

Masque of the Red Death Campaign – South Africa

By Jennifer

Introduction

For my birthday¹ my friends gave me the Masque of the Red Death boxed set, 2nd edition. I was very grateful for this and decided to run a short campaign with it. This campaign started in late March and ran until mid June. This is the journal of that campaign. I will first give a short overview of the characters and the situation, then I will go on to the adventures the party had in the 6 sessions they played. I will end the story with a short overview of the aftermath of their actions. Lastly I will provide an overview of the literature I used.

The Characters

The party consists of four different people, all level 6. They are three men and one woman. They are all from the Netherlands and travelled to the South African Republic for their own reasons. They met each other on the boat trip from Amsterdam to Cape Town and got to know each other better on the long journey from Cape Town to Pretoria. They have decided to spend time together in Pretoria as well.

Reverend Sybrandt Kouvoet: Level 6 Tradesman Spiritualist; played by Daniël.

Reverend Sybrandt Kouvoet is a middle aged (53) minister for the Dutch Reformed Church in the Netherlands. He went to the South African Republic for several reasons. First of all, he wants to know how the Afrikaner Boers interpret the Dutch Reformed faith, after their long separation from their European Forefathers. Secondly he wants to check up on the spending of the money that his ministry sends to the South African Republic and lastly he wants to know how the conversion of the native black population comes along.

Doctor Fleur Nagtegaal: Level 6 Tradeswoman Physician; played by Koen

Fleur Nagtegaal is a young woman (32) who holds a medical degree. As one of the few women in the Netherlands, she holds a university degree. She has studied to be a doctor and has specialized in tropical diseases like malaria, tsetse and bilharzias. She came to the South African Republic to study these diseases and local remedies in depth.

Fleur is a very smart woman but not very worldly. She does research very well, but she has little eye for the subtle interactions between people. Lastly, she does not accept the existence of higher powers. Everything in life is, according to her, explainable by the laws of nature or science.

Gerrit van Zijpestein: Level 6 Fighter Big Game Hunter²; played by Danny

Gerrit van Zijpestein is a young man (28) who has become a proficient hunter. After hunting all possible types of game in the Netherlands, he wanted to go to Africa to hunt bigger and more dangerous game.

Gerrit is a simple young man, who only cares for the hunt. He is not very interested in other questions. The suspicion exists that he might be a bastard of King Willem III by a chambermaid.

¹ For those of you impolite enough to enquire, I turned 27.

² From the article "Big Game Hunter" by Daniel Bandera from "The Book of Secrets".

Viktor Hendrik Hugenholtz: Level 6 Tradesman Journalist; played by Joost³

Victor Hendrik Hugenholtz is a young (27) journalist, who writes for the Humanist magazine “De Gedachte”⁴. Due to his Humanist viewpoint he regularly clashes with Reverend Sybrandt Kouvoet on spiritual matters.

Viktor was sent by the magazine to the South African Republic to report on the African natives, the tough Afrikaner Boers and how they manage to survive in the rough African landscape.

The situation

The group arrives in the South African Republic in late March 1896. This is a very tense time for the South African Republic. The First Anglo Boer War was in 1880, the Afrikaner Boer won this war. But after gold and diamonds were discovered in the area in 1886, the interest of the British Empire in the area was awakened again.

In 1895 Captain Jameson invaded the territory of the South African Republic. Although his force was beaten by that of Commander Cronjé, President Paul Kruger realised that the South African Republic was attractive to the British Empire. He looks around for help against the might of the Empire Where the Sun Never Sets. Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany and the ruler of German West Africa⁵ congratulated President Kruger on his victory over the British, but can President Kruger count on his help, or is Kaiser Wilhelm manoeuvring for advantage in the murky European politics?

Aside from these troubles, the South African Republic is also beset by Zulu. Although King Dingane was soundly beaten in the Battle of Blood River in 1838 and he was himself killed in 1840, still the Zulu dream of the great empire they had under Shaka. There have been assaults on several Boer farms, where all the inhabitants were killed and the consensus among the Afrikaner Boers is that the Zulu are responsible.

Lastly there is an Afrikaner Boer by name of Nikolaas van Rensburg who has visions. He claims these visions come from God and that they always come true, although he is not always able to interpret them. He does not try to get a following, but many people take him and his visions very seriously indeed. Lately he has been predicting nothing but trouble for the Afrikaner nation.

So there are a lot of problems facing the Afrikaner state. How will the group influence this with their presence?

Session I

30 March 1896; Pretoria.

The group has arrived after a long journey in Pretoria. They take rooms in Hotel Uitsig in the Kerkstraat. Tired as they were, they went straight to bed and slept soundly.

31 March

The group rises early and they have breakfast together in the dining room of the Hotel. During breakfast they discuss their plans and all the rumours they heard until now. They have heard of the several problems facing the South African Republic. It would seem as if the end of the Republic is nigh.

The group decides to pay a visit to the local Seer, Nikolaas van Rensburg. They have heard he lives at Rietkuil farm. Reverend Sybrandt Kouvoet the Spiritualist wants to find out if Nikolaas is truly visited by vision from the Lord or if he is merely a charlatan. Doctor Fleur Nagtegaal the Physician wants to know if Nikolaas suffers from some sort of illness, perhaps she can cure him. Viktor Hugenholtz the Journalist feels that a Seer has a high ‘human inter-

³ Who also plays Accian in my Ravenloft Campaign.

⁴ “The Thought” in English.

⁵ Current day Namibia

est' value and wants to interview him for his magazine. Gerrit van Zijpestein the Big Game Hunter does not think much, he hopes he will be able to shoot some animals on his way to the Seer.

In Pretoria the group rents a couple of horses and they are on their way to the Rietkuil farm. After some travel, they reach the farm and are politely greeted by the van Rensburg family. Viktor immediately takes the initiative and completely overwhelms the shy, old Nikolaas van Rensburg with his flashy city ways⁶. Reverend Sybrandt sees that Viktor is handling things badly and he steps in by starting a conversation about the faith. Nikolaas says he is very religious, he only ever reads his bible and does so every day. In His infinite wisdom, the Lord has decreed that he should receive visions. He cannot always interpret them, but he knows they will always come true.

Viktor butts in again and starts asking questions about these visions. As he pressures Nikolaas more, the old man seems to have a fit. His eyes turn away and his voice becomes richer. He speaks the following words: "I see a farm, from the north a black lion approaches, from the south a red lion. I see bloodshed, bloodshed..."

Then Nikolaas faints and knocks his head on the kitchen table, which briefly knocks him out. The group reacts with concern, Fleur tries to administer some first aid. Soon the old man comes to and seems quite alright. He insists he is fine and that the visions often take him that way. His family does not react concerned either.

Reverend Sybrandt thinks that Nikolaas has true visions, but whether these are sent by the Lord or by a more sinister agency, he cannot tell. Fleur thinks after a very superficial examination that Nikolaas is not ill, but perhaps something influences him. She tries to examine his home and yard. She finds some hemp plants and takes some to research them later. Gerrit finds all this very strange, but believes in the truth of the visions. He is happy that lions will be involved, so he can shoot them.

Fleur tries to have a conversation with Nikolaas' wife Anne. She tells Fleur that Nikolaas has these visions regularly. She also tells Fleur about the raids on nearby farms, usually when the men are gone into town for some reason. Sometimes whole families have been killed. Anne and the other Boers suspect that the Zulu are responsible for these raids. She can ring Fleur into contact with survivors of these raids, if she wants.

The party says goodbye to the van Rensburg family and they return to Pretoria. Reverend Sybrandt and Viktor want to pay a visit to President Paul Kruger, Reverend Sybrandt to bring him the greeting of the Dutch Reformed Faith and Viktor to interview him for the magazine. The group manages to have a short conversation with the President on the veranda of his home. His wife Gezina brings them some lemonade. The President tells the group about the worries that plague the state, but he can tell them nothing new.

Session II

1 April 1896; Hotel Uitsig, Pretoria

The party has breakfast again in the dining room of their Hotel Uitsig. While they are eating, a very young and very grubby white boy enters the room. As he is intercepted by a waiter, he says in his high voice that he bears a message for Reverend Sybrandt Kouvoet. Reverend Sybrandt Kouvoet the Spiritualist asks the boy to join them and reads the letter.

The letter is from Nikolaas van Rensburg and says the following:

"After you left this afternoon, I had another vision. As it followed so quickly upon the one I had in your presence, I feel the two are connected and that they are meant for you."

"The vision was thus, I saw a blood red sky, and in it black clouds raced, they came together, the clouds boiled and twirled. They twirled faster and faster and reached down to

⁶ Viktor has a charisma of only 6.

they earth. Where the black clouds touched the earth, a monster sprang forth, it was an Abomination in the eyes of the Lord. It had large manes, rending teeth and enormous claws. It brought destruction to the rich farms of the Afrikaner Boers. His hunger and the destruction he brought knew no bounds.”

“I feel that the two visions I had yesterday are connected and are connected to you, please try hard to discover what these visions might portend.”

As Reverend Sybrandt reads this letter, he is gripped by a feeling of profound unease. He fears that this vision must be real. The planet, the creation of the Lord, must not be destroyed and he feels he must take action. He is also convinced that the Lord works through Nikolaas van Rensburg and that he receives true visions.

While the skinny boy Koos gets the chance to eat his fill at the breakfast table, Reverend Sybrandt discusses the content of the letter with his fellow travellers. It seems strange to Viktor Hugenholtz the Journalist that the abomination appears to come from heaven. If that is the case, it must have been sent by God. Reverend Sybrandt answers him: “The visions must be interpreted symbolically, and you have precious little experience with that!” He further states: “Nikolaas relates true visions, but he is not a prophet, who always speaks the true word of God.”

Doctor Fleur Nagtegaal the Physician is still sceptical. By now she has analyzed the hemp plants she brought from the Rietkuil farm, but she is certain that these cannot induce hallucinations in any way⁷.

Viktor attempts to interpret the visions. He thinks that the red heavens mean the British, with their red army uniforms. He thinks that the black clouds mean the Zulu warriors. He further thinks that they work together to drive the Afrikaner Boers from their land⁸. Reverend Sybrandt wonders what the abomination symbolizes. He further thinks that a true alliance between the British and the Zulu is highly unlikely.

Fleur suggests visiting a local village of the black natives. That way they will be able to assess the situation and they might find out something about the current tension between the Afrikaner Boers and the Zulu. The rest agrees with this idea. But they do want to bring a guide and translator. Fleur then tries to attract the attention of a black domestic servant of the Hotel⁹.

This young lady named Tatu says she has family living outside of Pretoria in a little village. Tatu claims she left her family and is now a good Christian. She has left the sinful ways of her family and tribe behind her and now puts her faith in the Lord and His Son Jesus Christ. She does want to go back to her former village and, those that live there are all powerful witches and magicians. Reverend Sybrandt manages to convince Tatu that he is a servant of the Lord and as such, more powerful than any witch or magician. He promises to protect her. Then Tatu agrees to take the party to her former village.¹⁰

The party gets their horses and Tatu rides her mule to the village of the natives. They travel for quite some time through the yellowed grasses of the savannah. The sun shines on them, but it already loses its power as the season turns towards winter. Then they reach the top of a hill, on the other side in the valley runs a small stream and on one side of the stream lays a small village of about 15 mud and grass roofed huts. They also spot a small kraal where some herd animals are kept. Children play between the huts and they can also see some

⁷ A failed botany check.

⁸ In a way, although the red heavens also stand for the pervasive presence of the Red Death and how it has corrupted the lower beings, namely the humans. This leads to the birth of an abomination.

⁹ Successful charisma check.

¹⁰ Successful charisma check. Nice to see that the players did not believe Tatu’s assessment of her family. They behave like superior civilized men and women.

women who busy themselves with womanly tasks. It all seems very peaceful. Viktor takes some pictures of the village from the hilltop where he stands.

Before the group rides down into the village, Tatu needs to tell them something. She counsels them to be very careful. She wants to leave the village before the night falls. Fleur wants Tatu to take the lead and to introduce the rest of the group to the villagers. Suddenly everyone remembers stories of cannibals who live in Darkest Africa, those stories must have some basis in fact.

As soon as the party nears the village, they are met by a group of small children. They are very surprised to see white people. Viktor notices that some of the children have yellow coloured eyes¹¹. He finds this very strange.

Tatu leads the group to some adults, who have come to see what the children are shouting about. They welcome Tatu. Tatu introduces the rest of the party. She tells the villagers that Reverend Sybrandt is a servant of the Lord, Fleur is a medicine woman who wants to know more about diseases in this country.

As Tatu says this, the children start laughing and babbling among themselves. Only Gerrit van Zijpestein the Big Game Hunter hears what they say: "But we are never ill." This worries him deeply, everybody gets ill¹².

Tatu continues with the introductions. She introduces Viktor as a keeper of history, who wants to know more about the Zulu. Gerrit is introduced as a mighty warrior and hunter. As he shows the Zulu his collection of guns and rifles, they are duly impressed.

Then Tatu takes the party to see the chief of this tribe. She takes them to the largest hut in the village. Inside is a very fat black man on a primitive sort of throne. In his hut there are two women, his two wives. Tatu talks to him for a long time and it seems as if she becomes more frightened by the minute. Gerrit understands that the chief is talking to her of returning to the tribe, initiations, blood rites and sacrifice¹³. He does not like this one bit and wants to leave.

Fleur is fascinated by what she sees. She wants to spend the night in the village¹⁴. The chief seems to find this a very good idea, although his wives look very sour.

The meeting with the chief ends and Tatu takes the group outside again. She seems very worried and scared. Reverend Sybrandt and Gerrit feel that something very sinister is going on with this village and they want to leave quickly, just as Tatu wants to. Fleur wants to examine the children first.

When Fleur examines the children of the village, she finds that they are very healthy and that they are big and well developed for their age¹⁵. The children state that they are never ill, this is due to the blessings of Father Lion, whom they worship.

Once the party is outside the village, they question Tatu on what they saw. She tells them that her family, who lives in that village, is bad people. They worship the Demon Lion and they are bandits and murderers. Viktor mentions the yellow eyes, which came to his and Gerrit's attention. Tatu says that some of her family have yellow eyes. They are always bigger and stronger than those without, which means that they rise to high positions in the village.

Reverend Sybrandt says that this reminds him of the Nephilim from the Bible, angels who lay with daughters of men and so created a special race. He suspects that this small village of people is the cause of a lot of trouble for the South African Republic. He thinks they hunt the Afrikaner Boers and their families, kill them in certain rituals and with that prolong their own lives and keep themselves free from disease.

¹¹ Successful intelligence check.

¹² Successful intelligence check.

¹³ Successful intelligence check.

¹⁴ Even though Tatu warned her not to less than an hour ago.

¹⁵ Successful medicine check

While the group travels back to Pretoria, the night falls quickly and unexpectedly. The group makes a small camp and since they have no rations with them, Gerrit goes out to shoot some small game. He manages to kill some gazelle for dinner.

When the group gets ready to sleep under the bright African stars, they hear the roaring of lions. There seem to be very many of them, surrounding the camp and coming closer and closer.

Session III¹⁶

The night of 1 April and 2 April 1896; the veldt outside Pretoria.

The party spends the night on the savannah outside Pretoria. They are surrounded by roaring lions¹⁷. Doctor Fleur Nagtegaal the Physician pummels her memory to get rid of the lions. She remembers that it would be best to show that they are not afraid, and make some noise¹⁸. So the party builds the fire up, Reverend Sybrandt Kouvoet the Spiritualist reads in a loud and clear voice from his bible. Viktor Hugenholtz the Journalist prepares some bowls with the chemicals he uses for his photography. Gerrit van Zijpestein the Big Game Hunter readies his rifles.

The lions come closer and three lionesses enter the camp without fear of the humans or the fire. Gerrit shoots them but misses. Viktor shoots one of his small bowls with chemicals as soon as one of the lionesses approaches it. It goes up in an extremely hot white flame, severely burning one of the lionesses¹⁹. This group retreats, but from the other side of the camp another group of lionesses enters the camp without fear.

These lionesses attack immediately. Fleur takes serious wounds, as one the lionesses throws herself at Fleur and rakes and bites her badly. Another lioness attacks the praying Reverend Sybrandt. He implores the Lord for assistance. Immediately a lighting flash comes from a clear sky and strikes the lioness dead²⁰. When the dead body hits the ground, it turns into that of a dead black woman.

Desperately Fleur tries to defend herself with her scalpel, but she notices that this does not work, as the lioness keeps raking her, she sees how her good steel scalpel bends on the skin of the lioness. Viktor tries to save her by shooting the lioness with his pistol. He sees the bullet hit, but the lioness takes no damage.

The last lioness tries to attack Gerrit, but he shoots her with his rifle at close range and does some serious damage²¹. Then these lionesses also retreat. The strange flashes of lightning from the clear sky follow them into the veldt. From the yelps the party hears, some of them hit the fleeing lions.

Reverend Sybrandt, Viktor and Gerrit are deeply disturbed by the unexpected transformation of the lioness into a dead black woman. What could this possibly mean? Fleur however is deeply shocked by the lightning that seems to be called by Reverend Sybrandt. Does prayer work after all, does God perhaps exist?

Fleur is very seriously injured. Viktor tries to bind her wounds while she gives him advice on how to lay bandages. At the same time Reverend Sybrandt prays to the Lord for her speedy recovery. Fleur soon feels a lot better²².

The party decides to move away from the place of bloodshed, but since Fleur is so badly wounded, they try not to move her too much. The party examines the body of the dead

¹⁶ Both Koen and Danny could not attend. Fleur was taken over by Sander, who also plays Laurent in my Ravenloft Campaign.

¹⁷ Were-lions actually, I gave them the stats for were-tigers.

¹⁸ Successful biology check.

¹⁹ Magnesium is dangerous stuff.

²⁰ Call lightning, or here righteous smiting.

²¹ He actually carries silver bullets at all times.

²² Cure light wounds.

woman. She seems completely normal. Reverend Sybrandt is nevertheless convinced that she cannot be wholly human. Reverend Sybrandt and Viktor think deeply and find that the many stories they know about creatures that have characteristics of both animals and humans, like werewolves and mermaids, might be true²³.

2 April

Reverend Sybrandt starts the day by imploring the Lord again to have mercy on the sinner Fleur²⁴. She feels a lot better, and concludes this must be the result of prayer. She becomes very much afraid of Reverend Sybrandt and his powers she cannot understand²⁵. Gerrit is somewhat piqued that he himself has not killed a monster, and even if he had, the monster would have turned into a dead woman, he cannot mount a dead woman's head over his mantelpiece.

The party travels to Pretoria, with the body of the dead woman wrapped in a blanket. Once in Pretoria, Viktor decides to do some more research into men changing into animals, and he goes to the library to investigate some more. Fleur goes to the hospital together with Reverend Sybrandt. With her certificates she tries to convince the hospital personnel that she is a Doctor and that she has need of an operating room. It works and Fleur and Sybrandt are shown an operating room, where she can conduct her research²⁶.

Fleur conducts her research. She does a full autopsy on the dead woman, she takes samples from all sorts of bodily fluids for analysis and measures everything that can possibly be measured. But she finds nothing out of the ordinary²⁷. This seems to be a completely normal human woman. Fleur decides to leave the body at the morgue to be buried.

The party meets again in Hotel Uitsig. Viktor tells the party what he has found out. He has been reading up on myths of the local black natives and he found that there are a lot of stories of men changing into fierce animals and back. Usually this would need the intervention of a shaman, but this is not strictly necessary. Sometimes these people are victims of the shaman and they are used as some sort of assassin, but sometimes people want to change into animals for their own nefarious reasons²⁸.

The party is now convinced that a powerful shaman has used his wicked magic on the villagers and made them his unnatural soldiers. He must be killed to keep the Afrikaners Boers safe. Reverend Sybrandt says: "It is my duty to bring this shaman down for the honour and glory of God."

The party decides to question Tatu some more. She says that all members of her family have the ability to change into lions. They are bad people, bandits and killers, they worship a demon called Father Lion. Tatu has given up this lifestyle and now follows the Lord and His Son Jesus Christ. Tatu then goes on to tell them that her family members can be killed by natural means, such as fire or the Wrath of God, such as Reverend Sybrandt can call down. And gold or silver can pierce their skin and wound them.

After hearing this Viktor wants to kill all members of this tribe. They are after all evil. Reverend Sybrandt wants to try to convert these people. If they are converted, the Lord might be persuaded to take their curse away, in His infinite mercy. The party decides that this tribe must be hunted. They will need silver bullets. Fleur wants to do more research into this strange people. She will need to perform vivisection on them. Then she will need handcuffs,

²³ Successful Forbidden Lore check.

²⁴ Another cure light wounds.

²⁵ Fear check.

²⁶ Successful charisma check

²⁷ Failed anatomy check.

²⁸ Successful Forbidden Lore check

silver tipped needles, and silver lancets. It is possible to make these in the operating room in the hospital, she has silver and a Bunsen burner²⁹.

Reverend Sybrandt wonders if it would be useful to inform the authorities of the South African Republic of the problem of were lions on their territory. Fleur and Viktor are against this, as they have nothing to back their story up. They would only have a fantastic story.

While the party spends some more time in Pretoria, they hear the story of an attack on the Potgieter farm. The whole family except for the youngest daughter Klara was brutally killed. Some people think it must be an attack by Zulu, others think that, since the place was not torched and the Potgieter family was ripped to bits, it must have been man-eating lions.

Session IV³⁰

3 April 1896; Pretoria

The party shares a breakfast again in the dining room of Hotel Uitsig and they discuss their plans. They are now all convinced that a pride of were lions lives in the Pretoria area and that they prey on the Afrikaner inhabitants of that city. Reverend Sybrandt Kouvoet the Spiritualist says: "I was sent by God to teach this devils spawn a lesson in humility. The black population is under the influence of Satan and that is not to be allowed!"

Doctor Fleur Nagtegaal the Physician still wants to perform a vivisection on one of the strange lion people. Viktor Hugenholtz the Journalist replenishes his photography chemicals. He is willing to help Fleur with her research, by taking pictures as she does her research.

The party has heard of the attack on the Potgieter Family farm. They suspect that the were-lions are to blame here. They want to research this some more and bring Tatu with them. So on horseback they go to bring a visit to this farm.

The party comes to the farm of the DuToit family, neighbours of the Potgieter family. When they want to enter the DuToit territory, they are greeted by an older man and his two sons, they all carry old fashioned guns and point these at the party. Angrily the older man shouts that they must identify themselves and not come closer. Viktor manages to calm the tense men somewhat and they men lower their guns³¹.

As the tensions cool, the older man introduces himself as Frans DuToit and his sons Simon and Gideon, they are in their early twenties. They tell the group that they are nervous since a neighbouring farm was attacked and the family except for the youngest daughter Klara killed. They fear it was an attack by the Zulu and that they are next. Viktor says that he heard it were lions that did the deed. Frans says that lions would never enter a home and kill people inside.

Reverend Sybrandt introduces himself as a reverend and asks if the scared family needs spiritual assistance. Frans asks if he wants to go and talk to the severely frightened Klara. She was brought here after her family was killed, and has not spoken since. Reverend Sybrandt complies and Frans takes him to a children's bedroom where an eight year old girl is sitting with a doll.

Reverend Sybrandt goes to sit next to her and prays to the Lord for the wisdom to help this girl³². When he is done praying, Klara bursts into tears. Reverend Sybrandt tries to calm a hysterically crying Klara. When he has succeeded in that he tries to get her to talk about what happened.

"Two nights ago I was in bed sleeping with my two brothers. I woke up because I heard a noise. My brothers went downstairs with my parents and I hid under the bed. Then I heard a lot of noise, breaking things, screams, and a shot. Then it went quiet again. I was still

²⁹ Not sure if this is really possible, but it made for a nice story.

³⁰ Koen and Danny were again unable to attend and Sander took over Fleur again.

³¹ Quite a feat, since Viktors' charisma is only 6.

³² Remove fear spell.

hiding under the bed with my doll and was waiting for my parents to tell her that everything was all right. But they did not come.”

“The next morning, Simon the neighbour came and found me. He told me to get out from under the bed. He took me away and when I came into the living room, I saw my mum and she was wounded and lay o the ground and she did not move and there was blood everywhere and...and...”

Klara starts to cry again and Reverend Sybrandt quickly stops asking questions as he does not want to frighten her again. He knows he can't get anymore information from her again. He makes sure that she is calmed again and then leaves her.

In the mean time, the others question Simon DuToit, the eldest son of Frans. He tells them that he went to the Potgieter farm one day ago, as soon as he arrived there, he knew that something was wrong. No one was in sight or at work. When he went inside, he saw the slaughter of the family. In the living room he saw the bodies of Alex Potgieter, his wife and their two sons. They were hacked to bits. There was blood everywhere.

As he knew, Alex Potgieter also had a daughter, Klara. Simon searched for her and found her under her bed. When he found her, he took her back to his own home, told his family about the tragedy and later that same day he and a few others went back to bury the Potgieter Family on their own land.

According to Simon the Potgieter family members were hacked to bits by knives or spears.

Reverend Sybrandt wonders again when it would be time to tell the authorities about their discoveries. Fleur tells him to wait until after her vivisection and the pictures of Viktor. Then they will be able to back up their story with tangible evidence.

The party wants to go to the Potgieter farm to examine the scene of the crime. Reverend Sybrandt wants to hold an In Memoriam Service for the dead, and perhaps a reburial of the victims with the proper rites would be in order. Fleur wants to examine the bodies and perhaps prepare them somewhat better for burial. She also wants to find out if the bodies were truly killed by knives and spears or perhaps by teeth and claws.

As the party arrives at the Potgieter farm they can immediately tell that something is amiss. No one is outside and in the garden they see four fresh graves. In the surroundings of the farm and the yard they find tracks of bare human feet and some tracks of lions.

Viktor wants to enter the building to examine that. As he enters he sees the slaughter that has taken place there. The interior of the building has been smashed to bits, furniture is broken and there is broken crockery everywhere. He can also see the bloody traces where the members of the Potgieter Family died. He wants to examine the traces to determine the sequence of events, but he is too nauseated to do so³³.

Viktor tries to get his composure back when he goes outside. There he asks Tatu whether there are other tribes of Zulu worshipping Father Lion. Tatu says no. Viktor wonders whether if it were the were-lions that attacked here. He also wonders where the farm personnel is, the herder of the cattle, the domestics and other help. Did they know in advance of the attack and did they flee? What tribe were they?

Reverend Sybrandt tries to examine the interior of the building as well. He is less affected by all the blood, as he knows that all the victims are now facing their maker and no longer worry about the state of their physical bodies. He takes a good look around and sees that a shot of hail was fired at the wall. Instead of a circular pattern, the pattern misses a part, as if someone stood in front of the gun. As he takes a better look he can see bits of hail lying on the ground. He thinks this raid was over very quickly, as the Potgieter gun wielder had no time to fire again.

³³ A failed criminology check.

Viktor has himself under control again and enters the building again. As Reverend Sybrandt points out the hail on the ground, Viktor remembers how his bullet bounced off the hide of the lioness he shot the other day. Then he sees a foot print of a lion in the blood. Now the party is certain that the were-lions were at least involved in the attack on the Potgieter farm.

Then Viktor spots a big hole in the wall of the living room. He examines it and manages to pry a bullet out of the hole. It is a rather large bullet and Gerrit recognizes it as a very modern and expensive one. Bullets like these are cast by professionals and used by armies of rich countries. No Afrikaner could afford bullets like these, or the guns used to shoot them, or could make them themselves. The bullet is smeared with blood, the party wonders who was shot with the bullet.

The party is worried. They thought they were dealing with a smallish tribe of were-lions preying on the local populace, but this bullet proves that the were-lions have access to very modern high quality weapons. What role do the British play in all this? They are the only ones in this part of the world who can afford these kinds of weapons. This would also be in accordance with the visions of Nikolaas van Rensburg.

Then the question of the bodies arises. Reverend Sybrandt is very willing to hold another service for the departed, but wants to know if it is strictly necessary to exhume the bodies. Viktor says it would be a good idea, they could find out if one of the Potgieter Family members was shot with the modern bullet. Reverend Sybrandt decides that no harm will be done if the bodies are exhumed. The bodies are dug up and found to be terribly mauled.

Fleur examines the bodies and discovers that the wounds are made with teeth and claws and definitely not with knives or spears. She also discovers that Mrs. Potgieter was shot in the shoulder. When Fleur is done, the bodies are wrapped in blankets again and Reverend Sybrandt starts to pray over the bodies. Fleur takes fright and walks away.

The bodies are buried again and the party stands in the yard of the Potgieter farm, wondering if there is some sort of military unit on the loose in South African savannah.

Session V

4 April 1896; Hotel Uitsig, Pretoria.

The party has breakfast again in the dining room of Hotel Uitsig. Doctor Fleur Nagtegaal the Physician wonders who fired the modern bullet found in the home of the Potgieter Family. If it was a British bullet, does that mean that British were present at the assault on the Potgieter farm? Reverend Sybrandt Kouvoet the Spiritualist wonders if there might be some sort of unholy alliance between the British and devilish leader of the were-lions. Viktor Hugenholtz the Journalist thinks that the Zulu are not educated enough to handle the modern guns, which would mean that British were present at the assault on the Potgieter farm. Gerrit van Zijpestein the Big Game Hunter quickly disabuses Viktor of this notion. The Zulu know about and have used rifles for some time now. A modern and more efficient one would give them no trouble at all.

Viktor and Reverend Sybrandt want to know more about Captain Jameson, who led a small force of mercenary soldiers into the territory of the South African Republic and were soundly beaten by Commander Cronjé in late 1895. Captain Jameson is still held in a prison in Pretoria. They want to interview him and ask him if he was working with someone. Was he counting on the support of disaffected Zulu or perhaps even were-lions?

The group goes to the building that houses the Court of Justice and which also contains the prison. The party goes to the guards. Reverend Sybrandt manages to convince the guards to let the party speak to the prisoner Captain Jameson³⁴. He says he hopes he can find

³⁴ Successful charisma check.

out more about official British involvement in this raid, with more evidence, he can perhaps convince the Dutch government to lend more support to the struggle of the Afrikaner nation against the British. The guard is very impressed and leads the party to the underground cell of Captain Jameson.

Captain Jameson is being held in a small, underground and cool cell. He seems pale and a bit thin, but still full of pride and fire.

The party finds it hard to think of the right questions. Fleur starts by introducing herself and the rest of the group. She then says that in exchange for information she can try to improve the situation of the Captain. Captain Jameson still has his pride and convictions and does not give in to this blatant attempt of bribery³⁵.

Then Reverend Sybrandt tries. He says that the party just wants some information about the Zulu and that they are not interested in information on his fellow British colleagues. Viktor interrupts him and suggests that they just hang Captain Jameson by his toes and torture him for the information they need. Reverend Sybrandt severely reprimands Viktor for this terrible idea. However the “good cop, bad cop” act does not work and out of loyalty to his fellow British soldiers, Captain Jameson refuses to say a word³⁶.

Then Gerrit has enough. He draws his huge rifle, which he calls ‘Josephine’, points the muzzle through the bars straight at the Captain Jameson. He tells the Captain to answer the questions. Captain Jameson believes Gerrit and starts to talk³⁷.

“The British have a deal with a King of the Zulu. They deliver weapons to facilitate the resistance against the Afrikaner nation. The Zulu can then drive the Afrikaners from their land. Then the British would have an easy time removing the Zulu again and taking over the rich farmlands and lucrative mining operations of the region.”

“The British dealt with King Umgane, a son of King Dingane³⁸ and nephew of the famous Shaka Zulu. The weapons were discreetly delivered at several different places to different agents of King Umgane. King Umgane currently resides to the North East of the South African Republic.”

When the party asks after Zulu with yellow eyes, Captain Jameson says he does not know anything about that. Reverend Sybrandt thinks that the Captain is a dupe, who did not know nearly half of what was going on.

Viktor wants to know if the British have more invasions planned. The Captain says not. “I wanted to set an example for my fellow men, I wanted to attack the Afrikaner nation, to force them to be a part of the great British Empire, instead of being independent. With their independence, they go against the development of mankind.”

The party feels they know enough for the time being. They leave Captain Jameson and leave the prison. Fleur decides she wants to know more about the nature of the were-lions. She decides to do more research. She wants to inject test animals with the saliva and blood of the dead black woman she examined earlier.

So she returns to the hospital, manages to get an operating room and the body back from the morgue. She makes a series of tests. She uses rats and rabbits and makes three groups of each animal. One group she injects with the blood, one group with the saliva and one group she leaves alone as a check. She leaves them again for the day.

Viktor wants to know more about the mysterious King Umgane that Captain Jameson mentioned. So he goes to the library and tries to do some research.

³⁵ Failed charisma check.

³⁶ Both Sybrandt and Viktor missed their charisma checks. I even gave Viktor a bonus due to his horrible charisma. I thought his threats would be much more believable, since he was such an uncharismatic guy.

³⁷ Finally a successful charisma check.

³⁸ Of Blood River fame.

Reverend Sybrandt and Gerrit go to visit President Kruger again at his home. They want to inform him on the connection they discovered between the British and the Zulu. The President listens to this news with a great sense of inevitability. He is deeply worried and afraid. He thinks that the South African Republic is on a course to a second war with the mighty British Empire. He doubts the state can survive another such conflict. He can only hope for the support of the Kingdom of the Netherlands or German Empire, but their armies are far away and he doubts they will come to the aid of such a small nation as the South African Republic.

Very sobered Reverend Sybrandt and Gerrit leave the shaken President. Reverend Sybrandt thinks it would perhaps be best if the South African Republic entered into an alliance with King Umgane of the Zulu, so they can both stand strong against the ever encroaching British. Reverend Sybrandt doubts either of them would be interested in such an alliance.

Fleur joins the party again in their Hotel. After she hears the stories of Reverend Sybrandt and Gerrit, she openly doubts if the South African Republic should be saved. Forces press on the Republic from all sides, the Republic oppresses the local population. Perhaps the end has come for this state, as it comes for all things. To this Reverend Sybrandt replies: "And this is the reason women don't have the vote!"³⁹

In the painful silence that follows, Viktor shares his discoveries with the rest of the party. King Umgane is indeed the son of Dingane and nephew of Shaka. He has a firm grip on the Zulu in Zululand. By way of treaties he was also able to bind the tribe of Tatu to him. Furthermore, King Umgane is very traditional in his outlook. He accords great importance to old traditions, old faiths and old superstitions. Now that the party knows this, they would like to know how the subjects of King Umgane would react if they knew about his alliance with were-lions.

It has also become clear that there is only one tribe of were-lions. Viktor proposes that they should kill all members of the village, to rid themselves of this threat. Fleur wants a more pacifist solution. She wants to find out if it is possible to cure these people from their condition. Perhaps there was something in the water which turned them into were-lions. Gerrit and Sybrandt want to keep an eye on the village and attack when they go out on a raid again.

5 April

Doctor Fleur Nagtegaal the Physician checks on her test with the rabbits and rats the first thing in the morning. To her horror she finds that all the test subjects she injected with blood or saliva are dead. The control group looks shocked, but seems otherwise all right. After some research and autopsy, she finds that they all have very strange growths. Their teeth have elongated, causing damage to their skulls, strange patches of hair started to grow in strange places, the internal organs have also greatly changed, and they look more suited to an animal that eats meat.

With fear in her heart Fleur wonders if she too was infected with this dread disease when the were-lioness savaged her. Then she puts those thoughts aside with: "When I get hungry for human flesh, I'll know."

Fleur wonders if it is possible to make some sort of antidote to this disease. She decides to inject a number of embryos of pregnant rabbits. Perhaps the embryos' will be able to absorb the disease, while they develop inside the mother and thus overcome it. Although she realises it will take some time for this experiment to come to fruition⁴⁰, she goes on with it anyway⁴¹.

³⁹ Women got the vote in 1919 in the Netherlands.

⁴⁰ Meaning the results will not be known before the campaign ends, thus making this somewhat useless, although great roleplaying of course.

⁴¹ Earning Fleur a powers check, she succeeds however.

In the mean time the party still does not know what to do about the threat of the were-lions. Viktor Hugenholtz the Journalist is still in favour of exterminating the village and thus ending the threat. Gerrit van Zijpestein the Big Game Hunter just wants to spy on them. Reverend Sybrandt Kouvoet the Spiritualist does not trust the were-lions and wants to keep an eye on them. Fleur wants to call in the help of President Kruger, to cleanse the village of the were-lions taint with the help of the South African Army. Reverend Sybrandt doubts the party will be able to convince President Kruger of the existence of the were-lions⁴².

Reverend Sybrandt retreats to his room to pray to the Lord for guidance in this dilemma.

Gerrit has also withdrawn from the group. He has decided to go to the home of President Kruger on his own to tell him about the were-lions, their threat to the nation and their weaknesses. President Kruger is very disturbed when he hears the story from the lips of Gerrit. He does believe Gerrit however⁴³. He thinks the were-lions are an abomination in the eyes of the Lord. He is willing to send a party of soldiers to the village to end the threat, Gerrit can then guide them to the right spot.

Session VI: The Finale

6 April 1896; Hotel Uitsig, Pretoria

The party has breakfast again in the dining room of Hotel Uitsig. While they discuss the developments of the previous day, a man in the uniform of the South African Republican Army enters the dining room. By the amount of decoration on his uniform, the party can tell that he is a rather high ranking officer.

The man introduces himself and tells them that the South African Republican Army will attack the Zulu village that the party has reported to President Kruger. The President thinks the danger so high that he wants to mount an expedition against this village immediately. Since the party knows exactly where this village lies, they are required to guide the party of soldiers to the site.

The party is very impressed with this swift action. They prepare themselves quickly. Viktor Hugenholtz the Journalist prepares some Hugenholtz cocktails⁴⁴. Gerrit van Zijpestein the Big Game Hunter loads all his guns with silver bullets. Doctor Fleur Nagtegaal the Physician loads her Derringer Pistol with silver bullets as well. Reverend Sybrandt Kouvoet the Spiritualist gets his bible and sees to it that local ministers will pray for the party and the Army today.

The officer leads them to the barracks where close to 150 soldiers are waiting for them. As the soldiers check their rifles, the party sees that they are loading silver bullets in their weapons. All except Gerrit wonder how the soldiers know that only silver will be effective. Reverend Sybrandt holds a short service and leads in the singing of a few psalms. The soldiers join in enthusiastically.

Then the whole group leaves. The party rides their horses at the front of the column, together with the officer. Fleur wants to prove she is as strong as any man and wants to march with the troops. Although she can keep up, it is not appreciated by the soldiers, as she disturbs their formation. Fleur feels somewhat miffed at this rejection. Viktor takes pictures of the marching soldiers.

Somewhere in the afternoon the group reaches the valley in which the village lies. The party wonders what will happen next. The officer says he will surround the village and then eliminate the threat. The party realises the officer is talking of mass murder, women and chil-

⁴² I have no idea where my players get all these horrible ideas, experimenting on innocent pregnant rabbits, exterminating villages, cleansing villages. They started to sound like the more depressing news broadcast.

⁴³ Successful charisma check.

⁴⁴ The explosive mixture he used in the night of 1 April to wound the attacking lionesses.

dren will be killed as well. Viktor and Fleur feel that this goes way too far⁴⁵, Viktor wants to save the people without the yellow eyes, as he believes they are not were-lions. Gerrit cares little for the fate of the Zulu, they attacked him and now he wants to kill some monsters to gain fame. Reverend Sybrandt is not happy with this development, but he knows he can't do much about the events of this afternoon.

Fleur implores Reverend Sybrandt for help, to change the mind of the officer. Reverend Sybrandt tells her that he can do nothing to stop the massacre of this afternoon. "Everything is in the hands of the Lord now. Probably many of the Afrikaner soldiers will die as well and I suspect that all the adults in this village are were-lions."

The officer orders half of his troops to move around the small village. Viktor and Fleur are shocked again as they realise that the village will be attacked today. They had hoped that they would have all evening to change the mind of the officer. The troops take their positions around the unsuspecting village. On the hill Viktor places a camera on a tripod, he has also made a little mechanism so the camera will take pictures by itself⁴⁶. Viktor will take a smaller Kodak camera into the village, to witness the massacre of the village.

Fleur is still uncertain on what side to choose in this conflict. She decides to load her Derringer Pistol and go onto the battlefield to make up her mind. Reverend Sybrandt does not trust Fleur and decides to follow her onto the battlefield. Gerrit is looking forward to some serious slicing and dicing.

Then a shot resounds from the other side of the village. This is the sign that the troops are in place. The soldiers advance in an orderly manner onto the village. The inhabitants have realised that something is going on. As soon as they see all the soldiers, all the adults change into lions and the fight is on. It is a vicious battle. The silver bullets do a lot of damage, but it takes a long time for the rifles to reload, and in that time the raging were-lions can do a lot of damage to the soldiers. The were-lions fight like fiends to protect their family and village.

The party has to battle a were-lion as well. Gerrit gets seriously hurt by one and the rest try to save him.

Soon the battle seems to be over. Many were-lions lie dead and many soldiers are wounded. The soldiers now busy themselves with killing the children of the village, the end the threat forever. Fleur and Viktor are sick with rage when they see this.

Fleur walks towards the officer who is killing a toddler, carrying her doctor's bag. As she approaches him, she pretends to trip and stabs him with a syringe filled with blood from the were-lion she examined some days ago. The officer starts, but does not understand what she has done. He shoos her away angrily as the battlefield is no place for a woman.

Viktor tries to save a few children by distracting the soldiers with one of his cocktails. This works for a short time, but the children get killed anyway. Angrily, Viktor tries again, this time setting fire to the soldiers. They quickly put out each others fires and then shoo Viktor angrily away.

Gerrit saw how Viktor tried to purposely set fire to the soldiers. He strikes Viktor hard. This leads to a brawl, which Gerrit loses, although he has more experience fighting, he is weakened by his wounds and Viktor is a lot meaner.

Reverend Sybrandt is the only one who keeps a cool head and focuses on the important issues. He goes to look for the Chief of the village. He soon finds him in the form of an enormous lion fighting with five soldiers. The lion is ferocious and gives the soldiers no time to reload, so they have to fight him off by pushing him away with the barrels of their guns.

Reverend Sybrandt enters this desperate battlefield. He takes his bible and challenges the lion. "This will be the greatest confrontation in the Name of the Lord since Isaiah bested

⁴⁵ Which is strange, Viktor was in favor of extermination on 2 and 5 April and Fleur was in favor of some serious vivisection on 2 April and in favor of cleansing on 5 April.

⁴⁶ Unlikely, but I felt lenient.

the priests of Baal.” Reverend Sybrandt prays for the help of the Lord, when the lion attacks him. In front of the surprised eyes of the soldiers, the lion seems to freeze in place and then turn pales. After a while they realise he has turned into a statue of salt⁴⁷. The rest of the party has also witnessed the power of the Reverend. Viktor immediately plans to share the story of the massacre and the Miracle of the Reverend with the rest of the world, by a lengthy article with lots of pictures in the magazine “De Gedachte”.

Now that everyone is calmed down a bit, they start to take action. The officer orders the bodies of the dead soldiers buried, the bodies of the dead Zulu, who had changed back to their human form after their death, burned, the wounded bandaged and the village razed. As the blaze burns the mud and straw huts, the party realised what a slaughter this fight truly was. Of the 150 soldiers, about 50 are dead, of the living about 70 are more or less seriously wounded, only about thirty people survived the fight unscathed. After everybody is relatively taken care of, the group of soldiers moves back towards Pretoria. They do not hope to reach the city before nightfall, but the officer wants to camp away from the burning village.

Fleur wants to examine the surroundings of the village for a cause of this strange disease in the Zulu. She can find nothing out of the ordinary.

Viktor is the first to realise that there are no rifles at all in this village. When he shares this with the rest of the party, they are struck by fear. If the rifles are not here, they must be somewhere else, posing a threat to the South African Republic. Who attacked the Potgieter farm, if not the were-lions? Were the were-lions perhaps innocent of the attack on the Potgieter farm?

Reverend Sybrandt wonders if there is perhaps another village of were-lions where the rifles are kept.

Fleur suspects that since this village does not contain rifles, they must be innocent. President Kruger gave the order to attack a village of innocents. The blame for this crime lies on his shoulders. Are there perhaps other crimes for which he is responsible?

After all the research Fleur did, the party realises that the dread disease which cause normal men and women to change into lions is transmitted via the blood and saliva of the carriers. How many of the 70 wounded soldiers now carry the disease? They are gripped by fear, although Fleur realises that it will probably be at least another week until the first signs of the disease will manifest, since humans are so much bigger than rats and rabbits, who manifested the signs within a day,

Fleur decides to keep one silver bullet for herself, in case she will turn into a lion. Viktor decides to infect himself with the blood of the dead Zulu, so that he will not be the only non-were-lion when the rest transforms. Gerrit does not worry much about a possible infection, although he was badly hurt. Reverend Sybrandt wants to call on the mercy of the Lord to prevent this horrible disease from spreading.

The night passes quietly although the party lies awake, worrying about the future. In the middle of the night Gerrit rises and quietly smashes the Kodak camera of Viktor, to prevent pictures of the massacre from reaching Europe.

7 April

Viktor wakes and finds his precious camera smashed. He has no idea who did this. He is however happy to find that the vandals overlooked his bigger camera on the tripod. He at least still has his photos of the village as a whole. These are however less clear than the pictures he took with the Kodak. He hides these pictures well and then goes to complain with the officer. The officer is not really interested in the complaints of these horrible civilians and sends him away.

⁴⁷ The rather traditional transmute flesh to salt.

As the party returns to Pretoria in the afternoon, they all have things to do. Viktor goes to develop his pictures. He is not really satisfied with what he sees there. It looks as if the Afrikaner soldiers are bravely defending a native village from attack by horrible lions. Nevertheless, he writes the article and includes the pictures. This package he immediately sends to the Netherlands, to the editor of the magazine “De Gedachte”.

Viktor also tries to develop an emulsion of silver in oil, which he can possibly use as an antidote to his disease.

Fleur is also looking for an antidote. She injects more test-animals, this time with her own blood. If the rabbits and rats die within the day, she feels she has enough evidence to conclude that she too carries the dread disease.

Reverend Sybrandt, Gerrit and Fleur also want to pay a visit to the Seer Nikolaas van Rensburg. They want to know if their actions have stopped the visions. As they arrive at the home of the Seer, he welcomes them warmly. He asks of Reverend Sybrandt whether he has received the message.

The party asks after the visions. Nikolaas replies that he has had the vision with the twirling black clouds in the blood red sky again. But this time the clouds did not reach for the earth and no abomination sprang forth. Not completely at ease, the party returns to Pretoria.

The party wants to pay a visit to President Kruger. Fleur is outraged, she completely disagrees with the massacre, especially because no weapons were found. She thinks another, better, scientific solution should have been found for the disease. Gerrit completely agrees with the hard approach to the problem of the were-lions.

Reverend Sybrandt informs President Kruger of their findings in the village. Fleur makes her displeasure loudly known, but President Kruger ignores her. He thanks the party for their help. As a parting remark Fleur says: “I hope the British will soon rule this area and bring some more civilization.”

As the party walks away from the House of the President, Fleur tries to blame Gerrit for the massacre, as he told the President about the presence of the were-lions.

Aftermath

As the sessions are now over, I will write here a short piece about the rest of the lives of the characters.

Reverend Sybrandt Kouvoet

Reverend Sybrandt is the only character not infected with the were-lion disease. Together with Viktor he travels back to Cape Town. On their way there Viktor becomes ill and starts to manifest symptoms of the dread disease. Reverend Sybrandt tries to help him, but Viktor refuses his help and stays behind.

Reverend Sybrandt travels on to Cape Town and then on to the Netherlands. There he becomes very famous within in the Dutch Reformed Church for his inspired sermons, which he commits to paper and are used well into the 21st century. The sermons are filled with very inspiring symbolism and metaphors. Aside from that he has a lifelong correspondence with Seer Nikolaas, until the death of the latter.

Reverend Sybrandt eventually dies in 1925.

Doctor Fleur Nagtegaal

Fleur is infected with the were-lion disease. When the first symptoms manifest themselves on 10 April, she commits suicide with the silver bullet she has kept for that purpose.

Fleur’s body is found in her room in Hotel Uitsig by the Hotel staff and she is buried in Pretoria.

Gerrit van Zijpestein

Gerrit van Zijpestein remains in Pretoria, to be able to hunt the local wildlife. He attends the funeral of Fleur. When the disease manifests itself in him on 14 April, he welcomes the change. It enables him to become a better hunter. He garners a lot of fame as a hunter. Even at an advanced age he is still able to track and bring down the mightiest prey.

Gerrit takes precautions to never infect anyone. As he gives in to his impulses to hunt, he is able to exert a lot of control over his animal side.

Gerrit remains in Pretoria until his death in the middle of the 20th century.

Viktor Hendrik Hugenholtz.

Viktor wants to go to the Netherlands as soon as possible. Together with Reverend Sybrandt he travels to Cape Town. The signs of the disease manifest themselves in him on 14 April, on their trip to Cape Town. Reverend Sybrandt tries to help him, but Viktor does not want him to.

Viktor retreats to an abandoned farm. There he experiments with his silver emulsions to try to find a cure for his affliction. This is only partially successful and during his life he infects a few people who wander too close to his home.

Viktor eventually dies in the middle of the 20th century. The magazine “De Gedachte” undertook one mission to find their journalist, but it came to nothing.

The rest of the world

The infected soldiers all return to Pretoria and all of them develop the dread disease within a week. The new werelions ravage the city and the outlying regions. President Paul Kruger has the greatest of trouble to keep this “insurrection” under control.

The battle against the “insurgents” weakens the South African Republic. King Umkhele sees his chance and he attacks the republic with a small army of very well armed Zulu warriors. With their better weapons, they manage to beat the South African Republic back.

In despair President Kruger begs the British for help in July 1896. These come to the aid of the South African Republic, but have great trouble with subduing the Zulu and the infected werelions, of which many are still on the loose. Eventually the British conquer the Zulu. King Umkhele dies in the last battle and many of his followers flee.

The South African Republic ceases to exist and is transformed, together with the Afrikaner Oranje Vrijstaat, Natal and the British Cape Colony into the Union of South Africa.

Due to the tensions between the Afrikaners and the British and the presence of the infected werelions, the area remains restless for quite some time.

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