# St Helena Boer War The Deadwood Camp Censor's

## and their Censor Marks April 1900 to July 1902

#### **Background**

In 1899 the UK found itself embroiled once again in conflict in South Africa in what was to be known as the 2nd Boer War. Early in the conflict a large number of Boers were taken prisoner. They were held in prison camps at Green Point, Cape Town, Belle Vue, Simonstown, or on prison ships and transports in Simons Bay. It was decided to remove a large number of prisoners to overseas camps. Camps were set up first on St Helena, then Ceylon, India and finally Bermuda.

The first 500 Boer prisoners arrived at the island of St Helena in the South Atlantic Ocean on the S.S. "*Milwaukee*" on 10th April 1900. As the prison camp at Deadwood was still being set up they did not land until 13th April 1900. Their commander General Piet Arnoldus Cronje was landed on 14th along with his wife who had accompanied him. Censoring of mail started straight away.

#### **Contents**

The objective of the exhibit is to illustrate the camp and the initials of the eight different censors who were responsible for the censoring of the mail into and out of the Deadwood Camp, as well as four of the five different censor marks used. Also illustrated is the straight line \*DEAD\*WOOD\*CAMP\* cachet. This was brought into use with the opening on the second camp at Broad Bottom in early 1901 to differentiate mail from the different camps.

Sheet 1.	Introduction, objective of exhibit.
Sheet 2.	Picture postcards illustrating Deadwood Camp.
Sheet 3.	Picture postcards of the 4th Gloucestershire Regiment 21st April 1900 to 8th July 1901 and 3rd Wiltshire Regiment 7th July 1901 to 13th August 1902 who were the guard at Deadwood Camp.
Sheets 4 to 7.	Type 1 censor mark and the censors F. W. Alexander, the first censor, E. B. Walton, J. H. M. Brown, and Charles E. de Beer.
Sheet 8.	Straight line $^{*}DEAD^{*}WOOD^{*}CAMP^{*}$ cachet used for a short period after the opening of a 2nd camp at
	Broad Bottom in early 1901. Also the Type 1 censor mark signed by Lt. W. J. Maule.
Sheet 9.	Type 1 censor mark with the military censor Captain W. J. P. Marling. He along with Lt. W. J. Maule were responsible for censoring the mail of the German prisoners that were later transferred to the new Broad Bottom Camp.
Sheet 10	Type 1 censor mark signed by Baron Von Ahlefeldt, Chief Censor from March 1902.
Sheet 11	Incoming mail to the Camp Hospital at Deadwood Camp, and an item of inter-camp mail from Ceylon.
Sheet 12	Type 3 censor mark with initials of E. B. Walton and Baron Von Ahlefeldt.
Sheet 13	Type 3 censor mark on incoming mail including scarce red ink.
Sheet 14	Type 1 and Type 3 censor marks with the initials of P. Roux the Press Censor.
Sheet 15	Type 4 censor mark censored by P. Roux on scarce 11/2d rate front, and on rare incoming cover.
Sheet 16	Rare Type 7 censor mark one of only five recorded used on incoming picture postcard.

Items outlined in red indicate scarcity.

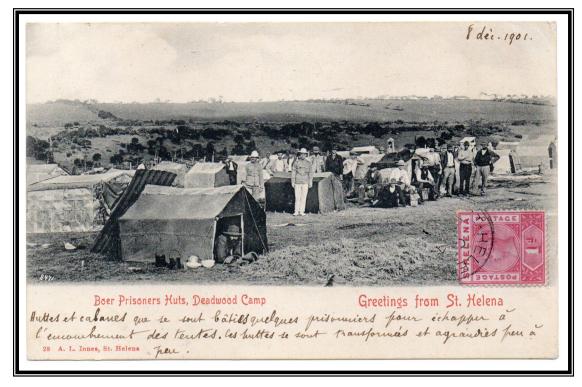
### **References**

St. Helena Postal and Censor Markings 1815 to 2002, B. Mabbett. West Africa Study Circle 2002.

Con William Waldemar, Baron Von Ahlefeldt. Robin A, Woodruff. Published privately.

St. Helena The Philately of the Camps for Boer Prisoners of War April 1900 to December 1902. B. Mabbett and W. P. Vevers

(Due to be published later this year).

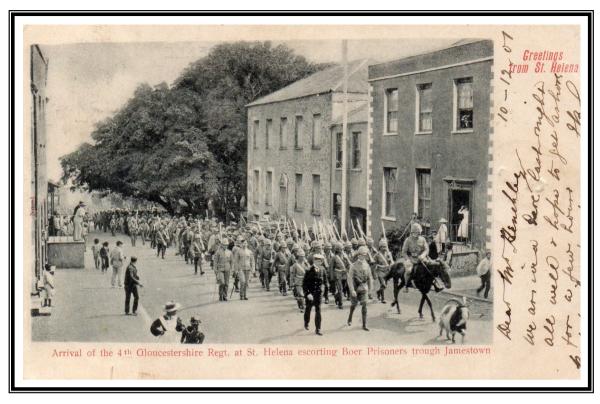


Postcard to Lugny, France 17th December 1901 sent from Deadwood Camp.



Postcard to St. Gallen, Switzerland 15th May 1902. Head Office censor mark on address side.

Innes card No. 28



Innes card No. 4

4th Gloucestershire Regiment stood Guard at Deadwood Camp 21st April 1901 to 8th July 1901.

This card is from a sailor on board the Galician which arrived on 10th December 1901. card was posted on 11th December 1901.



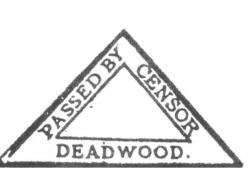
Innes card No. 2 (incorrectly numbered) should have been No. 25. The 3rd Wiltshire Regiment replaced the 4th Gloucestershire's at Deadwood Camp from 7th July 1901 to 13th August 1902.

Innes card No. 2



Type 1 CENSOR PRISONERS OF WAR





Type 3 PASSED BY/CENSOR/ DEADWOOD.

Frederick William Alexander Chief Censor April 1900 to January 1902

Avenue.

F. W. Alexander arrived on the S.S. "*Milwaukee*" on 10th April 1900. His initials have been recorded with the type 1 censor mark from 28th April 1900 until 6th March 1902. He was on leave from 16th July 1901 to 6th September 1901. He was known by the prisoners as Alexander the rat.

all. ,0 pe South Africa



Mr. E. B. Walton was the longest serving censor. He censored mail from June 1900 to May 1902.

Type 1 censor mark initialled E. Walton 7th August 1900.

Mrs W. A. Walton, WELS	
HELEN Cape Sown	

Registered cover to his wife Mrs. W. A. Walton Cape Town 20th December

1900.

Type 1 censor mark

initialled E. W.

The full name of this censor is unknown. He arrived on the "*Bavarian*" on 24th January 1901. He left on the "*Mohawk*" on 8th July 1901, and was shortly sent to Bermuda to become a censor there. Type 1 censor mark in grey-blue

on cover to the Z.A.R. 28th August 1900.

TWO PENCE G. Nolan Esyr Post- Rox 247 STHELENA

clan ettr Paardefon Tein 15 Dest Bloembol Port zwaiszerenneke "het R

Type 1 censor mark in violet on under franked cover to the Z.A.R. 23rd October 1900. St Helena Mabbett Type 3 boxed Tax mark and handstruck 3d applied in South Africa.

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Charles E. de Beer censored mail

for approximately six months. He arrived on the "*Bavarian*" on

24th January 1901, and left on the "*Mohawk*" on 8th July 1901.

Cover to the Woman's Camp at

Johannesburg With Type 1

censor mark with his initials, and straight line \*DEAD\*WOOD\*

\*CAMP\* cachet on the reverse of the cover.

Mrs J.S. Maldeck Braambontyn Henry , No 12 street Johannes Bring Transmaal

Charles E. de Beer' initials with Type 1 Censor mark and Straight line \*DEAD\*WOOD\*CAMP\* cachet. This cachet was in use from January 1901 to 20th July 1901.

	·DEAD·WOOD·CAMP·
Straight line *DEAD* WOOD*CAMP* cachet on address side of Picture Postcard.	UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE ST. HELENA DOST CARD THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE. Montion from fracturel we del broile. EV EV EV EV EV EV EV EV EV EV EV EV EV

Censor Lt. W. J. Maule

UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE ST. HELENA POST CARD THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTED ON THIS SIDE.
Mr. Johers Rilian Dresden - A. Zillnerstrasse 40.
ANNEXED COMPANY E ANNEXED COMPANY FOR THE ANSWE CARTE OL-JOINTE ESTROES A LA RÉPONSE A LA RÉPONSE CARTE ONSE CARTE ONSE

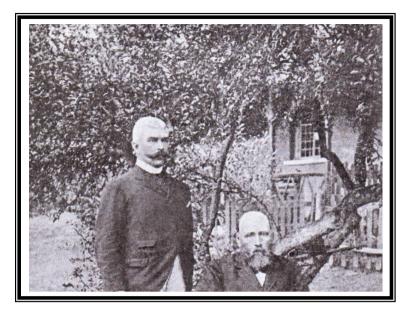
Lt. W. J. Maule of the 1st West India Regiment was

responsible for Censoring the mail of German

prisoners between 13th November 1900 and 5th

January 1901.

The 1st West India Regiment was removed from St Helena following a mutiny of the troops on 13th January 1901.



Straight line \*DEAD\*WOOD\*CAMP\* cachet in use from January 1901 to 20th July 1901.

Colonel Schiel with General P. A. Cronje (seated) outside Kent Cottage, Cronje's residence while held on St Helena.

Captain W. J. P. Marling who took over the censoring of the German mail after the departure of Lt. W. J. Maule. Marling is seen here sitting outside his hut.





Type 1 censor mark with the initials of Captain W. J. P. Marling. His initials have been recorded used between 19th January 1901 and 25th February 1901. Baron Von Ahlefeldt took over as Chief

Censor after F. W.

Alexander became Staff

Interpreter at Dead Wood Camp. He arrived

on the "*Britannic*" on 24th February 1902.

Type 1 censor mark in red with his initials 24th

April 1902.

UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE STHELENA ST. HELENA ARD THIS SIDE. то WRITTEN ON BE

BRIEFKAAR AAN C 0

The initials of Baron Von Ahlefeldt have been recorded used with the Type 1 censor mark between 1st April 1902 and 8th May 1902.

Baron Von Ahlefeldt left St Helena on the "*Golconda*" on 21st October 1902 after overseeing the repatriation of the prisoners at the end of the war.

Ing S He Hommand 200 Hospilal Additions Doad Hood Camij. St Helena

Apart from the main hospital in Jamestown each camp had its own hospital to cater for minor injuries and ailments. Incoming cover addressed to a Hospital Orderly at Dead Wood Camp November 1901.

Murini 901. 14. 1. 901. 10 Mart J. Editor Drisoner Desource At A	voro, twar, bood baises felena.
	and the second second

Mail from a camp in Ceylon addressed to Deadwood Camp dated February 21st 1901 with Diyatalawa Ceylon censor mark.

UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE ST. HELENA POST CARD IE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE. Marthe ademoiselle nance houset loire

Hand coloured Picture Postcard to Lugny, France from a Boer Officer who was allowed to live outside the main camp at Rock Rose Cottage. Type 3 PASSED BY/CENSOR/DEADWOOD with initials E.W.

UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE
POST CARD THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.
DEADWOOD.
Mademoiselle Haby
16 mile de Stetagne
France assures (Seine)
10000- 07

Hand coloured Picture Postcard to France with Type 3 censor mark withhe initials of Baron Von Ahlefeldt

The Type 3 censor mark with the initials of Baron Von Ahlefedt between 8th March1902 to September 1902.

Ontr: 13.11. no

Incoming mail to Capt. B. G. V. De Witt Hamer with Type 3 censor mark in violet. The Type 3 censor mark in violet has been recorded used between 1st July 1901 and 6th

St Helena arrival for November 1901.

February 1902

Bener Star Brower g Kar Minouer g Kar Den Ber St. Helence

Mourning cover to Colonel Von Braun with Type 3 censor mark in red. The Type 3 censor mark in red has been recorded used between 10th February 1902 and 2nd March 1902.

man 01 Miso.

P. Roux was the Press Censor. He arrived on the "Arundel Castle" on 9th July 1901. His initials have been recorded used with the Type 1 censor mark from 23rd July 1901 and 12th September 1901.

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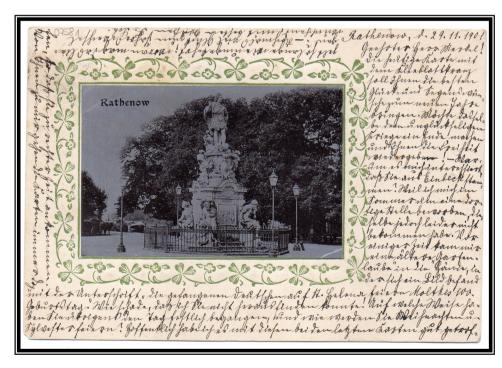
Type 3 Censor Mark initialled by P. Roux. The initials of Mr. P. Roux have been recorded used with the Type 3 censor mark between 13th September 1901 and 18th February 1902.

Rare PASSED/PRESS/CENSOR CENSOR. mark initialled P.R. The Type 4 Press Censor mark is D. Webbstock logre Jo. Meester D. S. Burmester Bo Box 1008 recorded used between 3rd March 1902 and 14th July 1902, this being the latest recorded date of use. Front also shows the rare 11/2d postage rate in use for s short Johannesburg period in 1902. CENO Ru Maanserien Men flelen

Rare Type 4 Passed Press censor in an item of incoming mail. The Type 4 on incoming mail has been recorded on a handful of items between 21st February 1902 and 5th April 1902.

It. flelena. CARTE POSTALE Postkarte -Cartolina postale — Post card — Dopisnice — Levelezö Union postale universelle - Weltpostverein - Unione Gason Ad. Merker Deadwood bamp St. Helena. frai

Rare Type 7 censor mark on incoming picture postcard from Germany. The Type 7 has been recorded on just five incoming items of mail between 21st November 1901 and 5th February 1902.



Picture side of card reduced.

Censoring of mail at Deadwood Camp ceased by May 1902 when all mail was censored at the Head Office in Jamestown when the Type 6 Head Office mark came into use. The Press Censor Mr. P. Roux continued to use his personal censor mark until 14th July 02 on mail emanating from Deadwood Camp. Censoring of mail ceased in July 1902, and the prisoners of war were returned home after signing the oath of allegiance.