

KRUGER IN LOURENÇO MARQUES

PRES. SJP KRUGER'S SOJOURN
IN MOZAMBIQUE,
SEPT — OCT 1900

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PREFACE TO THE 2008 EDITION

On 11 September 1900, President SJP Kruger crossed the border into Mozambique and spent slightly more than a month in the Governor's residence in Lourenço Marques before he left for Europe on board the *Gelderland* on 19 October 1900. The exile of the President thus commenced in Portuguese territory, but for some reason or other this period in his life had received scant attention in the past. The numerous biographical studies on Kruger and publications on this phase of the Anglo-Boer War usually touch only briefly on the build-up to, and initial phase of his exile whilst his sojourn in Europe has been researched and described in depth.

Various historians and authors sharply criticized the poor treatment, which President Kruger received from the Portuguese authorities during his stay in Lourenço Marques during September-October 1900. According to them he was "practically treated as a prisoner" or "treated as a prisoner" or "as a prisoner of war" or he was "practically under house arrest". This "imprisonment" of the President almost became a refrain when reference was made to his stay in Lourenço Marques and probably originated in the memoirs of Paul Kruger which states: "Kruger was practically a prisoner in the house of the Governor".¹

The Portuguese's behaviour towards the President was most certainly not above criticism but there was no mention of open animosity or lack of empathy. On the contrary, Portuguese publications and documents in Portuguese archives indicate that there was a particularly sympathetic attitude towards Kruger from the Portuguese authorities and officials in Lourenço Marques and that he was treated "as a prisoner" for different reasons than those usually suggested. What follows is an attempt to reconstruct Kruger's experiences during his eastward migration ahead of the British forces, his stay in Lourenço Marques, and to explain the behaviour of the Portuguese towards him.

The staffs of the Arquivo Central da Marinha, the Arquivo Histórico Militar and the Arquivo Histórico Ultramarino were all extremely helpful during my research in Lisbon. The assistance of Anneke Lugtenburg and Jaco Schoonraad of the Kruger Museum and the staff of the Transvaal Archives greatly facilitated my research in Pretoria. My sincere thanks to Jan van der Mey who shared his knowledge of the *Gelderland* with me, Cecile Jooste who provided me with information of Kruger's stay at Machadodorp, Marius Bakkes who took photographs at Machadodorp and Waterval-Onder for me, Louis Changuion in whose extensive private library I did research in Haenertsburg, David Botes who edited the text, Cecilia Kruger who did the English translation, Jannie Kruger who read the English translation, Schalk le Roux who was responsible for the typography

¹ Cf HC Bredell & P Grobler, *Gedenkskrifte van Paul Kruger*, p 178. The original Dutch edition of this publication, *Gedenkschriften van Paul Kruger*, appeared in Amsterdam in 1902.

of the first bilingual edition, and Willie Bienenell who has breathed new life to this piece of research.

OJO Ferreira
Jeffreys Bay
May 2008

PREFACE TO THE 2024 EDITION

Since the original publication of this book, new photographs have come to light, which have now been included in this edition.

With this updated version we've also made use of the opportunity to make minor corrections and page layout changes.

CP Pretorius
Melbourne
November 2024