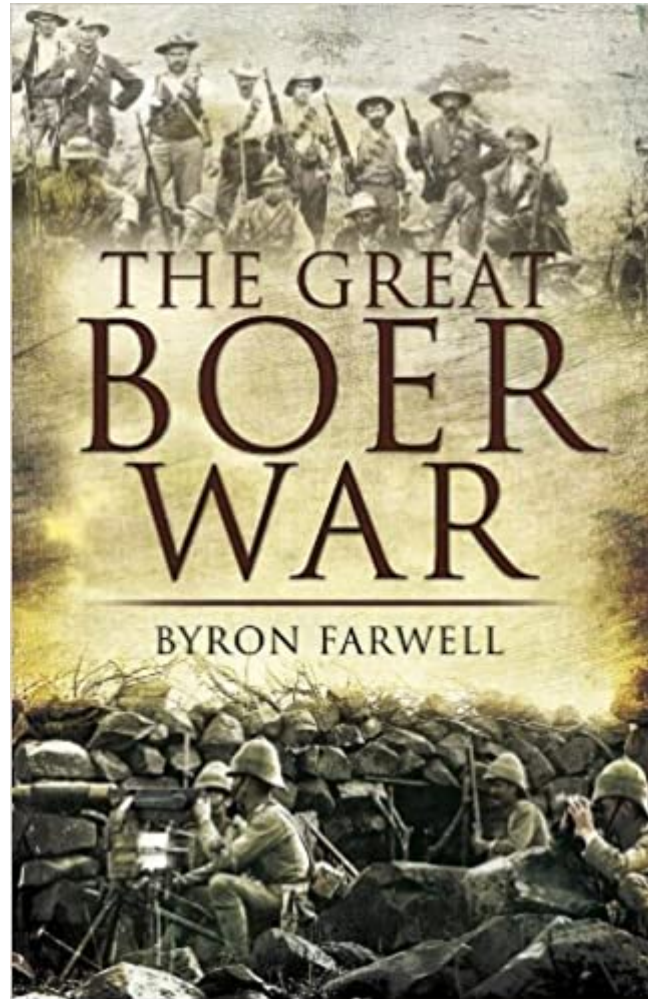




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Great Boer War



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Synopsis

The Great Boer War (1899 - 1902) – more properly the Great Anglo-Boer War – was one of the last romantic wars, pitting a sturdy, stubborn pioneer people fighting to establish the independence of their tiny nation against the British Empire at its peak of power and self-confidence. It was fought in the barren vastness of the South African veldt, and it produced in almost equal measure extraordinary feats of personal heroism, unbelievable examples of folly and stupidity, and many incidents of humor and tragedy. Byron Farwell traces the war's origins, the slow mounting of the British efforts to overthrow the Afrikaners, the bungling and bickering of the British command, the remarkable series of bloody battles that almost consistently ended in victory for the Boers over the much more numerous British forces, political developments in London and Pretoria, the sieges of Ladysmith, Mafeking and Kimberley, the concentration camps into which Boer families were herded and the exhausting guerrilla warfare of the last few years when the Boer armies were finally driven from the field. The Great Boer War is a definitive history of a dramatic conflict by a master story teller and historian. Byron Farwell served as an officer in the North African and Italian campaigns in World War II and also in the Korean War. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in 1964, and is the author of Queen Victoria's Little Wars, also published by Pen & Sword.

Book Information

File Size: 21400 KB

Print Length: 532 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 1840222174

Publisher: Pen and Sword (September 19, 2009)

Publication Date: November 19, 2013

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00GS8A3T6

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #343,850 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #71 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Africa > Southern Africa #99 in Books > History > Africa > Southern Africa #158 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Historical Study > Reference

Customer Reviews

I didn't know a great deal about the Boer War, except what I can remember from History lessons at school (which was an awful long time ago!!). I thoroughly enjoyed this book it is well written and full of readily assimilated detail. It has filled a void in my 19th century knowledge. The overriding fact that I interpreted from this book, plus others on the Indian Mutiny, the Crimean War, the Zulu War to name but a few, was how totally inept the British High Command was during that era. I hope that, since the incompetence shown in WW1, that has been improved. Getting back to the book, sort of: how the squaddies, at that time, coped with the ineptitude of their General Officers I just can't understand. The book gives a very good insight into the courage of your average soldier despite the higher ranking officers who were in command. It also gives a good indication of the plight that the Boers went through in defense of their country. For anyone who wants a good introduction to the Boer War I thoroughly recommend this very readable book.

I have been reading numerous books about periods in history that I didn't know much about. The Anglo-Boer War was one of them. I find this a fascinating time in pre-WWI history and this book details it very well. A lot of similarities to the US Revolution, but with a different outcome. It is amazing how much trouble the Boers gave the British and their overwhelming military superiority. The last half of the war is very sad as families become relocated in camps and many die. I highly recommend this book!

farwell has written a great book about a terrible war; he dealt with the big political issues on both sides, the battles, small & large, individuals on both sides from the politicians, war leaders, individual participants both military & civilian and many of the lesser known people who suffered through the war & the concentration camps as well as POW camps; not only well written but I thought also very objective; I recommend to anyone who wants to know about the Boer War & its effects on South African history in the 20th/21st centuries

A quite interesting book about an unjust war fought by an overconfident Empire against a nascent

nation that wanted nothing to do with them. Amazing really how long the Boer's held out.

A very good history of the war as well as the history in South Africa leading up to the War. Well done and worth the reading.

A powerful and completing history of the two Anglo-Boer Wars fought between the British Empire and the Transvaal Boers and Boer republics of the Orange Free State and the South African Republic. The first war was a disaster for the British, the second, for the Boers. The war saw the first wide-scale use of barbed-wire, trenches, magazine fed rifles, machine guns, breech-loaded artillery and concentration camps. More Boer women and children died in the camps than all the combatants on both sides - as many as 28,000. An additional 20,000 black Africans died as well, many to starvation. Neither the Boers nor the British cared what happened to the non-White population. The war, a tragedy for all sides, gave birth to the South African Republic. This is an tremendously insightful and interesting history of a war now forgotten in Great Britain and most of the world. Worth a read!

Farwell is one of my favorite authors and I have re-read this book, The Great Boer War so much that I had to buy another copy. The author is a thorough historian with an excellent ability to make his work very readable. He brings the second Boer War into proper perspective in the study of African continental studies and how war played an important part in shaping fortunes and politics in that part of the world. A rousing up-close story of valor and stupidity, unbridled greed and self-sacrifice.

Enjoyed all the facts and figures. Learnt more than we were ever taught in school in SA in the 1970-80. Then again we were not taught about the war it was simply swept under the carpet. A great pity. Disliked all the spelling mistakes

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