medical Officer. David was 16 years her senior; perhaps the age difference was the motivation for incorrectly stating his age on the marriage certificate too? Despite the grudge against the British, ten years after her mother’s death, the “Afrikaner-Scottish” couple were married in Klerksdorp in December 1913, and moved to a rented farm at “Barberpan # 452”, less than four km north from Vierfontein.^{xxv} As David worked long days at the mine, it was mainly Johanna who effectively managed the farm, and very effectively, even breaking in the horses. Undoubtedly David’s previous work as a butcher in Scotland furnished him with useful skills for farm life. After six years of working at the mine, David left in 1914 and opened a general dealer’s shop at Groenfontein, which is just east of Vierfontein station.



Figure 8. Barberpan today. © Google Maps, June 2022.

- **How Nancy adopted the McLaren Kennedy’s**

Way back in the 17th century, an astonishing behaviour of springboks was observed, even reported. Travelers, adventurers and hunters observed massive migrations of springboks “always coming” north from the Great Karoo, where the animals lived by the tens of thousands on the plains, crossing and grazing hostile environments (in terms of extremes of heat, cold, drought and rains) barely survivable for humans.^{xxvi} The first eyewitness account of massive gazelle migrations dates from 1782. French hunter and ornithologist François Le Vaillant drove his cart along “les troupeaux innombrables” (the countless herds) and even after a whole day he was not able to estimate their

numbers.^{xxvii} In 1849 it took 3 days between the first springboks entering Beaufort West and the last ones to leave.^{xxviii}

Although “modern” springboks are typecast as highly energetic and swift prey animals, during these migrations they displayed an unexpected docile behaviour.^{xxix} Hunters could simply penetrate the silently moving mass and shoot springboks at random, and large predators followed along the edge of the herds attacking them. Nothing seemed to divert or to panic the springboks. Perhaps after the killing and isolation of countless springboks for more than a century, the remaining animals still harboured “big chunks of DNA” of their migrating ancestors, which may explain why so many “tame” springboks dwelled around the McLaren Kennedy’s farm.

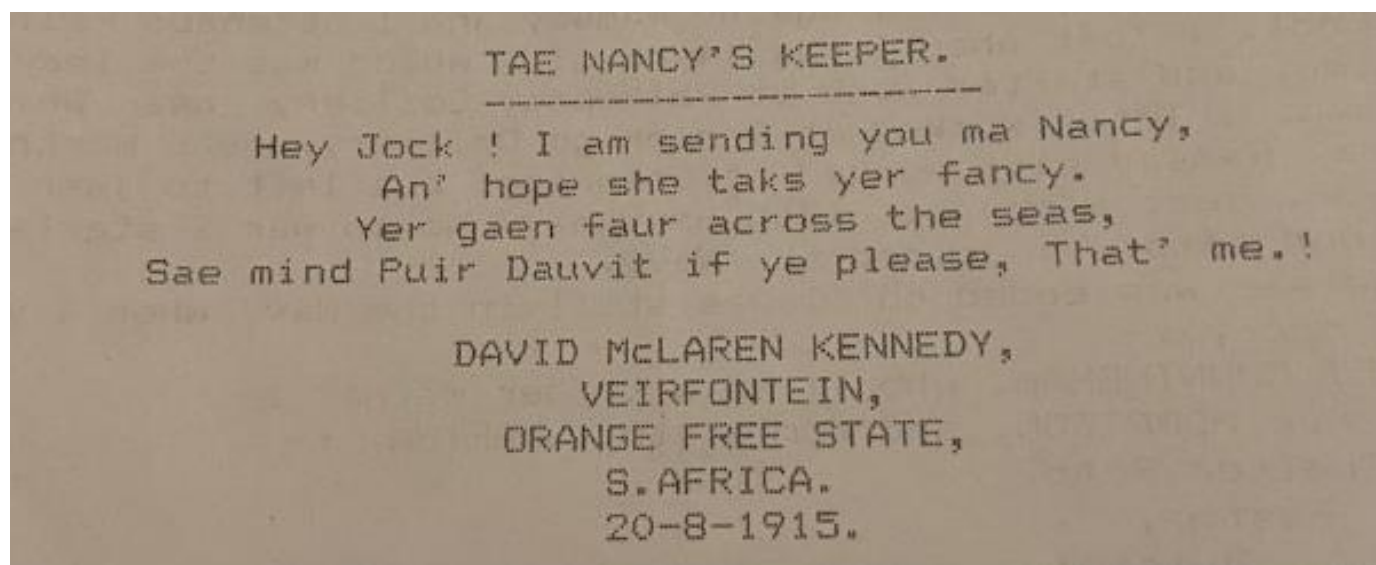


Figure 9. David McLaren Kennedy and his wife Johanna Adriana Brits. © Authors’ collection.

They named a very tame one that stayed around the house, Nancy. Without any encouragement of any sort, Nancy would follow David's cart spontaneously as he went to Groenfontein daily. She would run up and down the platform at the train station chasing the trains, and she would herself be chased by the dogs. David and Johanna could not control her, and Johanna then decided to present her to the South African Scottish (SAS) Regiment as a mascot. The First World War having broken out the SAS had been looking for a suitable mascot.

As aforementioned, John Buchan was an acquaintance of David. Buchan went to South Africa as a member of Alfred Milner's "Kindergarten" (1901).^{xxx} David and Johanna were also acquainted with (Honorary) Colonel William Dalrymple, ^{xxxi} the Scottish mining magnate, and his English theatre performer-singer wife Isabel Rayner, the equivalent of a "Hollywood Star" during the Belle-Epoque. ^{xxxii} David and Johanna named their 7th child (1928-living) Isobel Dalrymple McLaren Kennedy, which may be considered indicative of the level of mutual appreciation. With such prominent Scots behind the scenes, General "Tim" Lukin's telegram to Johanna "delighted with the offer, please bring her" was perhaps not that unprompted after all. ^{xxxiii}

As such, Nancy became the regimental mascot of the SAS (or 4th) Infantry Regiment in August 1915. ^{xxxiv} David loved to write poetry in Scottish and 20 August 1915 he wrote a poem "Tae Nancy's Keeper", to which he received a reply in verse, also in Scottish. Digby mentioned that Sir William Dalrymple had these poems among his private papers, and that they were given to The View after his death. One of Alfred Petersen's granddaughters (Andrea) mentioned that her father typed out the poems, because of the taxidermized Nancy on display here.



Right pleased I was tae get the beastie,
An' mony thanks is in ma breestie,
An' sir, ah'll no neglect ma duty,
Tae praise her for her grace an' beauty,
Mete emblem o' this sunny land,
Fit pet tae grace oor gallant band.
Ye may be sure ah'll no neglect her,
Wi kindly care I'll aye respect her.
She'll be ma first an' constant care,
an'dine upon the daintiest fare.
Wee bits o' grass an' heaps o' stibble
she'll aye hae plenty for tae nibble.
Nae matter whether here or France
We'll aye be proud o' oor wee Nance.!

Figure 10 a and b. Texts copied by Alfred Edmund Petersen's son. Kindly provided by Andrea Petersen.

- **Army Pipe Band**

"British" (i.e., English, Scottish, Irish, etc) Army Pipe Bands were established around the mid-1800s: Regimental pipers and drummers would play in concord during marches with the purpose to maintain a steady tempo and uphold the morale of the troops. The Head Piper became known as the Pipe Major (P/M). It was an appointment that could be accredited to any rank, including Ptes, which was a pragmatic way to attract and enlist experienced civilian musicians. Bagpipes were used as a motivational tool and as a means of creating fear among the enemy, hence they are often referred to as an instrument of war. Yet climbing over the parapet, unarmed, while handling an instrument that required the use of both hands came at a very high cost: pipe bands suffered the heaviest losses with a staggering mortality rate of 44%.



Figure 11. Over 1,000 pipers died during WW1. "I just played whatever came into my head, but I was worried about tripping on the uneven ground which interrupted my playing. The enemy fire was murderous, the men were falling around me. I was lucky to survive. Hearing the pipes gave the troops courage." (Piper Harry Lunan, the last surviving piper of WW1). © imagineantigonish.ca

Digby mentioned that Nancy was "under control" of P/M Donald Cameron and Drum-Major (D/Maj) Hadfield. Nancy's handler, twenty-year-old bugler Pte Alfred Edmund Petersen (1896-1959), a Witwatersrand Rifles' Veteran from Brandfort,^{xxxv} was assigned to D-Company when he enlisted in the SAS. A photograph of the Pipe Band taken in 1916 (with a doubtful caption), does however seem to concur with Nancy's alleged allocation within the SAS drums and pipes band. The picture must have been taken either before the horrendous battle of Delville Wood (starting 15 July 1916), or any later than 18 October 1916, because in between these dates' P/M Cameron, DCM, was convalescing from gun shot wounds in England. Somehow, the picture does not look like it has been taken on a (hot) summer day: D/Maj Hadfield wears gloves, the man on the left (Neil?) seems to wear stretchers under his kilt.

PIPE BAND, 1916.



BACK ROW : Left to Right, —NEIL, McNEIL, STRONG, COLLIER, ROWAT.
CENTRE ROW : Left to Right, —GRIEVE, Pipe-Major CAMERON, Lieut. BAYLY (Quartermaster),
HADFIELD, GORDON.
IN FRONT.—" NANCY " ; PETERSON.

Figure 12. RQM Lieutenant Zachary Booth Bayly seated in the center, on his right P/M Donald Cameron, DCM and P/M Alexander 'Sandy' Grieve. On his left D/Maj George Hatfield and C Gordon (invalided later in the war). Alfred is sitting next to Nancy. Received from Lieutenant Colonel Bob Wilmot (TSR)



Figure 13. SAS troopers cleaning and preparing their Lewis guns, 14 July 1916, Longueval sector.
© IWM Q4018

Albeit the presence of the Regimental (SAS) Quartermaster (RQMS), Lieutenant Zachary Booth Bayly, suggests where she really would have been during the actions of the SAS. Bagpipers and buglers had a significant role during combat. They led the men forward while playing, by sending signals, keeping order and maintaining the fighting spirit. It was unimaginable that Nancy, a slender animal – who had a main role leading parade – would have gone over the top too. Hence during action, she was kept in relative safety with the RQMS and the Transport Officer, who were mainly billeted together somewhat in the rear and away from the engaging Coys and the Battalion's HQ. Besides, buglers and pipers not only led the men over the parapet: during combat drummers and pipers could also serve in the ranks, or be employed as runners, carriers of stores or ammunition, or being assigned as stretcher-bearers, so it would have been impossible to keep Nancy in such a context. When the Germans advanced on the Cambrai front (there were two battles, one in 1917 and one in 1918, Sir Bruce Seton did not specify), at Houdincourt (Oise sector) the pipers were called upon to lay down their pipes and take up rifles. They had piled their pipes on the ground, but an incoming shell had them all destroyed.^{xxxvi} Drummers, buglers and bagpipers were part of the fighting order: some of them also earned the Victoria Cross, because they kept playing under heavy fire while being severely wounded, or because of exceptional heroism (e.g., George Findlater and William Kenny).

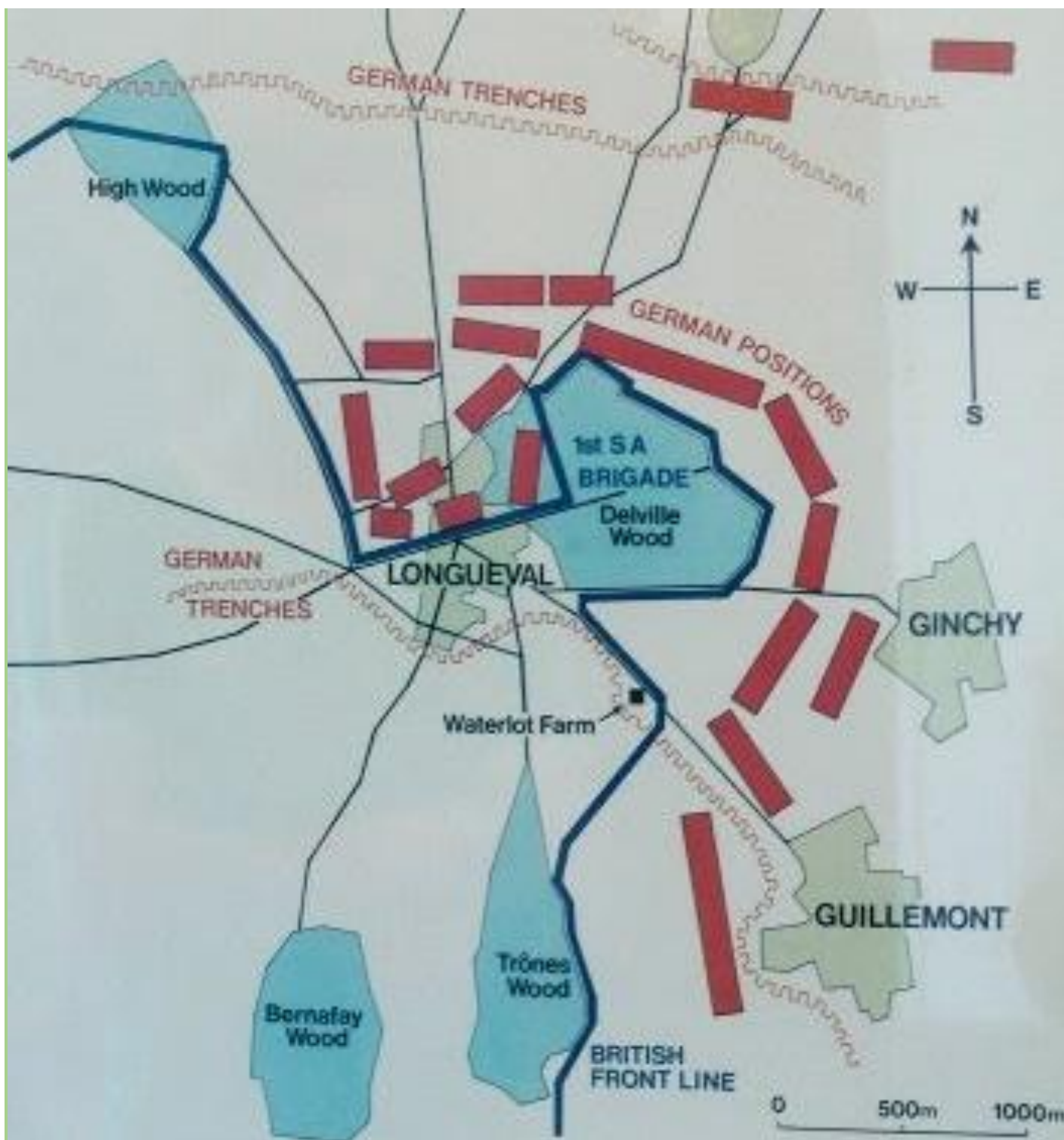


Figure 14. QMS, Reserve and Transport Lines were located southwest from Longueval, at Bernafay Wood and in the west along the Albert-Bapaume Rd (i.e., Warlencourt) during the Battle of Delville Wood. SAS CQMS Archibald Gray Short was killed here, on 19 July 1916. © Delville Wood Museum.

The Battalion's P/M Alexander 'Sandy' Grieve (i.e., the piper sitting on the left of P/M Cameron) seems to be the only one to have written history. Grieve and Cameron were the P/Ms of the SAS. Lieutenant Robert Brown Thorburn too formerly was a P/M of the SAS, but he was KiA on 15 July 1916 at Delville Wood. Digby mentioned P/M Sandy Grieve cautiously by remaining stingy with information about the man, although after his death in the late 1940s, Grieve's banner and pipes ended up in The View (where Digby was curator). It suggests that Digby probably was not fully

aware of Grieve's antecedents, or he found them irrelevant. Forty-five-year-old Black Watch Veteran (of the 2nd Battalion Highlander Brigade) Sandy, a blacksmith by trade, had fought in the second Boer war. During the horrendous battle of Magersfontein (1899), where the Black Watch suffered the most casualties of all the Imperial troops involved, Sandy's cheeks were pierced by a bullet. Nevertheless, he continued playing the bagpipes to encourage and inspire his fighting comrades who charged the Boer trenches. Alas, the underestimation of the entrenched Boer Forces of General Koos de la Rey and the own artillery mistakenly having engaged the Black Watch climbing the hill, led to the death of many among his comrades. Major General Andrew Gilbert Wauchope of the Black Watch was killed during the opening minutes of the battle, leaving his Highlanders leaderless. The Black Watch suffered severe losses and had to retreat to Modder River. Major General Hector MacDonald succeeded Wauchope, but this didn't prevent the Highlanders to once more suffer heavy losses, this time during the battle of Paardeberg (1900).

After the war, Sandy returned to Scotland. However, in 1907 Sandy accompanied by his wife and son, immigrated to SA, Cape Town. He enlisted in the SAS in August 1915 and was appointed as P/M of C-Coy. The story goes that on 20 July 1916 he played his 142 surviving comrades out of Delville Wood (Talus Boisé), through a guard of honour formed by the impressed British troops. Peter Dickens wrote that Brigadier Lukin then removed his cap to salute what was left of his Brigade, and wept. Sandy Grieve appears on the Delville Wood roll call as Pipe Corporal of the SAS C-Coy, according to Sir Bruce Seton he was the Battalion's P/M, together with Cameron.

Nancy led the Brigade's pipe band during the Delville Wood remembrance parade of February 1918, and she waited patiently while Sandy played the lament that he had composed for this ceremony.

Sandy, gassed in 1918, survived all ordeals and enlisted again as P/M at the start of World War Two. A year later, he was retired at the age of 70. Digby mentioned that Sandy's bagpipe, a special one with hall-marked silver and ivory mounts was donated to the TSR museum. Along with his embroidered pipe banner.



Figure 15. SAS Pipe and Drum Band, Sandy Grieve is pointed at with an arrow. © Wiki Commons.

Another Black Watch Veteran was P/M Donald Cameron (No 5785), DCM (Distinguished Conduct Medal), a gamekeeper living in Bulawayo, Rhodesia (today Zimbabwe). He was an immigrated Scot from Perthshire (just like David McLaren Kennedy), yet slightly younger than Sandy. He was forty-two when he joined the SAS. With almost eight years of active duty with the Black Watch before joining the SA Police and then the 1st TS Battalion for a couple of years, it is very well possible that Sandy and Donald had participated in the same battles during the Boer war. Donald's path was by far a walk in the park. He was wounded in action twice. On 18 July 1916, in Delville Wood, he was shot in the right hand and abdomen (wounds being recorded in his medical file as "Severe"), and once more in the upper arm on 16 April 1917, requiring surgery again. January 1918, he promoted to Acting Coy Sergeant Major (A/CSM). In March 1918 he was overthrown and buried by an explosion, which – according to him - left him with a permanent 20% hearing loss from both sides. The diagnosis of hearing loss was validated in 1919, by the medical board examining his invalidity (recorded on disability form "Z22"). With the explosion he went missing, but it turned out that he was taken prisoner and being detained in a German camp for PoW, first at Dülmen, then at Limburg an der Lahn (both are towns in Westphalia). It is unclear how he reappeared on the battlefield in May 1918, or was it "R4/9/1918", whatever the R4 might have meant.

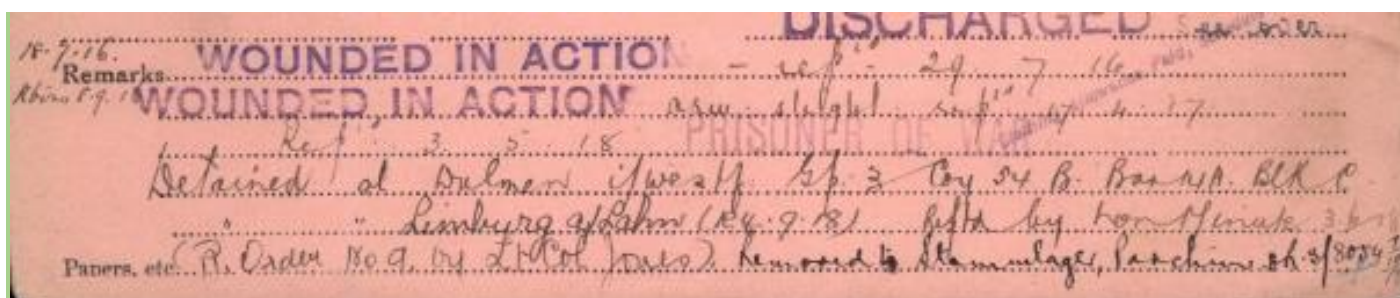


Figure 16. snippet from P/M Cameron's service records. Obtained from Dewald Nel

In the meantime, and over the few years in the SAS, Cameron had tested several times "++" on Wassermann tests.^{xxxvii} He had been treated "full course" (i.e., seven times) for syphilis with 3.75 gr of Novarsenobillon (Neosarsphenamine, Neosalvarsan), which would have been a strange way of recording things by Dr. Buchanan, RAMC, as seven times 0.45 g (the recommended dose) would equal 3.75. If Cameron would have received seven times 3.75 g of an arsenic drug, that would have been very unhealthy.^{xxxviii} He received an equal number of "Hg" (mercury) injections, as it was found that mercury salts, combined with Neosalvarsan, had a better effect in the treatment of syphilis. In 1884 it was discovered that bismuth salts were a better and safer chemotherapeutic. Despite bismuth salts then had become the cardinal compound in the treatment of syphilis, Soldiers continued to be treated with Hg salts. One of the problems with mercury is that it is corrosive for almost all living tissue and hence Cameron's deafness could have resulted from mercury-toxicity instead. The "Hg" in Cameron's medical record was followed by a dot, separating it from "Gr", the latter not being a chemical element. Nor could Gr stand for grams, because these were already abbreviated in the same note as "gms". Perhaps it simply meant "Group" referring to the bond with a halogen (chlorine) or the methyl or ethyl-prefix. It is also obvious that adrenaline was administered two times. Adrenaline protects against arsenic induced hemorrhagic encephalopathy, but this was for the first time suggested in 1959, so it is unclear why adrenaline was given to Cameron. Moreover, mercury inhibits the breakdown of intrinsic produced adrenaline, leading to adrenergic overstimulation. Its administration in case of a mercury-induced intoxication would simply kill the

poisoned patient. So, here are definitely some mysteries left about the medical records of P/M Donald Cameron, DCM, A/CSM.



Figure 17. Neoarsphenamine or Neosalvarsan. © collections.museumsvictoria.com.au

Sir Bruce Seton published an exhaustive list with all the names of the pipers of the SAS: P/M D Cameron, DCM, CSM; P/M A Grieve; LCpl R Hay; and the pipers T Scott (KiA Arras 9 April 1917), A Gray, MM, J Waterhouse, MM, J Matheson, DA Cummings, F Fraser, C Gordon (invalided), R Lindsay, M McNeil, J McCalman, J Munro (wounded October 1916, invalided), M and W Strang, G Collier, W Irons, - McGregor, - McColl, W Strang. Hence the caption of the 1916 picture here-above can be adapted to “Strong” has to be W or M Strang (there were two Strang’s), McNeil adding initial M, Collier adding initial G. Neil and Rowat did not appear on Seton’s list.

Perhaps the man with whom Nancy spent most of her time while the SAS was in the trenches, was RQMS Lieutenant Zachary Booth Bayly. He too is mentioned on the roll call of Delville Wood, indicating that Nancy – even if she was in the rear – must have sustained extreme stress caused by the ongoing German Feuerwalze (rolling barrage) of an intensity unseen before. Alas, though she and Bayly remained unscathed during the Delville Wood ordeal, the man reported frequently to the RMO, appearing to have an ill health. He was admitted into different hospitals, at least eight times with bronchitis, with pneumonia or with bronchiolitis. On 2 April 1919, in Bloemfontein, at the military base of Tempe (he had been sent back to SA in July 1917, from the Richmond Park SAMH), he was once more admitted with bronchitis, but two weeks later his condition had deteriorated to “dangerously ill”. He died from cardiac failure at the age of forty-three on 17 April 1919, also the first time that the diagnosis of pulmonary tuberculosis was mentioned. He left a wife behind, Louisa Agnes Maud Huntly, and he was buried at Rooidam military cemetery (Bloemfontein). Sandy Grieve too lived and died at Bloemfontein.

(Released Office)

Form of information of death.

Christian and Surname.....
 Number.....Rank.....Unit.....
 Address.....
 Name of Next of Kin.....
 Age.....Cause of death.....
 Date of Death.....Place of death.....
 Was the soldier killed in the performance of Military Duty, or did he
 die from disease or injuries received in the performance of Military

Figure 18. © southafricawargraves.org

Digby and the picture's caption above claimed that the Drum-Sergeant's name was Hadfield (without mentioning a first name). There were two Hadfield's in the SAI, Robert Kitchener Hadfield (No. 13332) and Samuel Hall (No. 16088). Robert was eighteen when he joined the SAI Brigade (1st Regiment) and Samuel thirty-eight (SAS). Both men were Ptes and their records do not mention an appointment as D/Maj. Moreover, both men enlisted in 1917: Robert in March and Samuel in May. Hence the man sitting at Bayly's left cannot be one of the Hadfield's.

Medical Case Sheet. 5773 D/Maj. Hatfield G., 4/S.A.I., Age. 29. Svce. 21/12.

P.O.U.O.

26.5.17. S.A. Mil. Hospital. Richmond.	3.5.17. Reported sick on Arras front. Transferred to Corps Rest Station at Savybouvelle, evacuated to 7th. Gen. Hosp (Canadian) Etaples where he was treated for ten days.
26.5.17.	Admitted S.A. Gen. Hosp, Richmond. Practically convalescent. Still complains of pain over shins. No temperature. Massage treatment ordered. 3.6.17 Slight rise of temperature, confined to bed. 13.7.17 Complete recovery.
17.7.17.	Discharged Class II.

(sd) A.F. de Waal. Capt. S.A.M.C.
 (sd) R.D. Parker.

E. N. Thornton
 LIEUT. COL. S.A.M.C.
 O.C. SOUTH AFRICAN HOSPITAL, RICHMOND PARK.

RICHMOND PARK
 17 JUL 1917
 SOUTH AFRICAN HOSPITAL

Figure 19. Medical record of D/Maj Hatfield mentioning Pyrexia of unknown origin (P(o)UO – later known as louse-born Trench Fever - as reason for admission. Obtained from Dewald Nel

However, there was an Irish born George John Alfred Hatfield (No 5773) from Dublin, appointed as D/Maj in the SAS, a twenty-eight-year-old barman when he joined the Brigade in September 1915. He had previously served three years with the Scots Guards, four years with the "PAG" (presumably the Prince Alfred Guards stationed in Port Elizabeth) ^{xxxix} and another three years with the 1st TSR, in other words he was an experienced Soldier waiting for a new mission. On 22 February 1918 he was posted to B-Coy as a Duty Sergeant, and relinquished the former appointment of D/Maj. His medical records revealed something extraordinary, perhaps worthy a review of modern medical literature. On 3 May 1917 he reported sick on the Arras front, with fever, headache, debilitating dizziness, lumbago and painful shins.

RAMC Major John Graham was the first doctor who described the above-mentioned clinical tableau observed in Infantry Soldiers in Flanders in June 1915. This new disease seemed to be related with life in the trenches, hence it was soon called Trench Fever, but also PUO because between its first eruption in the summer of 1915 and Hatfield's admission in the 7th Canadian General Hospital at Etaples, no one had a clue what was the causative agent. P(o)UO was short for Pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin. More than one million Soldiers were affected by PUO, each individual Soldier was hospitalized, convalescent and unfit for about sixty days. Hence PUO was a serious concern to Army Command. In 1918 it was established that the disease was louse-borne and in 1920 the causative bacterium was identified, *Rickettsia quintana*, later renamed *Bartonella quintana*. Now what is interesting is that modern medical literature reiterates that PUO is an acronym that was first coined by RG Petersdorf and PB Beeson in 1961. Hatfield's medical sheets indicate that Medical Officers used the PUO-acronym more than four decades earlier to describe a condition that would become known as Trench Fever.

George Hatfield was one of the survivors of Delville Wood, he came out of the wood unscathed, but he was one of the fifteen SA Killed in Action (KiA) on 19 July 1918. Among 74 others killed that day, during the recapture of Meteren (France). After thirteen years of combat, this Soldier's life had ended.



O R 42890

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.
UNIE VAN ZUID-AFRIKA.

IMPERIAL SERVICE CONTINGENTS.
IMPERIALE DIENST KONTINGENTEN.

DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS,
VERDEDIGINGSHOOFDKWARTIER.

PRETORIA, 1st. August, 1915.

**CERTIFICATE.
CERTIFIKAAT.**

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that it has been officially reported that
HIERMEDE WORDT GECERTIFICEERD dat er ambtelik bericht is

ontvangen dat

No. 5773 (Rank) SERGEANT
No. (Rang)

(Name) GEORGE HATFIELD
(Naam)

of the 4TH. SOUTH AFRICAN INFANTRY
van het

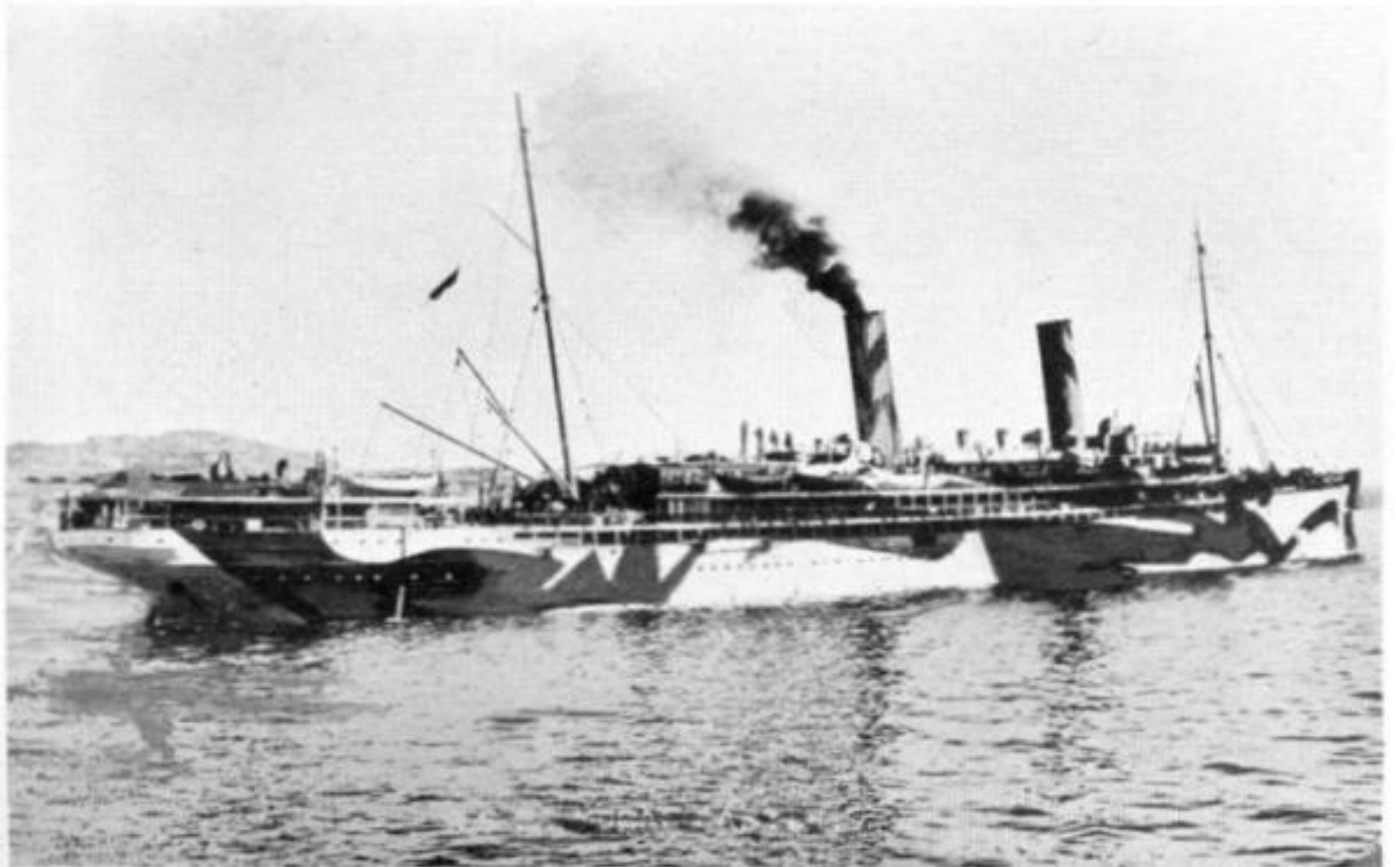
WAS KILLED IN ACTION

Figure 20. Hatfield's death certificate. Obtained from Dewald Nel

This section might be considered questionable qua relevance. However, the purpose of this paragraph is to honour a few of the men known to have been quite often with – or even responsible for – Nancy.

- **The last Farewell: the beginning and the end**

Early September, the SAS was ordered to entrain for Cape Town, from where the Regiment would set sail for Service overseas. Before that, the troops had embarked on the HMT Balmoral Castle, a Union-Castle mail steamship. Johanna was invited to Potchefstroom to say farewell to Nancy. Fifty-five years later, she and Nancy would meet again. It was the only and also the last time that Johanna saw Nancy back again: nine months later she would unexpectedly die of a heart-related condition.



Nautical Photo Agency

WAR-PAINT IN 1918. *BALMORAL CASTLE*
In her uniform of 'dazzle'

Figure 21. The HMT Balmoral Castle. © Bandcstaffregister.com



Figure 22. Johanna meeting Nancy for the first time at the SANWM (1970). Nine months later Johanna would unexpectedly die of a heart-related condition. © Harry Zeederberg, Popularity (June 1970).

From August 1915 onward Nancy experienced most of the action that the SAS had to endure, first in Egypt where she disappeared for several days, until the very last day of the war at the Western Front. When she heard the guns fire for the first time, she allegedly ran into a wall of the RQM Store (of Quartermaster Bayly?) and she broke her left horn irreparably.^{xl} When Nancy had died, two weeks after the armistice, Sir William Dalrymple was the first one informed from within the church of Hermeton, by the temporary CO, Major Claude Melville Browne. Taxidermized and mounted, Nancy remained for decades at “Glenshiel” mansion, the Dalrymples’ Westcliff home in Johannesburg – most likely until Sir Dalrymple had succumbed to a stroke, and the mansion was sold in the early 1940s.^{xli}



Figure 23. Glenshiel Mansion, from 1919 to the early 1940s Nancy's home. © Wiki Commons.

Lady "Dal" (Isabel Rayner) died at the age 66 - on 30 December 1938, at Norman Nursing Home (Johannesburg). Her death certificate mentions that she suffered pancreatic cancer for a year, with metastasis in the omenta and the brain. The Stirlingshire-born Colonel died three years later, ten days after he suffered from a cerebral hemorrhage (stroke) at his mansion. His death certificate mentions that he suffered arterio-sclerosis and diabetes mellitus for at least a decade. There is no reason (or indication) to assume that he would have moved Nancy from Glenshiel to the Drill Hall prior to his (acute) death. On the contrary, posing on her tiny legs, Nancy was probably a remembrance of happier, radiant and more adventurous times. Worth mentioning is that Sir Dalrymple, being a dignitary - undoubtedly met the springbok on 26 August 1917, when the Brigade was stationed at Trescault (France), some 70 km south from Le Bizet. Accompanied by Brigadier Frederick Stuart Dawson (former Lieutenant Colonel of the SAS), Dalrymple visited the SAS Regiment, and went into the trenches, while the back areas at "Cozy Copse" were heavily shelled. Nevertheless, Dalrymple insisted on personally emptying a Lewis Gun towards the enemy trenches.^{xlii}



Figures 24 a, b, c and d: from left to right: Lady Isabel Dalrymple-Rayner (1872-1938), Honorary Colonel William Dalrymple (1864-1941); Major General Henry Timson Lukin (1860 – 1925), and Brigadier Frederick Stuart Dawson (1873-1920). © Wiki Commons.

Dawson would be captured a half year later, on 24 March 1918, at 16.15 pm to be more precise. The Battle at Marrières Wood lasted for nearly eight hours and the number of casualties among the 1st and 2nd SAI, with remnants of the SAS, was so high that the 1st ceased to exist that day.^{xliii} P/M Cameron had been overthrown by the explosion of an incoming shell and was buried under the mud. He too was captured by the Germans (of the 9th Reserve and 199th Divisions) and transported to a PoW camp in Westphalia, along with Dawson and 98 others (of the 500 before the battle begun). In other words, the Brigade had suffered two dead or wounded per three troopers and ran completely out of ammunition. Left with nothing else but their bayonets, against three fresh enemy battalions, their trench mortars and machine guns, the SA surrendered. Remarkably, and despite the high number of casualties, the Battle of Marrières Wood has the connotation of being the “Forgotten Battle of the SA”.

Of the picture quartet here above, Dawson was the youngest to die. While on campaign in Tanzania, he succumbed to typhoid fever in 1920, he was aged forty-six. Major General Tim Lukin suffered stomach cancer and died 5 years later. He was sixty.

John Buchan included a picture of Nancy (taken during the Remembrance Parade at Delville Wood, February 1918) in his epic on the SA Brigade in France, of which he sent a signed copy to David.

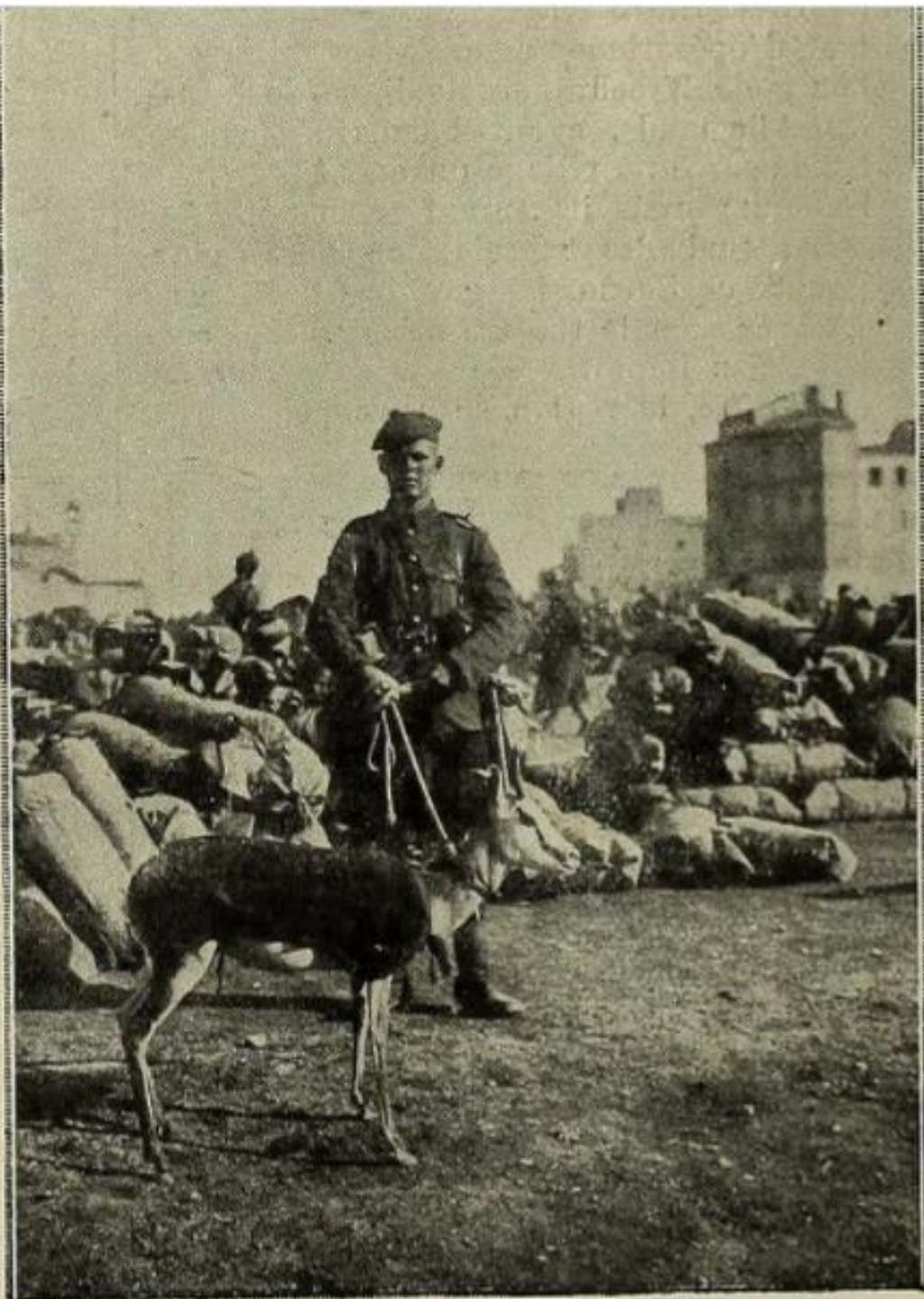


Figure 25. John Buchan's reference to Nancy. Note the inadequacies in the picture's caption (Driefontein? Wounded in 1917? Hermeton unspecified). © John Buchan, *the History of the SA Forces in France* (1920).

- **A Springbok wearing a tartan coat of the Murray clan of Atholl**

Although springboks do seem to thrive within the spectrum of extreme heat and subzero temperatures,^{xliv} to protect Nancy from the cold, she wore a tartan coat of the Murray Clan of Atholl.^{xlv} It is questionable whether in the arctic temperatures of 1917, or the rain and the snow of the average winters at the northern Western Front, this coat sufficed.^{xlvi} That precautionary measures to keep her warm were secondary to symbolism is apparent from iconic photographs and an IWM moving image taken on 17 February 1918 at Delville Wood.^{xlvii} Nancy was for hours left fully exposed to the arctic cold of the winter that year, the coldest one in seventy-five years,^{xlviii} while her handler, Alfred Edmund Petersen (1896-1959), was dressed in warm garments including thick gloves.^{xlix}

Since Nancy entrained at sunny Marseille 8 May 1916, the constant strain and in Major Browne's opinion, the third winter in the icy, snowy or drizzly Ardennes became too much to bear for the young springbok.¹



La gazelle-mascotte du régiment écossais
de l'Afrique du Sud.

Figure 26. There are at least five different pictures taken of an unidentified, blond-haired Buck Major, holding Nancy. © Studio Meurisse, L'Illustration (May 1916)



Figure 27. Nancy with the broken horn, picture taken with the QM's staff. Petersen is sitting on his heels. © Harry Zeederberg, Popularity (June 1970).

World War One might have come at a heavy price to her “first” handler too. There was – undeniably - this unidentified, blond Soldier with whom Nancy was clearly connected, factually more frequently than with Alfred Petersen (who was darkhaired).

Both Alfred Petersen and the unidentified Buck Major, were photographed holding Nancy after they had landed in Marseille, but Alfred can be seen in only one picture, while there are at least five surviving photographs of Nancy with the unidentified man (at the docks and parading through the streets). From today's perspective, a straightforward explanation is that Alfred simply asked a fellow-Trooper to hold Nancy, so that he could take a picture of them. Or perhaps Nancy and the unidentified Buck Major were photographed on a moment that Alfred was not around for whatever reason. But Alfred could not have left a marching column, simply to get aside to take pictures, it would never have been allowed to break a marching military column. Moreover, there is no ground to even consider such possibility, because the pictures of the unidentified Soldier and Nancy were taken by French photographer(s) from the Photo Studios Meurisse and Llorca, for among others, postcards and journals called L'Illustration, and L'Image de la Guerre.ⁱⁱ





... DÉBARQUENT CHAQUE JOUR A MARSEILLE



La « Gazelle fétiche » d'un régiment sud-africain

Chaque régiment colonial britannique a, comme eux, un animal sacré. Voici une légère gazelle qui partage les joies et les peines d'un régiment sud-africain mais qui surtout est l'idole des joyeux Tommies.



Pendant le défilé des troupes sud-africaines

Nos amis sud-africains n'auront pas été moins fêtés que leurs frères d'armes russes, par nos enthousiastes compatriotes du Midi.



Figures 28, 29, 30 and 31. Nancy during the Marseille defile, tethered to the unidentified Buck Major. © L'Image de la Guerre, L'Illustration, Llorca, Albert Moreau of the section photographique de l'armée (SPA) and Studio Meurisse (May 1916).

The few pictures taken in 1917-1918, during the Delville Wood parade and at unknown locations (with her left horn in a downward angle), do not display the blond, unidentified Buck Major anymore. These pictures (and the IWM movie of the Delville Wood Remembrance Parade) all show Alfred holding Nancy.

In fact, there are three different settings in which Nancy was photographed, retrospectively they all had their particular significance. The Delville Wood symbolism is obvious, even if Nancy most likely was in the company of the RQMS and transport lines in 1916. It wouldn't have made a big difference though where exactly south of Longueval she was. Between 14 and 20 July, the chances to survive this ordeal would have been slim anyway. Secondly, the reason (connection) that she was photographed in front of the bagpipers, and with the RQMS Staff as well, is because she was, similar to for instance a Welsh Regimental goat, under control of the D/Maj and P/M, obtaining her food rations from the QMS. The latter is logical, a goat - and consequently a springbok also - would have been tethered where the fodder for the horses was kept.

There are no pictures of the unidentified Buck Major, other than those taken at Potchefstroom and Marseille, where the man was undeniably predominantly present. If it were not for a single photograph featuring Alfred Petersen, during the “Marseille sports”, his association with Nancy could have been considered as surrogate, secondary, dating from a later period, a replacement of the blond-haired handler. The latter might have been killed early in the war, or he became too severely wounded to resume combat sometime later during the war.



Figure 32. The only picture (thus far) of Bugler Alfred Petersen with Nancy (the man holding Nancy), leading the Drums and Pipes Band during the “Marseille sports” (May 1916) © TSR, via Digby’s Pyramids & Poppies.

• The Boy Soldiers

Nancy’s unidentified handler, the man from Potchefstroom and Marseille, appeared to have had an “average” size (the average size of British Soldiers was 5’7.5” or 170cm in 1914).ⁱⁱⁱ In all pictures, although he was wearing a Tam o’Shanter, he was clearly light blond, in other words, he was not Alfred Petersen with certitude. The blond man had the rank of Private (Pte), his outfit and his P-08 webbing kit didn’t bear any distinctive material (e.g., bugle), other than “fighting order” Infantry equipment (i.e., an entrenching tool and first line ammunition scales in bulging pouches).

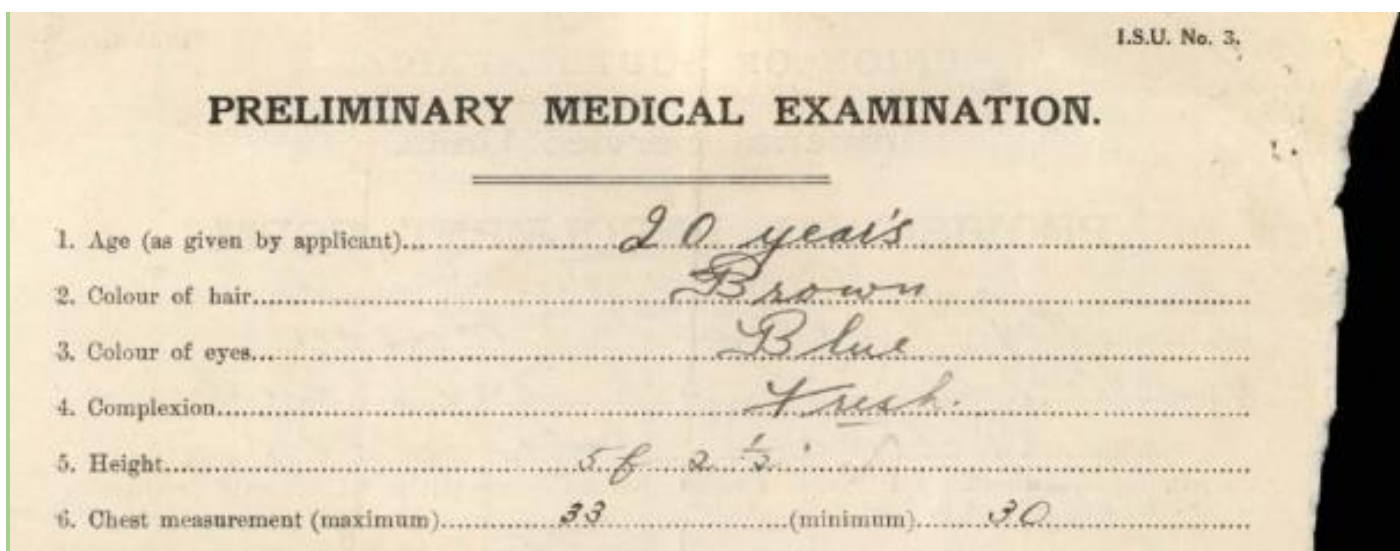


Figure 33. the unidentified blond-haired Buck Major. © Albert Moreau (SPA).

Alfred Petersen on the contrary, was a short man (5'2.5" or 158,75 cm), what the BEF called a Bantam size (or category). Especially in the IWM motion picture, while he was leading the Pipes and Drums Band, his short stature in front of the bagpipers and drummers is obvious. In fact, Alfred was too short to serve in the British (or Dominion) Army. In a second medical record however, he appeared to have gained a ½ inch. It mentioned that he measured 5'3" (160 cm), which conveniently was the minimal requirement regarding height. Besides being short and having a too limited chest expansion, Alfred had distinctive protruding ears and he was darkhaired. In other words, he was

easily recognizable in photographs. All known authors who published about Nancy, have failed to quote that there was at least one other Buck Major – initially - involved with Nancy’s daily care. We hope that we honour the “lost Soldier” this way.

But maybe the “lost Soldier” was not severely wounded, maybe he did not die, maybe he was simply too solid for the job of Buck Major. Is it conceivable that Alfred had been appointed as Buck Major because of his boyish appearance?



I.S.U. No. 3.

PRELIMINARY MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

1. Age (as given by applicant)..... 20 years

2. Colour of hair..... Brown

3. Colour of eyes..... Blue

4. Complexion..... Fresh.

5. Height..... 5 ft 2 1/2 in

6. Chest measurement (maximum)..... 33 (minimum)..... 30

Figure 34. Alfred Petersen’s preliminary medical examination record (Drill Hall, 5 August 1915). His height and chest measurement were below the minimal requirements for enlistment. Obtained from Dewald Nel.

When there was a Regimental goat involved, until the second Anglo-Boer War, historically an enlisted boy entrant (a bugler was the most pragmatic choice) was appointed as Goat Major.^{liii} This was not a rank, it was an appointment - open to all ranks. The human-animal interface was based on the boy’s responsibility and the goat’s welfare. It was a full-time role to exercise, feed, groom and train the goat on a daily basis, marching on parade and becoming accustomed to the terrible noise (from the goat’s perspective) produced by regimental bands and drums. In fact, the boy, a Cadet, was appointed as animal handler, responsible for the training, accommodation, general care and wellbeing of the goat, including to call a Veterinary Officer when veterinary attention was indicated. After the Anglo-Boer War, Cadets (enlisted boys whose underage had not been concealed) simply could not accompany or fight anymore with campaigning Forces. They had to remain at the Brigades’ or Regimental Bases, Depots or HQ in Britain. There are surviving pictures of Cadet-Buglers handling a regimental mascot.



Figure 35. Boy Cadet-Bugler (1903), responsible for the regimental dog "Sausage". © Cristina Broom nee Livingstone (1864-1935), received from GWF member "Frogsmile".

The goats too (or any exotic animal, such as a lion, a bear, a tiger or a kangaroo) were not expected to go into action with the Regiment anymore, although there were some “circumstantial” exceptions.^{liv} From 1915 onwards, Regimental goats were supposed to remain at the Base and to lead parades (at the occasions of galas, celebrations and regimental dinners). Fully dressed up, they were routinely presented to visiting dignitaries, mostly alongside the farrier and held by the Drum Major.^{lv} The few goats that – nonetheless - had accompanied their troops (instead of being left at the Base in Britain), were kept at the relative safety of the Battalion’s administrative office during action, or at the transport lines (where the fodder was kept) and the office or store of the RQMS (who decided on the food ration). Nevertheless, several of these goats “in action” succumbed, from stress-related disease or veterinary conditions resulting from campaigning, such as an inadequate fulfillment of dietary needs.^{lvi}

Although it is arguable whether Nancy was the SA equivalent of a Welsh goat, to respect or fall in line with the British doctrine for a Colonial Force forged and led by Scots, if the SAS opted for a springbok instead of a goat, then a (Spring) Buck Major was required.

Alfred Petersen (No 186) joined the SAS at the age of twenty. He was with certainty not among the youngest of the SA Forces, but as aforementioned, he was boyish small. Both his height and maximum chest expansion were below minimum “British” army requirements. Nonetheless he was enlisted as Pte. Consecutive documents mentioned his rank of Bugler. Although it could not have been established right away that Alfred would be appointed as the “Buck Major”, because Nancy had not joined the Force yet on 5 August 1915. But if the SAS lacked a “real” boy (Cadet) among its volunteers when Nancy arrived at Potchefstroom, and the requirement was to appoint a “boyish” Bugler as Buck Major, then Alfred from Brandfort maybe came into the picture as the man with the right appearance.

Before enlisting the SAS, Alfred had served with the Witwatersrand Rifles for eleven months. He was a hardened Veteran and had been treated for a wound on the right hip for almost a month at the Infirmary of the “Wit Rifles”. Hence, Field Marshall “Frogsmile” – a Great War Forum authority, rather believes that pragmatism to find a suitable role for a diminutive man (with a wound while enlisting) overruled any attempt to emulate the appearance of a Cadet Buck Major. Under the given circumstances during his enlistment, Alfred would probably have been considered to fragile with full marching order equipment at scale, hence he was appointed as Bugler, replacing the blond Buck Major. Apart from anything else the SAS were an auxiliary unit on wartime service. It probably had not steeped into the cultural protocols of the British Regular Army. It is doubtful that Alfred would have been selected purely because he had the stature of a boy. It would have been more that he would have struggled to carry boxes of grenades or spare ammunition magazines for the Lewis Gun. It would rather seem that in him the perfect square peg for the square hole represented by the need for a suitable handler to look after the iconic mascot, was found. His prior military experience would also have given him a sense of the responsibility that his role entailed.

1061
9
Group Vh

VOTE NO. 1061
Voucher No. 4

7139-10/11/17-200,000

D.D. 188.

Name Petersen Alfred Edmund Reg. No. 1861 Unit S A I

Joined 28-15-1 Rank Bugler Rate of Pay.....

Allotment: Amount £ 5 per diem.

Name of Payee Catherine Peterson Relationship to Soldier Mother

Address of Payee 70 St John St Bloemfontein

3. What is your age? ... 20 years ...

4. What is the full name and address of your next-of-kin? (mother) Mrs Catherine Peterson
70 St John St Bloemfontein

5. What is your profession, trade, or occupation?... Telephone Linesman

6. Are you married or single? ... Single ...

7. If married, how many children have you under the age of 16? None

8. Have you any person (other than wife or children) wholly dependent on you, if so who are they and where do they reside? None. Mother partly dependent address as (4)

9. Are you willing to be vaccinated or revaccinated? Yes

10. Are you now serving in any unit of the Union Defence Force, if so which? No

11. Have you previously served in any military force, and if so what are the particulars of such service? 11 months Wit Rifles

Figure 36 a and b. Alfred Petersen enlistment and military history records, mentioning that he was born in Brandfort (OFS), he was single (in December 1915) and his mother Catherine nee Marais (1862-1925), living in Bloemfontein, was his only next of kin and partially dependent on him. Obtained from Dewald Nel.

Less than two weeks after his discharge from the "10th Infirmary" of the Wit Rifles, Alfred enlisted in the SAS – still having the wound on his hip. His enlistment record from the Drill Hall mentioned that he was a telephone lines man, and he was appointed to D-Company.

Description of Alfred Edmund Petersen on Enlistment.

1. Apparent age 21 years
(To be determined according to the instruction given in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.)

2. Height 5 feet 3 inches.

3. Weight lbs.

4. Chest measurement { Minimum 34 inches.
Maximum expansion 39 inches.

5. Complexion Tan

6. Eyes Blue

7. Hair Brown

8. Religious denomination — Church of England.....
Dutch Reformed.....

9. Distinctive marks, and marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease.
Wound on right hip

Yes

Figure 37 a and b. Record indicating that Alfred had grown with ½ inch when he was twenty-one. Obtained from Dewald Nel.

While campaigning in Egypt, begin March 1916, Alfred was admitted with dysentery at the Stationary Hospital No 16 (Marsa Matruh) where he was treated for three weeks. There is no mentioning of Nancy during this hospitalisation.

Contradictorily, while retreating from Basseije, when Albert Marr pleaded with a Veterinary Officer to save his monkey, he was crying his eyes out that Jackie had saved his life in Egypt, nursing him through dysentery. Since bacillary and amoebic dysentery are highly contagious conditions with large scale outbreaks, the chances that Alfred and Albert (along with his baboon) were at the same hospital at the same time, are real. ^{lvii}

a relief. It was a pathetic sight; the little fellow, carried by his keeper, a corporal, lay moaning in pain, the corporal crying his eyes out in sympathy. 'You must do something for him, he saved my life in Egypt, he nursed me through dysentery'. It seemed that the baboon was a most intelligent

Figure 38. Woodsend's article on Jackie the Baboon, suggesting that Nancy and Jackie are perhaps better not considered as two unconnected mascots. Reality was that they shared most of the Brigade's experiences, separated by only a few hundred meters from each other. © Authors' collection.

After Nancy's death at Hermeton s/Meuse, Alfred's medical records shortly after the end of the war further disclosed that he suffered from scabies and impetigo (a secondary skin infection caused by staphylococci or streptococci), requiring ninety days of hospitalisation in total. First, he presented to the 1st SAFA (December), from where he was transferred to Casualty Clearing Station No 48. Five days later he ended up at the General Hospital No 25, from where he boarded the HS Jan Breydel to Dover.^{lviii} He was first admitted at the SA Military Hospital in Richmond Park; and after that for more than two months at Richmond's "Red X HP" ("SA Military" and "Park" were barred from the stamp), from where he was discharged "Class 1". Originally Red X HP was a Union Workhouse erected in Grove Road (west of, and adjacent to Richmond Park) in 1787 "by the munificence of His Majesty George the III for the use of the poor of Richmond and Kew".^{lix} An infirmary and an institution "for lunatics and disorderly persons" was added later. By July 1918 and since the hospital was treating mainly SA casualties (wounded and sick), it amalgamated with its neighbour, the SAMH. While at the "Red X" (i.e., Red Cross) HP (at the time the shorthand for "Hospital"), he was transferred to Tidworth Military Hospital (about 100 km southwest from London), for "routine Sulphur treatment" during a week.

Alfred married Scottish Jane Cunningham (from Fauldhouse), during his hospitalization at Red X HP. Despite that our research resulted in making contact with two of his granddaughters (Jan and Andrea Petersen), very little is known of "Wee Alfie", except that he was an electrician and that he died at the age of 63 in Leicestershire. As far as Andrea knows Alfred met Jane through his friend Harry Nichols. Jane went to SA from Scotland to stay with her maternal aunt Jane (Jean) Nichols, nee Cunningham, who had emigrated with her husband. Harry was their son. It is not known whether Harry and Alfred knew each other before they joined up, or if they met during the war. Alfred and

Jane were married in Scotland, at Linlithgow, about 18 km north of Fauldhouse. At the time, Alfred was still being treated at Grove Road Hospital (i.e., Red X HP) for his skin disease. After his discharge from the hospital, he was transferred to A-Coy for the remainder of his service.

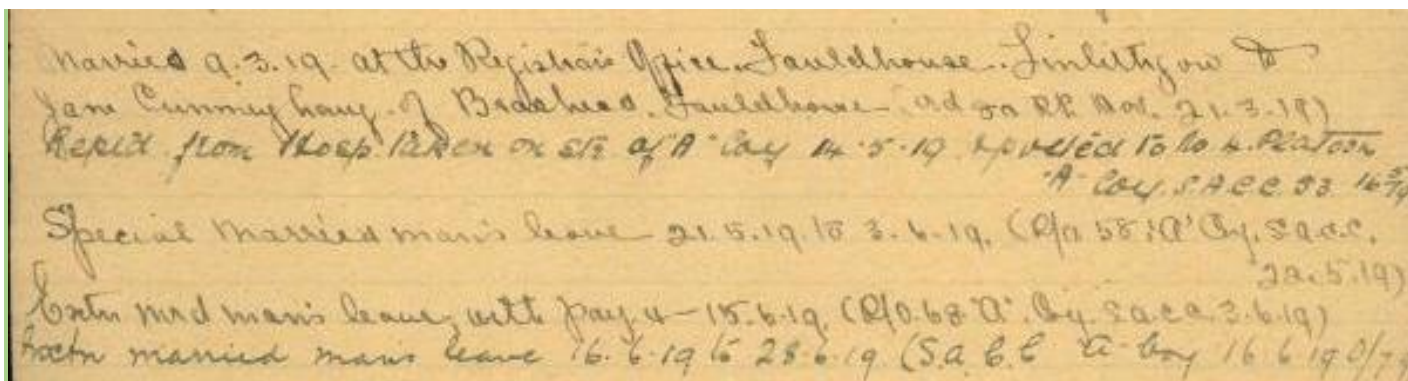


Figure 39. records showing that Alfred and Jane were married during his hospitalisation at Grove Road Hospital (Richmond). Nine months later Andrew, their first son, was born. Obtained from Dewald Nel.

On 24 August 1919, Alfred had his official address (on two records preceded by "C/O") at Johannesburg, although Andrea's father Andrew was born (in 1919) in Pietermaritzburg, which is almost 500 km south from Johannesburg. When demobilizing, Alfred registered two different addresses, one in Dunbar Street and one in Marshall Street (26 July 1919): the significance or reason for this is unidentified. On 10 November 1919, a record stamped "War Gratuity Paid", signed by the Base Paymaster Wynberg, mentioned this was fulfilled and registered at Kroonstad. Maybe this has no meaning as such, because all troops also demobilized at Maitland Camp (Cape Town), which has no "indicative" meaning either.

At Pietermaritzburg, some of the railway cottages - where Andrew was born, are still on Prince Alfred Street. The couple also had a second son, Ramsay, but he was born in Fauldhouse (where the couple had been married) in 1922, indicating that – at least Jane – had returned to Scotland.

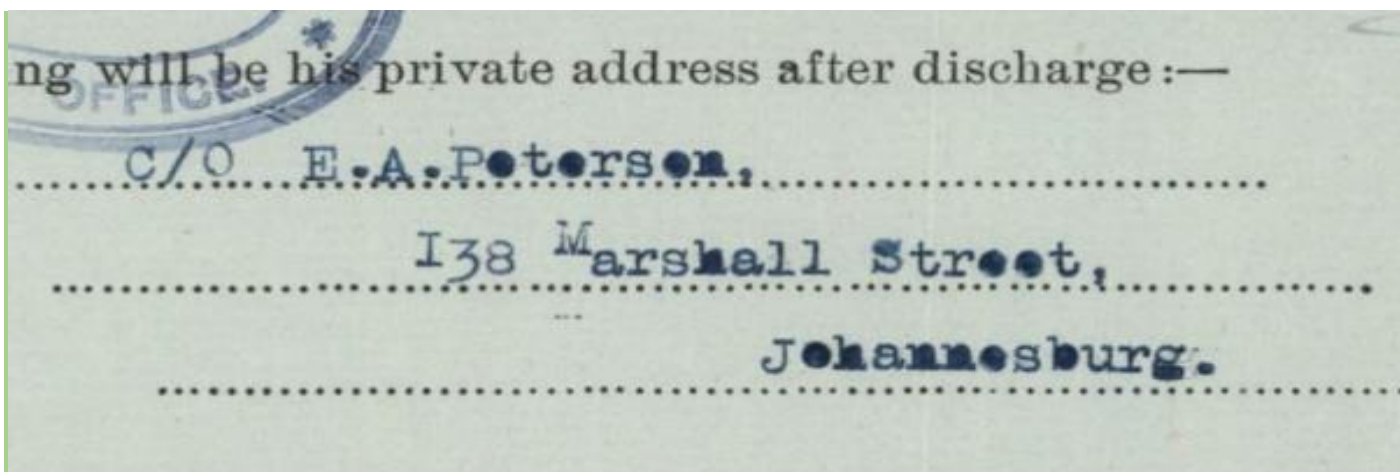


Figure 40. One of the two addresses in Johannesburg that Alfred had communicated when demobilizing. Maybe the couple had moved to a new home in Prince Alfred Street at Pietermaritzburg short after the end of July 1919. Obtained from Dewald Nel.

Alfred had been married for a rather short time to Jane Cunningham, perhaps five or six years (no information available). Jane had a hard life and brought up Andrew and Ramsay with very little means. Andrea believes that Jane found out about Alfred's new relationship through an anonymous letter, which was – of course – very painful.

Alfred's conduct during war time had been recorded as "very good".

No.	<u>186</u>	RANK	<u>Private</u>
NAME	<u>PETERSEN, Alfred, Edmond, ..</u>		
UNIT	<u>4th. S.A. Infantry</u>		
DATE OF DISCHARGE	<u>24th. August 1919</u>		
DISCHARGE CARRIED OUT AT	<u>Maitland, Cape</u>		
FINAL DESTINATION	<u>Johannesburg.</u>		
(1) The above-named is discharged in consequence of:—.....			
.....			
..... <u>DEMOBILISATION</u>			
.....			
(2) Military Character.... <u>VERY GOOD</u>			
(3) Service..... <u>FOUR</u> Years..... <u>TWENTY</u> Days.			

Figure 41. Alfred's demobilization record (August 1919). Obtained from Dewald Nel.



Figure 42. Alfred Edmund Petersen and Jane Cunningham at their marriage, 9 March 1919 (Fauldhouse, Scotland). Received from granddaughter Andrea Petersen.

- **Antidorcas Marsupialis**

Obviously, Nancy looked like a springbok antelope, most likely the South African subtype.^{lx} The white rump flap which is characteristic for *Antidorcas marsupialis* (alias the springbok) can be seen on several surviving high-quality pictures of Nancy.^{lxi} This seems worth mentioning as some authors still believe that Nancy was a Thomson's gazelle.^{lxii}

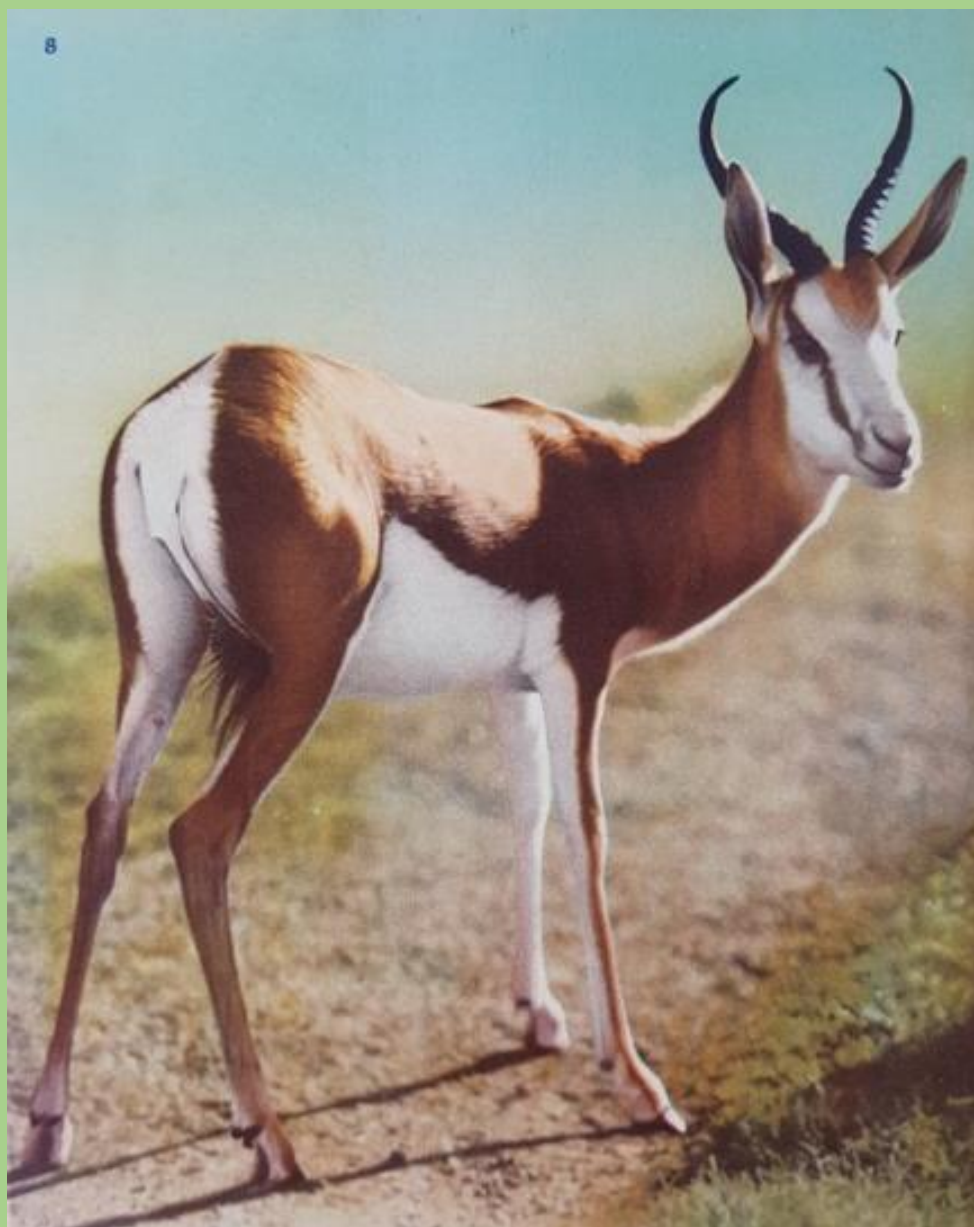


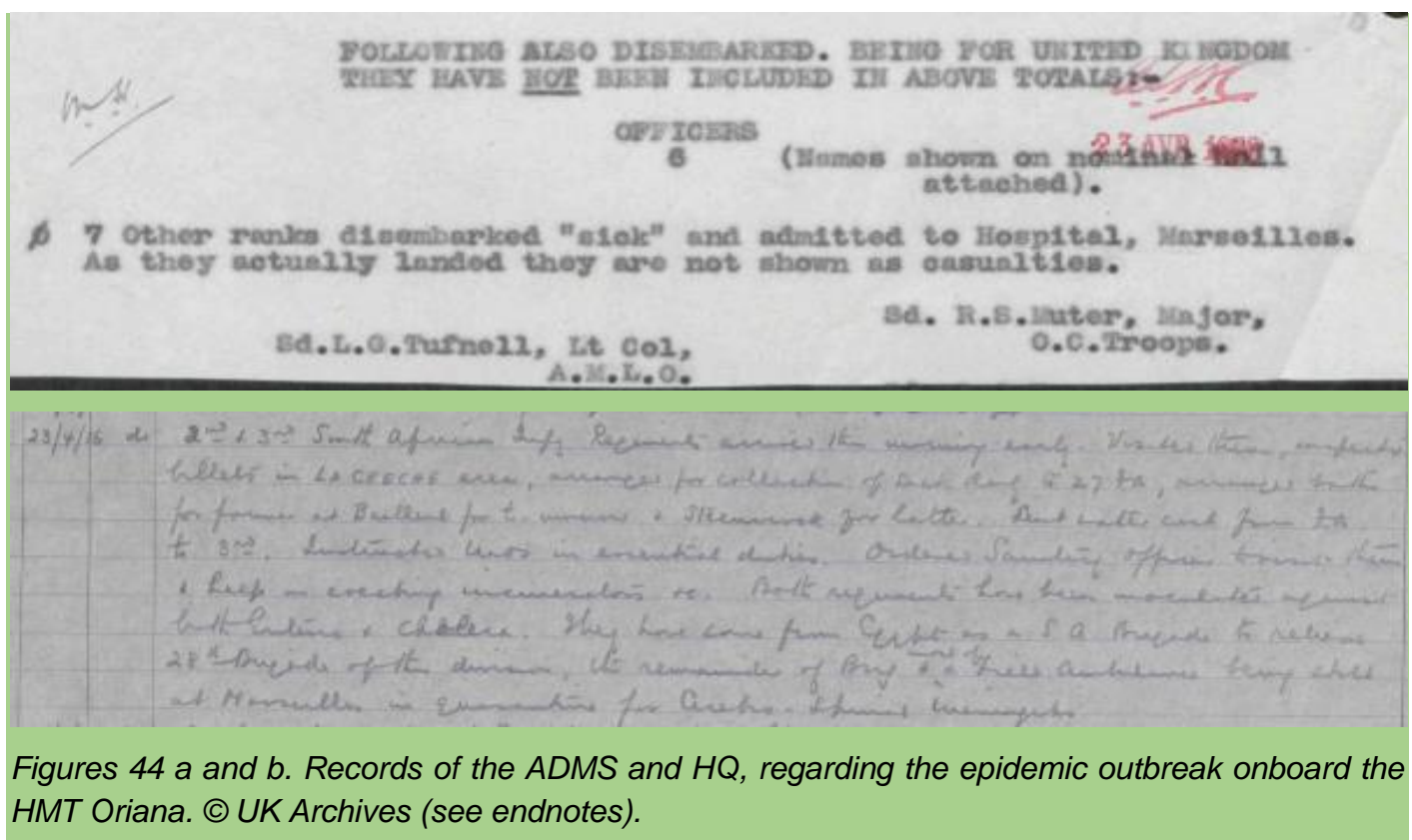
Figure 43. *Antidorcas marsupialis*, or the Springbok, SA variety. © Colonel Stevenson-Hamilton, *Our SA national Parks* (1940).

While springboks in the open live on average 7-9 years, Nancy succumbed to pneumonia following a chronic infection in the neck at the age of about four or five in 1918.^{lxiii} Several authors believe that she would have been one year old when she was given away, but her age was never specified by the McLaren Kennedys apart from the description “young”. With a record longevity in captivity of 19.8 years, it is obvious that Nancy died prematurely. In doing so she shared the fate of more than 6,500 fellow South African soldiers, whose path of glory led to the grave.^{lxiv} Compassionate authors from everywhere, retelling her story in different languages, about her origin, the folkloric adoption by the South African Scottish, her disappearance in Egypt, Queen Mary and son Albert “Bertie” (later King George VI) visiting her in Alexandria, the almost miraculous survival of Delville Wood, she leading the Brigade’s Remembrance Parade, and finally her demise at Hermeton s/Meuse,^{lxv} are numerous.

- **From Egypt to the Western Front**

Orders were issued on 6 April 1916, that the whole Brigade would leave Egypt and embark for Marseille, with the exception of the men treated at the hospital, and most of the equipment for transport and billeting. 175 Officers, 4861 OR, 209 horses, a springbok and maybe two baboons (Jacko/Billy of the Heavy Artillery and Jackie of the 3rd SAI) were divided over four personnel carrier ships.

On 12 and 13 April the ships were to sail off. Due to severe weather conditions, the Megantic's departure (the largest ship) was postponed until 15 April. The night of 19-20 April, at 12.30pm, all ships berthed in Marseille's port. Disembarkation began right away. However, due to "contagious cerebro-spinal meningitis" (number of cases unmentioned by the ADMS, "epidemic outbreak" by HQ) on board the HT Oriana, the vessel carrying Nancy's regiment, along with two Battalions of the 1st SAI, four Australians, two Indian, and the crew of the Field Ambulance (FA), in total 70 Officers and 1770 OR, were quarantined in a large military camp situated in a semi-rural suburb 15 km east of Marseille, called La Valentine.



During World War One, Marseille was the principal port of France, accepting people and Soldiers from all over the World. Troops coming from European Allied countries, from Australia and New Zealand, from India, Black and White Africans, Americans, Canadians, but also the Armenian citizens fleeing the genocide committed by the Turkish, flooded the town. There were several camps like La Valentine. Marseille saw many contagious outbreaks, due to globalization marked by the movement of troops and refugees arriving from everywhere. The port, the docks and the streets of Marseille likewise, were crowded with incoming and departing Brigades. Wounded and sick soldiers were treated in the military and civilian hospitals, several among them died here and were buried at

the military cemeteries of Marseille (like Pte McKendrick). Prisoners of War (PoW) were implemented at the many worksites in the city and the dockyards of Marseille. The sex industry was thriving: right after their arrival on 13 May at Le Bizet (Belgium), first eight SAI troops of the 1st and 4th SAI, and then two days later thirteen presented to the Regimental Medical Officer (RMO) with venereal diseases (named VD at the time). The war diary of the 9th Divisional ADMS mentioned that the men contracted the condition “during their passage” at Marseille.

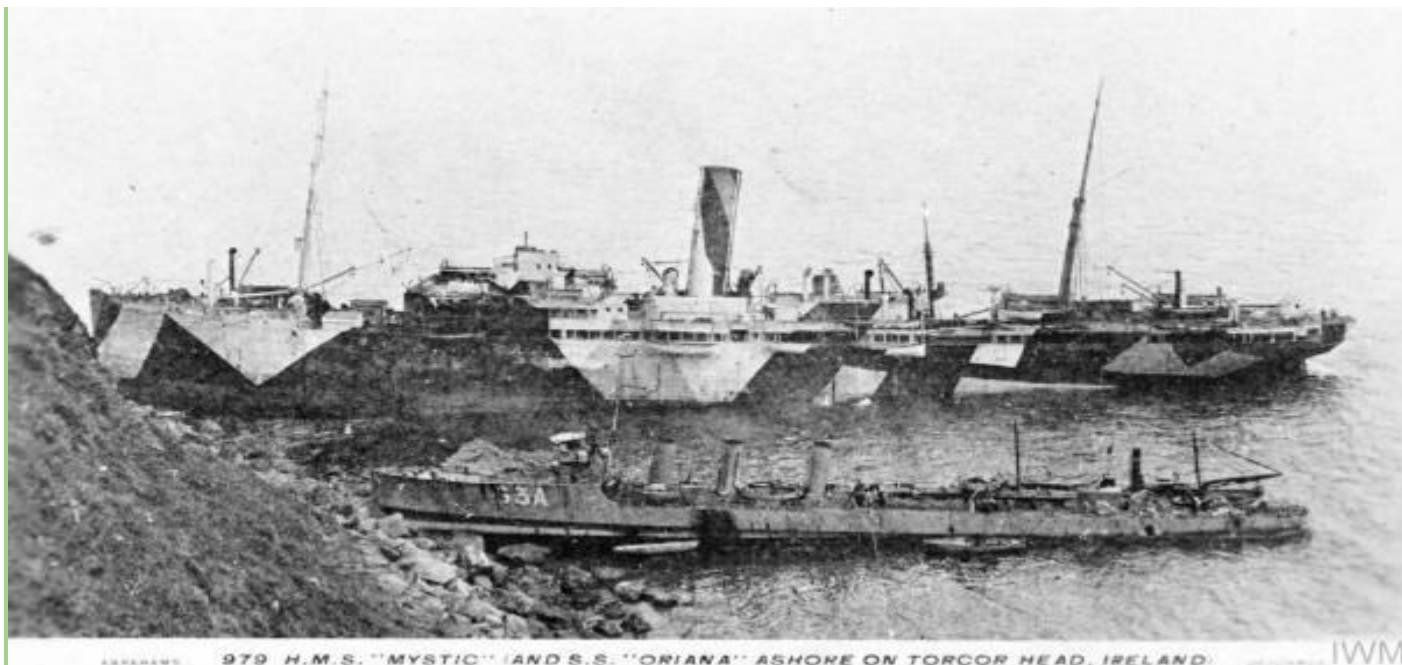


Figure 45. The HMT Oriana. © IWM Q 75503

The 2nd and 3rd Regiment who had berthed at Marseille port with the Megantic, were entrained for Haezebrouck and Bailleul on 22 April, the northern frontline of the Western Front. Two Coys of the 1st SAI Regiment disembarked from the Scotian and they arrived at Bailleul in the afternoon of 24 April. That day the SA Headquarters were bombed by an enemy airplane, luckily without great damage nor casualties. The 2nd and the 3rd SAI (Jackie the Baboon's Battalion) entered the Belgian trenches for scheduled 48H-trainings in trench and gas warfare from 25 April on. There was a schedule for bathing the men at Steenwerck and Bailleul (numbers as large as 600 per day), while their clothes were washed by 28 women, who were on the pay-roll for this kind of work. The 9th Divisional ADMS diagnosed several dysentery cases among the 2nd SAI, sick men requiring admission to the Casualty Clearing Station (CCS) and for whom bacteriological exams were asked at the Canadian Mobile Laboratory. The week before, a few measles cases had been diagnosed. Field Marshal Douglas Haig and General Herbert Plumer inspected the first parties of the SA Brigade active in the trenches (on 29 April and 4 May). The 90th Field Coy, RE, attached to the SAI Brigade, complained that there should be at least one or two additional field engineers. The 9th Seaforth Highlanders (Pioneers) had each of their Coys attached to one Brigade, the SAI included. The 28th MGC were attached to the SAI Brigade.

On 16 May the latter recorded that 75% of the German shelling was “blind”. Nonetheless, the day after a Sergeant of the 28th MGC “played with the fuse” of such a blind shell, which led to an

explosion. He was killed instantaneously, along with a Corporal and two Ptes who were sitting next to him.

Although Armentières was considered a resting place, thirty-five Soldiers (mostly ANZAC) were killed between 25 April (i.e., the first day that the 3rd and the 2nd SAI had entered the trenches for instruction) and 2 May. That day the Brigade suffered its first loss at the northern Western Front: at 6 am 2/Lt Wilson was found dead with a self-inflicted gunshot wound. He was forty-one and left a spouse behind. His father was James M Wilson, Cannon and Vice-Dean of Worcester College. His much younger brother Hugh Stanley (1885) was KiA 14 September 1915, at Hébuterne (village between Albert and Arras, France), 70 km south from where Edward would commit suicide. Edward and Pte McKendrick (the meningitis case aboard the Oriana) were the first of the SAI Brigade to die on French soil, both on 2 May 1916.

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information
6 am 25/11 STEENBERCK	2nd Lieut E. WILSON found dead - gunshot wound. Buried 7 pm STEENBERCK CEMETERY
3.45 pm do do	10 Platons detailed to report details for orders instructions through 10 Officers 402 OR. Right and Left Sector Trench from LE BIZET

BRIGADE, SOUTH AFRICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

Name (Surname) Wilson (Christian) Edward

Reg. No. (1709) Rank 2nd Lieut

Battalion or Service 2nd Regt S.A. Infantry D- Coy 116345

Religion C.P.

Next-of-kin—Relationship Wife if married—Certif. Agnes Wilson

Name and Address 146, Mons Road
Belle Vue, J.H. Burg.

Children (if any): C/o Native Affairs Dept.

Civil Servant: Johnannesburg Wife remarried (1922)

Remarks: Vol A 86 Pen Fund White Cottage Waverley Lodge Swansea, Glamorgan

Native Affairs Department

Embarked S.S. "Kewell" 12.10.15 C.T. for Plymouth

Committed suicide aboard 2-5-16

Pension to widow Mrs E. Wilson £75 per annum Under Chapter

Papers, etc. 1. 2. Act 29 of 1916 from 1st Nov. 1916 - OR 130

Figure 46 a and b. 2/Lt Edward Wilson's death certificate. He was the son of Cannon and Vice-Dean James M Wilson (of Worcester College). © UK Archives (see endnotes) and southafricawargraves.org

It is unclear whether Jackie the Baboon – the other iconic mascot of the SAI, in fact an officially enlisted Private - and Albert Marr (his owner), were among this first batch of SA troops too. It might even be very unlikely. HQ recorded that the wounded remained at Alexandria. It would be a misconception to believe that no ships, or very few ships, kept sailing from Alexandria to Marseille. May 1916, at least five batches of SA troops arrived at Marseille with the "City of Edinburgh", the "Saxonia", the "Ausonia"; disembarking SA troops who then departed by train to Etaples indicating that – in one example – fifty-five of them had been wounded during the Egyptian campaign.^{lxvi}

Albert Marr had been shot in the shoulder on 26 February 1916. No details about his sustained injuries are available. But as with every gunshot wound, not one is alike. Damage to skeletal structures (fracture, splintering), blood vessels, soft, nerve or muscle (tendon, rotator cuff) tissue, all will depend on the trajectory and caliber of the bullet. Even today, one of five gunshot wounds in the shoulder is lethal, within minutes. For the rest, impairment, convalescence, hospitalisation as well, varies between four to six weeks, up to 6 months or even a year (if no permanent damage to the nervous system occurred).

There is a surviving picture of Albert and Jackie, taken at the General Hospital of Alexandria, where Albert can be seen with his right arm immobilized in a sling, using his left arm to play or to restrain Jackie. Hence the odd couple might have been among the first batch of troops sent to Marseille, however it is more likely that they headed for Etaples at a later moment, with some ship sailing in May 1916 or even later. This also explains why no pictures were taken of Jackie at Marseille – a monkey Soldier and a rarity at least as impressive as Nancy. It also explains why Albert Marr was not mentioned on the Delville Wood Roll Call, while Nancy undeniably was (i.e., Petersen is mentioned on the Roll Call). An infantryman would need both his hands (and arms) to handle his rifle, for shooting, charging it or for stabbing the enemy with a bayonet. He would also need his arms to crawl, to dig, to fight, to throw bombs: it would certainly have taken months before Albert was fully recovered. The importance of referring to Jackie's story, is that after Egypt the pathways of the two iconic mascots did part. Jackie was not parading in Marseille; he was not at Le Bizet nor at Delville Wood. In April 1918, when Jackie lost his leg while the SAI were retreating from Basseije (La Clytte, Belgium), after having spent two years of duty in each other's neighbourhood, the two mascots would separate for good.



Figure 47. WHC Brink's editorial on Jackie the Baboon in the Home Front – the MOTH Magazine. Received from MOTH Secretary Brian Porter.

- **The Tale of the Broken Horn**

Delayed eighteen days because of Pte McKendrick's meningitis – and the other sick onboard the Oriana - Nancy's Regiment eventually detrained at Armentières. Nancy arrived with the SAS and two Coys of the 1st SAI at Pont-de-Nieppe on 11 May 1916. Although the last months Armentières had cooled down to a "nursery" or a resting area (compared with the Somme frontlines where thousands of men died within days), there were still violent, intermittent bombardments with high explosive (HE) 5.9" Howitzer and high velocity 77mm "whizz-bang" shells, causing death and wounds almost every day. These were retaliated by the Batteries of the Allies, both in numbers and calibers. Hence the diaries summarized daily situations as "enemy shelled as usual" or "enemy is saving daylight" ... There appeared to be little machine gun fire, but sniping (from both sides) – targeting men and especially periscopes, seemed a popular and daily activity, with the keeping of scores in a paragraph named "Minor Operations".



Figure 48. Le Bizet © Delcampe.net

Digby claimed that it was in this setting that Nancy broke her horn in the "area of Armentières when a shell exploded in the transport lines close to the QM Store". Referring to figure 12. and the war diary of the 28th MGC, Nancy would undeniably have been with RQM Lieutenant Bayly's Office (1816-1919) when the Q-Store took several direct hits on 30 and 31 May. Of course, there were several occasions (i.e., intermittent shelling and retaliation) on which Nancy could have panicked and leaped against the wall of the QM Store, although the place in common would have been Le Bizet. Unlikely in the trench system itself, because Digby wrote that Nancy was kept in "relative

safety” in the transport lines close to the Quartermaster Stores (QMS). This is also the opinion of “Frogsmile”, and other respondents of the Great War Forum. Under “regular British” circumstances, Nancy as an animal with parade duty only, should have stayed home, at the Base (i.e., Potchefstroom). The Drill Hall would not have had the space or facility to keep a live springbok. Nancy was one of a few of exotic animals (e.g., a kangaroo) of auxiliary Forces, but it was obvious that these animals could not stay with their handlers continuously if these men had an active role during combat too (which was the case with troopers of the music corps). Then she would have been allocated in the rear, in the transport lines and the QMS. It has been thinly recorded where the QM store was positioned, when it took a number of direct hits on 30 May 1916. That day the Germans again shelled a place called “Calvaire”. From 29 May on, the Germans had started “whizz-banging” Calvaire, and the billets “here” took two direct hits. 30 May the CO of the 28th MGC recorded that the SA QM Stores “across the street” of the Subsidiary Line took 5 direct hits.



Figure 49. Grande Rabecque Farm at Le Bizet was a farm dating from the Spanish domination in the 1700s, used as QM Store (unclear whether at Company or Regimental level) and for billeting. © IWM Q 50322.

Alas, a street across the Subsidiary Line is not a precise indicator, fortunately the 10th Battalion of the Royal West Kents (41st Division, 123rd Brigade) who relieved the SAS on 29 May, kept a very detailed war diary. The Subsidiary Line ran from north to south, connecting the Lys River border all the way up to Calvaire “Work”, albeit mentioning “excluded” for the latter. The Subsidiary Line was recorded to have crossed the Railway, passed Flencque Farm (“XIV Post”) and a gap between the

trenches No 93-96, because a set of Vickers machine guns had to be positioned on these locations. The SAS sector reached from the coordinates (36NW 1/40.000) c.4.a.4.7 to c.4.c.9.7 ½. All movements (reliefs) had to be done via Nicholson's Avenue, "in ABSOLUTE silence" (capitalized), the boots wrapped in sandbags fixed above the knee, and with 5 minutes interval between each Platoon. The northern line ran from Calvaire (excluded) over Harnian and Cheshire Avenues, Fort Paul, Paternoster Row, Amen Corner to Glasgow Redoubt via Suffolk Avenue (included), starting at Mortelette Chapelle (excluded).

The SAS HQ was installed at Despierre Farm, a medieval remnant located east from Gunners Farm and Calvaire. It is unlikely that Nancy would have been kept at Despierre Farm, because that would have been pretty much within the forward Coys.

The 123rd Brigade's HQ was positioned at Le Bizet Convent, indicating that the SAI Brigade positioned its HQ at this place too. This was most likely more or less the place where Nancy would have been kept, a few hundred meters southwest at Motor Car Corner, next to a row of houses (or farms) that appeared still to be intact in aerial reconnaissance photography's of April 1916. Motor Car Corner was the bend (and loop) beyond which military cars were not allowed to proceed towards the frontline. The loop was about 200m northeast from the SAI Brigade's HQ. Connecting with Nicholson's Avenue, the two Rabecque Farms (i.e., billets, CQMS of D-Coy) were about 500m northeast from Le Couvent, with Motor Car Corner in between.

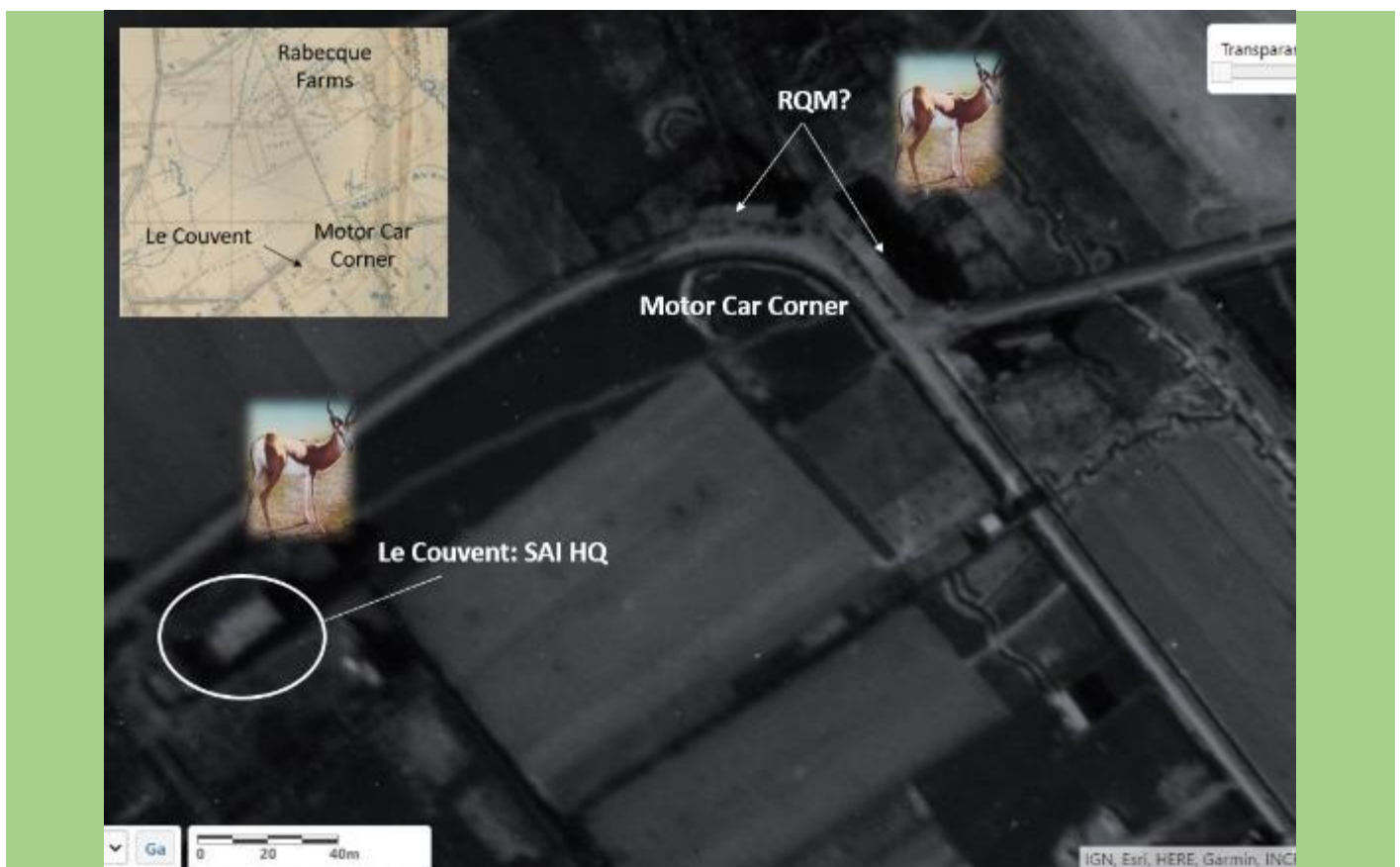


Figure 50. Motor Car Corner. © gwadmin.west-vlaanderen.be

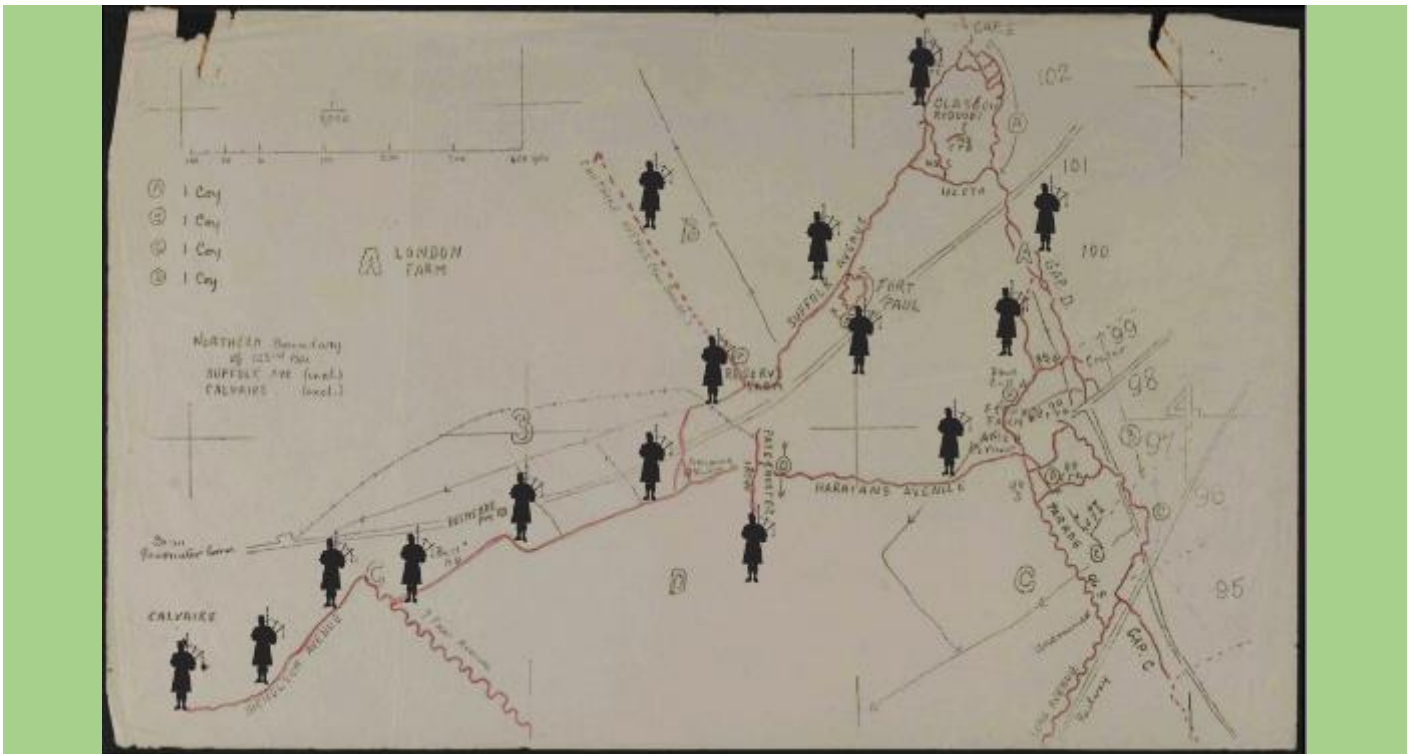
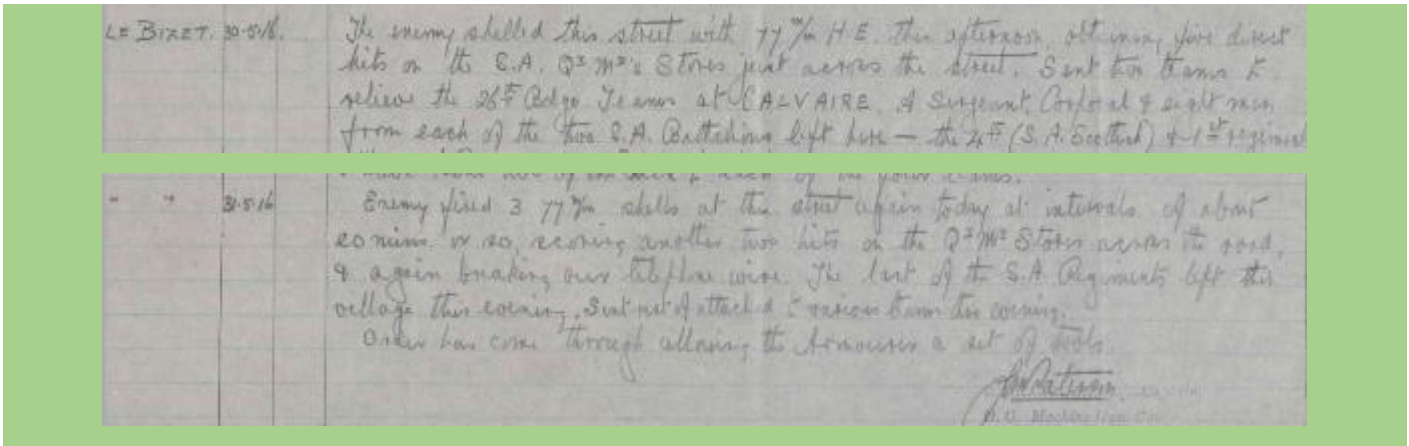


Figure 51. The SAS sector including the trench numbers, SAS HQ at Despierre Farm, Nicholson's Avenue, Fort Paul, Paternoster Row, Amen Corner to Glasgow Redoubt and Suffolk Avenue. © UK Archives & authors' collection.

As Nancy was tethered to a wall and jumped into it, she broke her left horn. Allegedly, the injury was shown to the “doctors” (not specified which ones, although transport lines had a Veterinary Officer among their ranks). But little inspiration emerged to repair such a kind of battle wound – while simple and not requiring any specific material. ^{lxvii} From then on, Nancy's horn grew in a distinctive downward angle, which was to be expected with no treatment given.



Compiling the diaries involved, it is obvious that the 1st and the 4th SAI Battalions were "coupled", in the similar way that the 2nd and 3rd were; and that these 2x2 configurations relieved each other. When the first couple (1 & 4) was active in the trench system, the other couple (2 & 3) was in the billets, at first at Armentières, later at Le Bizet. Stochastically, if something happened to the SAS (like shelling or sniping), it would have been at Le Bizet, from Trench No 95 (south or "right" flank) up to Trench No 102 (north or "left" flank): that is where the SAI troops were allocated.

Otherwise said, the area between Chemin de la Blanche in the north (including Nicholson's Avenue), in the south up to Touquet Station via Rue du Touquet (a street running from Le Bizet in the southwest to the hamlet Touquet in the east), and Rabecque "Alley" in the west. The latter being a track connecting Chemin de la Blanche and Rue du Touquet, with the two Rabecque farms on either side of the road: Grande and Petite Rabecque Farm. The (relative) back areas of the "SA" trench system were these two Rabecque Farms, but the alley down to Motor Car Corner and the convent were SAI Brigade's HQ, and hence very likely the transport lines and RQM. The Rabecque farms were also used as billets, however the rooms directed "to the east had to be avoided".



Figure 53. White arrows indicate the course of the Subsidiary Line. The first SA troops to die at the Western Front (before Delville Wood) were buried at Gunners- and Tancrez Farm. © gwadmin.west-vlaanderen.be

Both areas were visited by General “Tim” Lukin on 19 May, at a moment that a German “whizz-bang” salvo commenced, mixed with 10.5 cm (4.1”) shelling. The meeting between the CO of the 28th MGC and General Lukin the day before at Nicholson’s Avenue, indicates the northern (or left) boundary of the Brigade’s trench area. Also important from a retrospective point of view, is that the eleven SAI killed in the trenches No 95-102 of Le Bizet, are buried at Tancrez Farm Cemetery (south, Rue du Touquet, trench ≥ 95) and at Gunners Farm Cemetery (north, Chemin de la Blanche, trench ≤ 102). Both farms were connected via a reserve trench system, which crossed both streets; in the north towards Ploegsteert it was renamed “Laundes Avenue”, “Reserve Avenue” and “Railway Switch” down to the Lys Farm complex.

A part of Nancy’s Regiment (200 troopers) entered the trench system of Le Bizet (Belgium) right away after their arrival at Pont-de-Nieppe. According to the war diaries this would have been along Nicholson’s Avenue and Seven Trees Avenue (i.e., the reserve trench system connecting with Touquet Station over Smyth Avenue via Seven Trees Redoubt). Another 200 troopers of the 1st SAI (who were onboard the quarantined Oriana too) entered the trenches without proper training too. The experienced 123rd Brigade was ordered to join this unprepared party. It is important to mention that these 123rd Brigade’s 10th and 11th Battalions of the Highland Light Infantry had been the “surrogate Oriana” SAI Battalions, until they were relieved by the latter. 10/11 HLI should be “considered SAS” and 1st SAI, from the third week of April until 14 May 1916. Between the entry of Nancy’s Regiment into the trenches and 14 May (every day new parties of 1st and SAS were sent in), their war diaries reported “shelling as usual” and “enemy quiet”.

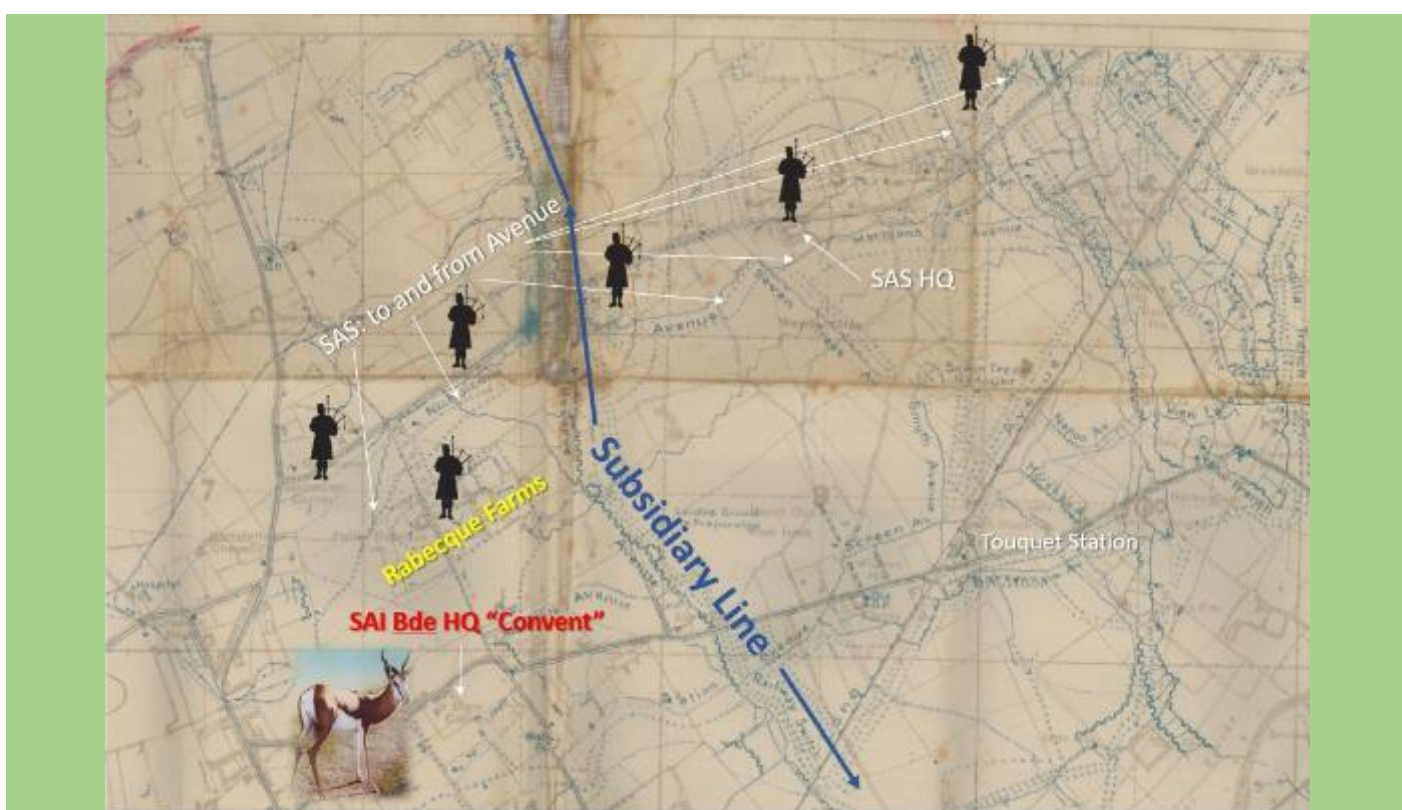


Figure 54. Positioning of the SAS (Nancy’s Battalion) QM, “across” the street of the two Rabecque Farms (west), in the vicinity of Motor Car Corner and Le Couvent © McMaster University & authors’ collection.

Scanning the aerial reconnaissance pictures from 10 April 1916 (i.e., right before Nancy arrived at Le Bizet) till June 1918, has revealed an intriguing “system” adjacent to the subsidiary line, which has not been recorded on any of the British trench maps. So, maybe it was “simply” an echo, an artefact caused by the reflection of barbed wire. This system clearly followed the trajectory of barbed wire lines, all the way from the south of Ploegsteert, down to the Lys. It had the appearance of a water filled body, e.g., a canal or conduit. However, on some of the reconnaissance pictures made in June 1918, indentations caused by shells can be seen, indicating that it was an empty body (in June). Nevertheless, this study probably revealed the existence of a long, approximately 10m-wide ditch, that has not been recorded on trench maps. As the region is known to be harassed by inundations (today it has become the third largest sanctuary for water birds in Belgium)^{lxviii}, this conduit perhaps served the drainage of heavy rainfalls, from the Rabecque and Warnave Rivers to the Lys. None of the war diaries mention such drainage system, although “drains” are recorded on the trench maps (mentioned in this paper), albeit following transversal trajectories, instead of longitudinal ones.



Figure 55 a and b. Photo of the wide “ditch”, east from Reserve Avenue, taken on 10 April 1916. Right side, the same “canal”, this time indented with shellholes (June 1918). © gwadmin.west-vlaanderen.be



Figure 56. No wide ditch, nor “canal” are featuring on British trench maps of Armentières (1918).

- **The Western Front and Delville Wood**

There is no reason to question whether Nancy and Jackie (and the many thousands of other war animals) shared most of the horrific conditions at the Western Front.^{lxxix} Digby believed that Jackie (and Albert Marr) took part in the dreadful battle of Delville Wood in July 1916.^{lxx} However, Albert is not registered on the Roll Call (see paragraph above).^{lxxi} Ian Uys withheld Digby’s account in his own book on Delville Wood, albeit leaving in the middle whether Jackie and Marr effectively participated in this ordeal.^{lxxii} Because Jackie was not mentioned among the few unscathed, Vincent Carruthers estimates it unlikely that Jackie (and Marr) were involved.^{lxxiii}

But neither was Nancy, although she undeniably appears “collaterally” on the Roll Call as Alfred Petersen was one of the survivors of the carnage.^{lxxiv} Whether she was kept behind the lines (to keep her safe), this time at Bernafay Wood, this would not have made big difference. Therefore, on 17 February 1918 Nancy – alone - proudly led what was left of the four SAI regiments in the first Delville Wood Remembrance Parade.^{lxxv} She had now become the mascot of the entire Brigade.



Figures 57 a and b. Motion picture, filmed during the 1918 Delville Wood Remembrance Parade of the SA Forces. The number of playful dogs among the troops is at least surprising. © stills from IWM Q 169.

What remained of the SAI regiments continued to be parented by the 9th (Scottish) Division and participated in the Battles of Arras, Ypres, Menin Ridge (Road), Passchendaele, Cambrai, Messines and the horrific battles of Gauche Wood and Marrières Wood (where Brigadier FS Dawson and P/M Cameron were captured).^{lxxvi}

Nancy witnessed the departure from the beloved 9th, and the reallocation to the 66th (2nd East Lancashire) Division on 13 September 1918.^{lxxvii}

• The Saxons are coming!

Fighting in retreat on 23 August 1914, scattered battalions of different French Infantry regiments collided in the Hastière area with pursuing Saxon regiments of the 40th Division, XIX Corps.^{lxxviii} Several Soldiers from both sides were killed, some are still missing. That same day, 8 am, a Battalion of about 50 exhausted French foot soldiers of the 148th Infantry Regiment entered Hermeton s/Meuse, but they hastily left for neighbouring Agimont on the France-Belgium border, with the exception of a few sentries left behind. During “the great mass” (10-11 am) Father Clobert and the congregants heard shooting from without as these French sentries and Germans were targeting each other across the Meuse. In the afternoon French artillerists returned with a cannon and shelled the sluice North of Hermeton, hence delaying the Saxons’ capture of the village by one day.^{lxxix} The next morning, an exodus of refugees from several of the surrounding villages (e.g., Insemont, Heer, Agimont, Blaimont, Maurenne, Anthée, Onhay, etc.) – horrified by the atrocities committed by the Saxons - followed the Hermeton River valley upstream (the opposite way that the SAS would descend on 24 November 1918) to hide in the woods. The troubled 375 inhabitants of Hermeton followed their example.^{lxxx} Not a moment too soon because at 2.30 pm the Saxons engulfed Hermeton, discharging their aggression towards the few civilians who had not fled into the woods.^{lxxxi} The horrifying development was similar to what had preceded in most of the villages of this part of the Ardennes.^{lxxxii} Troops of the 106th Saxon Regiment “König Georg”, 24th Division of the XIX Corps (and perhaps the 104th of the 40th Division, XIX Corps also, this was never elucidated) killed eight civilians and burned down 78 houses, which was about 2/3 of the entire village.^{lxxxiii} The “Martia” watermill alongside the Hermeton River was set on fire and crops destroyed, leaving the villages without revenue or harvest for the winter.^{lxxxiv}

Father Clobert attested from 1915 on that the shooting during the great mass of 23 August 1914 caused casualties and KiA “on either side”. Clobert’s testimonial is remarkable, because despite the dreadful Battle of the Frontiers in August 1914, followed by the omnipresence of Germans for four frightful years, apart from his - there is no mentioning, proof or local recollection that French (or Belgian) soldiers were KiA and consequently buried in Hermeton s/Meuse.^{lxxxv} On the contrary, when the bulk of the German troops left Hermeton burning the day after, on 24 August 1914, the belligerents collided in neighboring Agimont.^{lxxxvi} Till 10 pm there was “courageous fighting with seven Saxons KiA and one mortally wounded”.^{lxxxvii} On the French side two soldiers were wounded but evacuated by ambulance before their troops in Agimont left for Doische, in the early hours of 25 August.^{lxxxviii} No skirmish, no cannon, no whatever is mentioned at Hermeton s/Meuse.^{lxxxix}

What all this has to do with Nancy, is that she was supposedly buried in an Allied cemetery, in other words among French (or Belgian) soldiers.^{xc} But to attain this prerogative, first there had to be Allied soldiers buried at Hermeton s/Meuse.



Figure 58. Father Clobert before the old church St-Rémi. © Hermeton s/Meuse old postcards (Delcampe.net)

- **How the story of “la jolie gazelle” ended**

For the villagers of “Ermeton-so-Mouze” (pronunciation in local dialect)^{xcⁱ} the South Africans with their “Gazelle” were among the first Allied troops they would meet after four years of occupation, mainly by German (reserve) troops.^{xcⁱⁱ} The SAI Brigade’s presence at the France-Belgium border had all to do with the final assignments since September 1918. Being reallocated under Major General Hugh Keppel Bethell’s ^{xcⁱⁱⁱ} 66th Division, he selected the South Africans to become one of his spearpoint battlegroups to pursue retreating German troops from France into Belgium.^{xc^{iv} xc^v} Unfortunately, being the most advanced battlegroup of “Bethell’s Force” and “Bethell’s Flying Column” came at a heavy cost.^{xc^{vi}} A half an hour before armistice a Lance Corporal of the 2nd Regiment was KiA at the France-Belgium border in Hestrud, and an Officer and 12 OR (of the three regiments and the FA) mortally wounded the day before.^{xc^{vii}} Seven of them still have their grave at

the communal cemetery of Hestrud. Being the last SA to be KiA (or dying of wounds), their headstones are displayed on the rear cover of Digby's Pyramids & Poppies.^{xcviii}

15 November 1918, some 10 km from the border, Rosée became the Division's northern boundary in the Belgian Ardennes. 24 November Nancy's Regiment, the Light Trench Mortar (LTM) Company and the Divisional Train (ASC) were amalgamated to leave Rosée for Hermeton s/Meuse.^{xcix} The SA Brigade headquarters, the 1st and 2nd regiments, the Signaling Section, and the 4th RE Company also received Divisional Orders to leave Rosée. They were bound for Agimont, a frontier village neighboring Hermeton.^c Being the recent replacement of the 197th (Lancashire Fusiliers) Brigade, the SAI Brigade had become one of the seven 66th Division's battlegroups. The other Divisional units billeted in Rosée and Morville, the only German airfield in Belgium harboring the Zeppelin-Staaken "Riesen Flugzeug" (giant bomber)^{ci} all left the 24th too, but they were bound for Hastière and Lavaux.^{cii}

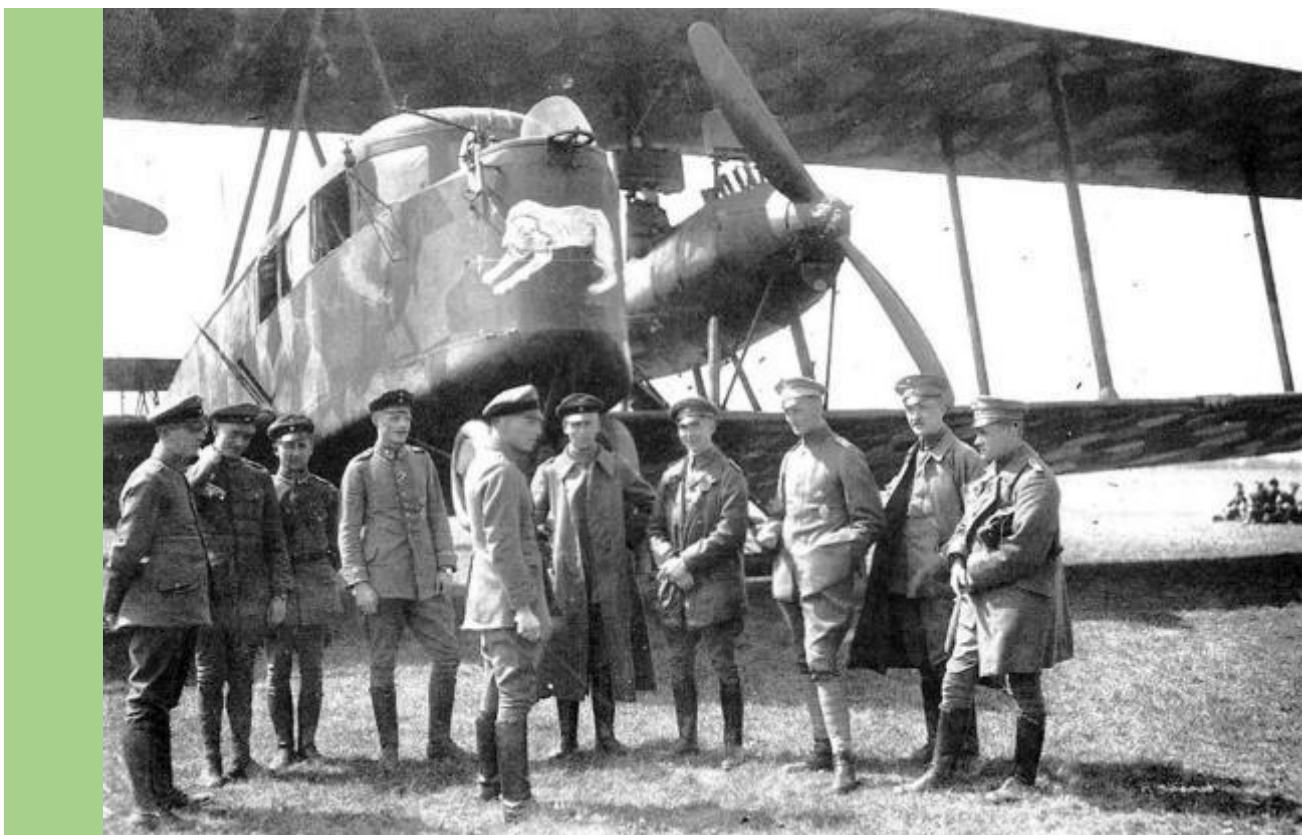


Figure 59. Zeppelin Staaken "Riesen Flugzeug" (giant bomber), stationed and operating from Morville airfield (Florennes). © Wiki Commons.

During combat, Nancy would have been somewhere between the SAS and the rear, with the QMS and transport lines. If that would have been the case on 24 November, then she would have been buried at Agimont. Because the orders for the group created around Nancy's Regiment were a march by foot to Hermeton s/Meuse. A considerable saving of distance that day was achieved by splitting off from the Brigade, that was heading south for Agimont and Bac du Prince, deviating straight through the hills along the Hermeton River's "lieu dit Martia" valley. The frozen surface was excellent for marching but made the gradients difficult for the horses. The weather remained cold for weeks, even snowy, Nancy must have been suffering from illness by now.^{ciii} At noon the group reached the church of Hermeton s/Meuse and all the horses of the train were in by 6 pm. The rest of the SAI Brigade arrived at Agimont and Bac du Prince along the Meuse River.^{civ} The war diary

left the welcome of the SA troops unmentioned, but the day before it recorded that the houses from the villages passed through were decorated with Allied flags “however their populations were not enthusiastic”. The weather was “sharp and frosty”.



Figure 60. Map of the Hermeton s/Meuse area.

The Soldiers inspected the railway station (opposite the church) where a large dump of “miscellaneous material, new machine guns, search light apparatus, some rolling stock and quite a number of the smaller luxuries of life” were found. There was no shortage of food and that night there was heavy frost. Nancy’s Regiment (just having rejoined the Brigade from Divisional Reserve) numbered 696 OR and 25 officers. They were 35 Officers and 1049 OR when they left Marseille! The 542 Company ASC and their number of horses were most likely reduced too as more horses were “off” (e.g., to the Black Watch, 544 Company ASC...) ^{cv} than “on”; and the LTM Company would have been a typical 26 “all ranks” in normal circumstances. ^{cvi} A reasonable estimate is that at least 950 troops and 250-300 horses were billeted alongside the railways No 154 (Namur – Givet) ^{cvi} and No 156 (Hermeton – Anor, in France), ^{cvi} and next to the church, which is still open veld today. Billets before (at Rosée) and after (Houyet) “were good”, but remained unmentioned during the two weeks at Hermeton. ^{cix}

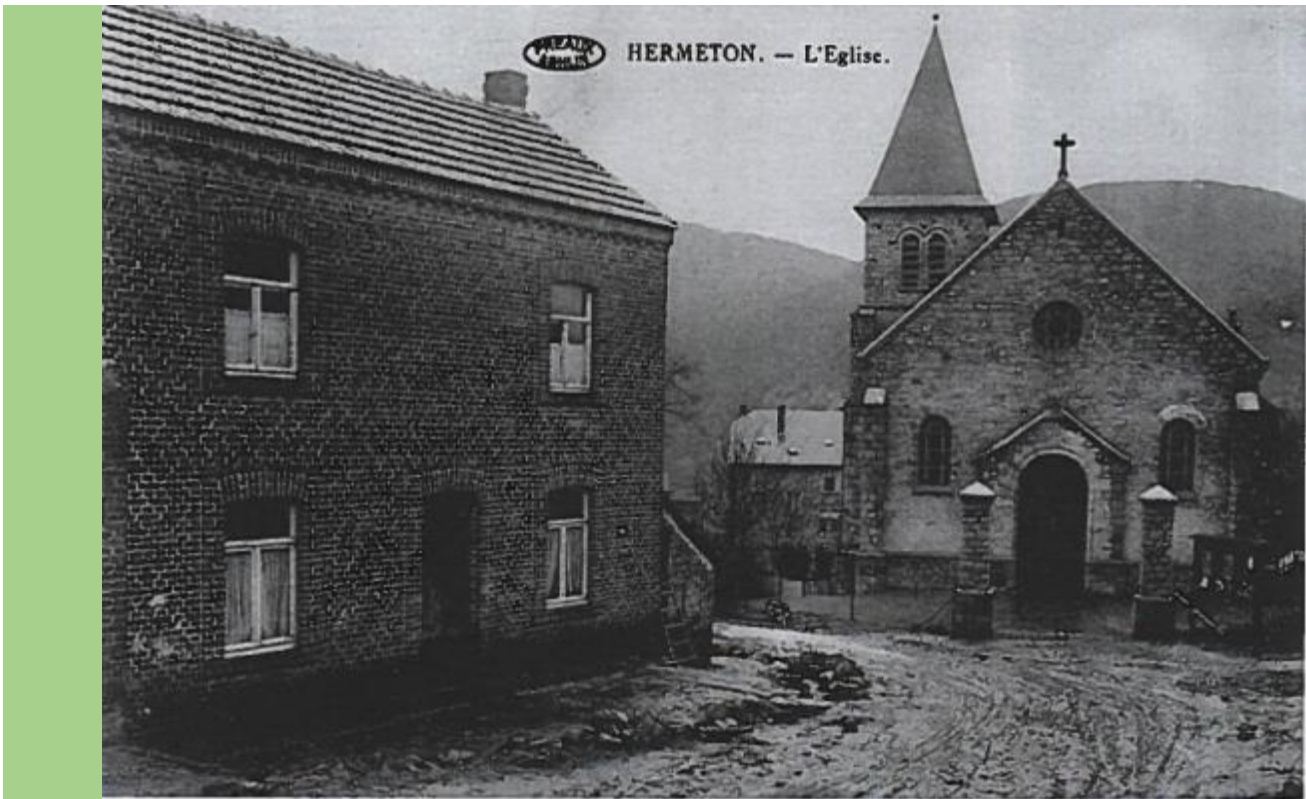


Figure 61. The new church St-Rémi of Hermeton s/Meuse. © Delcampe.net

26 November the weather was “wet” and 28 November the SAS’s war diary is limited to a mere “Training carried out as for yesterday. The Regimental Mascot the Springbok Nancy died today. Weather: drizzly”.^{cx}

The cold and the continuous strain upon the little springbok had been overpowering, causing her immune system to falter. A chronic infection in her neck acquired a year ago, failed to cure or reemerged. Temporary CO Major Claude Melville Browne (Yorkshire, 1883-1958)^{cx} informed Honorary Colonel Sir William Dalrymple personally: “We have had rather bad luck this week. Poor old Springbok Nancy, the regimental mascot, who served with us ever since the first, died, but she saw us through until the armistice. She was suffering from the cold, and some infection of the neck, which she had last winter. We buried her in the village and we put up a cross with a French inscription so that the grave will always be left undisturbed. Before we buried her, we skinned her, and I have had the skin sent to a very good taxidermist in Bond Street, and I am having it stuffed and mounted.”^{cxii}

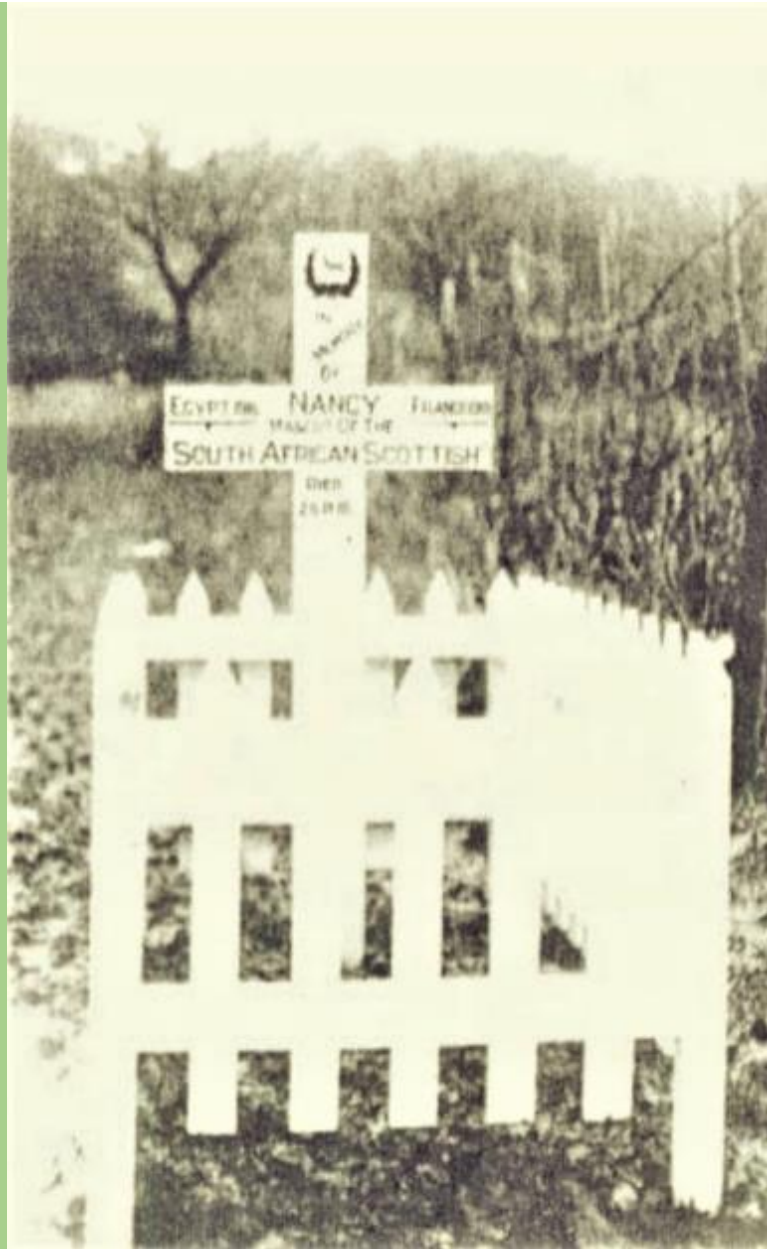


Figure 62. Nancy's white fenced sepulture. © TSR, via Pyramids & Poppies (Digby 1993).

The practitioners of taxidermy who gave Nancy her eternal stance and position, were the experts from Rowland Ward & Co, Ltd.,^{cxiii} a highly recommended firm specialized in exotic and big game. Today a sushi bar, the Rowland Ward firm was located at Piccadilly 167 those days, right across the T-junction with (Old) Bond Street. Coincidentally, the firm's trademark logo became a gazelle's head in 1937.^{cxiv}



Figure 63. Rowland Ward & Co, Ltd, 167 Piccadilly Street, London. © Annick Aldo.

A few months before Nancy's death, Johanna too, pregnant with a son, almost succumbed to pneumonia, a complication of the Spanish Flu. She made it through but due to the medication she lost all her teeth. One of the side effects of the generalized prescription and the prolonged use of analgetic tinctures composed of papaverine, alcohol and lots of sugar was massive tooth decay.^{CXV}

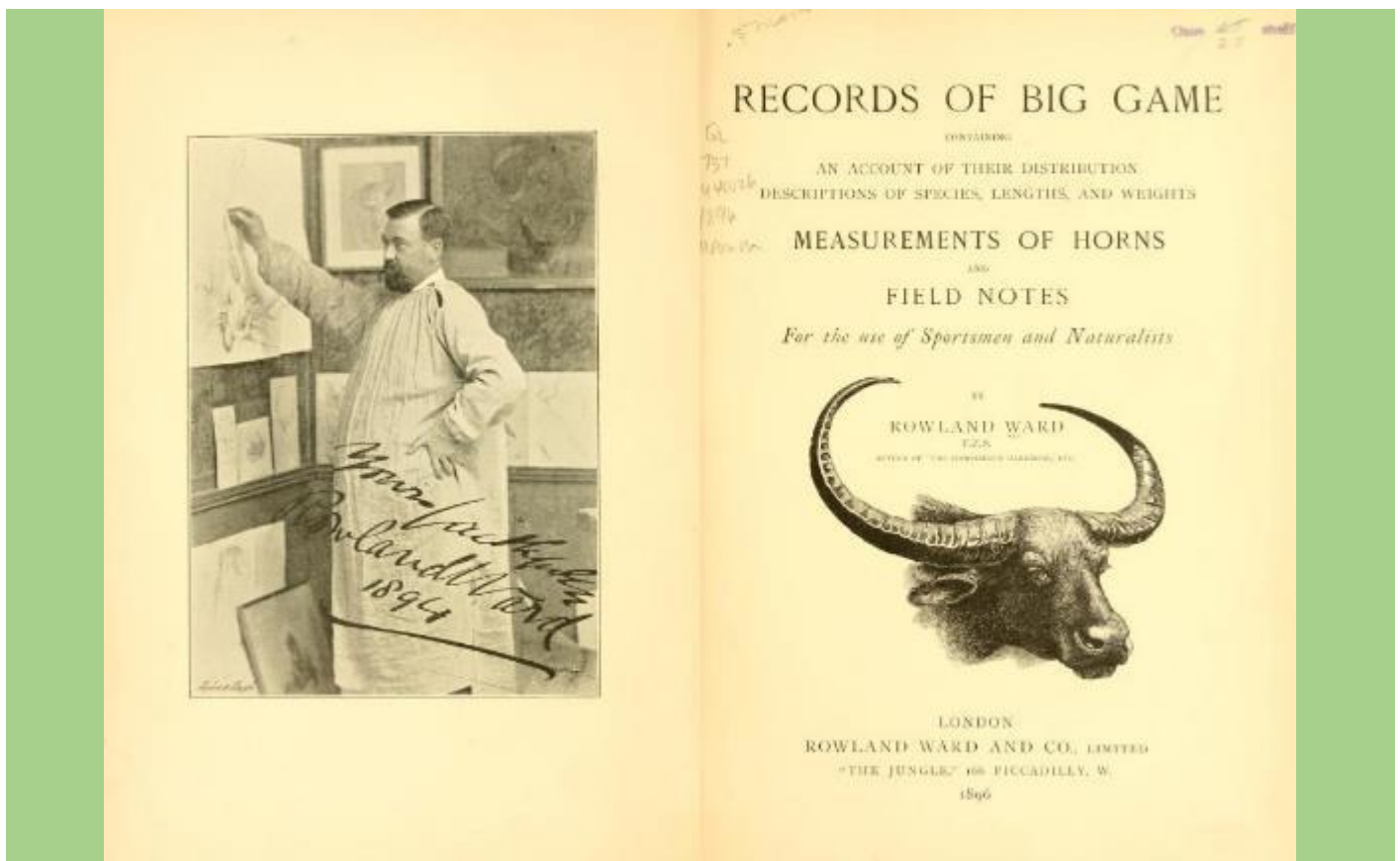


Figure 64. Rowland Ward (1848 – 1912). © Annick Aldo.

- **Away from Barberpan**

Taking into consideration that the McLaren Kennedy's were acquaintances of the Dalrymples and Buchan, they were most likely informed that Nancy had died at the end of the war and that she was on display at Glenshiel mansion. It is not known whether Johanna or David ever went to the Dalrymples to see Nancy, it is believed that the couples communicated via mail exclusively.

In the early twenties the McLaren Kennedy's had moved to Makwassie, where David again had acquired a general dealer shop, combined with a café, newspaper delivery and a boarding house. For years afterwards in Makwassie the odd mineworker would turn up to say hello to Baas Scotch. Makwassie was thriving and brought many artisans to the area. But in 1926, about 80km north of Makwassie, rich diamond fields were discovered in Lichtenberg.^{cxvi} People moved to Lichtenberg causing business in Makwassie to dwindle, and in 1927, David and Johanna shut down their business. On top of that, severe drought scourged the region, the Makwassie River dried up and thousands of fish died. So did the sheep on the farms and many farmers quit their small-holdings and trekked to the Reef (Johannesburg) to work in the mines. David too went diamond digging and was able to find enough diamonds for the family to pay their way.

Mid 1929 he quit digging and became an agent for the Singer Machine Company.^{cxvii} A few months later the family moved to Wolmaransstad, to a large house facing the river. The garden had grapes, peaches, apricots, figs, plums, quinces, pears, apples, and figs. Johanna made lots of jam and dried fruit. Despite the Great Depression, this place was like the garden of Eden. The family disliked Wolmaransstad and they moved to Bothaville.

In June 1931, three months before his son David Jr was born and while travelling on the road near Vierfontein to see clients, David's motorbike skidded on the hard, sandy road and he was thrown into a barbed-wire fence. He was extensively lacerated across his throat and his upper body on the left side. He was brought back home and the doctor came to attend him, stitching up the wounds with no anaesthetic. His health declined rapidly and by the end of 1931 he could not work anymore. He gradually started losing his speech, and suffered from a left sided hemiparesis. David was bedridden for the last year of his life. On 5 July 1933 he was supposed to go to Kroonstad Hospital for special care and treatment. That morning about 1 am his condition had deteriorated for the worse, breathing heavily and the nurse came to attend him. The family were called to say Goodbye and kiss him on his forehead. He died aged 56, his death certificate mentioned from "general paralysis of the insane" (i.e., outdated medical terminology for neurosyphilis). He was buried in a single grave at the Old Cemetery of Bothaville.



Figure 65. David's grave and headstone at the Old Cemetery of Bothaville. © Authors' collection.

Johanna worked hard at dress making to feed the family and pay the bills. In the Dutch orphanage she had been trained as a dressmaker and after she became a widow in 1933, the children could hear her sewing machine at night, making clothes for her family, dresses, and costumes for circus artists.

Twenty years later, in 1955, when all the children were gone to live their own lives, she remarried a 12 year-old farmer of Dutch origin, Christiaan Dreyer. The children had arranged that she lived in the center of Johannesburg, but marrying Dreyer meant a return to farm life with goats, cows, chickens, at Syferbult in the Magaliesberg. Nine months before she would pass away, Johanna (aged 77) finally met Nancy again, on 18 June 1970.^{cxviii} From the time Nancy was presented to the

SAS, and facing Nancy in a vitrine at the SA National War Museum at Saxonwold, Johannesburg, 55 years – and a life- had elapsed.

Numerous authors reiterated that Nancy's death was inevitable despite the caretaking by the medical staff, that her death was announced in General Orders and that she is the only war mascot ever who has been buried in an Allied cemetery, including full military honors (volleys fired) and with all military parades cancelled.^{cxix} As the Allied cemetery of Hermeton allegedly was cleared, the South Africa war graves project considers her grave lost to history.^{cxx} Worth mentioning is that Nancy's head and skin have led to confusion as there are two taxidermized Nancys on display at two different museums. Some still disagree on where the authentic Nancy is displayed: at the Ditsongs' National War Museum of Military History at Saxonwold (formerly known as the SA National War Museum), or at "Digby's" Transvaal Scottish Regimental Museum at The View.

• The two Nancys

The Transvaal Scottish (TS) Volunteer Battalion was raised in 1902 and had its HQ at the Drill Hall, a building raised for the Transvaal Volunteer Corps in 1904.^{cxxi} The foundations of the Drill Hall were built on the outer walls of a former prison, between De Villiers and Plein Street longitudinally, and Twist and Quartz Street transversely. The TS, affiliated to the renowned Black Watch (i.e., Royal Highlanders), was called the first TS (1st TS) Battalion as soon as a second was raised in 1914 to participate in the Southwest Africa Campaign. But because of the 1912 Defence Act restricting Active Citizen Forces (TS was called the 8th Infantry of the ACF) from operating outside of South Africa, the SAS (Nancy's Regiment) was raised, and consequently the second TS was disbanded. Before the 1st SAI Brigade could engage during World War One at the Western Front, it raised four Regiments. Two SAS Companies were drawn from members of the TS Volunteer Regiment.^{cxxii} P/M Cameron and D/Maj Hatfield were 1st TS Veterans.

In 1952, the 50th anniversary of the 1st TS was commemorated in different ways. The renowned war correspondent Carel Birkby was asked to write "The Saga of the Transvaal Scottish Regiment (1932-1950)", in his own words the continuation of HC Juta's "History of the Transvaal Scottish: December 1902 to July 1932".^{cxxiii} Besides the tribute, the purpose of the book was to draw new recruits for the Union Defence Force (UDF). Until 1952, South Africans had participated in the two World Wars on an entirely voluntary basis, but the Volunteer Corps resources had been depleted. Therefore, a ballot system replacing the Volunteer system was introduced, the balloters still had to join HQ at the Drill Hall.

The SA National War Museum at "Sachsen Wald" (Saxonwold) was very aware of this anniversary too, and asked the TS to commemorate the event by displaying TS memorabilia at Saxonwold. The TS who saw itself targeted by the Defence Minister and who also realized that new grounds away from the Drill Hall had to be found, agreed. The newly formed TS Regimental Council which was raised 24 March 1950, then decided to donate (or to loan, not everyone agrees over this) all kinds of memorabilia such as regimental shields, silver, Scottish dirks, machine guns, fencing rifles, to the SA National War Museum, including Nancy of the SAS.^{cxxiv}

Nonetheless, for the taxidermized Nancy the 50 th anniversary was a very close call. The CO of the Witwatersrand Command at the Drill Hall, Colonel Maurice de Villiers told a veterinarian, HH Curson, who wrote a historical review on Service pets, that Nancy "of the Drill Hall" had deteriorated to such a degree that authority was given to destroy her. Curson mentioned that de Villiers had shared this

information “two years before”. Given the depth of Curson’s research paper and the publication date (first trimester 1956), this conversation must be dated in 1953, in other words coinciding with Nancy’s alleged transfer from the Drill Hall to the SA National War Museum.^{CXXV}

Although Nancy’s story had resumed in a quite simple way after her demise at Hermeton s/Meuse, it was turned into a complex situation once she had left Glenshiel mansion, where she had been displayed from 1919 to (most likely) 1941, when Sir William Dalrymple had died of a cerebral hemorrhage. Along with some of his personal papers, Nancy was moved to the Drill Hall, where the TSR Officers’ Mess indeed had some cabinets in which she was supposedly displayed, together with some TSR memorabilia and the poem written in Scottish by David McLaren Kennedy.

However, from the nineties on, Peter Digby tried to persuade everyone that The View’s Nancy - another taxidermized springbok, looking very similar to Nancy of the SA National War Museum, was the authentic one. Dr. James Findlay respected for his accuracy, believes that he remembered seeing the worn-out (“she was in a bad shape”) Nancy at the Drill Hall, and from 1977-8 on at The View. In his opinion the Witwatersrand Command with little possibility to display the damaged exhibit, was happy to donate Nancy to Digby.^{CXXVI} Worth noting with almost forty years apart, is that his view tends to coincide with Curson’s “understanding” that Nancy was apparently not destroyed “after the authorisation was given to write her off”, and that she was still at the Drill Hall, at the time of the latter’s publication, early 1956.

the Battalion right through the war. Her skin was cured and stuffed in London and sent to Sir William Dalrymple”, the Hon. Colonel (Juta, 1933, p. 121).

The illustration of “Nancy” in Buchan’s book is taken from a photograph in the possession of the Imperial War Museum.

Two years ago Col. Maurice de Villiers, who had acted as Officer in Command, Witwatersrand Command, informed the writer that the stuffed exhibit, which had been kept in the Drill Hall, had deteriorated (probably through poor preparation) to such an extent that authority was received to “write it off”. It is, however, understood that the remains of “Nancy” are still at the Drill Hall. (See fig. 7.)

Figure 66. snippet from HH Curson’s research paper on Service pets, 1956. © Sabinet, journals.co.za

Quasi parallel to the construction of the Drill Hall, the King Edward VII School (KES) for boys, in Houghton, raised a School Cadet Detachment (SCD) in 1905. Right from its erection in 1904, it had strong ties with the TSR, which was officialized with an affiliation between the two in 1920. Many TSR Officers were KES alumni (“Old Boys”). When Union Grounds closed in the early 1960s, the TSR moved to the KES grounds for its annual Company Drill competition.

Peter Digby was a KES alumnus, class 1963. He was renowned for his keen interest in military history, and remained very involved with the SCD of KES, even after his graduation as a historian from the Witwatersrand university. His appointment as history teacher and a Captain in the SCD of the Pretoria Boys High School did not reduce his passion. On the contrary, in 1964, his first year at the university, he started “his own” TSR museum at KES.

The Permanent Force took over most of the Drill Hall in 1974, and remaining units were motivated to find new accommodations. The TSR already had moved its operational (administration) HQ to Newtown, close to Oriental Plaza. The TSR Association (TSRA) had been looking for a suitable location for its ceremonial HQ, for commemorating the TS 75th anniversary, and for setting up a museum. Thomas Cullinan's mansion at Parktown, Johannesburg, called The View for its unique vista (before urbanization), was selected. In 1977-1978 Digby moved his impressive and ever-growing TSR collection from KES to The View. As museum curator of The View, Digby was now in the position to screen obituaries rigorously, to be informed on deaths of famous Soldiers, which resulted in an encyclopedic knowledge regarding the TSR and an ever-growing collection, including Nancy whom he – allegedly - acquired from the Drill Hall.



*Figure 67. Captain Peter KA Digby (1945-2021), author of *Pyramids and Poppies*. © Mac Bisset, SAMHS.*

Now this is an incompatibility: there cannot be two authentic Nancys.

When and where did the replica emerge from? In the late seventies, Digby persuaded the TSRA to dispute Nancy's donation to the SA National War Museum, which he (maybe others too) redefined as a loan. His stubbornness combined with his personality allegedly led to resentment between the Jocks and the museum, especially Colonel George R Duxbury (1917-2011), director of the SA National War Museum from 1951 until 1987, disliked Digby. Nancy was not moved to the TSRA HQ at The View, but Digby acquired a replica, so close to the real Nancy that (almost) no difference could be traced. After the publication of his book *Pyramids & Poppies* (1993), Digby convinced many that Nancy of The View was the authentic one, alas she was not. ^{cxxvii} Today's curator of The View, Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Dennis Edgar, has confirmed that Nancy at the SA National War Museum is the authentic one, and Nancy of The View a replica. This should close the debate once for all.

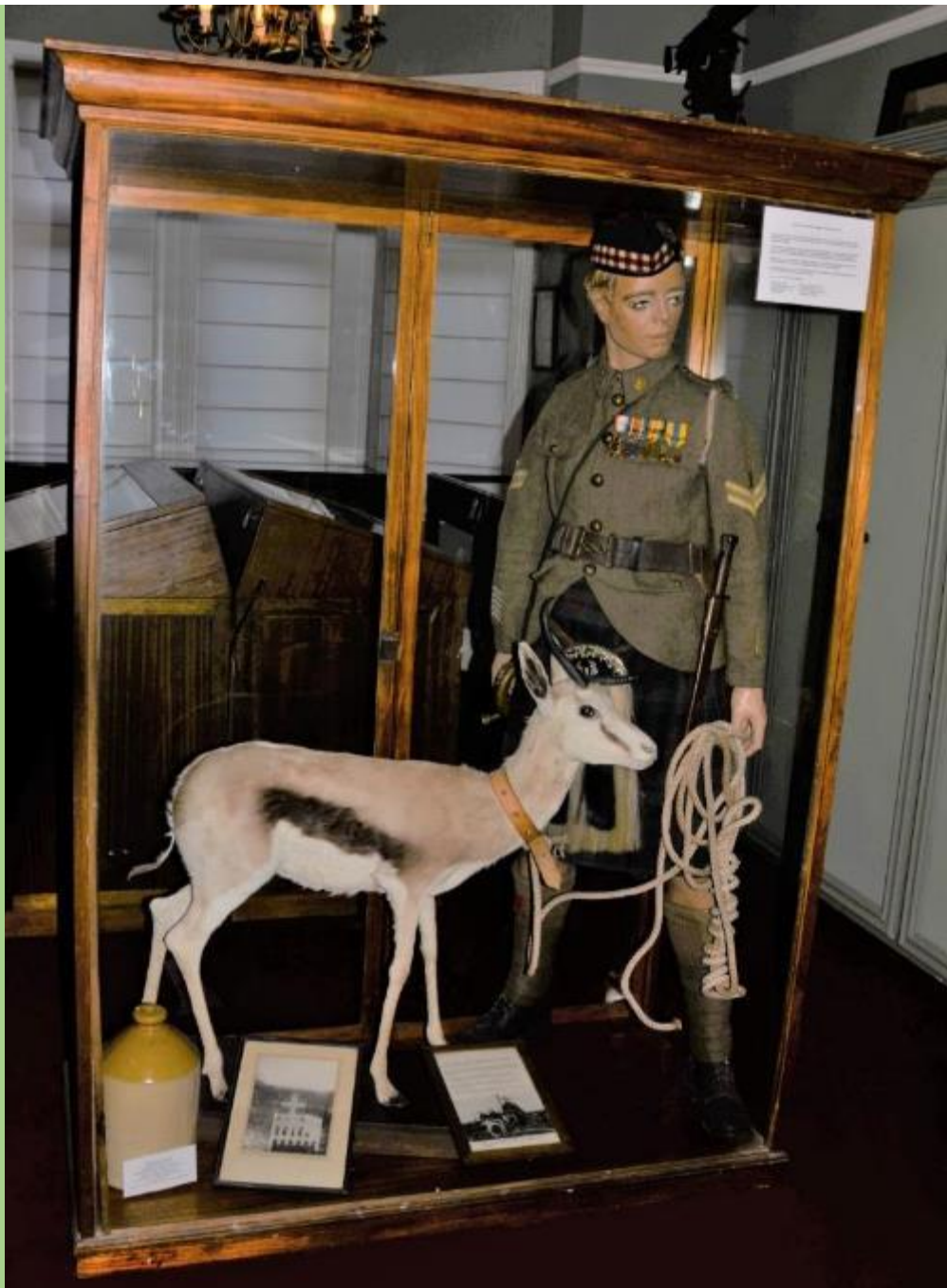


Figure 68. Nancy's replica at the TSR museum of The View. The uniform, bugle and bayonet are believed to be Corporal Drummer R Q Greggor's. © Authors' collection.

In 2014, Nancy of the SA National War Museum has been restored by chief-practitioner Richard van Zyl of Magnum Taxidermy, receiving a set of new horns, new hooves, a new mount, and hair transplants. ^{cxxviii} Hereafter – as negotiated between Sandi Mackenzie of the SA National War Museum at Saxonwold and Dr. Julie Holder of the Scottish Museum - in the broader context of the 100th anniversary of WW1, Nancy went on a journey to the Edinburgh Scottish National Museum, from July to October 2014. ^{cxxix} Richard confirmed that Nancy was seriously damaged (including a broken leg), and that she had been restored at earlier stages (e.g., white hair streaks and visible ear tip indicating that new front ear skin was spliced in). Although the original manufacturing of 1918 was at a much higher standard than he had expected to find: “a truly splendid mount considering her age”. Unique, high-resolution pictures of Nancy at Glenshiel mansion (co-author's collection)

were sent to the chief-practitioner. The unnaturally “open” shape at the lower one-third of the left ear (there was extensive repair work at both ears), before the ear base, matched “very well” with the Nancy of Saxonwold. In his personal opinion, Nancy of the SA National War Museum is the original stuffed animal. Of course, this does not add any information whether Nancy would have been acquired by Digby or not.



Figure 69. Nancy of the SA National War Museum at Saxonwold, after her return from Edinburgh. © Allan Sinclair (curator at the Ditsong National Museum of Military History, formerly known as the SA National War Museum).

After her stay at Edinburgh, Nancy returned back home to the SA National War Museum at Saxonwold.^{cxxx} The manikin of The View, standing next to the double of Nancy, is said by some to wear Corporal Drummer “R” Quayle Greggor’s uniform, bayonet, and bugle with which he sounded the Last Post during the Delville Wood remembrance parade on 17 February 1918. Others claim that the uniform and medals are those of Alfred Petersen, SAS also.^{cxxxi} In any case, the uniform is “boyish” small, Petersen was a Bantam sized Soldier (5’2 ½”), and Digby would certainly have been in the position to acquire Petersen’s items. But those of RQ Greggor also. Anyway, the uniform is that of a Corporal, with D/Maj chevrons on the right front sleeve, Petersen demobilized as Pte. Hence Digby’s claim that it is Greggor’s is probably validated.

To the SA National War Museum, things look less complicated, Nancy is theirs, and this from the early 50s on. In 1936 the second TS and in 1939, the third TS were raised, but in 1953 the second and the first were amalgamated by Frans Erasmus (1896-1967), Jan Smuts’ unpopular and incompetent successor as Minister of Defence.^{cxxxii} The third TS became an artillery unit. English speaking Officers were replaced by Afrikaners, and royal ciphers from Officers’ chairs, red volunteer

tabs (“Rooie luisse”), items or doctrines that reminded of the British influence were discarded or changed. Opposite the Drill Hall the TSR had their parade ground, used for mustering, drilling and the call-up of Soldiers. But hearsay was that these Union Grounds would become unavailable because an underground car park would be built here. The TSR, although able to adhere to traditions (e.g., belts worn by Officers and NCOs that were the Regimental colors) felt that it was depreciated to such an extent that it was happy to donate sensitive memorabilia to Saxonwold, including Nancy of the SAS.



Figure 70. Minister of Defence Frans Erasmus in 1953. © Wiki Commons.



Figure 71. The “New” Nancy on exhibition at the Edinburgh Scottish National Museum (July to October 2014). © Dr. Julie Holder (Edinburgh SNM).

Digby kept insisting that “his” Nancy at The View was the authentic one. Before he had convinced the TSRA to undo “the loan” and to get her back from the SA National War Museum, which resulted in the appearance that there had indeed been some bizarre moves with Nancy as a chess piece on the checker board. However, retired Lieutenant Colonel Bob Wilmot (1943 – still living), is quite convinced that Digby never had “a” Nancy, not at KES, and certainly not at Birchleigh House, the administrative office of the TS a few hundred meters west from the Drill Hall. At KES, Wilmot was slightly senior to Digby (one year), but being his good friend, he helped Digby with the management of the TS museum “in front of the assembly room” at KES. Wilmot had started his basic training at the Drill Hall with the 1st TSR in January 1963, but that didn’t stop him from assisting Digby. Wilmot regrets that he has no pictures of Digby’s Museum at KES, but he believes that there must have been some taken, after all fifteen years is quite a long period. So, taking into account that early 1956 Curson “understood” that Nancy was still at the Drill Hall, with no Nancy at KES, there is the possibility that she moved to the SA National War Museum later than 1953. But there were no exchanges or switches made between Digby’s Museum (KES or The View) and Saxonwold. The co-author of this paper, accompanied by his siblings and parents, started visiting “their” Nancy at the SA National War Museum in the mid-sixties, in the context of a family trip to the Zoo of Johannesburg: Nancy was always present.



Figure 72. Co-author David's cousin, Clare Galloway (nee McLaren Kennedy), standing next to Nancy's replica, displayed at the TSRA HQ and ditto museum at The View. © Authors' collection.



Figure 73. Andrea Petersen, Alfred Petersen's granddaughter, with her daughter Holly, standing before Nancy at the SA National War Museum. Kindly received from Andrea Petersen.

- **The two churches of Hermeton**

If there were no Allied soldiers buried in Hermeton, then this is a first sad discrepancy in the accolades accompanying Nancy's obituary.^{cxxxiii} But assuming for a moment the contrary and that during the retreat of August 1914 a few, or even one, Allied soldiers were indeed KiA at Hermeton - as Clobert attested quite detailed in 1915, then these would have been exhumed from where they were (hastily) buried, to be reburied in the churchyard, still during the war.^{cxxxiv} In 1909 Hermeton's 16th century St Rémi church went up in flames.^{cxxxv} The ruin was completely cleared up in 1923, but

the churchyard remained, without expanding towards the free space.^{cxxxvi} A new church, named St Rémi too, was erected 150 m downslope from the former one, in the same street, and inaugurated in 1911.^{cxxxvii} 24 November 1918 this new church – now riddled by bullets and seriously damaged on the inside - was headquarters to Nancy's Regiment.^{cxxxviii}



Figure 74. St Remi church of Hermeton s/Meuse. © Delcampe.net

Nonetheless, if there were burials of villagers (or supposed reburials of soldiers), the situation from 1909 on remained as it was before: burials continued to be at the old churchyard. In 1950 a new cemetery was inaugurated in the same street; hence the villagers refer to the “No 1” and “No 2” cemeteries of Hermeton.^{cxxxix} Today the old cemetery (No 1) sums about 80 graves. Although most of these are over a century old, a few family funeral vaults bear the names of elderly who died as late as in the nineties. Interviewing some of the ageing inhabitants led to the daughter of the past gravedigger of cemetery No 1. She often assisted her father and mentions that in her life she saw “many bones”. During the interview she is quite convinced that one French Soldier of the Great War was exhumed here. This exhumation occurred in the sixties or seventies, which would be uncommonly late but it is possible.^{cxli}

In 2010, two assumed “Scottish” showed this lady pictures of Nancy and of her sepulture. Asking if she is sure about the nationality of these visitors, she cannot remember where the memory comes from, presumably the word “Scottish” was mentioned. The “Scottish” (more likely South Africans) believed that Nancy was buried at the old cemetery, without explaining why. Verifying with the curators of The View and of the Saxonwold museums whether they launched this inquiry, this was formally denied. Hence the investigation must have been on individual initiative.

In 2020 the churchyard was cleared from all the graves without known concessionaire. The bones of all the deterred were collected in a tin roofed ossuary located at the northern section of the cemetery.^{cxlii} If these exhumations had yielded deerlike bones among human skeletons, this would have been quite a revelation to a small community well aware of Nancy's presence, so (regrettably)

it did not occur.^{cxlii} As a result of these exhumations in 2020 the “collateral” find is that Nancy was not buried at this location.



Figure 75. Ossuary at the Old Churchyard of Hermeton s/Meuse (2022). © Authors' collection

The “Officier d’État Civil” responsible for the management of the cemeteries of Hastière (and thus for those of Hermeton s/Meuse too) formally declared that no Allied soldiers were interred and that consequently no exhumations of the kind occurred at churchyard No 1.^{cxliii} When authors keep insisting that Nancy was interred among Allied soldiers, then she was certainly not buried in this churchyard, where - to start with – no Allied soldiers were buried.^{cxliv} And if a French soldier, killed on 23 August 1914, was buried somewhere else in this village, then he would have been reinterred at No 1 during the war. Hence 28 November 1918 there would not have been such a place outside this churchyard, that would have fit the description of an Allied cemetery.

- **The primary school at the Rue Jules Poucet**

It is surprising how a handful of the aged inhabitants remember the story of Nancy, or the “Springbokke”. Or “l’antelope”, “la chèvre” (the goat), “la gazelle” and “le petit animal des Anglais” (the small animal of the English) is how some refer to her during the interviews. Their (grand)parents told them that “Nancy” (one of the above descriptions) was buried at the rear enclosure of the primary school at the Rue Jules Poucet, No 2. A few of the interviewed elder (the oldest lady, Alice Noel, born 1925) went to this school when they were young girls.^{cxlv} Alice remembers that “le petit animal” was buried at the rear of the “girls’ school”.

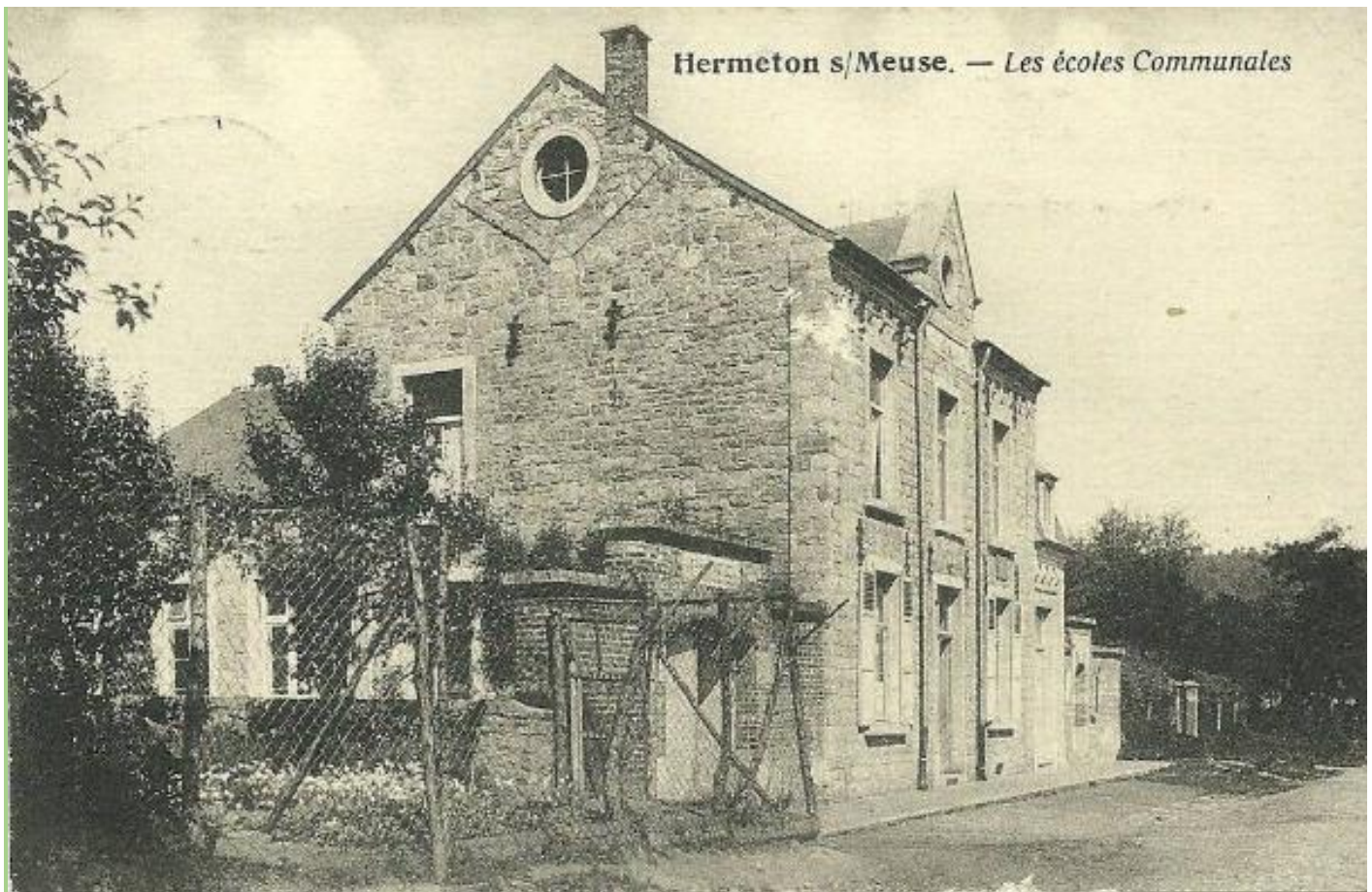


Figure 76. Jules Poucet School. © Delcampe.net

To the SAS unacquainted to this place, from pragmatic or even spiritual perspective, it makes sense to bury a regimental mascot close to the headquarters, which happens to be the church, in a field then belonging to the *fabrica ecclesiae* (i.e., church council or *fabrique*).^{cxlvi} Adjacent to this school (and church), at the corner where the Rue Jules Poucet and the Rue de la Libération begin, stands a cenotaph bearing the names of the soldiers from Hermeton who died at war, and those of the executed civilians of 24 August 1914. Among them village teacher Jules Poucet, aged 39 when he was separated from his children and killed, by the Saxons.^{cxlvii}



Figure 77. WW1 Cenotaph of Hermeton s/Meuse (2022). © Authors' collection

An anonymous photographer eternalized Nancy's sepulture: a rectangular wooden enclosure made of pickets, painted in white.^{cxlviii} The cross at the headboard bears Nancy's name and date of demise, but the picture is of such poor quality that at least a part of the characters has to be guessed based on additional sources. What is clear though, is that compared with the all-around granite stone enclosed churchyard No 1, there is absolutely nothing in common. Nancy appears to have been

buried in a muddy grass field, bordered by shrubbery at the right side, possibly a makeshift enclosure, and with an orchard in the rear.

There is no motive to question whether Alfred and the troops who served with the SAS right from the beginning, were deeply affected by Nancy's death.^{cxlix} After all they were the scarce survivors and little Nancy on her tiny, prancing legs had gone through it all too. The same may be true for the military honors and the three volleys fired.^{cl} Caretaking by "all the medical personnel of the headquarters" should probably be put in perspective and narrowed down to the Regimental Aid Post,^{cli} because the SA Field Hospital was stationed 7 km away, at Gochenée, and the SAS was on foot.^{clii}

Several authors consider Nancy's date of death 26 November based on the blurry picture of her sepulture, however in the war diary of the SAS of 28 November 1918, it was undeniably announced as "today". Her death notice was not repeated in one of the appendices of the war diaries (nor of the 4th, nor of the headquarters) which would then have turned it into a typical (General) Order "No xx", so it is unclear from where this claim originated. Continuing the reading implies that none of the military parades (or soccer games) were cancelled, again a discrepancy with the tributes made to Nancy retrospectively.^{cliii} "It's as if she knew that she was the darling of every soldier on parade",^{cliv} alas the notice about her demise could not have been more uncompassionate. In the very same letter to Dalrymple in which Browne informs about Nancy's death, he finishes quite light-hearted with "Someone made a concoction of rum and sugar... everybody liked it, and I am sure it added to the hilarity of the evening". The ambiguity in Browne's letter suddenly reduced Nancy to what she was to war-torn men: a dead animal. Back in 1863, Douglas the (dromedary) Camel of the 43rd Mississippi Regiment, was killed by a Union sharpshooter during the siege of Vicksburg. Furious at his death, Lieutenant Colonel Robert S Bevier ordered six of the Regiment's best snipers to avenge Old Douglas' death, which they did successfully. Although Douglas (really) seems to be the only tangible exception with a grave and headstone among his fellow troopers, they ate him.

In the leading and more or less official (South African) versions of her burial, "the troops trudged back to their cold and muddy trenches around the village".^{clv} Now, this is very puzzling as no one dug trenches at Hermeton, and the SAI certainly did not either. The village had its share in atrocities but over the four years of war no fighting occurred here between Allied and Saxon troops. In "another" Hermeton however, 17 km northwest of Hermeton s/Meuse, one of the bloodiest battles of the Ardennes ignited at noon, again on 23 August 1914. During "the Battle of Ermeton" 85 soldiers of the 13th Belgian Infantry Regiment were killed, while they were firing from trenches they had dug behind hedgerows or – half of them in civilian clothes - from hideouts in houses. Confused and unaccustomed to street combat, in shortage of hand grenades the Saxons suffered a tremendous 2.000 casualties of whom 900 died. By the end of the day, the Saxons had lost 55 of their 60 officers.^{clvi} After the bloody battle of Ermeton the villagers hastily buried the soldiers. Later during the war, they were exhumed and transferred to the cemetery of (H)Ermeton s/Biert. In 1923, Belgian authorities exhumed the soldiers again, this time to transfer them to the military cemetery of "Fort" Marchovelette, north of Namur.^{clvii} Has this recollection of another yet neighboring "Ermeton" – one with trenches this time, including a temporary Allied cemetery - confounded South African authors?

- **The glamorous finale...**

With the clearing of the churchyard and in the absence of an Allied cemetery at Hermeton s/Meuse—even a short-term one - is there any reason to doubt the oral tradition from a past generation to their grandchildren many years ago? Namely, that Nancy was “simply” interred behind the enclosure of the primary school in the village. Admitted, a far less glamorous finale for an iconic war mascot, but raising extremely interesting questions though today. Such as: what are the odds that her remains are still in place? Or was her grave over the years disturbed by local, agricultural activity? Or has the nature of the parcel(s) been changed due to an extension of the schoolyard towards the rear?

Interviewing a handful of older villagers, and the priest, yielded that the gardenlike veld next to the schoolyard belonged to the church council. The villagers remember that it could be leased by a family smallholding for cultivating some vegetables.^{clviii} “But these people are long passed away”. As the interviewees recall that ploughing or working of this field was done manually without the use of heavy machinery, the odds that a military grave could have been disturbed by a spade or pitchfork are unlikely. However, a substantial extension of the schoolyard towards the rear would mean that Nancy’s grave, depending on its depth, has or could have been disturbed permanently. The analysis of the cadastral maps of 1898, 1910, 1923, 1930 and of today by “Les Archives de l’État à Namur” illustrates that the parcel limits of the schoolground 96 K have remained unchanged.^{clix} The stonework enclosure in the rear separating the school playground from parcels 92A and 94C (the veld where Nancy is supposedly buried) is already noticeable on the very first cadastral map of 1898 (AP_3346). Parcel 177T must not be considered because the stone enclosure never reached that far. Consecutive maps of 1910 (AP_3347), of 1923 (AP_3349), of 1930 (AP_3351) and of today indicate that all the enlargements and adaptations made to the primitive building (on the left, the right and the rear) were completed within the parcel’s boundaries (Figure 7). According to “Les Archives de l’État à Namur” there were no interventions over the more than one hundred years that could have “denatured the soil” of parcels 92A and 94C, meaning that if something was buried there, it theoretically should still be in situ.

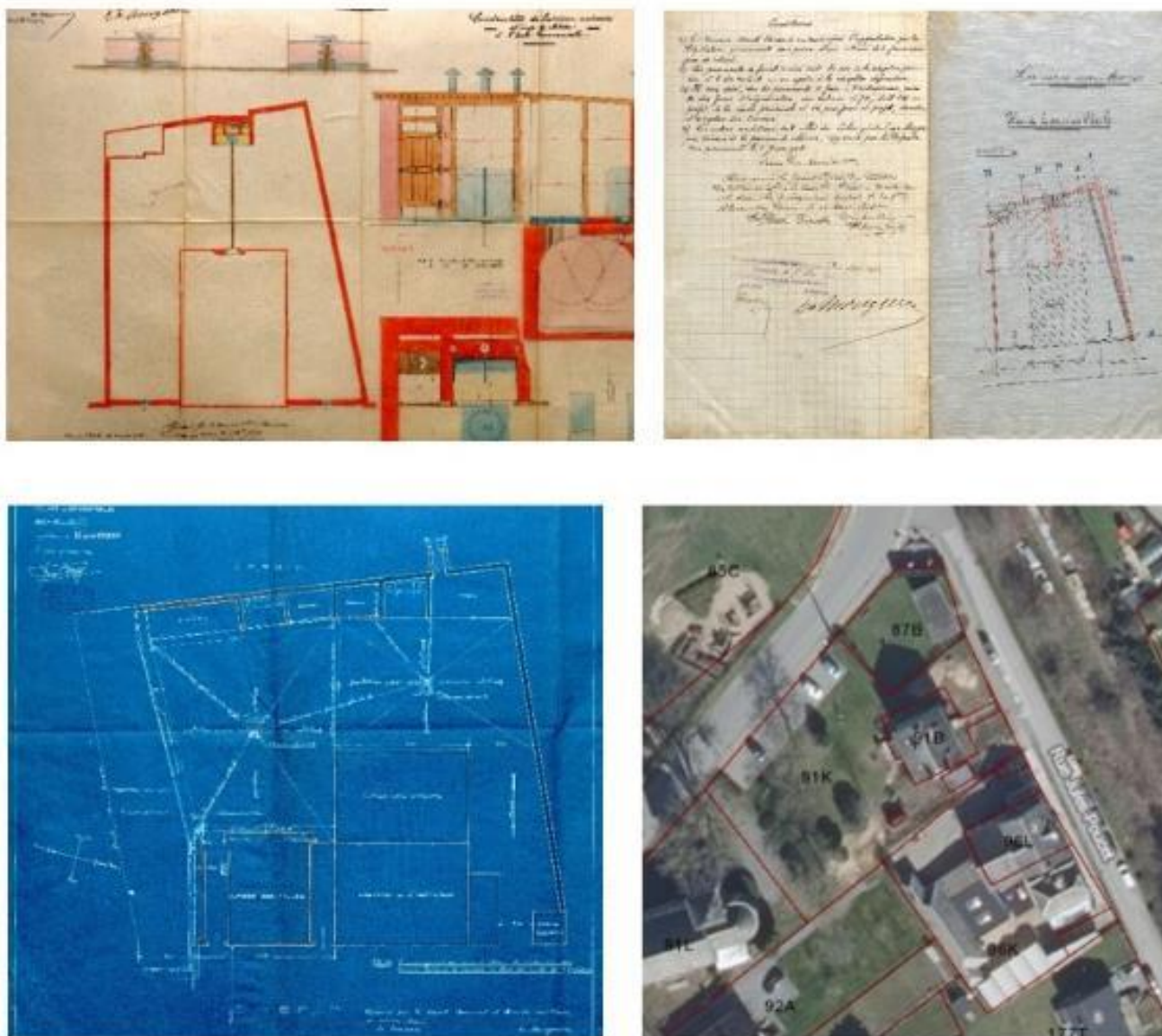


Figure 78. Cadastral Maps of 1898, 1910, 1923 and of today, of the Rue J Poucet, No 2. Received (2022) from Julie Godinas, Archivist at “Les Archives de l’État de Namur”. © Author’s collection

• The proof of the pudding

The weakness of researching Nancy’s grave is whether a handful of ageing villagers, although apparently acquainted to Nancy’s story, were biased by an interviewer suggesting to them the location of the burial site. Objection to any likelihood is that the emic perspective clearly did not include Nancy’s origin or even how she looked like, before meeting the researcher. Who in turn was unacquainted with Nancy’s burial site. All of the ageing interviewees believed that Nancy came with the English and showing pictures of her white sepulture – although these are free available on the internet – led to amazement.

The ad hoc interviews were unplanned, unannounced and randomly arranged as one villager led to another (going from one house to another appointed one). One interviewed lady (in fact the first

respondent to have revealed the burial site, back in 2019) became uncomfortable with the pending disclosure of the site and is now opposed to it. The interviewees reported that some other villagers too, aware of “Nancy’s secret”, disagree to expose her burial place. “Because history is past”, because of fear that publicising will result in harassment of private property owners, or that it is ridiculous to suggest that Nancy’s presence would benefit the scarce local businesses. Asking why Nancy’s presence behind the enclosure of the school was never mentioned earlier, the answer is that it was never brought up till now. Or perhaps it was investigated by someone from abroad, but then this query was muted because it was not communicated (in French).

The oldest lady (Alice Noel) remembered that they were always told that “la chèvre” or “le petit animal des Anglais” was buried at the rear enclosure of the girls’ school, which she attended as a child. Now this is an interesting statement because initially, in the 19th century the school was a mixed school. But between 1916-1919 the single, mixed classroom was assessed to be too small and the girls were sent to the girls’ school of Hastière. What Alice says, is in fact a pivotal time marker, because the opening date of the classroom for girls on parcel 96K coincides with the start of her school period more than ninety years ago. The reintroduction of the girls progressed in phases, and the girls had already returned to Hermeton in 1923 (before Alice was born). Alas until 1928, the girls had classes in a barrack funded by “Le Fonds Roi Albert” (she was three-years-old then), and there is no information available where this (temporary) barrack was placed. The girls’ school, which was more like an additional classroom on the left side of the building on parcel 96L, was opened in 1932. So, when Alice refers to the girls’ school where she went as a child, it means that Nancy’s burial place can be narrowed down to parcel 94C.^{clx}

Over time and with people succeeding, according to the interviewees the local attitude towards historical events begins to change, from opposition to cautious acceptance. Today, the priest, the churchwarden, at least one leading Officer of the municipality and the municipal historian clearly value Nancy’s presence as a benefit for the community, and not something that should be kept secret. The once long-forgotten deerlike remains of an exotic animal next to a church and a (combined First and Second World War) cenotaph might become a second battlefield tourism asset of Hermeton. Indeed, one km to the south on the Rue de France which leads to Givet, in January 1945 the Americans left a tank at the doorstep of a local dentist, as a weighty token of appreciation.^{clxi clxii} This tank is exhibited as a memorial for the Battle of the Bulge.^{clxiii} Nancy’s plaque adjacent to a railway section that once served German warfare transport to Verdun, would then become like an almost tangible presence of the first Allied troops entering Hermeton s/Meuse in November 1918.

Regrettably, the precise location of Nancy’s body will not be narrowed down within the parcel where she was supposedly buried. The authorisation for an archeological dig on private properties cannot be obtained at this time. It is not even considered. The current opinion of the church council and Hastière officials is that the recollection from local firsthand witnesses and communication across one or maximum two generations should suffice as validation. The place behind the enclosure where Nancy rests has never changed. Perhaps disappointing in terms of procurement of any physical evidence, prohibiting the exhumation of Nancy’s bones undeniably evades the debate on “what is next now?” With the disinterment of Nancy, discussion could unfold whether she might be subject to practices relating to the return of the remains of the dead or a reburial somewhere else.^{clxiv} Leaving her where she rests can be turned into an advantage to a small patrimony that did not preserve its historical core very well. Because Nancy did. “She saw us through until the armistice”. She

witnessed so much more; in fact, she shared every single horrendous battle the SA Brigade was involved in.^{clxv clxvi clxvii}

Our research has awakened a subconscious recollection about Nancy's presence that became dormant once the war was over and daily life in the rural village resumed. Today, it is unclear which opinion or attitude the town Mayor and College have towards highlighting Nancy's presence with the ceremonial inauguration of a commemorative plaque on the neighboring church fabrique's terrain. Members of the church council and the churchwarden himself are not opposed. Although all of the contacted town officials are very friendly, just like in Franz Kafka's "Castle", it seems impossible to contact the mayor or to receive any kind of reaction of Mr. Simon Bultot (or previously from his father Claude whom he succeeded begin 2023). The ceremony would be attended by David McLaren-Kennedy, and possibly his brother, nieces and cousins, coming from all-over the world (i.e., South Africa, USA, Canada, Australia, UK and Spain). A bagpiper from the military academy would play a tribute to Nancy. Her plaque or statue would include the story summarised from our research and how she ended up in the garden behind the school playground.

An official headstone of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) cannot be obtained. In a personal communication yet very understanding and compassionate towards Nancy's uniqueness, the customer service explained that "even though she endured all the horrors of the war among troops, sustained injuries and died of injuries, she was not a Soldier". Being an animal, even a regimental mascot, "she would not have been seen as a war casualty through the eyes of the Imperial WGC at that time". War mascots were not considered in the Imperial WGC policy when it was founded in 1917, and the CWGC adheres to the early policy.^{clxviii}

It is unjust to claim that Nancy was "the only animal in history to be buried with full military honours in an Allied cemetery". Before Major General Sir Fabian Ware's huge efforts, there simply was no structural, widespread organisation for managing the graves of "all the" individual soldiers.^{clxix} An example of true devotion to war animals happened more than two millennia ago. After his beloved horse Bucephalus ("Oxhead") and his dog Peritas ("January") had died, Alexander the Great named two cities at the Hydaspes (Jehlum River) after them.^{clxx} His horse and dog undeniably meet the prerogative for being animals that were buried with full military honours.

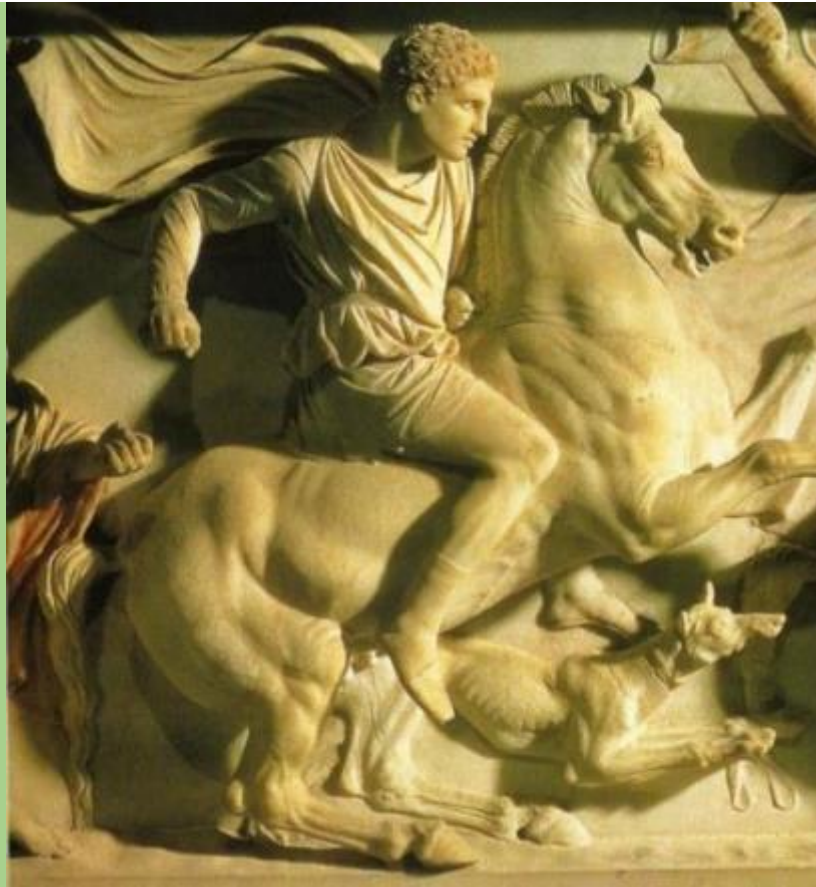


Figure 79. *Alexander the Great, riding Bucephalus and accompanied by sighthound Peritas.* © Wiki Commons

Moustache, the Barbet who saved the Regimental Flag during the battle of Austerlitz and in doing so lost his rear leg, was decorated by field Marshal Jean Lannes personally and subsequently met the Emperor, Napoleon Bonaparte. After being killed during the siege of Badajoz (1812), “Mouse” (as he was called) was buried by his troops, in a mass grave amidst his dead human companions. Still fighting, the men put a headstone with the inscription from the medal of his collar at the mass grave.^{clxxi} In 1890 Sally Ann Jarrett (an American Staffordshire Terrier) of the Union Army received her own statue at the feet of a bronze infantry man of the 11th Pennsylvania Volunteer Regiment at Gettysburg Battlefield.^{clxxii}



Figure 80. *Douglas the Confederate camel.* © todayinhistory.blog

Douglas still has his grave and headstone among 5.000 soldiers at Cedar Hill Military Cemetery.^{clxxiii} Every year at Vicksburg, there is a reenactment with camels to honour Old Douglas.^{clxxiv} These few examples (of the hundreds) within Allied armies, show that the claim that Nancy was the only animal in history to be buried among Allied soldiers with full military honours, should be cited with the utmost precaution.

• Conclusion

By the end of the war, the South African Scottish had lost 1337 “all ranks”.^{clxxv} A heavy cost it was, without mentioning the men who returned home without limbs, or lost sight, or without the resilience to cope with it all. The men who sacrificed so much were so many and only the names of those whose path to glory ended in the grave or in vanishing are chiseled in stone or etched in bronze, for eternity.^{clxxvi} The seven South Africans who died closest to her, in place as well as in time, were buried in Hestrud (France).

Nancy of the 4th Regiment, the fighting Springbok with the broken horn, was promoted from symbol of duality (South African Scottish) to become the symbol of an entire Brigade. Despite the weighty numbers of human suffering, Major Browne personally informed his Colonel of the loss of one animal, a springbok. “We buried her in the village and we put up a cross with a French inscription so that the grave will always be left undisturbed”. After being skinned for taxidermy by the best of the best, she was laid to rest behind the enclosure of a small village school in the Belgian Ardennes. Abandoned in a garden, far away from the skirling pipes that once made her reappear after days of vanishing.^{clxxvii}

We now know that Nancy’s grave was indeed left undisturbed, but not because of a white cross or any other symbol or commemoration, but because of insensitivity, of oblivion. Despite that she

shared every single day of her short life with 'Jocks', even their untimely death, her name and Regiment were carved nowhere.

Nancy's story ends like a sad fairy tale. At last, or hopefully, if the town Mayor complies, after more than a hundred years a passer-by of the Rue Jules Poucet will stop for a brief moment and read the name of who rests here in the back garden. Just as it was promised.

For always.

© Dirk Danschutter, MMSc

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Educational Background:

Elementary school: School 13, Vilvoorde

Lower “Humaniora”: 1971 – 1974 (3y), KA Grimbergen

Higher “Humaniora”: 1974 – 1977 (3y), Science B, KA Grimbergen; **first of class**; “**price of the government for endurance during studies**”; “**price August Vermeylen Kring**”.

“Maturity” exams (mandatory preamble to university study): in Biology (trisomy 21) and English (Orwell G)

Ac year 1977- 1980 (3y): **Graduated General Nurse**, HRIP Brussels, ‘**Magna Cum Laude**’ (84%); **first of class**. (Registered by FOD Health: RN)

4/1/85 – 10/31/85 (6mo): **Dual type (in-service) training** Pediatric Cardiology UZ University Ghent, Pintelaan, B 9000 Ghent, and (Erasmus University) Dijkzigt Rotterdam, Netherlands

1987 (48H): Certified **Medical Imagery Technician** (Omeral VUB)

1986 – 1991: (Pediatric) **Cardiac Echographist** for the National Foundation of Scientific Research at UZ Ghent (NFWO), echographic screening of new-borns (Pulmonary veins M-, B-mode Echo & (Color) Dopplermode study)

Ac years 1985 – 1986 continuously (equiv. of 3 years of “distance learning”, and with central jury examination): **Animal Care Technician** (specialization small domestic animals), Leiden, Netherlands; ‘**Summa Cum Laude**’ (9/10).

1997: registered **Graduated Nurse in Intensive and Emergency Care**, Registered by FOD Health: CCRN

Ac year 1998 (1y): **Graduated Nurse in Pediatric Intensive and Emergency Care**, HUDERF/HEFF - ULBruxelles, Van Gehuchtenplein, B 1020 Bruxelles. 180 Hrs. ‘**Cum Laude**’.

May/99 – July/99: Pediatric Emergencies Training for ER nurses, AZ-VUB

2000: Registered as **APLS Nurse Provider** (ERC-BRC) (81%)

2002: European Basic and **Advanced Paediatric Life Support** (EPLS): Registered instructor (ERC-BRC)

Ac year 1999 – 2001 (2y): **Certified Clinical Perfusionist**, Gasthuisberg, KULeuven – Gasthuisberg; ‘**Cum Laude**’ (79.6%), **second of class**.

Ac year 2004-2006 (2y): **Master of Science in Nursing and Midwifery** (120 ECTS), VUB; ‘**Magna Cum Laude**’ (84.3%), **first of class**, “**price of the Dean & felicitations of the Jury**”.

Thesis (Di-(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate and deep venous thrombosis in children: a clinical and experimental analysis) withheld for the NVAO Visitation Committee (2009).

2006-2020 (retired MIL): MIL instructor in Paediatric Lifesaving Courses, Belgian Defence, MHKA

Ac year 2010 (1 y): (“**Manama**”) **Master of Science in Disaster Medicine**; Thesis (Integer Linear Programming in Logistic Engineering, based on the Utility Theory) withheld for the NVAO Visitation Committee (2012).

Sept 2012: ALS Registered PHPLS instructor (Pre-Hospital Paediatric Life Support – Manchester Group)

2006-2015: MIL advisor in Nursing Officer Career for Academic Nurses, Belgian Defence, MHKA,

2018- ongoing: instructor Police Specialized Forces (BAB, QRF & K9)

2014-2017: **Doctoral Student Medical Sciences VUB**

Languages:

Dutch (Flemish): maternal language

French: very good (main communication at work)

English: good mastery

German: good mastery

Spanish (Castilian): mastery (2 years CVO-Meise)

Greek (Modern): basic knowledge (3 years CVO-Wolvertem-Jette)

Career:

8/10/80: 1.0 (FTE) bedside nurse at AZ-Free University Brussels, NICU, Laarbeeklaan 101, B 1090 Brussels. Hospital is now called the UZ Brussels.

1986 – 1991: 0.5 Equiv AZ-VU Brussel Assistant-Chief Nurse Paediatric Ambulatory & Polyclinical Care + 0.5 Equiv UZ Ghent Paediatric Cardio-Echographist (FWO Research Program)

1991 - 2009: 1.0 Chief Nurse PICU UZ Brussels, from 2009 0.8 FTE (“tijdskrediet”)

Assistant to the Professor (0.3 Equiv AAP): 2006-2009. Faculty of Medicine VUBrussels (GF KRIT); in-service and training lector 3rd Bachelor Medicine. Training period coordinator Students MSc Nursing & Midwifery, Faculty of Medicine VUBrussels (GF KRIT)

Faculty of Disaster Medicine (European Master Disaster Medicine): tutor, lecturer, visiting scientist.

Tutor of the Courses on:

Logistic Engineering,

Veterinary Aspects of Disaster,

Safety, Security and Protection of Response Personnel,

Roles of Nurses and Midwives during Disaster. (0.1 Equiv AAP)

GF KRIT, Skillslab practice trainer (0.1 Equiv AAP):

Teaching:

Intensive Care nurse-students (2nd level BN, 4th year),

Emergency Dept nurse-students (2nd level BN, 4th year),

BN students (3rd year) at the Schools for Nurses of Lier (KHO);

BN students (3rd year) at the Schools for Nurses of Diepenbeek;

BN students (3rd year) at the Schools for Nurses of KaHo Aalst

BN students (3rd & 4th year) at the Schools for Nurses of Brussels (Erasmus and KHO) from 1991 till present.

BN students (4th year) at the Schools for Nurses of Genk (UCLL) from 2018 till present.

Courses, Ppts and Syllabi available on request.

From 2012-2019: 2nd level BN, 4th year: Thomas More Campus Mechelen & Turnhout and VIVES Bruges

MD (Paediatrician) Teaching:
CPR,
IV-techniques,
(P)BLS, APLS,
conventional mechanical & transport ventilation,
critical care transport of children,
pacemaker therapy,
monophasic defibrillation & AED,
oxygen therapy and intubation, active humidification

Fire Brigade Paramedics Trainer/Examinator (FIBRU): PBLS & APLS, transport of children
Army Paramedics Trainer/Examinator (CMO16, MHKA) till present. Advisor for Officer's career
Nurses (APN-level)

March 2014: appointed as **Nurse Expert** at FOD Health

Veterinary Technician 2010-2018: 3 to 4 rotations/year for the duration of 4 consecutive days in
Spanish Stray Dog Clinic (Toledo, 75-100 dogs/rotation):

anaesthesia,
dental care,
identifying & micro-chipping,
emergency and IC care,
assistance to the vet surgeon,
wound care,
tattooing earmark

Combat paramedic National Reserve Army (EMI 1 HM Soest, Destelbergen, MHKA)

OpsA Certified trained reservist.

Courses on APLS, PHPLS, PCCT and Paediatric TCCC (2010 -> ongoing).

B-FAST, USAR & BVK: activated missions:

Mission Role 2 Banda Aceh (Tsunami 2004);

Mission Role 1 Pakistan Directed Kashmir (Earthquake 2005);

Mission (stand off by Egypt Gov Dec) El Arish Egypt (Israeli-Gaza war 2009);

Mission, Head of mission Port-au-Prince, Haiti (EQ 2010).

Organized missions, stand off by Belgian Gov Dec: Houston Dome (2005); Spain (forest fires 2006).

Organized mission, activated: Romania (2006)

Trainer (Mother & Child DMAT-module B-FAST training week-ends), Mgt of Dead Bodies and Post-Mortem Disaster Scene (USAR)

Incident Commander Full Scale simulations: Borgomanero (It, 2011) double suicide bombing (150 casualties)

Incident Commander Table top simulations: Airplane crash (It, CDA, 2011) 300 casualties

Installed the Clinical Skill & Simulation Centre of the VUB (May 2011-> today, ongoing, site EhB):

Prehospital site with 1 Advanced Life Support Ambulance,

1 Fast Intervention Vehicle,

1 ER and (P)ICU room,

1 operating theatre.

Diagnosed and repaired all flaws in AVS and Laerdal configuration.

10 + 40% appoint. to VUB Skills & Simulation Centre

Founding Father of the Villa Samson project (open nov 2017).

Publications - International:

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'Response to disaster': **Danschutter** D. EfCCNa itl congress 10/9 Amsterdam, the Netherlands: abstract in EfCCNa itl congress abstractbook 2005

'the MOUNSTER': **Danschutter** D. EfCCNa itl congress 11/9 Amsterdam, the Netherlands: abstract in EfCCNa itl congress abstractbook 2005

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The MOuntable UNit STretcher Extension Rack (MOUNSTER®). **Danschutter** D (congressbook it'l Conference on paediatric critical care conference November 2004, Montréal, Canada)

Maintaining 37°C in inspired gasses via reciprocating heated water embedded percussive flow (RHWEPP) during high frequency percussive ventilation (HFPV). **Danschutter** D. Publication in Congress book. 6th European conference on paediatric and neonatal ventilation. Ovifat (Belgium), October 10-12, 2002

Paediatric intensive care transport in Europe. **Danschutter** D. Congress book (abstract). 1st conference of the European federation of critical care nursing associations, 26th-27th may 2002, Paris, France.

'Paediatric critical care transport in 15 European countries: an investigation; **Danschutter** D. May 2001, National conference on paediatric and neonatal critical care transport, congress book, Clearwater, FLA, USA.

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8 - juni 2015 **Verpleegkunde** in een pluralistisch perspectief. ... Digitale nieuwskrant van de Federale **Neutrale** Beroepsvereniging voor **Verpleegkundigen** - **Dirk Danschutter, verpleegkunde over de grenzen heen**

Vanaf 2016, quasi alle publicaties in kader van Villa Samson: WOEF, veterinaire vaktijdschriften (Vlaamse en Waalse Ver.), Libelle... Een paar voorbeelden:

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Lectures Internationally:

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 Novara, UPO Faculty, MSF, theory of values as tool for logistic engineering, Dec 2013.
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 'DVT and the possible relation with IV-therapy': ESPNIC itl congress 2005, 17/9
 'Response to disaster': EfCCNa it'l congress 2005, 10/9 Amsterdam, the Netherlands
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 "Pediatric critical care transport in 15 European countries: an investigation", USA, FLA, Clearwater. National conference on paediatric and neonatal critical care transport. 8/5/2001.
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 'Conducted currents during defibrillation as possible injury to health care personnel'. 2nd World Congress on Pediatric Intensive Care, Rotterdam, 23-26/6/96
 'Aspects in home ventilation for children'. Venticare Congress, Utrecht, 27-28/93
 'Nursing aspects of the traumatized child'. 14th international symposium on intensive care and emergency medicine, J.L. Vincent, Brussels, 15-18/3/94
 'Rewarming techniques at the ICU'. Symposium on acute paediatrics, Amsterdam, 22/9/94
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Lectures Nationally:

'Het transport ABC', IPICD 10: Antwerp 2009, 17/1

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 'Abdominaal trauma bij kinderen'; lezing VVIZV congres Gent; November 14th, 2003
 'Thérapie d'O2, ventilation artificielle par moyen de masque et du ballon, technique d'intubation trachéale', RANP November 15 & 17th 2002
 'Studiedag wiegendood', 'Reanimatietechnieken: nieuwste richtlijnen'. October 16th 2001
 'Code Blue', IPICD6, November 17 th2001
 'CCTransport bij kinderen', IPICD6, 17 November 2001
 'Accès par voie IO, IT & CVC', RANP 24 & 25 November 2001
 'Thérapie d'O2, ventilation artificielle par moyen de masque et du ballon, technique d'intubation trachéale', RANP 24 & 25 November 2001
 'Kinderintensieve zorgen', syllabus symposium VVIZV Gent, 2000
 'PICU' VVIZV-congress ICC Gent, October 2000
 'Risicogedrag tijdens defibrillatie' VVZ in at OLV Aalst, June 6th.
 'BLS' en sessie 'intubatie' on 15/11. 'Interactive Pediatric Intensive Care Day'
 'Polytrauma bij kinderen'. VVIZV Congress Ghent 1993
 'Verdrinking en MOSF bij kinderen'. VVIZV Congress Ghent 1994
 'Benadering van kinderen in noodsituaties'. UPV VUB 1995
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 'Defibrillatie en de veiligheidsvoorschriften'. VVIZV congress Ghent 1996
 'Aandachtspunten bij het gebruik van de DDDMP pacemaker'. VUB, Kiekens, ER Nurses; 1996

Poster internationally:

The MOUNTABLE UNIT STRETCHER Extension Rack (MOUNSTER®). Danschutter D AA Paediatrics transport conference October 2004, San Francisco, USA
 The MOUNTABLE UNIT STRETCHER Extension Rack (MOUNSTER®). Danschutter D. International Conference on paediatric critical care conference November 2004, Montréal, Canada
 Paediatric intensive care transport in Europe. 1st conference of the European federation of critical care nursing associations, 26th-27th may 2002, Paris, France.

Organization Congress:

10th Interactive Pediatric Intensive Care Day on 17 December 2005 Erasmus Hogeschool Campus VUB Jette

8th Interactive Paediatric Intensive Care Day on 15 November 2003 Erasmus Hogeschool Campus VUB Jette.

Réanimation avancée néonatale & pédiatrique on 6,7 & 8/2/2003 and 21,22 & 23/11 2003 at Campus Erasme ULB

7th Interactive Paediatric Intensive Care Day on 16 November 2002 Erasmus Hogeschool Campus VUB Jette.

Réanimation avancée néonatale & pédiatrique on 15 & 17 November 2002 CERIA - COOVI Anderlecht

6th Interactive Paediatric Intensive Care Day on 17 November 2001 Erasmus Hogeschool Campus VUB Jette.

Réanimation avancée néonatale & pédiatrique on 24 & 25 November 2001 CERIA - COOVI Anderlecht

5th Interactive Paediatric Intensive Care Day; 2000 Erasmus Hogeschool Campus VUB Jette.

4th Interactive Paediatric Intensive Care Day; 1999 Erasmus Hogeschool Campus VUB Jette.

3th Interactive Paediatric Intensive Care Day; 1998 Erasmus Hogeschool Campus VUB Jette.

2nd Interactive Paediatric Intensive Care Day; 1997 Erasmus Hogeschool Campus VUB Jette.

1st Interactive Paediatric Intensive Care Day; 1996 Erasmus Hogeschool Campus VUB Jette.

Interviews (radio, television, magazines):

'de Tijd' by Inne Renson. Subject: "Euthanasia" in children' (Oct 2005)

National television ('één') on the response to disaster by B-FAST at Pakistan (Oct 2005)

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'Nieuwsblad' & 'Standaard' on Master in Nursing & midwifery, VUB, 2006, July/

NVKVV tijdschrift: over de mogelijke rol van de Ma VP & VK in de toekomstige mij (Oct 2006)

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Vanaf 2016, quasi alle interviews in kader van Villa Samson (radio, TV, RTL, TV5, BBC, TV Suisse...)



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Metalsa (Novi, Michigan)
07/14 – 05/16 Chief Engineer – Advanced Engineering - Body

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Hutchinson Sealing Systems (Auburn Hills, Michigan)
04/12 – 03/13 Engineering Manager

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2004 – 2007 Closures Manager / Customer Supervisor – Body Closures

Porsche Engineering Services (Troy, Michigan)

2003 – 2004 Lead Engineer/Closures Supervisor – Body Closures

MSXi (Dearborn, Michigan)

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1999 - 2001 Supervisor - Closures

SPI (Farmington Hills, Michigan)

1994 – 1999 CAD Design Supervisor

Hawtal Whiting, Inc (Troy, Michigan)

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1984 – 1985 Component Release Engineer

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Dutton Plastics (Alrode, South Africa)

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Military Service:

Conscripted for National Service in the South African Defence Force from 1975 until 1976. During this time took part in Operation Savannah in the Angola War. On completion of National Service was transferred to the Citizen Force (Rand Light Infantry) and served until 1986 when emigrated to Canada. Engaged in active duty in South West Africa/Namibia (3-month tours of duty) between 1977-1985.



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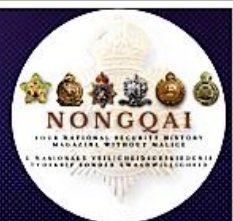
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ENDNOTES

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