



## Newsletter: August 2009

### What happened at our last meeting held on 9 July 2009

Pres. Norman welcomed the 19 members present

Apologies were received from Harry Munro, Klaus Ehgartner, Mike Daly, Noel Pope, Pierre Retief, Terence Conroy, Chris Wenhold, Henry Hartley and Zwannie Zwanepoel.

Pres. Norman introduced Dr Jak van den Bergh, our guest speaker for the day.

Jak is a member of our Probus Club and a man that wears many hats. The hat that he will be wearing today will be that of Genealogy or family history.

Jak told us that it was our pleasant duty to preserve our knowledge of our own family for posterity. We, the elderly, possess knowledge of our family that no one else has, and if we do not record this knowledge, it will be buried with us, and lost to future generations.

Family history may also be important if someone suffers from a genetic disorder, and if a doctor wants to investigate. To some people knowledge of their roots are very important. Please don't deny your descendants this knowledge that you possess.

Jak handed out copies of a document explaining Genealogy and how to go about recording the family history. Anybody that was not present at our last meeting that would like a copy please contact the secretary.

Dieter Kruger thanked Jak for the informative presentation.

### Next Meeting

Date: **13 August 2009**

Time: **9.30 for 10.00**

Venue: **Rustenburg Methodist Church Hall in Brink Street**

Speakers: Volker Krüger will be talking to us about Wills and Testaments as well as Deceased Estates, Planning and Administration.

### Birthdays and Anniversaries for August 2009

4	Harry Munro	13	Clive Poulton
22	Annette Meyer	30	Julius Tellingner
12	Ed and Lois Farnworth	15	Peter and Stephanie Graven

### Arms of the Anglo Boer War

#### .303 RIFLES AND CARBINES

After the introduction of magazine rifles by the German and French armies the British Government considered various patents for a new service rifle and eventually chose a combination of patents.

This rifle had an action designed by J.P. Lee and the barrel designed by M.E. Metford.

This barrel had seven shallow grooves and fired black powder ammunition. It was patented on the 22 December 1888 as magazine rifle Mark I (generally known as the Lee Metford).

The smokeless cartridge (cartridge Ball S.A. Mark I) was adopted in 1892 and the new barrel with deeper grooves in November 1895.

The cartridge Mark II was found not to have great wounding power and the modification thereof resulted in the notorious Dum Dum scandal.

The Mark III ammunition was a redesigned ball ammunition which complied with the acceptable specifications.

The new barrel was designed and produced by Enfield resulting in the renaming of the rifle to Lee Enfield Rifle Mark I.

It is a British tradition that firearms are named after the designers thereof. Should the action and barrel be designed by different persons the firearm would have a double name, the first section of which would correspond with the name of the designer of the action while the second part would correspond with the name of the barrel designer.

#### Technical Data:

The Lee-action is a one-piece steel forging which required many machine operations before it was completed and is complex due to the two-piece stock design. The front end of the receiver is milled out and threaded for the barrel while a heavy collar is left inside the rear of the receiver ring against which the barrel butts. The bolt has dual-opposed locking lugs which each engage in a recess milled into the wall of the receiver bridge. The firing mechanism consists of a one-piece firing pin, coil spring and cocking piece while the safety is mounted on the cocking piece. The action cocks on the closing of the bolt and the cartridge cannot be fired unless the bolt handle is all the way down and the action locked.

The detachable staggered column box magazine of 10 round capacity is made from heavy gauge sheet metal and has a follower which is raised on the left side causing the cartridges to be staggered in the magazine. A cartridge cut off allows single-round loading while holding the cartridges in the magazine in reserve.

#### Rifles and Carbines used in the Anglo Boer War:

1. Rifle Magazine Lee Metford Mark I\*  
Adopted in January 1892 which was a conversion of the Mark I. The sights were changed from the Lewes and Welsh pattern to barley corn front and V-notch rear sight. It had an 8-round magazine.
2. Rifle Magazine Lee Metford Mark II  
Adopted in April 1892. It was fitted with a 10-round magazine, the bolt was modified and the outside contour of the barrel changed. A half-length cleaning rod was fitted and the brass marking disc on the butt stock omitted.



*Figure 15 above:*

*Above: Lee-Enfield rifles: Top, Mk. I and bottom, Mk. I\*.*

3. Rifle Magazine Lee Metford Mark II\*  
Adopted in 1895. It had a safety catch added to the bolt.
4. Rifle Magazine Lee Enfield Mark I  
Adopted in November 1895. The barrel had deep Enfield rifling (replacing the shallow Metford rifling used in previous rifles). The sights were also modified.
5. Rifle Magazine Lee Enfield Mark I\*  
Adopted in 1899. Like the previous model but without a cleaning rod mounted in the stock.
6. Carbine Magazine Lee Enfield Mark I\*  
Adopted in 1896. It was shorter than the Mark I, had no cleaning rod and no sling bar on the left side of the butt.

#### Acquisitions:

After the Jameson raid the ZA Republic had a number of captured Lee Metford rifles over and above those already in stock and thus started the war with 2430 rifles, while the Free State had 300 Lee Metford and or Lee Enfield rifles. The rifles captured during the raid and confiscated from the Reform Committee found their way to the various Commandos or were sold to the Burghers. The ZAR police (ZARP) were very keen to acquire Lee Metfords and exchanged where possible their Martini Henry and Guedes rifles for the Lee Metfords that had found their way into the various state magazines.

#### Shortcomings and Redesign:

The .303 Lee Enfield rifle was a sturdy well designed and well constructed fire arm. It was accurate enough, safe to handle and withstood the rough battle field conditions. Active service during the Anglo Boer War highlighted the following shortcomings:

1. Shell rims torn during extraction
2. Two-piece stock adversely affecting the accuracy
3. Double feeding
4. Ineffective sights
5. No clip loading.

The shortcomings found during the Anglo Boer War were partially addressed and the Mark I\* was in 1902 replaced by the Short Magazine Lee Enfield rifle known as Rifle Nr I SMLE Mk I.

This rifle was modified in 1907 and the rifle Nr I SMLE Mk III was produced. It had a clip loader constructed onto the breech and was widely used during World War I.

The Rifle Nr IV SMLE Mk I was designed in 1931 and became the workhorse of the British and Commonwealth Infantry during World War II. It was extensively used after the war until its replacement by the self loading rifle in 1953.

*Thank you to Paul Otterman  
for this contribution*

### **"Big" little towns: Bredasdorp**

**Lisa Bartlett** (Go Travel)

#### **There's something special about the quaint town of Bredasdorp.**



Lying on a hill known as Preekstoel, this town named after the first mayor of Cape Town Michiel van Breda, claims to be the first town or 'dorp' established in South Africa.

As quiet as this town is on any given day, Bredasdorp is known as the economic hub of the Cape Agulhus region and swarms with tourists.

**Proteas that grow on the hills are one of the main products this town boasts.**

I warn you though, that despite this, the town may be a buzz in the morning but when it comes to later in the day and it is so still and quiet that you could hear a pin drop.

#### **If you need a drastic change of pace and scenery, give Bredasdorp a try for your next vacation.**

Just because it is a little "dorp" does not mean that it hasn't had its' very own historical issues. Former mayor Van Breda and his neighbour Pieter Voltelyn van der Byl were in conflict about where the Dutch Reformed Church should be built.

Neither man would give in, resulting in the establishment of two churches - one in Bredasdorp and the other in the small town of Napier. (It was previously the location of van der Byl's farm)

Bredasdorp is probably best known for its Shipwreck Museum. This is something to be proud of as it is the only one of its kind in the county. The museum is dedicated to the wreck of the Arniston on 30 May 1815, which killed 372 people during a storm near Waenhuiskrans.

The museum houses a collection of artefacts from ships that have been wrecked along the coast over the years. Some pieces of furniture that were salvaged are restored here and on display.

Are you a nature lover? The Heuningberg Nature Reserve at the top end of Van Riebeeck Street in Bredasdorp is definitely something to consider visiting.

Go for short hikes or long walks on the mountain... it's always a good way to clear ones' head. Stay over at the [Bunchu Bushcamp](#) which promises not to disappoint.

If you'd like some more options to pass the time in this historically rich town, we have a few places you may like to explore in or near Bredasdorp:

• **EnviroWines Bistro**

Situated in Long Street, the EnviroWines Bistro is a very popular wine lounge and tea garden in the centre of the town. Have a scrumptious meal while your kids play in the plush garden. The bistro is open every day, except for Monday, and dinner is served on reservation over weekends.

The staff is extremely friendly and capable. They speak English, Afrikaans, German and Spanish!

There's more!

In mid 2009 a wine-tasting shop will open on the same premises offering quality wines which have been audited by the strict criteria and received the quality seal of EnviroWines.

**For more info contact: (028) 424-2158**

• **Salmonsdam Nature Reserve**

Just 20 kilometres of the village of Stanford, the Salmonsdam Nature Reserve is well known as both a hikers' and bird watchers' heaven.

If you crave adventure in the pure simplicity and beauty of nature, decide on one of the great hikes on offer:

- 1) **Waterfall Trail**
- 2) **Mountain Trail**

**WHAT WILL MATTER**  
by Michael Josephson

Ready or not, some day it will all come to an end.

There will be no more sunrises, no minutes, hours or days.

All the things you collected, whether treasured or forgotten, will pass to someone else.

Your wealth, fame and temporal power will shrivel to irrelevance.

It will not matter what you owned or what you were owed.

Your grudges, resentments, frustrations and jealousies will finally disappear.

So too, your hopes, ambitions, plans and to-do lists will expire.

The wins and losses that once seemed so important will fade away.

It won't matter where you came from or what side of the tracks you lived on at the end.

It won't matter whether you were beautiful or brilliant.

Even your gender and skin colour will be irrelevant.

So what will matter? How will the value of your days be measured?

What will matter is not what you bought but what you built,

not what you got but what you gave.

What will matter is not your success but your significance.

What will matter is not what you learned but what you taught.

What will matter is every act of integrity, compassion, courage or sacrifice that enriched, empowered or encouraged others to emulate your example.

What will matter is not your competence but your character.

What will matter is not how many people you knew,  
but how many will feel a lasting loss when you're gone.

What will matter is not your memories but the memories of those who loved you.

What will matter is how long you will be remembered, by whom and for what.

Living a life that matters doesn't happen by accident.

It's not a matter of circumstance but of choice.

Choose to live a life that matters.

*Contribution from Boet Mentz*

*Written and compiled by Des Smith*

*Monday, 10 August 2009*