



# The Boer War – A Balance Sheet

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## Area

### The Republics

### The British Empire

Z.A.R.	288 000 sq km	244 000 sq km	UK and Ireland
O.F.S.	130 500 sq km	779 200 sq km	Cape and Natal
<b>Total</b>	<b>418 500 sq km</b>	<b>1023 800 sq km</b>	<b>Total</b>

## Forces

Z.A.R. Artillery	733	375.328	British Troops
Z.A.R. Burghers	32.353	52.414	South Africans
Z.A.R. Police	1.545	307	India
O.F.S. Artillery	490	228	Ceylon
O.F.S. Burghers	22.317	15.917	Australia
O.F.S. Police	150	6.416	New Zealand
Swazil. Police	302	6.051	Canada
Medical Services	250*		
Scouts	100*		
Foreigners	2.000*		

**60.291 Burghers opposed the Empire's 458.610 men in arms.**

\* Approx figures

## Operational Deaths

### The Republics

### The British Empire

<b>Killed in action</b>	<b>3.937</b>	<b>5.774</b>	<b>Killed in action</b>
<b>Died of wounds</b>	<b>included above</b>	<b>2.018</b>	<b>Died of wounds</b>
<b>Accidental deaths</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>798</b>	<b>Accidental deaths</b>
<b>Volunteers</b>	<b>53</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.147</b>	<b>8.590</b>	<b>Total</b>

## Other Fatalities

<b>Died of disease</b>	<b>924</b>	<b>13.250</b>	<b>Died of disease</b>
<b>Died as prisoners</b>	<b>1.118</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>Died as prisoners</b>
		<b>508</b>	<b>Died at home</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.042</b>	<b>13.860</b>	<b>Total</b>

## Other Casualties

<b>Wounded</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>8.517</b>	<b>Wounded</b>
<b>P.O.W.</b>	<b>28.555</b>	<b>65.936</b>	<b>Sick / Invalids</b>
		<b>108</b>	<b>Missing</b>
		<b>466</b>	<b>not specified</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>28.555</b>	<b>75.027</b>	<b>Total</b>

**Total Republican (operational) casualties: 34.744 (approx)\***  
**Total British and Imperial (operational) casualties: 97.477**

\* For civilian casualties please refer to the „Concentration Camps“ page.

# Boer Artillery

<u>Type of gun</u>	<u>Z.A.R.</u>	<u>O.F.S.</u>
155 mm Creusot (Long Tom)	4	---
120 mm Krupp Howitzer	4	---
75 mm Krupp QF	8	---
75 mm Krupp BL	---	14
75 mm Creusot QF	6	---
75 mm Skoda Pilsen	1	---
75 mm Maxim-Nordenfeldt	4	---
9 pr Armstrong RBL	---	7
6 pr bronze	---	1
6 pr Whitworth	---	1
1 pr bronze	---	1
3 cm Krupp	---	1
37 mm Krupp	1	---
37 mm Gruson	1	---
3 pr Whitworth ML	---	3
37 mm Maxim-Nordenfeldt (pom-pom)	22	---
65 mm Krupp	2	---
85 mm Krupp	1	---
6.3 inch RML Howitzer	1	---
Mortar	1	---
Mountain Guns	5	---
5 pr Armstrong	3	---
7 pr ML	6	---

## Abbreviations

SB - smooth bore

ML - muzzle loading

RBL - rifled breech loading

RML - rifled muzzle loading

BL - breech loading

QF - quick firing

## Other notes

**Gun:** long barrel, long range, flat trajectory, high muzzle velocity, light shell

**Howitzer:** short barrel, short range, high trajectory, low muzzle velocity, heavy shell

## Significant Boer Guns

### 37 mm Maxim-Nordenfeldt (pom-pom)

<b>Calibre</b>	<b>37 mm</b>
<b>Weight behind gun team</b>	<b>1.372 kg</b>
<b>Ammunition</b>	<b>explosive rounds</b>
<b>Weight of shell</b>	<b>0,45 kg</b>
<b>Range</b>	<b>approx. 2.740 m</b>

### 75 mm Creusot QF

<b>Calibre</b>	<b>75 mm</b>
<b>Weight of gun</b>	<b>356 kg</b>
<b>Weight behind gun team</b>	<b>1.805 kg</b>
<b>Ammunition</b>	<b>Common, shrapnel</b>
<b>Weight of shell</b>	<b>Common 5,2 kg, shrapnel 6,4 kg</b>
<b>Range</b>	<b>approx. 6.200 m</b>

## 75 mm Krupp QF

<b>Calibre</b>	<b>75 mm</b>
<b>Weight of gun</b>	<b>229 kg</b>
<b>Weight of carriage packed</b>	<b>533 kg</b>
<b>Ammunition</b>	<b>Common, shrapnel</b>
<b>Weight of shell</b>	<b>Common 6,1 kg, shrapnel 5 kg</b>
<b>Range</b>	<b>Time fuze 3.520 m, percussion 6.035 m</b>

## 120 mm Krupp Howitzer

<b>Calibre</b>	<b>120 mm</b>
<b>Weight of gun</b>	<b>445 kg</b>
<b>Weight of carriage packed</b>	<b>985 kg</b>
<b>Ammunition</b>	<b>Common, shrapnel</b>
<b>Weight of shell</b>	<b>15,9 kg</b>
<b>Range</b>	<b>5.760 m</b>

## 155 mm Creusot Long Tom

<b>Calibre</b>	<b>155 mm</b>
<b>Weight of gun</b>	<b>2.489 kg</b>
<b>Weight behind gun team</b>	<b>5.487 kg</b>
<b>Ammunition</b>	<b>Common, shrapnel</b>
<b>Weight of shell</b>	<b>43 kg</b>
<b>Range</b>	<b>10.060 m</b>

**All four Long Toms used by the Z.A.R. Artillery were destroyed by the Boer Forces between 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1900 and 30<sup>th</sup> April 1991 – thus preventing them falling into British hands.**



*Long Tom (replica) at Fort Klapperkop, Pretoria, SA - © Bonza 2006*

# The Rifles

## Mauser - the Legend

<b>Calibre</b>	<b>7 mm bolt action</b>
<b>Origin</b>	<b>Germany (1895)</b>
<b>Length</b>	<b>1,235 m</b>
<b>Barrel length</b>	<b>0,738 m</b>
<b>Weight</b>	<b>4,0 kg</b>
<b>Muzzle velocity</b>	<b>approx. 728 m/sec</b>
<b>Max. sight adjustment</b>	<b>2.000 m</b>
<b>Magazine</b>	<b>5 round cartridges in loading clips, smokeless</b>
<b>Numbers in Z.A.R.</b>	<b>35.850</b>
<b>Numbers in O.F.S.</b>	<b>9.525</b>

## Lee-Metford (.303)

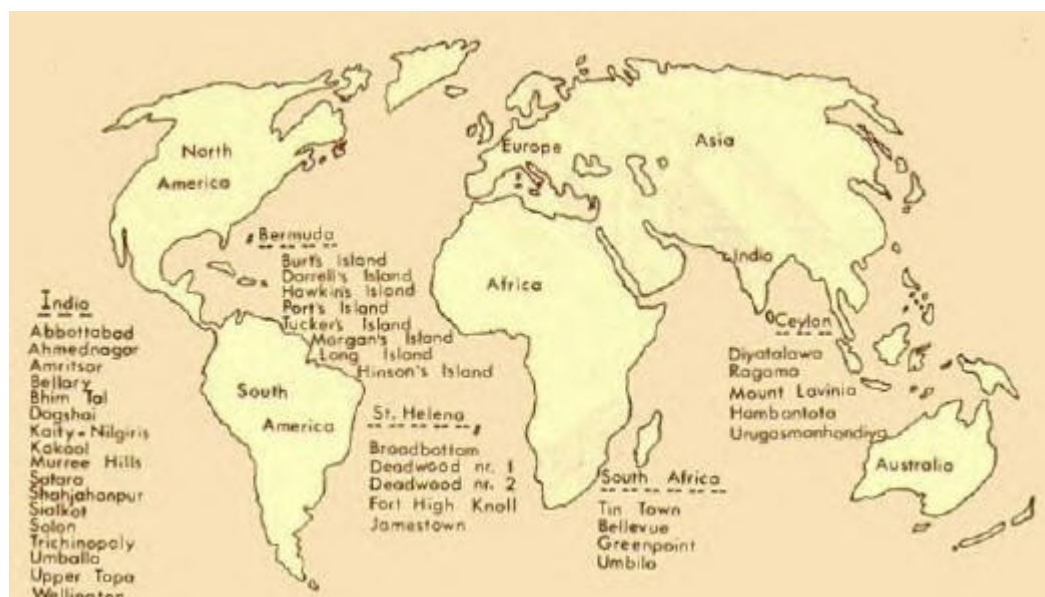
<b>Calibre</b>	<b>7,9 mm bolt action</b>
<b>Origin</b>	<b>Great Britain (1895)</b>
<b>Length</b>	<b>1,266 m</b>
<b>Barrel length</b>	<b>0,767 m</b>
<b>Weight</b>	<b>4,63 kg</b>
<b>Muzzle velocity</b>	<b>approx. 628 m/sec</b>
<b>Max. sight adjustment</b>	<b>1.830 m</b>
<b>Magazine</b>	<b>10 round detachable</b>
<b>Numbers</b>	<b>unknown</b>

## Prisoners of War

The total number of Boer prisoners of war rose to 47.410 until the end of the war in May 1902 - of whom died 1.118 in captivity.

Transvaal p.o.w.	12.954
surrendering during the war	13.780
Free State p.o.w.	12.358
surrendering during the war	8.318

Very few p.o.w. were detained in South Africa. The vast majority (approx 35.000) were deported to the island of Sankt Helena. When the island became too small for the masses of prisoners other camps were established in Ceylon (Sri Lanka), India and Bermuda.



## Horses and Mules – Boer War Logistics

One of the main assets for both sides in the war were horses and mules. The Boers were real “horse-men”, owing their four legged friends much of their many achievements over the years. Unfortunately there are no reliable statistics about horses and mules being used by the Boers in the war.

On the British side statistics are as follows:

<u>Origin</u>	<u>Horses</u>	<u>Mules</u>	<u>Total</u>
Britain	84.235	167	84.402
South America	26.544	0	26.544
Canada	14.621	0	14.621
USA	109.878	81.524	191.402
Australasia	23.028	0	23.028
Hungary	60.352	0	60.352
Spain	0	15.229	15.229
Italy	0	7.004	7.004
Cyprus	0	128	128
South Africa	158.816	45.290	204.106
Uganda	0	306	306
India	8.611	1.114	9.725
Colonial Contingents	28.904	19	28.923
Austria	3.805	0	3.805
<b>Total</b>	<b>518.794</b>	<b>150.781</b>	<b>669.575</b>

Of these, 347.007 horses and 53.339 mules were killed during the war - a total of 400.346 animals.

## The final settlement:

There are no official statistics about the cost of the war on the Boer side. The value of farms, towns, livestock and crops that were lost can only be guessed. All reports on how much the Boer republics spent on arms and ammunition are lost.

On the British side the official figure for the 963 days of the Boer war totals to GBP 221.000.000,00 (in 1902!!!).



### ***Afskeid***

*Statue at the War Museum of the Boer Republics, Bloemfontain, SA*

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