



HEADQUARTER OFFICE,
VOLKSRUST SUB-DISTRICT.
4 FEB 1901
No. 894

O. Volkmar SD

The attached application from
the Prov. Prists of the Wakkerboom
District is referred for consideration.

Ladysmith
2.2.1901

J. P. Doster
Magis.
SDP

ADC

II

S O P. Ladysmith.

J. W. Britz, brother of these applicants
was given 10 days parole when he
surrendered - as an indulgence - in
order to go back to his farm to see about
his stock. He did not return and is
now again on commando.

I think the family is not entitled to any indulgence.

J. M. S. Bullock Colonel

Comd. Volkmar Sub Dist.

8.2.01

Military Camp
Ladysmith,
2 Feb 1901.

Major Forster,
D.S.O. &c.
Ladysmith.

Sir,
We the undersigned
desire respectfully to bring
to your notice, that we have
surrendered voluntarily to
the British Military Author-
ities for protection, and
that we are anxious to have
also our families & stock
placed fully under British
protection. We wish you

Kindly to assist us in having
this done, & would therefore
respectfully suggest not only
but request that you release
one of us on parole, & allow
him to return to Vicksburg
for the purpose of bringing
the families & stock of all of
us across into the British
lines. We are willing to Com-
ply with any reasonable con-
ditions that you may deem
requisite for such a release.

We trust Sincerely, Sir, that
you will assist us in this matter,
grant our humble requests,
and have the honor to be, Sir,
your obedient Servants,

G. P. Brits
P. M. Brits
V. J. Brits

L. J. Brits
M. Brits

P.M.
A.H.O.
5084

Dms
1733

1944

Copy Translation.

Asst Comdt Generals Camp

in the Field. 8/8/01.

Sh/533/2

To the O.C. of the British Troops,
M'W'Stroom.

Honourable Sir,

With this I enclose 4 letters, 3 moneybags holding £4:0:3 $\frac{1}{4}$ in cash (1), (2) Cash 6/3, (3) 20/- a note (4) Cash 6/9 and also a pocket book.

These letters and other articles belong to the five Burghers that were shot, and to fulfil their proposed request to send these things to their widow women, I send them to you with the request to see that they come into the proper hands.

You will find all the names on the different letters.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

(Sd) Chris Botha.

Asst. Comdt General.

Stm1

2

Transmitted. This refers to the Care of Koch and the 5 Surrendered Burghers reported shot after trial by a court in the Wabbenstroom district. The capture of Surrendered Burghers was reported in my H 908 of July 22nd.

A. A. McHardy.

Capt. baa & I hat

3
Private Marshal

for your information

Lt. H. Miller

S.A.A. / 1000



To D. M. I.

4
Can you give me the names of these men please,
and what is being done with the money etc.

W. W. P. May



S.A.A. I

Marshal

5
Please reply to memo of Private
Marshal.

Lt. H. Miller

S.A.A. /

W. W. P.



JH/533/2

Army Form C. 348

1947

MEMORANDUM.

From



To

Intell Volkstrust

From

Intelligence
Volkstrust

To

J. A. A. G. J
Katal

ANSWER.

25. 8. 1907

7 Aug 30th 1907.

Kindly say -
I am sending in
copies of all the
Statements as the
Katal case.

Answer

Capt.

J. A. A. G. J

The names of the men killed
were G. P. Britz

P. Britz

O. J. Britz

C. Britz

H. Koch.

The letters were for their
wives and relations and
were duly handed over by
me to them with the purses
and money.

A. L. Powell Capt
D.O. V.S.D.

Sm 1

8

Forwarded.

1/2 A. A. J. M. Hardy Capt
2/9/07. J. A. A. G. J

9

P.M.
2012

Please see
Minute 7.

Sub. mine Maj
Daal. 1.

5
9
01.

Identity informed

7
9
01

—

D.M.I.

Forwarded.

(Sd) A.A. McHardy., Capt.

D.A.A.G., I. Natal.

From Intell., Natal.

To Intell., Volksrust.

H.1077 Aug 16th. Did you have
surrendered Burghers letters sent in by C. Botha read.

From Intell., Volksrust.

To Intell., Natal.

Aug 16th B. 1074 Yes they were all farewell
letters stating they had been sentenced to death.

From, D.A.A.G., I., Natal.

26/8/01.

To., D.M.I.

Further report on the shooting of Surrendered
Burghers forwarded in continuation of my M/533/2 of the
16/8/01 please.

(Sd) A.A. MacHardy., Capt., D.A.A.G., I
Natal.

P.M., A.H.Q./5172.

P.M.

For your information. Kindly return.

(Sd) G.W.F. Milne., Major., D.A.A.G., I

D.M.I.

Returned to sender.

Aug 30th 1901

W.B.

Statement to Field Intelligence Department made by Martinus Britz of the Farm Schurwepoort 44 Ward 2, Wakkerstroom, and till the 22nd inst a member of Koch's laager of Surrendered Burghers, living on Rooipoort 119.

On the 22nd July, 1901 I was in Volksrust, and returned to the Laager at sunset. When I arrived at my tent my wife and my mother informed me that F.W. Koch Senr., F.W. Koch, Jr., Lodewyk Koch, F.W. son, Hendrik, F.W. son, L.C. Joubert and my brothers Gert P, Piet M, Okker J, and Cornelius J. Britz had gone after a party of Boers who had looted some of our stock. My wife and my mother said that they had heard rifle shots. Shortly after, just after dark, my brother Okker, brought my brother Cornelius back, he, the latter having been hurt by his horse falling with him. They informed me that they had taken the sheep back from the Boers, but the cattle ~~/the/~~ they could not get. Shortly afterwards the remainder of the party returned. They informed me that they had exchanged several shots with the Boers. At 7 p.m. Mr F.W. Koch Senr., Gert Brink and Hendrik Koch went on guard over the cattle which were in the kraal. At 10 p.m. Okker Britz, Lodewyk Koch and myself went to see what the dog was barking at. We found we were surrounded by Boers at a distance of about 40 yards. My brother Okker was at this time on the "Stoep" of the house. I called to him to wake up the others, and Lodewyk Koch B. son, and myself jumped over the wall into the Kraal. My brother halted the Boers and they immediately fired. Koch and myself fired from the kraal. The cartridge case stuck in my rifle, and as the Boers were then climbing over the the kraal wall I retired to the house, where our party were busy firing. I knocked the case out with the cleaning rod and went on firing. I was standing alongside my brother Gert, and he received a bullet through the flesh of the left arm. Mr Koch Senr. went to the house as the women folk were crying and found that some of the Boers had forced an entrance from the back and the house was set on fire. Mr Koch came back to us and said "Fire sharp" he was walking upright at the time, he,

he dropped, shot through the head. At this time his son Lodewyk was also wounded. The balance of us retired into one of the verandah rooms and the Boers ceased firing and called for us to come out. F.W. Koch Jnr. went to the door and said that we would surrender if they guaranteed our lives. The answer was that we could come out they would not shoot us. We then surrendered, they took our rifles from us and asked who they killed. We told them F.W. Koch Senr., they said that he was the man they intended to kill. They then asked who was wounded, by brother Gert said I am, they said it is a pity you are not killed as we have been looking for you a long time. They said look sharp and get ready to move as the British troops would be after them. They had collected the few horses we had and ~~we had~~ went off on foot for about 600 yards. They then gave us horses to ride and they took us to Alfred Robertson's house (Elandsberg 109) that night we arrived there just at daylight. They shut us in an outside room and they went and prepared breakfast for themselves, we had none. From there we were taken on a trolley drawn by eight mules to Lodewyk Spies' farm (Goedshoop 275) where they informed us General Chris Botha was. He ordered us to be moved to Gert Peters farm we slept there that night (23rd & 24th) at mid-day the 24th we were sent to Beltresna 304 and slept there that night (24th & 25th). On the 25th we were brought before a General Court Martial at Beltresna consisting of:-

General Chris Botha.
 Isaak Greyling, Commandant Wakkerstroom (President)
 Landdrost Bosman
 Adrian Badenhorst, F.C. Ward 1., Wakkerstroom.
 Piet Badenhorst, Asst F.C. Ward 2 Wakkerstroom.
 Dirk Kemp, of Vyfhoek 274.
 Willem Buhrman of Ermelo District.

Their clerk I do not know by name but could identify. They read a charge of High Treason to us, accusing us of (1) Surrendering to the British and (2) taking up arms against them. We were given no chance to defend ourselves. We were asked if we pleaded guilty or not. I myself pleaded guilty to surrendering but not guilty to the second charge, as I have not had a gun from the British, and the rifles we had at our laagers were to defend ourselves from raiders.

raiders, whoever they might be. My four brothers, Gert, Piet, Okker and Cornelius pleaded the same. They further charged my brother Gert with having taken men from Commando to surrender, and called six men as witnesses against him.:-

F.C. Lourens Badenhorst.

Gabriel Swart Jnr. 39.

Stephanus van der Merwe. Vlaakpoort 232.

Gert van der Merwe, Amersfoort.

Jan Lourens, Novitgezien. 37.

Captain Myburgh., E.V.C.

These latter were very bitter against him, my brother having been Assistant Field Cornet at one time. They stated that they had heard my brother wrote a letter to a Burgher called Johan Swanton advising Burghers to surrender. Izaak Greyling said that Court should be closed till following day to allow of Johan Swanton being called. Bosman said "No" as Swanton's evidence would be more against my brother than in his favour. My brother Gert asked that he might be called but they gave him no answer. Landdrost Bosman then addressed the Court, read the Law, and said that we were guilty of High Treason punishable by Death. He asked the Court to be merciful to F.W. Koch Jnr. and Louw Joubert. The Court retired for ten minutes. On resuming they gave the verdict that Gert Britz, Piet Britz, Okker Britz and Hendrik Koch were to be shot. Martinus Britz to receive 20 lashes, F.W. Koch junr, Lodewyk Koch, B. son and Louw Joubert were to receive 25 lashes each, and be put over their fighting line, if found within same, any Burgher had the right to shoot them, whether they were armed or not. We were put in a room (9 of us) and on the morning of the 26th inst., Bosman and Dirk Kemp came and informed my four brothers and Hendrik Koch that they must prepare themselves to be shot at 11 a.m. At this time a man named Koos Runneke who at one time lived near Paardekop Station came and called Gert, Piet and Cornelius Britz and took them to the Cemetery on Beltrana where a grave had been dug, and they were shot. Hendrik Koch, F.W. Koch jnr., my brother Okker, Louw Joubert, Lodewyk Koch and myself were

were standing at the door of the room where we had been prisoners and saw the 3 mentioned above led to the graveside blindfolded, their hats taken off, and we all heard the shots. I myself could not look. Runneke returned and called Hendrik Koch and my brother Okker, they were dealt with in the same manner. The room we were in was about 200 yards from the Cemetery which is a walled enclosure. I cannot say who, or who did not fire, but the men present were of Ward 2 Wakkerstroom and Edouard's Verkenning Corps. Gen. Chris Botha and F.C. Lourens Badenhorst then came to me and asked if we had heard the shots. I answered yes. Botha said "Well this will be a warning to you not to take up arms against the Boers again".

About 12 o'clock on the 27th instant our lashes were dealt out to us, and half an hour later a trolley was inspanned with 4 mules and we were driven as far as Vaalpoort 38 that night. On the 28th inst we were brought as far as Vlakpoort 232 on horseback from where we could see the British Troops. ~~The tenth man kept~~ Our escort dis mounted us and told us to go to the Troops. The tenth man Gert Pieter Oosthuizen who was captured with us remained with us till the morning of the 25th inst when he was called by Bosman and kept away from us till the morning of the 26th when he came and said good bye as they were sending him with Wessel Groenwald Jun. to Amersfoort. I saw the Declarations made by him, he declared nothing but the truth, and his evidence did not in any way go against us.

My brother Piet and Okker were British subjects having signed the Oath of Allegiance at Ladysmith, Natal.

I.N./533/1.

STATEMENT. to Field Intelligence Department Volksrust, made by Lodewyk Christain Joubert of the farm Rooipoort, Ward 2 District Wakkerstroom, who until the 22nd July 1901 was a member of Koch's laager of surrendered Burghers living on Rooipoort, and captured by Boers on the 22nd July, 1901, tried by Court Martial and released and returned to Volksrust on the 28th July, 1901.

I corroborate the statements made by F.W. Koch junr., and Marthinus Britz, the only point on which I differ with them is that I consider that the distance from the room of the house, in which we were confined, to the cemetery on the farm Beltesna was 100 yards not 200 as stated by them.

The following incidents may help to prove that Hl Koch, G. Britz, O. Britz and O. Britz were shot by the Boers on the 26th of July, 1901... I was standing outside the room the whole time of the proceeding. I saw first G. Britz, O. Britz and P. Britz led from the room to the Cemetery. I saw two of them blindfolded by Lourens Louis Badenhorst, Field Cornet the Burghers standing round sang a hymn and then an order was given to those with guns to prepare. I heard a volley, which sounded like 10 shots together, and I saw the three fall. H. Koch and O. Britz were then taken to the Cemetery and blindfolded, I believe also by L. Badenhorst F.C., and I also heard the shots and saw the two drop. The most of the Burghers then left the Cemetery, some mounting their horses and riding away, others to Groenwald's house close by. General Chris Botha came and asked if we had seen the men shot. I answered "Yes".

There were a few Burghers with Natives in the Cemetery with picks and spades. I could see that they were filling in the grave. I also saw Natives digging the grave earlier in the morning. Field Cornet Lourens Badenhorst came to me and said "Here is the deceased O. Britz' hat which he asked me to 'give you for you to take to his Mother". This hat I brought back, but have not yet given it to his Mother as I have not yet met her. I asked L. Badenhorst if I might go and look at the grave and I was allowed to do so. I went and found the grave filled in, and was informed by a man named Jan Bolton (who during the war lived on Sterkfontein) that all the men were shot through the heart, the first three had two bullets each and the last two three bullets each, and that he only saw blood flow from Gert Britz. The Cemetery is a double one a square stone wall enclosure, with a wire fence running all round it.

The

The men were buried on the East side of wall enclosure, inside the wire fence, but outside the walled enclosure. The Cemetery is on an Easterly declining plain, and the men were buried, from the lowest end of the grave, G. Britz, P. Britz, C. Britz and H. Koch.

I myself did not think that the Boers would shbot them, and therefore watched the proceedings most carefully, I saw all the men go to the cemetery and they certainly did not come away from there.

(Sd) L.C. Joubert.

Sworn before me at Volksrust this 12th day of August, 1901.

(Sd) A.L. Powell., Captain., J.P.

STATEMENT to Field Intelligence Department made by Frederick Wilhelm Koch of the farm Vlakpoort N.232, and till the 22nd July, 1901 a member of Koch's laager of surrendered Burghers living on Rooipoort 119.

About half-past 3 o'clock of the afternoon of the 22nd July, 1901, I was at our laager on Rooipoort where one of our Natives named Kwenkive came and informed me that 3 Boers were raiding our stock. Nine of us, F.W. Koch Senr., armed, Hendrik Koch jnr, armed, Lodewyk Koch, F. son, armed, Gert Britz armed, Piet Britz armed, Okker Britz armed, Louw Joubert and myself armed, followed to take the stock back. We arrived to within 1200 yards of them when they fired at us, all three shot at us. We then separated 3 of us working to the left, and the balance to the right of them, ~~but the Boers got off with some cattle~~ they continued firing, the three ~~that~~ worked to the left took the sheep from them, but the Boers got off with some cattle. We fired about 8 shots at them could not see if ~~fit~~ we hit anyone. We all returned to our Camp about 6 p.m. About 11 o'clock the same night I was awakened by rifle shots and found that we were surrounded by Boers. I did not do any firing as one of the other men had my gun. The Boers set fire to the house, and shouted that we should come out. I said to the rest of our party, we must surrender as ~~my father~~ was at that time killed, and Gert Britz

Gert Brijs wounded and my brother Lodewyk also wounded, and the women and children would be burned to death in the house. The Boers continued firing through the windows and front door of the house, our party said all right talk to them. I went out and said they must stop firing, that we would surrender if they guaranteed our lives (1 man whom I recognised afterwards to be Capt Myburgh of the Verkanings Corps) said you can come out, we guaranteed your lives. Our party then surrendered to him. This Capt Myburgh declared on our trial that we had surrendered to him, but did not say that he had guaranteed our lives. With Myburgh were a de Mollion & Schalk Burgers, two members of Chris Botha's Staff, also Roelf Visagie of Ward 2 Wakkerstroom, and I believe of the farm Sterkfontein. The Boers took us off to Alfred Robertson's farm, Elandsberg, where we arrived about daybreak on the 23rd inst. After the Boers had had breakfast, they took us to General Chris Botha who was at Lodewyk Spies' farm. He told them to take us to Gert Scheeper's farm, where we slept that night. About 2 p.m. of the 24th inst we were removed to Wessel Groenwald's farm Beltresna, and on the 25th we were tried by Court Martial which consisted of 7 men as follows:-

Gen. Chris Botha.

Landdrost Bosman.

Izaak Greyling, Commandant.

F.C., Adriaan Badenhorst, Ward 1.

Asst. F.C., Piet Badenhorst, Ward 2.

William Buhrman of Ermelo.

Dirk Kemp, Ward 2, Wakkerstroom.

Izaak Greyling was the President of the Court. Landdrost Bosman then told us we were tried with High Treason. We said that we had not done anything that they could call High Treason. They said we had as:-

1st. We had surrendered to the British.

2nd. That we had taken up arms against them.

We stated that we were armed against raiders whoever

they

they might be, whether English, Dutch, Kaffir or any body else who came to steal our stock. Bosman said we had taken up arms against looters whom he understood to be them (the Boers) therefore we were guilty of High Treason. We again denied it, but he said we were charged with it, and the Court was postponed for 10 minutes. When the 10 minutes had passed we were called before the Court as also the witnesses against us. Louw Badenhorst F.C. Ward 2 stated that we all shot at them. Gabriel Swart Jr., stated that he had seen Gert Britz shoot at him. Stephanus V.D. Merwe stated that we had all shot at them. Capt. Myburgh declared as already stated by me. Gert van der Merwe of Amersfoort, known as Wit Gert stated that Gert Britz had advised (by letter) the Burghers to surrender at the time he (Britz) surrendered. Lourens Badenhorst F.C., declared the same. Landdrost Bosman asked the witnesses if they had seen the letter mentioned, they said no, but they had heard of it from a Burgher John Swanton. A man named Jan Lourens then came forward and declared that he had heard the letter read by Commandant Joubert in which Gert Britz asked for his cart and mules and other goods as he was going to surrender. Britz said he did not ask for a cart, but the witness was correct regarding the other part of the letter. Gert Britz then asked that John Swanton might be called, they hesitated and said that Swanton was not there and the Court was closed so that the members of same could consider their verdict. Two hours passed and we were called into the Court and Bosman read out that Hendrik Koch, Gert Britz, Piet Britz and Cornelius Britz were to be shot, and that Marthinus Britz to receive 20 lashes and F. Koch, L. Joubert and L. Koch to receive 25 lashes.

Oosthuizen was released he having turned States evidence but in his evidence he said nothing that brought the penalty on us. Between 8 and 9 o'clock a.m. of the 26th inst, Bosman and Dork Kemp came to the room where we were, and said to the 5 who were sentenced to be shot, you must be ready by 11 o'clock.

At half past 11 Koos Reneke came and called Gert Britz, Piet Britz and Cornelius Britz and conducted them to the Cemetery about 200 yards off, they blindfolded them and stood them 2 or 3 yards from each other, I was standing in the doorway of our room facing the cemetery and I saw the 3 shot. Koos Reneke then came and called Hendrik Koch and Okker Britz went through the same form, and I saw these two also shot. I am sure that Stephanus van der Merwe of Vlaakpoort was one of the firing party. I believe that Gabriel Swart Jr. of Vaalbankspruit Drift was also one, but of this I am not sure. General Chris Botha then came to us and asked if we had heard the shots, we answered yes, he said let this be a warning to you and mind what you are doing, he also said that he would send a report to Wakkerstroom.

On the 27th inst. M. Britz L. Joubert L. Koch and myself received our lashes, not on our bare skins, but our coats were taken off. F.C. Badenhorst then ordered us four to be taken by trolley to Vaalpoort, and gave us a pass.

On Sunday the 28th we were brought on horseback to Vlaakpoort from where we saw British troops, and we were released.

Oosthuizen was sent with his uncle Wessel Groenwald towards Amersfoort early on the morning of the 26th inst. and a declaration he made before the Court was all in our favour.

A.D.C.

Kindly inform the Lieutenant General I met Mr Schwikkard this afternoon. Beginning the conversation he asked me "Do you know for certain that these surrendered "Burghers were shot?" (meaning Kok's followers) I replied to the effect I did not. Schwikkard then informed me that the general opinion he had gathered was that the whole thing was a ruse on the part of Chris Botha; that one of the Koks is married to the sister of Mrs Greyling wife of the Wakkerstroom Commandant who was one of the Judges; that the remainder are so inter-married their subsequent life would be unbearable.

Newcastle, 5/8/01.

(Sd) S.A. MacHardy., Capt. D.A.A.G., I