

The Petticoat Commando

by Johanna Brandt (1876-1964)

This memoir recounts the adventures of the writer and her mother as secret agents for the Boers during the Boer War at the end of the 19th century. Brandt organized women to spy on British officers and hid prisoners who were on the run. It was her actions that led to the exposure of the brutal conditions in the Irene Concentration Camp, which contributed to a decline in British public support for the war.

Brandt says in her introduction: I have tried to give the public some idea of what was done by Boer women, during the great Anglo-Boer war, to keep their men in the field and to support them in what proved to be a hopeless struggle for independence. . . . As far as I was able I have also described the perils and hardships connected with the Secret Service of the Boers and the heroism and resource displayed by the men.

Total running time: 10:07:31

Read by Richard Kilmer

Cover design by Kathryn Delaney. Photographs from the book, clockwise from top right: Johanna Brandt, her mother Mrs. Van Warmelo, the surrender of the Golden City, Adolph Krause

