

The Wolverhampton Military Studies Series

Series Editor's Preface

As series editor, it is my great pleasure to introduce the *Wolverhampton Military Studies Series* to you. Our intention is that in this series of books you will find military history that is new and innovative, and academically rigorous with a strong basis in fact and in analytical research, but also is the kind of military history that is for all readers, whatever their particular interests, or their level of interest in the subject. To paraphrase an old aphorism: a military history book is not less important just because it is popular, and it is not more scholarly just because it is dull. With every one of our publications we want to bring you the kind of military history that you will want to read simply because it is a good and well-written book, as well as bringing new light, new perspectives, and new factual evidence to its subject.

In devising the *Wolverhampton Military Studies Series*, we gave much thought to the series title: this is a *military* series. We take the view that history is everything except the things that have not happened yet, and even then a good book about the military aspects of the future would find its way into this series. We are not bound to any particular time period or cut-off date. Writing military history often divides quite sharply into eras, from the modern through the early modern to the mediaeval and ancient; and into regions or continents, with a division between western military history and the military history of other countries and cultures being particularly marked. Inevitably, we have had to start somewhere, and the first books of the series deal with British military topics and events of the twentieth century and later nineteenth century. But this series is open to any book that challenges received and accepted ideas about any aspect of military history, and does so in a way that encourages its readers to enjoy the discovery.

In the same way, this series is not limited to being about wars, or about grand strategy, or wider defence matters, or the sociology of armed forces as institutions, or civilian society and culture at war. None of these are specifically excluded, and in some cases they play an important part in the books that comprise our series. But there are already many books in existence, some of them of the highest scholarly standards, which cater to these particular approaches. The main theme of the *Wolverhampton Military Studies Series* is the military aspects of wars, the preparation for wars or their prevention, and their aftermath. This includes some books whose main theme is the

technical details of how armed forces have worked, some books on wars and battles, and some books that re-examine the evidence about the existing stories, to show in a different light what everyone thought they already knew and understood.

As series editor, together with my fellow editorial board members, and our publisher Duncan Rogers of Helion, I have found that we have known immediately and almost by instinct the kind of books that fit within this series. They are very much the kind of well-written and challenging books that my students at the University of Wolverhampton would want to read. They are books which enhance knowledge and offer new perspectives. Also, they are books for anyone with an interest in military history and events, from expert scholars to occasional readers. One of the great benefits of the study of military history is that it includes a large and often committed section of the wider population, who want to read the best military history that they can find; our aim for this series is to provide it.

Stephen Badsey
University of Wolverhampton

Acknowledgements

This project is ultimately an output from my partnership and friendship with Ian van der Waag, my teacher, co-author and fellow historian. The concept for this book took shape over many years, over various coffees and other drinks, many conversations, and much research. Starting with my PhD thesis, Ian was my supervisor, and we spent much time evaluating biography as a discipline, and its importance in South African history. This volume was the result.

I need to say a word of thanks to the many who have assisted in different ways at different times in my professional and academic career: Kent Fedorowich, Albert Grundlingh, Fankie Monama, Evert Kleynhans, Nicholas Southey, Tilman Dederling, Abel Esterhuysen, Andrew Dinwoodie, Fransjohan Pretorius, Gary Sheffield, Sam Tshehla, Ross Anderson, Paul Rich, Manuel Trucco, Max Lauker, Eddie Watson, Jason McDonald, and Alex Mouton.

Mentioned in dispatches are also Hex Novoa, Cobus Buitendag, Dewald du Toit, Bonakele Msimango, Jacques de Vries, Johan Pieterse, Pierre Lombard, Theuns Barnard, Sifiso Masuku, Steve Maluleka, Derek Van Wyk, Derick Wells, Allan Bantom, Will Gordon, Clyde Koen, Maurice Snell, Jonathan Thompson, Anri Delpont, P.C Manser, Tom Thorpe, Peter Sereko, Kostiantyn Koshelenko, Roman Kuzyuk, Gilmour Gordon, Nardus Haarsbroek, and my old unit 2 Field Engineer Regiment.

Duncan Rogers, Helion's managing director, has been patient and considerate, as well as Michael LoCicero our book editor – a word of thanks to you both as well as the staff at Helion & Company. My thanks to Stellenbosch University, Department of Military History and Open University. And finally to the most important person, I thank you Tara, my love, my friend and my wife. A word of appreciation to my kids, Rafa and Emilio who had to put up with me while working on this project – there will be even more play time now.

Antonio Garcia
Edinburgh

I am delighted to co-write this book with Antonio Garcia – a young colleague, serious scholar, and most of all a friend. We conducted the research on which this book is based over an extended period of many years, and it draws on our mutual endeavours to find a better understanding of two complex and persistently provocative South African figures. Our debts are many: to the staff and colleagues at the various libraries, archival repositories and records offices where we have trawled the material; and to colleagues and friends with whom we have sound-boarded ideas. For my part I need to mention first and foremost, Kent Fedorowich to whom my debt only grows – Kent introduced me *inter alia* to the Viscount Long of Wraxall Papers and the Wiltshire Research Centre at Chippenham; the late Jeff Grey (Canberra) who so generously introduced me to his circle and opened the wider, academic world to a young, novice colleague; Albert Grundlingh and Fransjohan Pretorius, who have equally given succour and support in South Africa; Brigadier General (Dr) Nuno Correia Barrento de Lemos Pires, for inviting me to a stimulating First World War conference at the Academia Militar in 2016, and Ambassador Keitumetse (Kitty) Matthews for hosting me at her residence in such grand fashion and sharing her Lisbon – interspersed with reminiscences of her grandfather, Z.K. Matthews – with me; Gary Sheffield and the colleagues at the Western Front Association; Sandra Swart, Andrew Stewart, Douglas Delaney and Ross Anderson for so many years of friendship and scholarly engagement; and Anne Samson, who in 2016 co-hosted the Great War in Africa conference in Stellenbosch with Ross and me.

My heartfelt thanks also go to my colleagues at Rabdan Academy and Zayed Military University, and to Duncan Rogers and the team at Helion & Company. But the greatest debt is owed to my family and particularly to Noëlle – partner, confidant, closest friend.

Ian van der Waag
Abu Dhabi

Acknowledgements to the Ukrainian Edition

We extend our sincere thanks to Kostiatyn Koshelenko for his initiative and vision in bringing about the Ukraine edition – the third edition – of this book. We are equally grateful to Roman Kuzyuk, our publisher in Kyiv, whose support and commitment made this project possible. Their dedication has ensured that this work reaches a new audience at an important historical moment.

Tony & Ian

Introduction

Botha's memory is the shared heritage of all South Africans.

Smuts on Botha¹

Botha is not our hero and cannot be a hero of a democratic South Africa.

Malema on Botha²

The biographies of Louis Botha and Jan Smuts are undeniably intertwined, and their histories are still emotive both in South Africa and abroad. As historical figures, they survive in dusty books, hardcopy, and digital tomes, kept on the bookshelf, in libraries and the cloud; only to be pulled out when the old debate between the past and the present rears its head; summoning them to answer new questions on historical matters – in a Socratic dialogue on South Africa's contested history. The spate of statue vandalisms in South Africa, the United Kingdom, the United States, and various African countries, is testament to the heated historical conversation and feelings of frustration.

The vandalism of Botha's and Smuts's statues was an outcry to their pride of place in central public spaces in South Africa – their prominence no longer chimes with majority South African public opinion, with contemporary politics and with modern heroes. Throughout the twentieth century powerful British and South African leaders erected statues to Botha and Smuts and mainly White South Africans and Britons paid homage to their former icons, their greatness trapped in their antiquated stone, bronze, and concrete structures.

- 1 Smuts quoted in Anon., *Louis Botha Album*, published by the Louis Botha Memorial Committee for the unveiling of the Botha equestrian statue in 1946 (Pretoria: Wallachs' & Co, 1946). EA: Box 1/13 Enkelargiefversameling.
- 2 T. Zwane, 'EFF and ANC at odds over "offensive" statues', *Mail and Guardian*, 8 April 2015 < <http://mg.co.za/article/2015-04-08-eff-and-anc-at-odds-over-offensive-statues-1> > accessed 01/02/2016.