

VELDKORNET DANIEL PETRUS MARAIS

Wednesday, 30 July 2003

Marais joined the Pretoria commando under General Schoemann on 25 October 1899. He participated in the following skirmishes or battles: 30 October 1899 near Colesberg under General Schoeman; Sandrivier, Oranje Vrij Staat under General Bouwer; Kliprivier near Klerksdorp under General Erasmus; Slag van Donkerhoek, 11-12 Junie 1900 under General Liebenberg; Slag van Frederikstad near Potchefstroom, 20-25 September 1900 under General Liebenberg.

Second Veldkornet Daniel Petrus Marais was wounded in both shoulders and an arm, and captured on 25 September 1900 at Frederikstad. He was treated by a British doctor and taken as a prisoner-of-war to St. Helena where he stayed until after the armistice.

Second Veldkornet Daniel Petrus Marais of the Pretoria Commando was awarded the *Dekoratie vir Trouwe Dienst (D.T.D)* with the *Lint Voor Verwonding Opgedaan Gedurende de Anglo-Boeroolog (L.V.V)* and *Anglo Boere Oorlog Medalje* ¹ ².

THE BATTLE OF FREDERICKSTAD(20-25 SEPTEMBER 1900)

The Western Transvaal was divided by the Boers into three military sections. It was here that General J.H. de la Rey roamed uncaptured till the end of the war and, together with General C.R. de Wet of the Oranje Vrij Staat, prove to be a thorn in the flesh for the British.

In August 1900, General De Wet made plans for the revival of the war. Men were recruited from their farms, while the commandos of Harrismith (under Phillip Botha) and Vrede (under Hattingsh) met De Wet at Heilbron on 25 September 1900. Having learnt from experience that wagons were a hindrance to mobility, De Wet told the burghers that in future these were to be abandoned and that only horse commandos would be used. Thereafter, he headed westwards with the Heilbron commando and some faithful men from Harrismith and Vrede. De Wet was to fight battles at Frederickstad and on 6 November at Doornkraal near Bothaville, when Lieutenant- Colonel P le Gallais, finding De Wet's sentries asleep, nearly managed to capture De Wet and President Steyn.

Meanwhile, towards the end of September 1900, Lord Robert aimed to remove all sources of supply to these roving Boer bands in the Orange River Colony by threatening with starvation all the families of the Boers who had chosen to obey De Wet call to arms. Boyes' column was sent to Reitz and Frankfort, Campbell's to Vrede, and co-operation of three other columns was enlisted to assist in catching De Wet.

With the thorough reorganisation of the Boer forces taking place under De Wet and de la Rey, capable leaders were appointed and under the new arrangements, burghers who had taken the oath of neutrality and returned to their farms were called up again. De Wet was at the head of this effort in the Oranje Vrij Staat and through his efforts and encouragement many a Freestater rejoined the commandos.

¹ The documentation is stamped May 1922 and 8 July 1925 respectively

² Ref : Medaljerol : D R Forsyth. Roberts Publications Ltd. 1976.

For De Wet the adoption of guerrilla tactics heralded a period of reverses. From 20-25 October 1900, he and General Liebenberg unsuccessfully besieged Major-General G Barton at Frederickstad Station (Gun Hill) near Potchefstroom. However, the morale amongst the Boer forces was at a low ebb that when British reinforcements under Lt Col HT Hicks arrived from Welverdienst, the Boers had to retreat. It was at this time that Veldkornet Daniel Petrus Marais was wounded and captured.



Signature of D P Marais

FAMILY TREE OF VELDKORNET DANIEL PETRUS MARAIS

The following is the Family Tree of D P Marais.

- 1 **Charles Marais, France**, died 3 April 1689 at "Le Plessis Marle", Drakenstein, South Africa m (second) Catherine Taboureux of le Plessis-Marle, Hurepoix.
- 1.2 **Charles Marais**, born 1668 died <17 May 1711 m 1692 Anne des Ruelles (b 10 October 1673 d 1738) of Guines, Calais
- 1.2.4 **Daniel Marais**, born 1698 ~ 8 June 1698 d < May 1768 m 25 February 1720 Aletta Roussouw born c. 1709 (do. Pierre Rousseau and Anne Retief)
- 1.2.4.1 **Daniel Marais**, born 1720 m 7 July 1754 m Margaretha Geertruda Bouwer (b 1739)
- 1.2.4.1.4 **Barend Daniel Marais**, born Stellenbosch March 1768 d 1849 m 22 October 1786 Aletta Frederica Vogel, Stellenbosch (b August 1772)
- 1.2.4.1.4.12 **Cornelius Hermanus Marais**, born George 21 April 1813 m Somerset East 18 September 1837 Johanna Magdalena de Villiers
- 1.2.4.1.4.12.x **Daniel Petrus Marais** born Somerset East 11 March 1864 d 26 January 1928 m (first) Pearston 1887 Maria Elizabeth Kruger (b 8 June 1870)
- 1.2.4.1.4.12.x1 **Cornelius Hermanus Marais** born Somerset East 1889 m Southern Rhodesia 1907 Elizabeth Tramper (6 offspring)
- 1.2.4.1.4.12.x **Daniel Petrus Marais** born Somerset East 11 March 1864 m (2nd) Bulwayo 1921 Catharina Maria Lee (b. Steynsburg)
- 1.2.4.1.4.12.x.2 **Maria Johanna Marais** born Somerset East 1891 m Southern Rhodesia 1906 Thom Dickie

Daniel Petrus MARAIS died on 26 Jan 1928. He is buried in the Old Cemetery, Lady Grey, East Cape, South Africa. According to the Death Register, he was 53 years old when he died. The Death Register comments as follows: "Deur Blits getref op straat. Hy was stokdoof en laat na vrou & tal kinders. " ³

³ Ref : Die Skriba. Lady Grey NG Kerk - Dode Register 1927 - 1980. NG Kerk, Lady Grey, Oos Kaap, Suid Afrika, 1927 - 1980. 1928, No. 1.



Dekoratie vir Trouwe Dienst (D.T.D) with the Lint Voor Verwonding Opgedaan Gedurende de Anglo-Boeroorlog (L.V.V) and Anglo Boere Oorlog Medalje

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