



### **Peace, Union and Republic**

**31 May** marks the end of the Anglo Boer War (31 May 1902), the beginning of the Union of South Africa (31 May 1910) and the establishment of the Republic of South Africa (31 May 1961). For many years, 31 May was **Republic Day** – a public holiday in South Africa.

### **Unpopular**

At school in Rhodesia, I found myself often at loggerheads with other students and some of the teachers because I supported the Boers and argued that Britain was the aggressor in both Anglo-Boer Wars. That was not a popular position to take for an English-speaking student, in a Rhodesian school. At Milton Junior and Milton High Schools in Bulawayo the principals proudly proclaimed that we Rhodesians were "*more British than the British!*" Our textbooks all came from England and their perceptions of South African History was, in my opinion, unbalanced and unfair.





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