

UNDERSTANDING...

THE 2ND BOER WAR

WHAT HAPPENED?

- In 1899, Britain controlled 2 South African territories: Cape Colony and Natal.
- The Boer-owned Orange Free State and South African Republic (Transvaal) bordered these territories.
- The fighting began over the Empire's influence in South Africa, and was exacerbated by the discovery of gold and diamonds in Boer states.

THE QUEEN'S SOUTH AFRICA MEDAL



THE HIGHLANDERS

- The 2nd Battalion Seaforth Highlanders fought at Magersfontein (1899) and Paardeberg (1900).
- The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders were stationed in Cape Colony, Orange Free State and Transvaal.

KEY EVENTS

- On 12th October 1899, the Boers invaded Cape Colony and Natal.
- The Boers' strength and tactics surprised the British - they were defeated at 3 locations in Black Week in December 1899.
- In September 1900, the Boers reverted to Guerrilla warfare; in response, the British adopted a scorched earth policy and put civilians into concentration camps.
- The British army seized control of the Orange Free State and Transvaal in May 1902, which became known as the Orange River and Transvaal colonies.