


AGORN
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ON OCT. 12, 1899, DURING THE BOER WAR (1899-1902), THE TOWN OF MAFEKING CAME UNDER A SIEGE THAT LASTED UNTIL MAY 17, 1900. UNDER THE COURAGEOUS LEADERSHIP OF COL. ROBERT STEPHENSON SMYTH BADEN-POWELL (B-P), A COMBINED FORCE OF 700 TRAINED MEN (SOLDIERS, POLICE, VOLUNTEERS) ALONG WITH ABOUT 300 TOWNSMEN AND A LARGE ENERGETIC BAND OF BOYS, PREVAILED.


AS THE SIEGE PROGRESSED, AND DEFENDERS WERE KILLED AND WOUNDED, B-P NOTICED THAT THE BOYS CONTINUED TO PLAY OPENLY IN THE TOWN, OBLIVIOUS OF THE DANGER.


HE ASKED AN OFFICER TO ORGANIZE BOYS NINE YEARS \& OLDER AS A CADET CORPS IN KHAKI UNIFORMS WITH FORAGE CAPS AND A YELLOW PUGGREEM TO DELIVER MILITARY ORDERS \& MESSAGES TO THE OUTPOSTS AROUND THE AREA'S FIVE MILE PERIMETER AND TO SERVE AS LOOKOUTS, ORDERLIES, ETC . WARNER GOODYEAR (12) BECAME THE CORPS SERGEANT-MAJOR.


SWITCHING TO BICYCLES, THEY CONTINUED THEIR MAIL DELIVERY; CHARGING 3d BETWEEN PERIMETER OUTPOSTS AND Id PER OUNCE IN TOWN. WITH CAPE OF GOOD HOPE SIEGE OVERPRINTED STAMPS EXHAUSTED, ON-SITE STAMPS WERE DESIGNED. GOODYEAR WAS CHOSEN FOR THE PENNY VALUE (SCOTT 178) THAT NEEDED SEVERAL SESSIONS IN A MAFEKING STREET, DISRUPTED BY SHELL ATTACKS, TO OBTAIN A PHOTOGRAPH, AND B-P FOR THE 3d VALUES, SCOTT 179 AND 180.





