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### *Boer guerrilla and British counter-guerrilla operations in South Africa*

*A Wessels*

#### Abstract

In this article, a review of the guerrilla (i.e. fourth main) phase of the Anglo-Boer War of 1899 to 1902 is given from March 1900 until >May 1902. It is indicated how and why the war developed from a (semi-) conventional guerrilla war, and what the consequences of those developments were. The way in which the Boers approached the war, for example, the battles of Sannaspos, Bakenlaagte, Groenkop, Yzerspruit and Tweebosch/De Klipdrift, are given in reference to the role played by prominent Boer guerrilla commanders such as Generals Christiaan de Wet and Botha. The British counter-guerrilla strategy is also analysed, with special reference to the scorched-earth policy, “psychological warfare”, mobile columns, information/intelligence, blockhouses, armoured trains and the like. The light shed on the guerrilla phase of the war will be briefly discussed, and this controversial phase of the war in the context of the history of twentieth-century South Africa.

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