

Albert Lemcke (Oorspronklike teks in Duits - vry vertaal met weglatings en wysigings :)

Wars bring everyday life to a standstill, people transplanted to new continents and change destinies.

The experienced **Albert Lemcke** from Mecklenburg in northern Germany at first hand.

His first experience with the war, he had chosen himself, because he volunteered for the Second Boer War (1899-1902) in South Africa today.

During World War I he was many years later a victim of the war and lost everything he had acquired through hard work.

But the heart-wrenching story of his family upside is unexpectedly for the better.

The story begins in 1899.

He was one of the 3,000 European volunteers - from Germany, the Netherlands, Ireland, Russia and Scandinavia - who set out southward to support the Afrikaans-speaking settlers of Dutch descent in the fight against the British claim to power on the Boer republics and their natural resources.

Albert traveled through South America to Lourenço Marques (Maputo, Mozambique) and joined other volunteers to who were on their way to the Boer republics.

He met his future wife know: **Carolina, the niece of the famous Paul Kruger, the Boer leader and president of the Transvaal Republic.**

The Kruger were even German origin and took the young man from Mecklenburg happy to add the family.

Albert's use was short-lived.

He was taken prisoner and was interned with other prisoners of war on the island of Ceylon until the war ended in 1902.

On his release Albert, decided to stay in Southern Africa. There are many people had lost everything during the war, because the farms of Boers had been devastated in the wake of arranged by Lord Kitchener scorched earth policy.

Albert, however, was able to draw on an inheritance to buy a bullock cart. So he set off to the northwest. His goal was German South West Africa, where he hoped to better living conditions.

He pulled through Bechuanaland (now Botswana) and settled on the western side of the border in German South West Africa, where is the place Buitepos today.

Dealing with the hunters, traders and farmers on the eastern side of the border was easy for him.

Thanks to his language skills, he could set up a small trading post.

He offered goods from the German colony and bought cattle from the farmers in Bechuanaland.

After a few years he decided himself to become a farmer and asked the German colonial administration a piece of land. In honor of his beloved wife, he called the **Farm Carolinenhof**.

The couple built a house, dug a 15 meter deep well and enjoyed a peaceful existence.

1911 granted the colonial administration a loan of 6,000 marks, with the Albert could buy the farm.

He paid immediately one tenth of the sum as a repayment, the difference should be settled within five years.

But he did not manage to pay all rates, because by unforeseen circumstances changed the lives of Lemckes soon in drastic ways.

At the outbreak of World War Albert was called up for service in the protection force.

At this time, the couple had eight children, four girls and four boys, and Carolina anticipated the ninth child.

Albert was the eldest son the reins on the farm in the hand and pulled against the South African superiority to the field that had invaded the German colony.

The hostilities ended in mid-1915, when the colonial force capitulated at Khorab and a peace agreement was signed.

The farmers who had been recruited as reservists, were allowed to return to their farms, as well as Albert.

It was another shocking world that awaited him when he returned home. Rustlers were attacked his farm and his animals had expelled or slaughtered. The fountain and the orchard were destroyed. He found a spot that was designated as his wife's grave.

From his children there was no sign.

By the time he rhymed together what must have happened after his departure to the protection force.

His family had stayed at the farm, although the unrest in the area escalated and farms have been systematically attacked.

Carolina died in childbirth of the ninth child.

The eldest son returned from a visit to Gobabis not back - probably he was detained there by the German authorities -.

The location of the other children was so dire that the San (Bushmen), who had worked on the farm, shooting them.

For safety reasons, they divided the children into two groups and took them under their family groups that lived in the area in the Omaheke (Sandveld).

It was a long search before Albert was reunited after almost two years with his children.

But his farm he had to give up because he had lost all his livestock and all his possessions, and the Depression years after the war aggravated his situation.

In 1920 he submitted a request for reparations, which did not succeed.

So he moved to Gobabis.

Albert Lemcke lived until his death in 1949 in Gobabis.

His children went their own ways.

Except for the youngest daughter who moved to South Africa, the girl with Namibians of German descent married.

The sons were wealthy farmers in Botswana, where they had acquired large estates.

The tradition of Farming is now continued by the third generation.

When Albert's grandchildren tell the fascinating story of their parents and grandparents, they also report that their mothers could not speak English, but German and Afrikaans languages fluently and also the dialect of San communities in Gobabis.

One of the sisters was so gifted with the language that they were court interpreter.

Even the knowledge imparted to them about the life of the San in nature was kept alive by Albert's children, and they continued to use herbal remedies for certain ailments.

They preserved the legacy of a time when they leave and were helpless, and were picked up and cared for by the people of Omaheke.

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