

J J C CLAASEN "SOUVENIR. VAN MY GEVANGNSCHAP",
DIYATALAWA. CEYLON. 1901

Original ink and watercolour composition with decorative foliage and grapes at top, ornamental device at foot of lettering block:
"J J C Claasen. Souvenire. Van My. Gevangnschap, Diyatalawa.
Ceylon, 30 November, 1901."



Card measures 6.5 by 8.5 ins.



Pasted on the reverse is the front cover of an envelope addressed to "Mr. Frantz Joubert, Eloff, Prisoner of War, Diyatalawa Camp, Ceylon". Bears an indistinct C.G.H. KROM RIVER canceller ⁱ and POW Censor's "Passed" stamp.

BACKGROUND

Prisoner No. 9525 Johannes Jacobus Cornelis Claasen (Klaasen) ⁱⁱ age 41, from the farm Zoetfontein ⁱⁱⁱ, in the district of Bloemfontein was captured at Fouriesburg on 30 Jul 1900 whilst serving with the Brandfort Commando and was sent to Diyatalawa Camp, Ceylon on the Bavarian. Departing 24 Aug 1900 and arriving Colombo 6 Sept 1900.

Prisoner No. 9597 Francois Jacobus Eloff ^{iv} aged 25 from the farm Vaalkraal ^v, in the district of Bloemfontein, was captured at Fouriesburg on 30 July 1900 whilst serving with the Kafferrivier Commando and was sent to Diyatalawa Camp, Ceylon on the Bavarian. Departing 24 Aug 1900 and arriving Colombo 6 Sept 1900.

The provenance of these items is unknown except that they were bought in 2010 from a dealer in Kent who in turn bought them from a dealer in The Midlands.

Acknowledgements:

I am grateful to Robin A Woodruff for the invaluable information relating to Diyatalawa Camp, Ceylon

References:

1. Krom River Post Office & F J J Eloff www.pelteret.co.za
2. Claasen / Claassen / Claassens Families in South Africa www.pelteret.co.za
3. British Concentration Camps of the South African War 1900-1902 <http://www.lib.uct.ac.za/mss/bccd/>

ⁱ KROM RIVER: The Krom River Post Office, district Beaufort West, was opened in 1880, became a sub post-office in December 1898 and was transferred as a Rail Postal Agency in 1903. Putzel lists two cancellers, and examples such as this are likely to be extremely rare.

ⁱⁱ Johannes Jacobus Cornelis (23.9.1859 - 23.8.1936)

ⁱⁱⁱ Zoetfontein, district Bloemfontein. Persons on Farm incarcerated in the Brandfort Concentration Camp

Miss Aletta Cathrina Klaasen Unique ID: 95868
Miss Anna Louisa Klaasen Unique ID: 95866
Master Frederick Johannes Klaasen Unique ID: 95864
Master Jacob Johannes Klaasen Unique ID: 95869
Master Jan Sarelus Klaasen Unique ID: 95865
Miss Martha Margaretha Klaasen Unique ID: 95867
Mrs Martha Margaretha Klaasen Unique ID: 95862
Master Petrus Johannes Klaasen Unique ID: 95863
Ms Maria Jacoba van den Berg Unique ID: 22694

^{iv} Francois Johannes Joubert Eloff (23.1.1876 - 17.3.1927)

^v Vaalkraal, district Bloemfontein. Persons on Farm Farm incarcerated in the Bloemfontein Concentration Camp

Mrs A Eloff Unique ID: 51783
Miss Anna Catrina Sophia E Eloff (A) Unique ID: 51784
Mr Johannes Zacharius Eloff Unique ID: 49521
Mr Adrian Jac Potgieter (A; Adriaan) Unique ID: 51858
Miss Eliz Johanna Potgieter (B) Unique ID: 51861
Master Frederik Jacobus Potgieter (F) Unique ID: 51859
Mrs Martha Potgieter (M) Unique ID: 51857
Miss Martha Sophia Potgieter (M) Unique ID: 51860
Ms Aletta Mag van der Merwe Unique ID: 110239
Mrs Anna Marie van Tonder Unique ID: 94492
Miss Elizabeth Johanna van Tonder Unique ID: 94494
Mr Fredrik Johannes van Tonder Unique ID: 94495
Master Johannes van Tonder Unique ID: 94493