


BREAKER MORANT: SCAPEGOAT OF THE EMPIRE

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The Scrivener's Quill





"Live every day as if it
were your last and
then some day you'll
be right."

– H.H. "Breaker" Morant





BREAKER MORANT: A PLAY IN TWO ACTS

BY KENNETH G. ROSS



BREAKER MORANT

Harry "Breaker" Harbord Morant (9 December 1864 - 27 February 1902) was an Anglo-Australian drover, horseman, bush poet, military officer and convicted war criminal.

While serving with the Bushveldt Carbineers during the Second Anglo-Boer War, Lieutenant Morant was arrested and court-martialed for war crimes- one of the first such prosecutions in British military history. According to military prosecutors, Lt. Morant retaliated for the death in combat of his commanding officer with a series of revenge killings against both Boer POWs and many civilian residents of the Northern Transvaal.

He stood accused of the summary execution of Floris Visser, a wounded prisoner of war and the slaying of four Afrikaners and four Dutch schoolteachers who had been taken prisoner at the Elim Hospital. Lt. Morant was found guilty and sentenced to death.

- Wikipedia



Lieutenant Harry (the Breaker) Morant



When a man hath no freedom
to fight for at home,
Let him combat for that of his
neighbours;
Let him think of the glories of
Greece and of Rome,
And get knocked on the head
for his labours.

To do good to Mankind is the
chivalrous plan,
And is always as nobly requited;
Then battle for Freedom
wherever you can,
And, if not shot or hanged,
you'll get knighted.

— George Gordon Byron



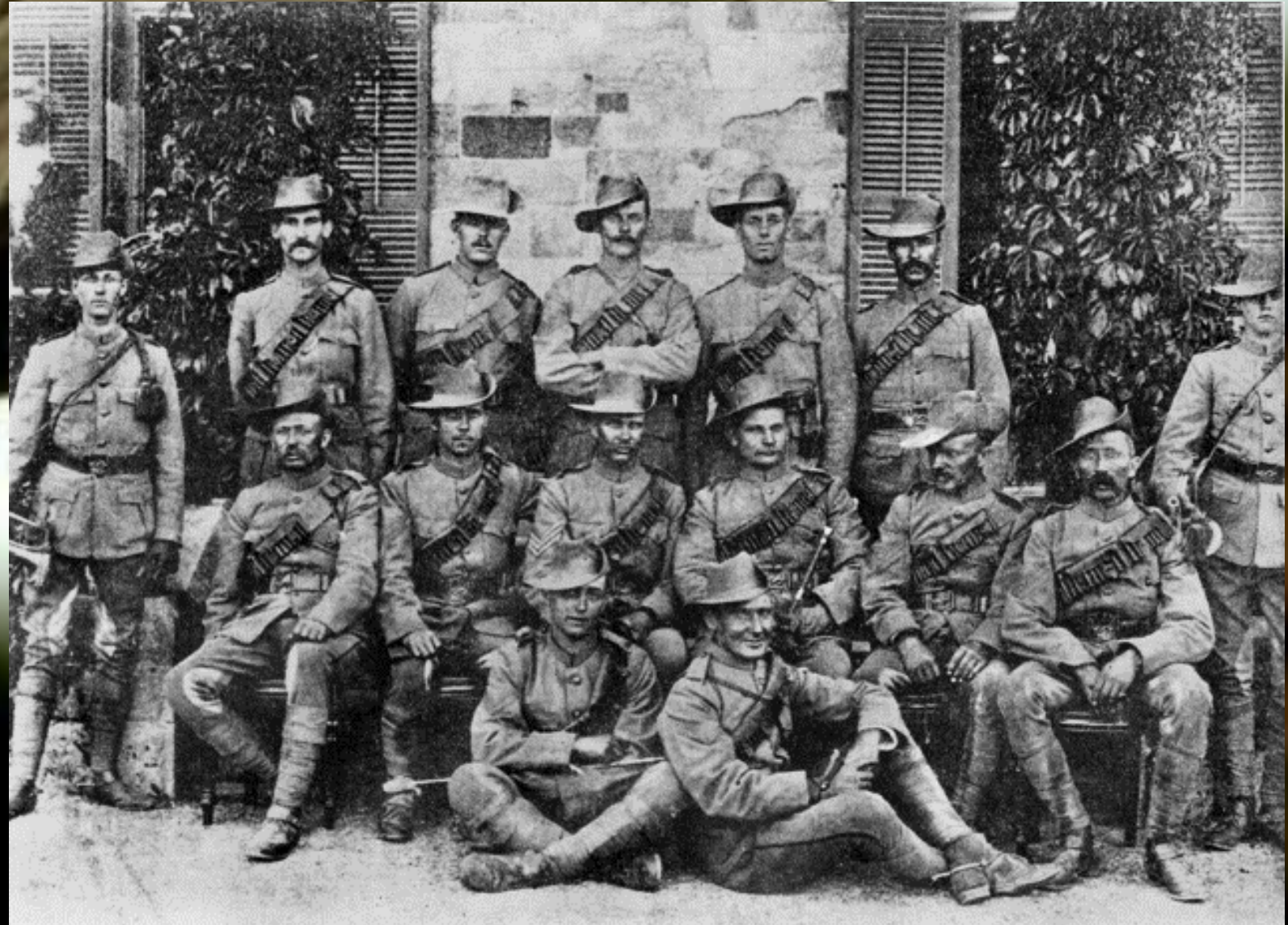


BUSHVELDT CARBINEERS

The Bushveldt Carbineers (BVC) were a short-lived, **irregular mounted infantry regiment of the British Army**, raised in South Africa during the Second Boer War.

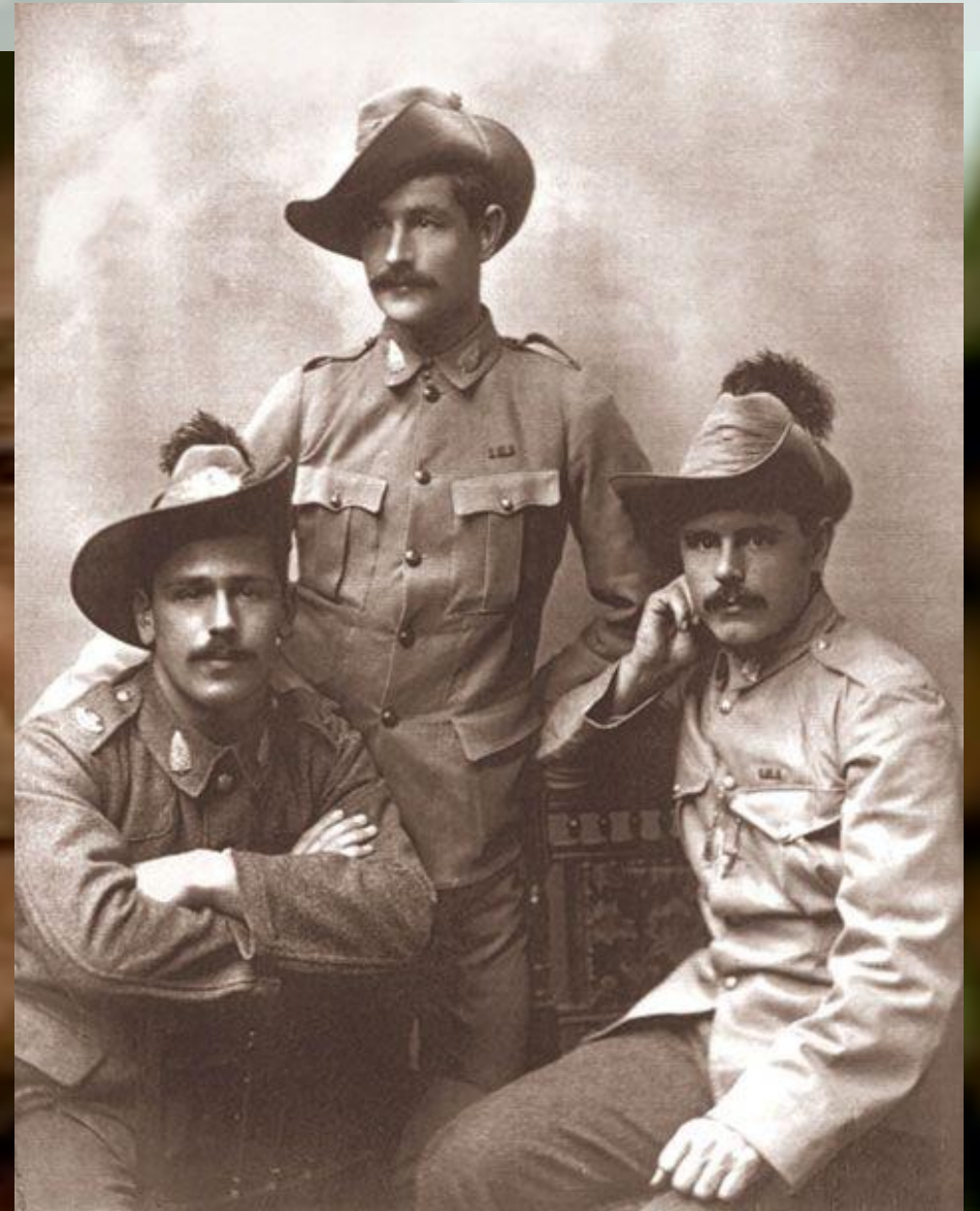
The 320-strong regiment was formed in February 1901 and commanded by an Australian Colonel R. W. Lenehan. It was based at Pietersburg, 260 Kilometres north-east of Pretoria, and saw action in the Spelonken region of the Northern Transvaal during 1901-1902. About forty percent of the men in the BVC were Australians, and the regiment also included about forty surrendered Boers, known as "joiners", who had been recruited from the internment camps.

- Wikipedia



COMMANDO POLICY

British policy to deal with the Boer "commando's" was to tell their men that any Boer found wearing khaki (the British uniform had changed by this time no more Red Coats) could be shot on sight to deter the Boer's from pretending to be British soldiers. Morant and his company while out to avenge the death of a close friend of his by Boer commando's came across a group who they believed had killed Morant's friend, some of whom were dressed in the remnants of British uniform (just a jacket top) Morant set up a firing squad and had the men shot dead with out any hearing.



"For if you suffer your people to be ill-educated, and their manners to be corrupted from their infancy, and then punish them for those crimes to which their first education disposed them, what else is to be concluded from this, but that you first make thieves and then punish them."

— [Thomas More](#) ([Utopia](#))

E. R.
BUSHVELD CARBINEERS.
Organised in Pretoria.
For Special Service in Northern Districts of Transvaal.
(WATERBERG and ZOUTPANSBERG).
RECRUITS WANTED
WHO CAN RIDE AND SHOOT,
To Proceed to Pretoria at once.

Special inducements to men joining the above Corps. Every facility given to those desirous of leaving before the termination of the war.
For particulars and enrolment apply

RECRUITING OFFICER,
J. D. GILL,
DRILL HALL, DURBAN.

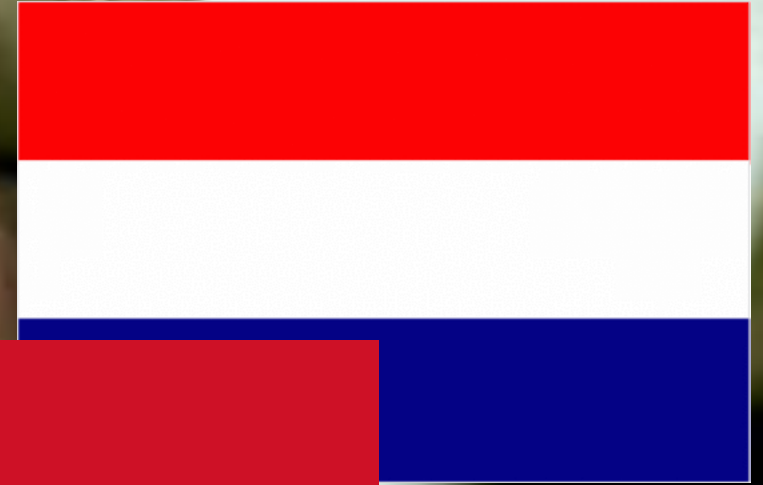
9936 6 & bdf 7
JOSEPH R. LEVY, Pretoria Headquarters.





*Lord Kitchener's headquarters.
Pretoria, Transvaal.*

Conflict of Interest



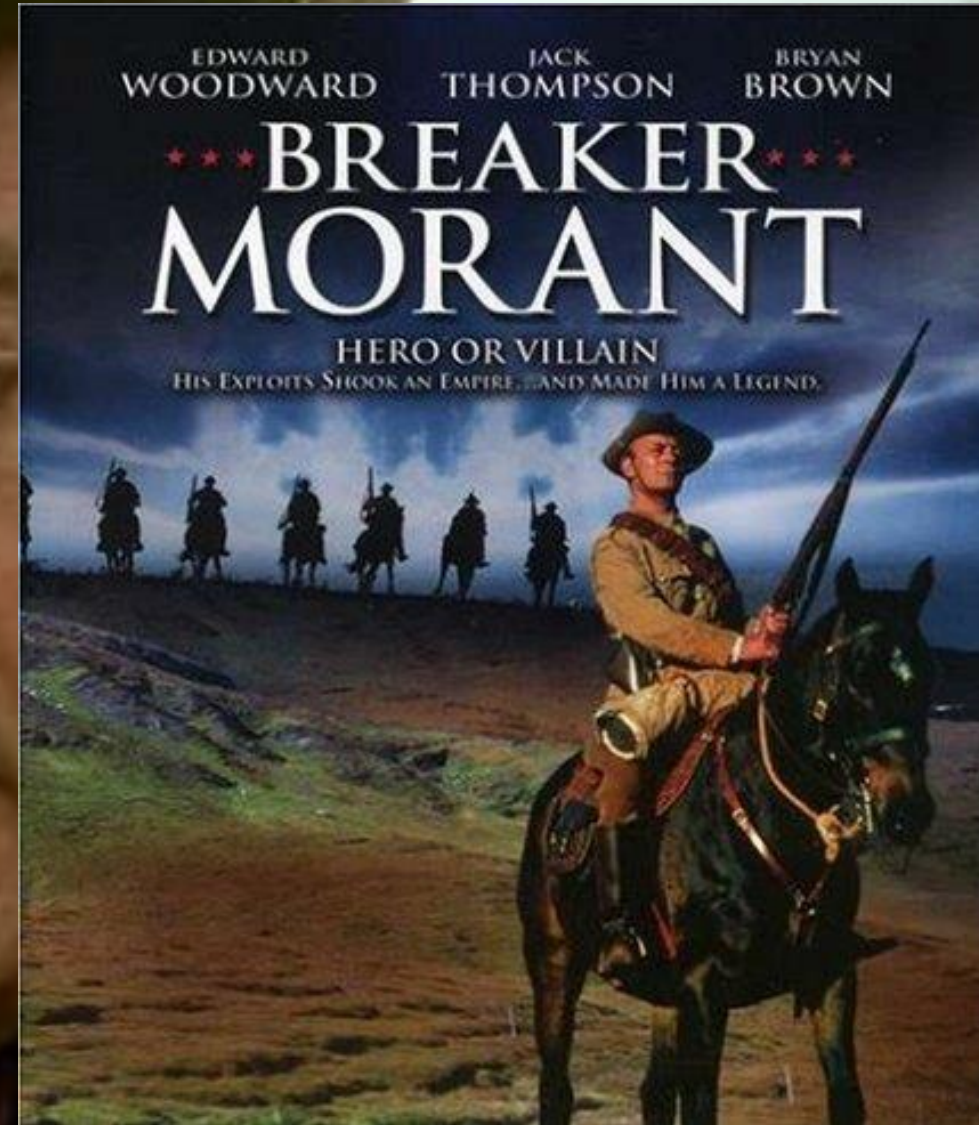
MOVIE - IN ACCURACIES

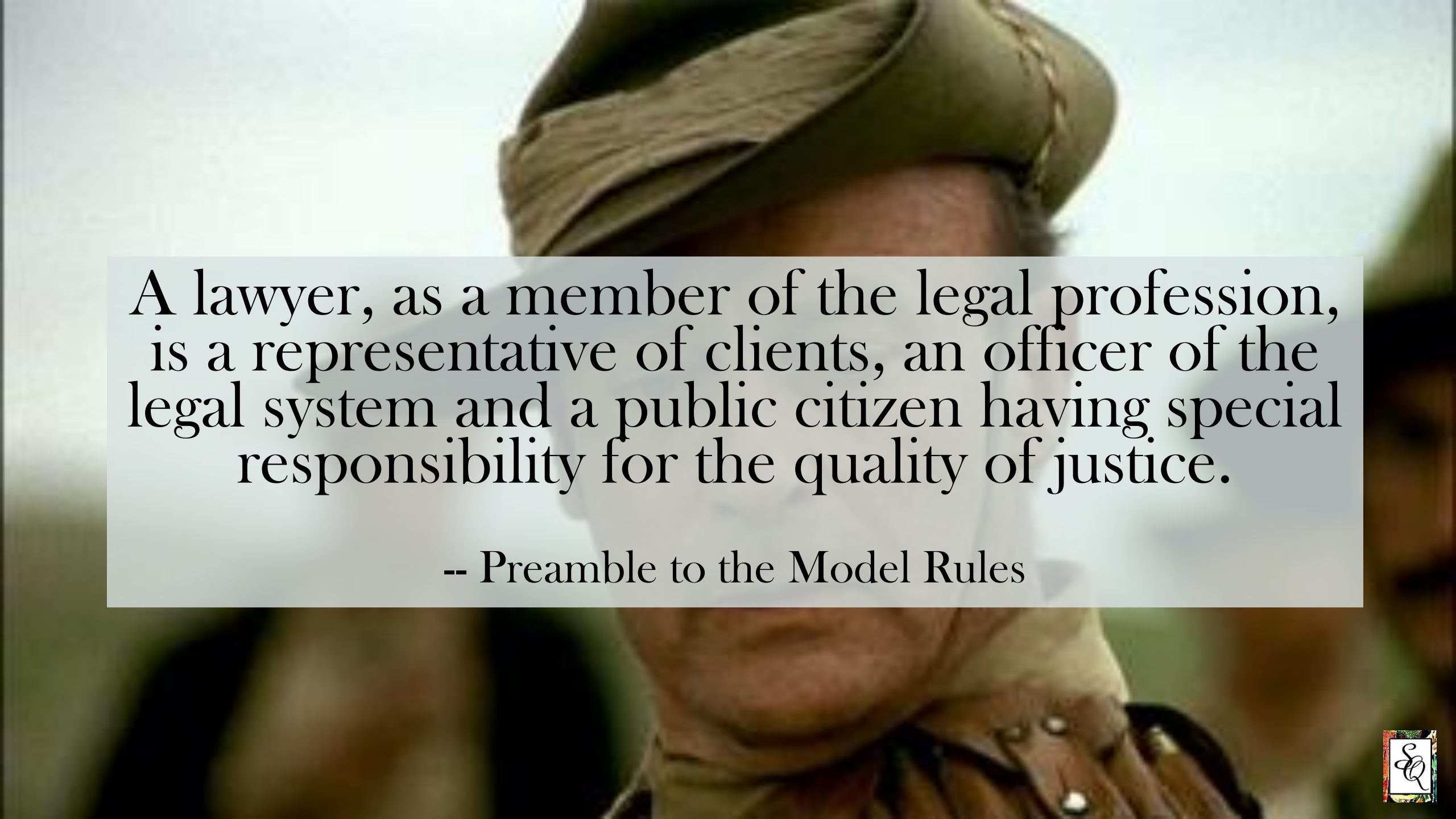
According to South African historian Charles Leach, however, the widespread legend that the German Foreign Office protested about the case, "cannot be proved through official channels. . . .

Under international law, the German Government had no grounds to protest. Despite being attached to the Berlin Missionary Society, Rev. Heese had been born in Cape Colony and, "was, technically speaking, a British, and not a German citizen".

The scene does contain a kernel of truth, however. Leach writes, "Several eminent South African historians, local enthusiasts, and commentators share the opinion that **had it not been for the murder of the Reverend Heese, none of the other Bushveldt Carbineers murders would have gone to trial.**"

-- Wikipedia

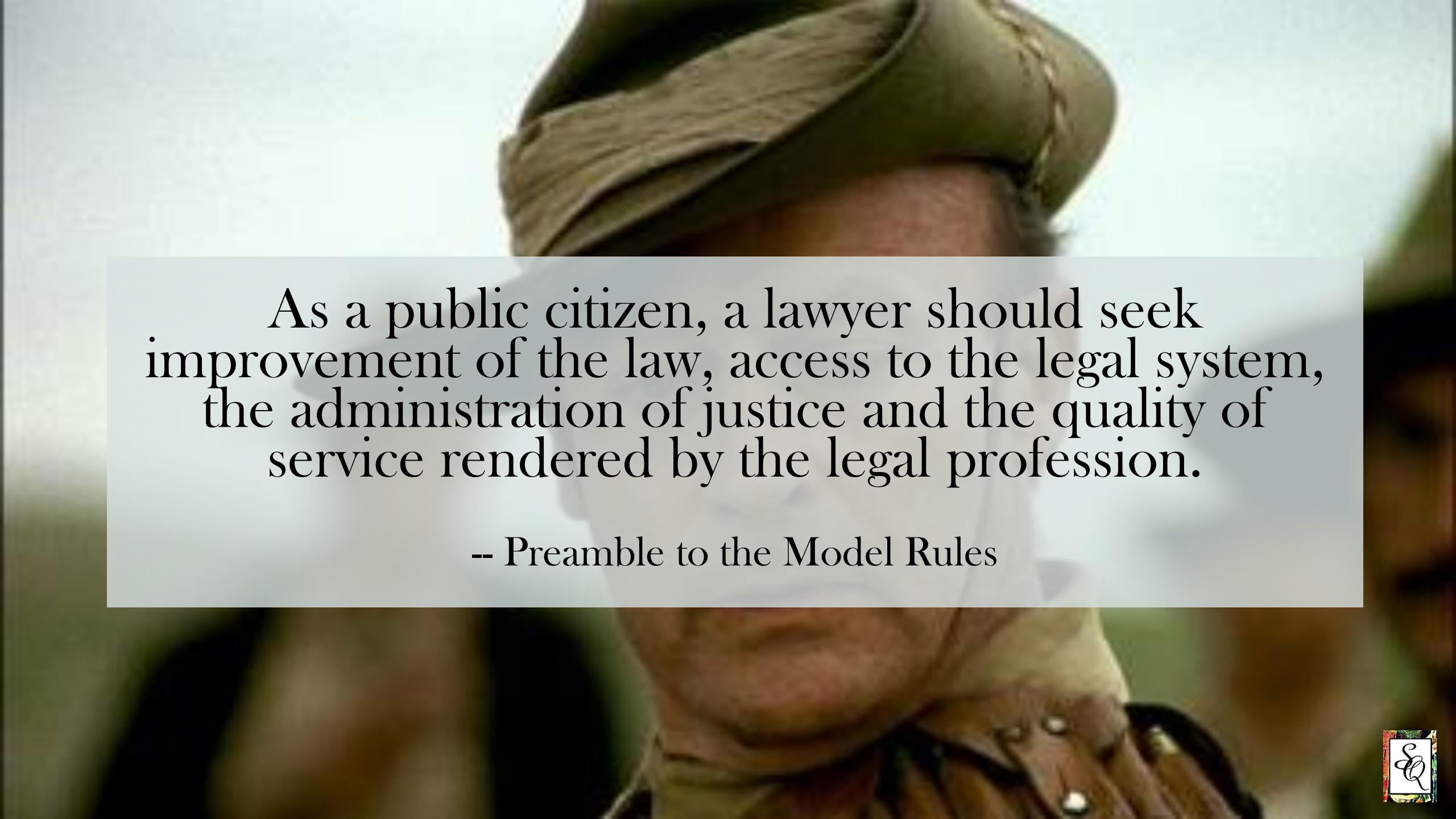




A lawyer, as a member of the legal profession,
is a representative of clients, an officer of the
legal system and a public citizen having special
responsibility for the quality of justice.

-- Preamble to the Model Rules

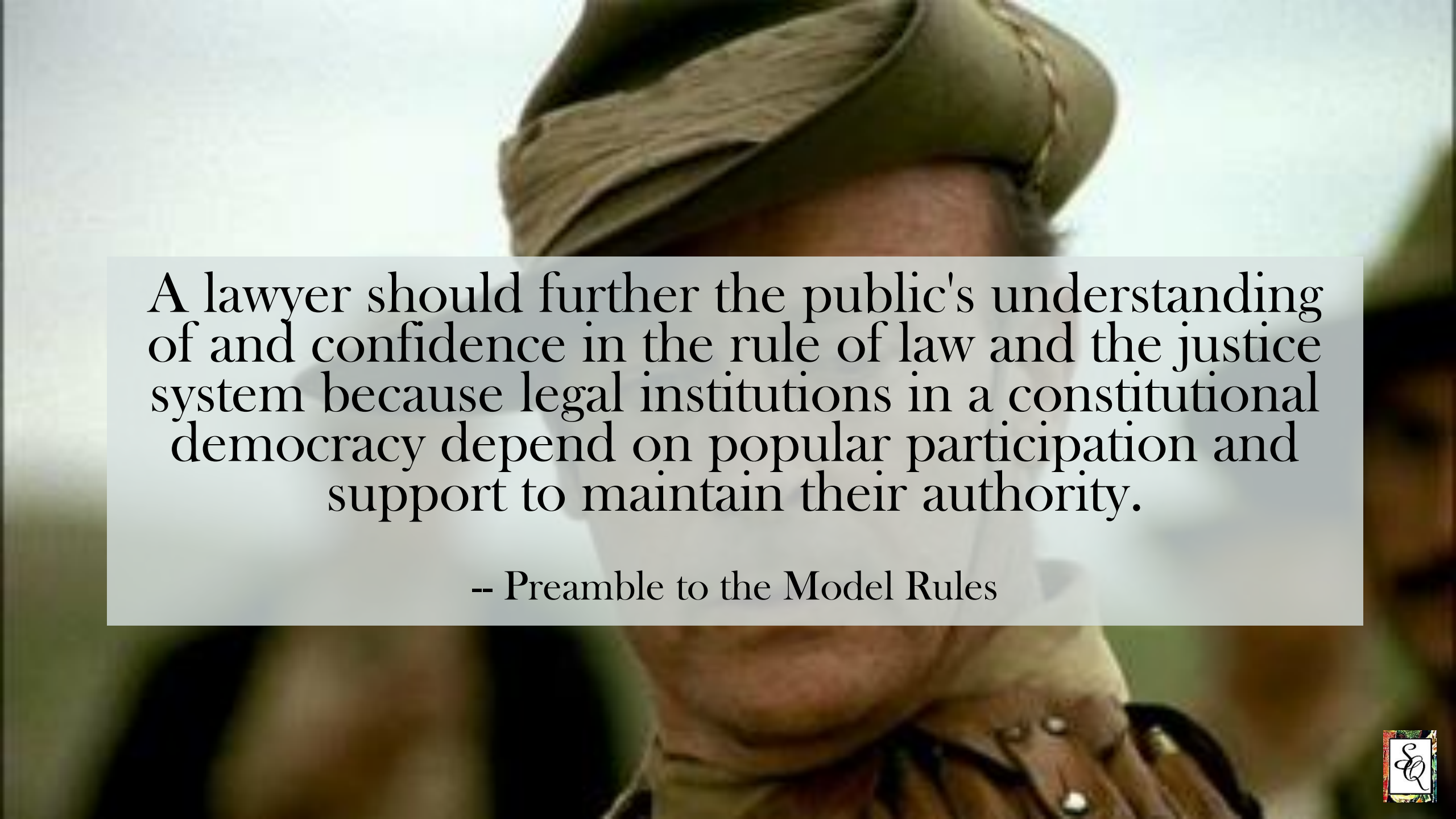




As a public citizen, a lawyer should seek improvement of the law, access to the legal system, the administration of justice and the quality of service rendered by the legal profession.

- Preamble to the Model Rules

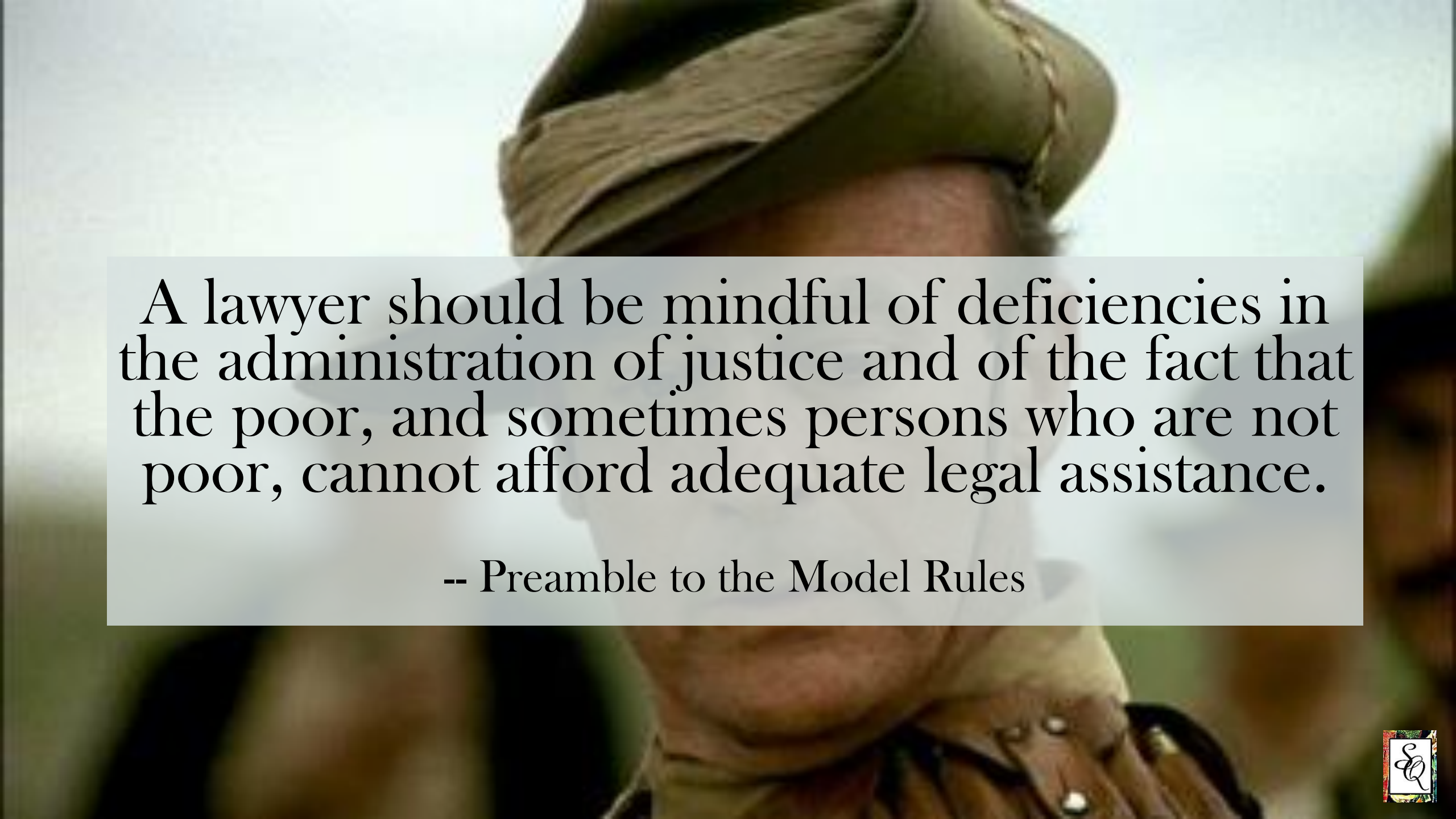




A lawyer should further the public's understanding of and confidence in the rule of law and the justice system because legal institutions in a constitutional democracy depend on popular participation and support to maintain their authority.

-- Preamble to the Model Rules





A lawyer should be mindful of deficiencies in the administration of justice and of the fact that the poor, and sometimes persons who are not poor, cannot afford adequate legal assistance.

-- Preamble to the Model Rules





JAMES FRANCIS THOMAS

He had studied law at Sydney University, served as an articled clerk in a reputable Sydney law practice, and had been admitted (unconditionally) to practise as a solicitor on 28 May 1887. However, he has never been admitted to practise as a barrister, and had no substantial courtroom experience of any kind.

Thomas had previously served with distinction, with the rank of Captain in the New South Wales Citizens' Bushmen Contingent. In 1902, he was unattached, and in South Africa, and solely due to his experience as a solicitor, was suddenly promoted to Major and coerced [citation needed] into representing the three accused; despite having no experience of any sort of the theory or practice of military law, or of the role of a barrister.

- Wikipedia





“RULE 303”

The Lee Enfield .303 rifle





TURN STATES EVIDENCE OR DEATH

The trial of Alfred Taylor was saved for last. South African historian Andries Pretorius believes that Crown Prosecutors were trying to force Lieuts. Morant, Handcock, Witton, and Picton to turn King's Evidence against Taylor. If so, they were unsuccessful.

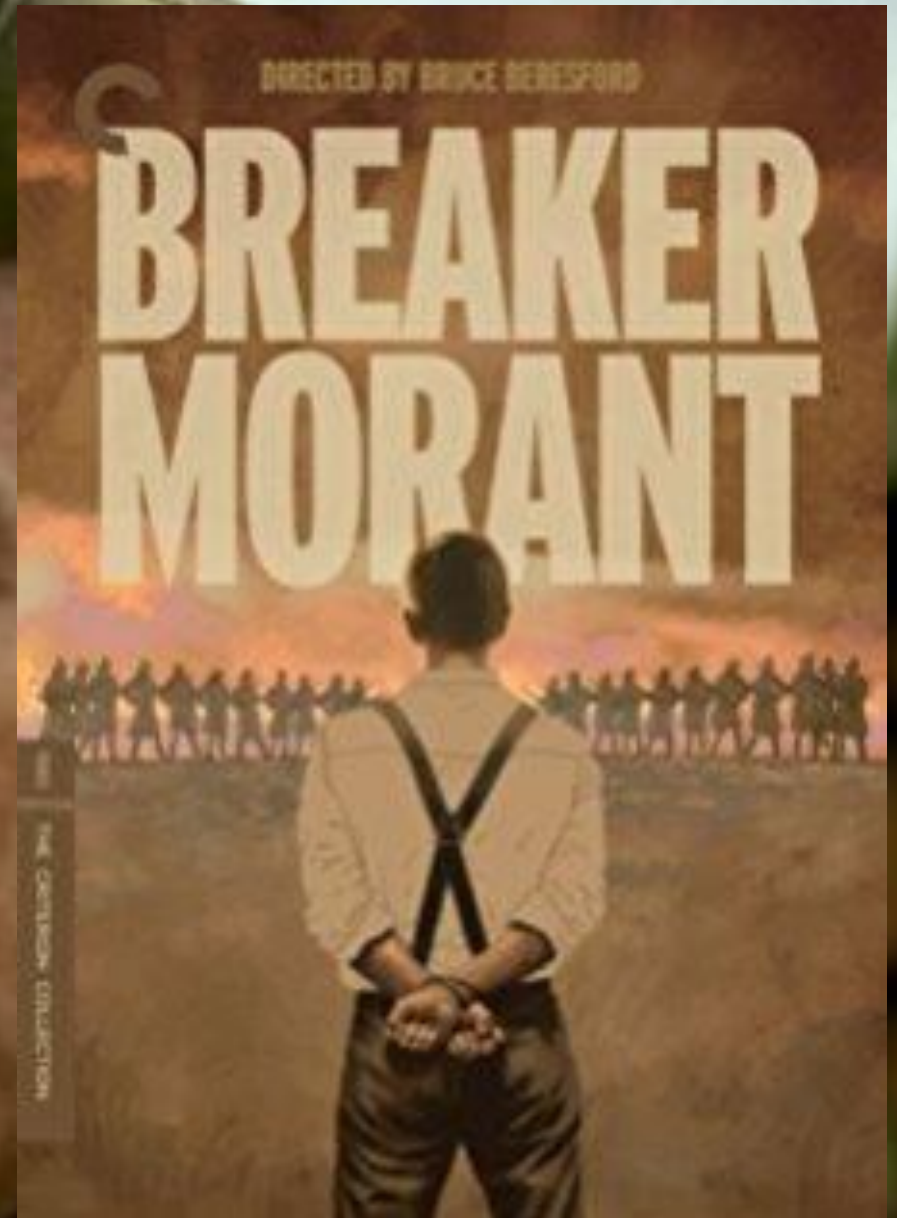
- Wikipedia



Captain Alfred James 'Bulala' Taylor, D.S.O. (14 November 1861 in Dublin, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland - 24 October 1941 in Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia) was **a British Army officer, mass murderer, cattle rustler, war profiteer, and accused war criminal** during the Scramble for Africa and the Second Boer War.

Taylor is most notorious, however, for his actions in during the Second Boer War. While serving as a captain in the War Office's Intelligence Department, Taylor was handpicked by Lord Kitchener as liaison to the Bushveldt Carbineers (BVC) at Fort Edward in the Northern Transvaal. South African historian Dr. C.A.R. Schulenburg has described **"The Irishman Taylor"** as **"a notorious sadist", who was "ruthless" toward white and black South Africans alike.**

- Wikipedia









"The search for a scapegoat is the easiest of all hunting expeditions."

– [Dwight D. Eisenhower](#)



George Witton's book, *Scapegoats of the Empire* was originally published in 1907 by D. W. Paterson of Melbourne, but was long unavailable. Prior to its reprint in 1982 by the Australian publishing house Angus & Robertson, it is claimed that only seven copies of the book survived in various Australian state libraries and in the possession of Witton's family. Although unsubstantiated, it has long been claimed that the book was suppressed by the Australian government and most copies were destroyed; [citation needed] another explanation is that most of the copies were destroyed by an accidental fire at the publisher's warehouse. The 1982 reprinting was inspired by the success of a film based on the book, entitled *Breaker Morant*.

-- Wikipedia

SCAPEGOATS OF THE EMPIRE

The True Story of Breaker Morant's Bushveldt Carbineers



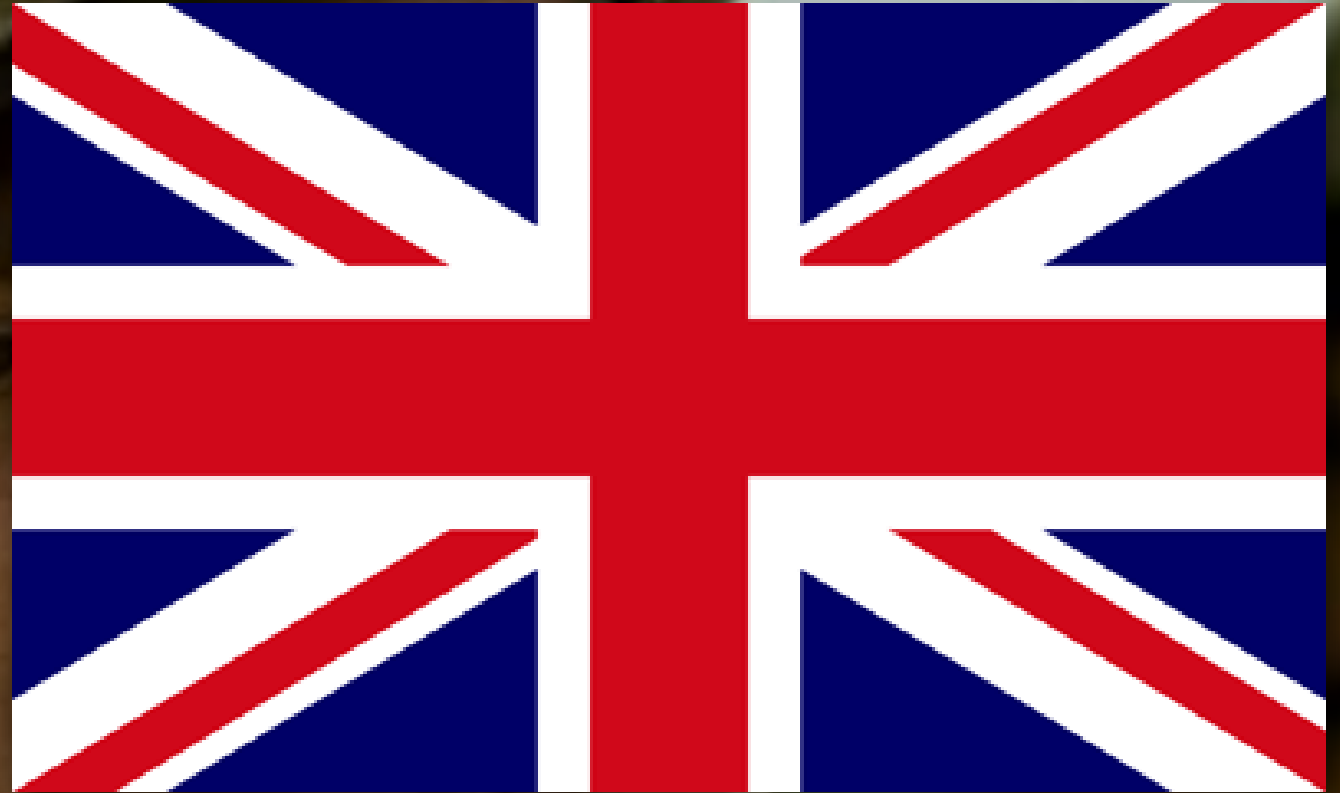
George Witton





Matthew 10:36

“And a man’s foes shall be they of his own household.”





**BUTCHERED TO MAKE A
DUTCHMAN'S HOLIDAY** by Harry
("Breaker") Morant

In prison cell I sadly sit,
A d__d crest-fallen chappie!
And own to you I feel a bit-
A little bit - unhappy!

It really ain't the place nor time
To reel off rhyming diction -
But yet we'll write a final rhyme
Whilst waiting cru-ci-fixion!

No matter what "end" they decide -
Quick-lime or "b'iling ile," sir?
We'll do our best when crucified
To finish off in style, sir!

But we bequeath a parting tip
For sound advice of such men,
Who come across in transport ship
To polish off the Dutchmen!

If you encounter any
Boers You really must not loot 'em!
And if you wish to leave these shores,
For pity's sake, **DON'T SHOOT 'EM!!**

And if you'd earn a D.S.O.,
Why every British sinner
Should know the proper way to go
Is: **"ASK THE BOER TO DINNER!"**

Let's toss a bumper down our throat, -
Before we pass to Heaven,
And toast: "The trim-set petticoat
We leave behind in Devon."

*At its end the manuscript is described -
The Last Rhyme and Testament of Tony
Lumpkin -*

