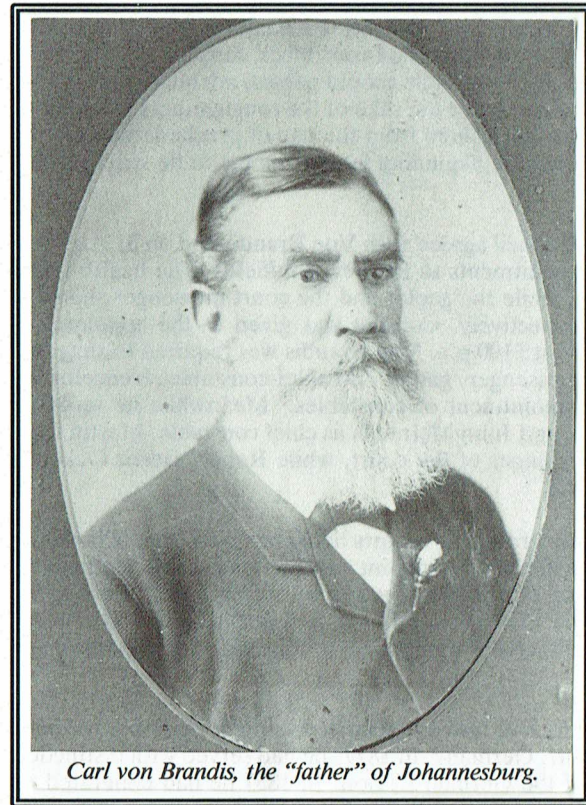


## GOVERNMENT ACTIONS

The influx of diggers to the goldfields made it necessary for the Government to maintain authority of the State. Government decided to **proclaim** different farms on the Witwatersrand as **public diggings**.

Original "Staats-Courant" (Government Gazette) dated 8 September 1886 carrying the proclamation of the farm **Randjieslaagte**, on which Johannesburg was established  
 Unique document of historical importance and *not freely available* to the public



Carl von Brandis, the "father" of Johannesburg.

Source: Johannesburg 1886-1899 (1985)

The Gold Law (Law 8 of 1885) required the appointment of a **Mining Commissioner**.

On 27 August 1886, the ZAR Government appointed Carl von Brandis.

He became the first mining commissioner on 20 September 1886.

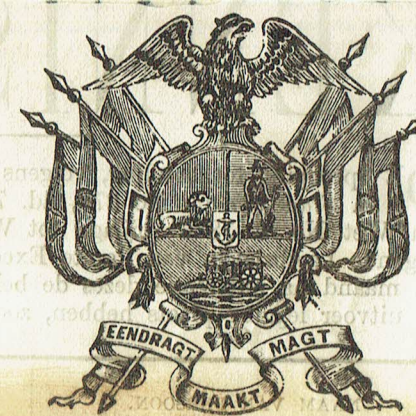
He was appointed special magistrate on 4 November 1886

Both Commissioner and Von Brandis streets is named after him.

Registered letter from Johannesburg and mailed at Von Brandis Post Office Branch, Johannesburg to Salonika, Greece on 25 April 1935. The 1/- stamp is tied by a double circle cds covers the 3d International postage, 4d Registration fee and 3d Airmail rate



# STAATS-COURANT.



ZUID - AFRIKAAN-

SCHE REPUBLIEK.

DEEL VI.

PRETORIA, Z. A. REPUBLIEK, WOENSDAG, 8 SEPTEMBER 1886.

No. 294.

## PROCLAMATIE

VAN

### ZHED. DEN STAATSPRESIDENT.

NADEMAAL aan de Regering der Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek gebleken is, dat het wenschelijk is de plaatsen genaamd DRIEFONTEIN, ELANDSFONTEIN, Zuidelijkste gedeelte DOORNFONTEIN, TURFFONTEIN, Gouvernementsplaats RANTJESLAAGTE, LANGLAAGTE, PAARDEKRAAL, VOGELSTRUISFONTEIN en ROODEPOORT, allen gelegen in Witwatersrand, district Heidelberg, te verklaren tot een publieke delverij.

Zoo is het dat ik, STEPHANUS JOHANNES PAULUS KRUGER, Staatspresident der Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek, met advies en consent van den Uitvoerenden Raad, in termen van art. 5 der gewijzigde Wet No. 8, 1885, de bovengenoemde gronden proclameer tot een PUBLIEKE DELVERIJ in de volgende volgorde en van af de volgende tijdstippen respectievelijk, te weten:—

De plaatsen DRIEFONTEIN en ELANDSFONTEIN, op Maandag 20 September 1886;

Het zuidelijkste gedeelte der plaats DOORNFONTEIN en de plaats TURFFONTEIN, op Maandag 27 September 1886;

Het stuk Gouvernementsgrond genaamd RANTJESLAAGTE en de plaats genaamd LANGLAAGTE, op Maandag 4 October 1886;

De plaatsen genaamd PAARDEKRAAL, VOGELSTRUISFONTEIN en ROODEPOORT, op Maandag 11 October 1886;

voor zoo verre niet door eigenaars of huurders afgebakend voor Mijnpachtbrieven of volgens de gewijzigde Wet No. 8, 1885, art. 20, uitgehouden voor bebouwde plekken, tuinen, landerijen en waterleidingen in de nabijheid daarvan.

GOD BEHOEDE LAND EN VOLK.

Gegeven onder mijne hand ten Gouvernementskantore te Pretoria, op heden den 8sten dag van de maand September A.D. 1886.

S. J. P. KRUGER,  
Staatspresident.

No. 183. R4014/86  
Gouvernements Kennisgeving.

TER algemeene informatie wordt het onderstaand besluit van den E. A. Volksraad hiermede gepubliceerd.

Op last,

W. EDUARD BOK,  
Staatssecretaris.

Gouvernementskantoor,  
Pretoria, 23 Augustus 1886.

Volksraadsbesluit art. 1415, d.d. 12 Augustus 1886.

De Raad besluit Wet No. 6 1888, nog voor een jaar in werking te stellen tot in de aanstaande gewone zitting van den Volksraad hierover nader beslist zal worden, als wanneer ook de Wet artikels gewijze in behandeling zal genomen worden met inachtneming van de volgende bepalingen:

1. De tot dusverre gekozen leden der Distriktsraden volgens art. 6 der Wet zullen aftreden op laatsten dag van December van dit jaar. De nieuw te kiezen Distriktsraden, waarvoor de Regeering nieuwe electies zal uitschrijven, zullen in functie blijven van 1 Januari 1887 tot ulto December 1889.

2. In plaats van het tegenwoordige art. 21 der Wet zal in het vervolg gelezen worden: "Twee leden maken met den Landdrosst een quorum uit."

No. 190. R5402/84  
Gouvernements Kennisgeving.

ANGEZIEN het gebleken is, dat er onzekerheid bestaat omtrent de juiste scheidslijn tusschen de wijken Seijlons en Olifantsrivier, in het distrikt Middelburg, wordt hiermede ter algemeene informatie bekend gemaakt, dat gemelde lijn nu bepaald en vastgesteld is als volgt:—

"Van Stefanus Schutte, Klippan, op de lijn van Middelburg en Lijdenburg, met de grens tusschen Seijlonsrivier en Olifantsrivier, tot de plaats van C. du Plooi, Nooitgedacht; van daar met een rechte lijn tot de plaats van J. C. J. van Rensburg; van daar naar de gewone plaats van A. Diqui, genaamd Norigedacht; van daar tot het boveinde van de Vetspadkloof; van daar tot de plaats van L. de Jager, Kranspoort, en met de spruit af tot aan Olifantsrivier."

Op last,

**BIRTH OF A CITY**

Consensus at the time was that Johannesburg would soon become a ghost town, with a life span less than 25 years. However, tenders to survey the new mining village were invited.

On 5 October 1886, De Villiers started, and Johann Rissik issued him with a portion of the plan.

The rapid growth with mines, workshops and other businesses opened by the day, necessitate government to constantly review policies.

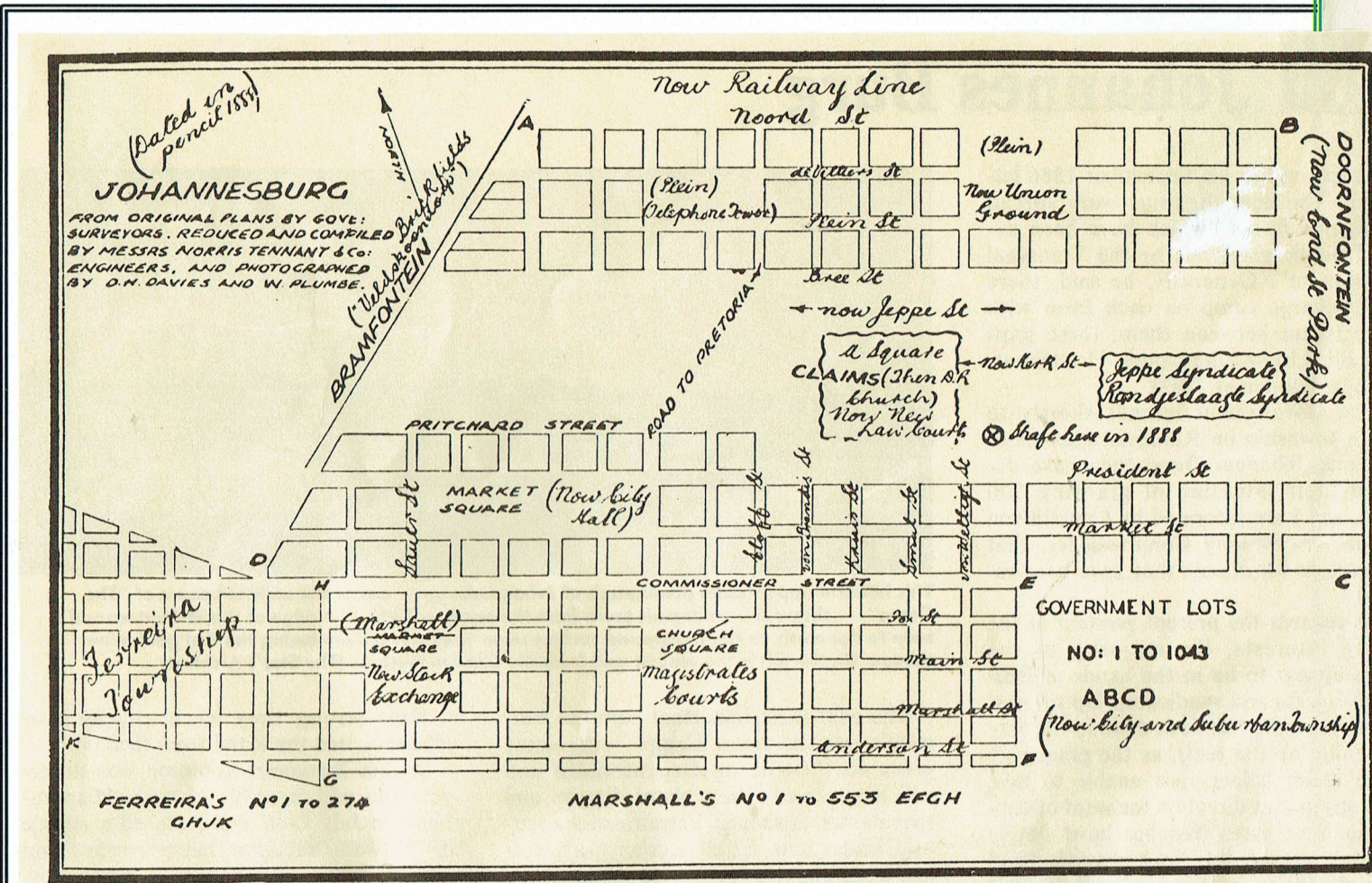
Surveying was completed on 3 November. De Villiers expanded his original layout of the town from 600 to 748 stands in two consolidated areas North and South of the mining sites.

By 8 December the number of stands had increased to 986.

Diggers at first bought claims from the farm owners who drew revenue from the claim licenses. When the farms were proclaimed, half the money went to Government.

Claims were registered in the name of the digger for which he received a title deed. Diggers were free to buy and sell claims by means of legal transaction.

On right is a *one of its kind* original Claim Transfer Title Deed from a liquidated estate to Randlord S B Joel dated 20 November 1894 validated with two 1£ and one 1/- stamps manuscript cancelled



An 1887 map redrawn by The Star in the 1930's from a faded photograph of a map by Mr. G Kent. The original map was never Found. The 1930's artist added street names in cursive writing.

The township was surveyed in two separate parts with the claims of Randjeslaagte syndicate in between

7.] **ACTE VAN OVERMAKING VAN RECHT OP CLAIMS.** R0  
 UIT KRACHT EENER PROCURATIE. 12  
94

het kennelijk aan allen die het aangaat :

*Francois Burger van Johan-  
nesburg, handpoot en lebardiemaker,*

gecompareerd voor mij *P. E. Mare* Verantwoorde -  
~~lijken Werk te Florida~~ Mijn-  
 commissaris van Johannesburg, Witwatersrand Goudvelden, distrikt Heidelberg, zijnde  
 daartoe gemachtigd bij Procuratie verleend door *F. C. Dumat* in  
 zijne hoedanigheid als Curator van het Alpha  
 Syndicaat Bepent, zijnde de gezegde *F. C.*  
*Dumat* verder daartoe geïnstrueerd en gemachtigd  
 door de liquidateuren van gezegd Syn-  
 dicaat, welke procuraties

gedateerd den 30<sup>sten</sup> November 1894 en opgesteld te Johannesburg  
 in tegenwoordigheid van twee getuigen; en aan mij op heden vertoond, die verklaarde  
 dat voormelde principaal *de gezegde F. C. Dumat* in  
 zijne hoedanigheid voormeld

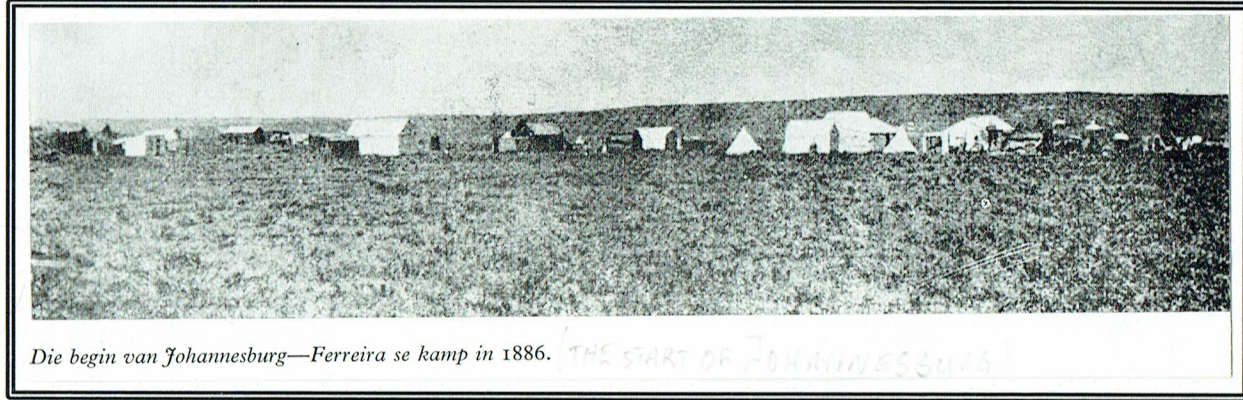
*S. B. Joel*

VERANTWOORDE  
 KANONIK  
 20 JUN 95  
 FLORENTIUS  
 Z. A. REPUBLIEK

waarlijk en wettelijk heeft verkocht, en dat de comparant in zijne hoedanigheid voor-  
 meld hiermede overmaakt en cedeert aan en ten hehoeve van *de*

**LAND OWNERSHIP**

Soon after the city was surveyed, the tents spread across the reef were replaced by iron shacks and crude brick buildings. The first building society was established in 1888.



Die begin van Johannesburg—Ferreira se kamp in 1886.

Source: Die verhaal van Johannesburg

Government announces the sale of preferential rights to stands for **five** years on 9 November 1886 per Public Auction on 18 November 1886 in front of the Mining Commissioners' office.

STAATS-COURANT DER Z. A. REPUBLIEK, WOENSDAG, 10 NOV. 1886.

No. 231. R4962/86.  
Gouvernements Kennisgeving.

ANGEZIEN voor vele Standplaatsen te Johannesburg, door meer dan één persoon, aanzoek is gedaan, zoo heeft de Regeering besloten, dat

**DE PUBLIEKE VERKOOPING**

van het voorkeurrecht op

**STANDPLAATSEN,**

voor den tijd van vijf achtereenvolgende jaren op het stuk Gouvernements grond genaamd

**JOHANNESBURG,**

zal plaats hebben, op

**DONDERDAG, 18 NOVEMBER 1886,**

voor het Myncommissariskantoor, Witwatersrand Goudvelden.

**TERMEN CONTANT.**

Verdere conditiën zullen op den dag van den verkoop worden bekend gemaakt.

Op last,

**W. EDUARD BOK,**  
Staatssecretaris.

Gouvernementskantoor,  
Pretoria, 9 November 1886.



1/2d ZAR "Vurheim" stamp cancelled with Johannesburg single circle cds without date (circa early 1890's)



Triangle barred obliterator no 3 was used at Johannesburg (circa 1889)

Original notice of the auction ("De Publieke Verkoop") as published in "Staats-Courant" 303

Unique document of historical importance and *not freely available* to the public

Original Deed of transfer for 13 Rissik Street (main street) dated 3 May 1898 validated with one 1£, one 5£ and one 1/- stamps cancelled with a purple Mine Commissioner handstamp - *One of its kind*

**ACTE VAN OVERMAKING**

VAN

**REGT OP STANDPLAATS,**

UIT KRACHT VAN EENE PROCURATIE.

Bij het hiermede kennelijk:

DAT Ernest James Bader transport en verbanduitmaker van Johannesburg

gecompareerd is voor mij

Myncommissaris van Johannesburg, Witwatersrand Goudvelden, distrikt Heidelberg, zijnde daartoe gemachtigd bij procuratie verleend door

Charles Sydney Goldman in zijne hoedanigheid als de bestuurder van de Societe Immobiliere Sud Africaine Reprekt

gedateerd den 3de dag van mei 1898 en opgesteld te Johannesburg Z. A. R., in tegenwoordigheid van twee getuigen, en aan mij op heden vertoond, die verklaarde dat zijn voormeld

principale de gezegde Societe Immobiliere Sud Africaine Reprekt waarlijk en wettelijk verkocht en dat de comparant in zijne hoedanigheid voormeld hiermede overmaakt en cedeert aan en ten behoeve van

De Societe Immobiliere Sud Africaine

Ernigenamen, Executeuren, Administrateuren, of Gemachtigden zeker recht en aanspraak op zekere Standplaats, No. 13 gelegen aan de

Rissik Straat te Johannesburg, Witwatersrand Goudvelden,

zooals die aan de Societe Immobiliere Sud Africaine Reprekt is toegestaan onder Kwitantie No. \_\_\_\_\_ gedateerd den \_\_\_\_\_ dag van

189 \_\_\_\_\_ ingevolge Uitvoerende Raadsbesluit,

Art. 307, van den 26sten November, 1886, en aan comparant lastgever

toebehoort, blijkens Acte van Overmaking, No. 617/96 geregistreerd te

Johannesburg, dd. 16 Mei 1898

Transport No. 10898

Folio 13 1898

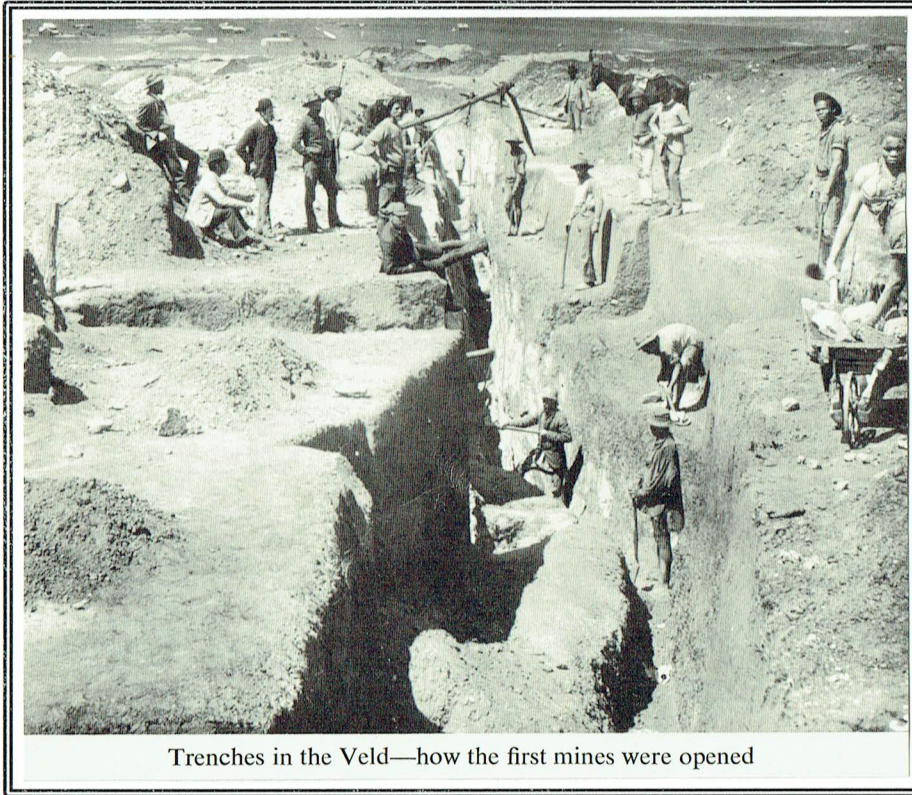
Geregistreerd op Register No. \_\_\_\_\_ Johannesburg, 13de Mei

Transferred by Transfer Deed No. A 00 dated 3 March 1898 by Ernest James Bader to Charles Sydney Goldman For Registrar of Mining



### MINING THE GOLD

In the earliest operations, the mining process adopted was that of open cuttings whereby **trenches** were dug along the outcrop of the reef. Ore was hoisted to the surface in buckets, from where it was hauled in horse drawn cocopans to the crushers.



Trenches in the Veld—how the first mines were opened

Source: Gold! Gold! Gold!

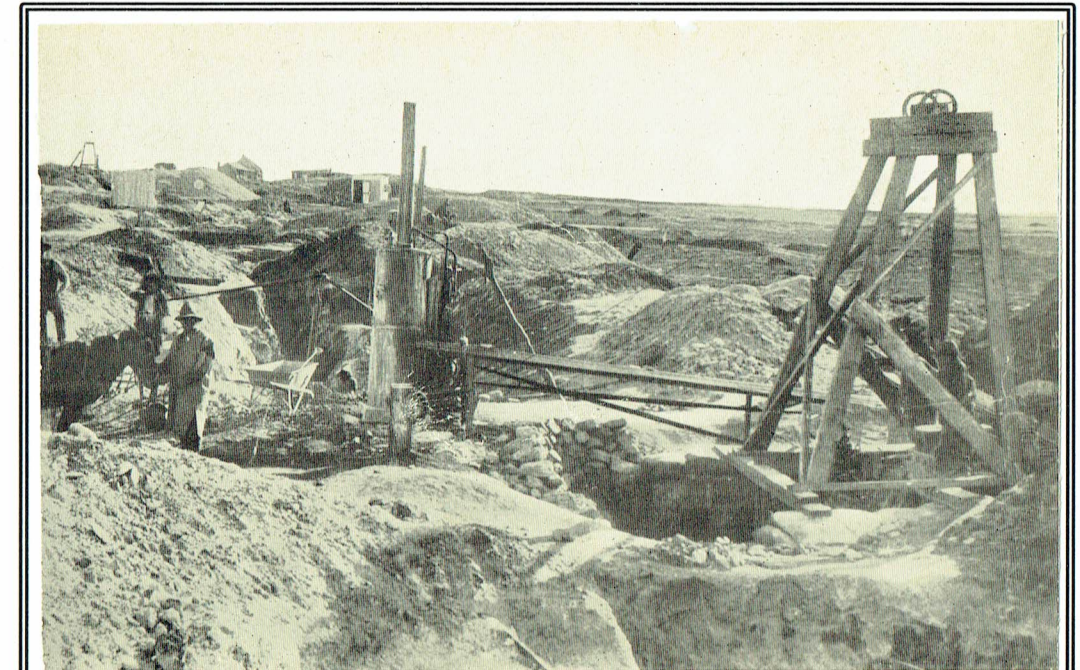


A Gold Digger's Claim in the Early Days

[Photo: South African Railways

Source: The Johannesburg Story

Primitive plant hoisting the ore to the surface in buckets  
Johannesburg of 1886 can be seen in the background



Low mining started on the Witwatersrand: Primitive pioneer plant and shaft head.  
The ore was carted to mills on water sites often many miles away.

Reproduction by courtesy of The Star, Johannesburg.

Source: Fifty Golden years of the Rand

Towards 1887 unsophisticated headgears began to appear above shafts and systematic mining began. It had been realized that the Reef extended not only to the east and west, but also downwards with persisting values of ore. Deep level mining was approaching.

Despite this, most operations were still engaged in surface mining with real shafts been sunk at the Langlaagte, a holding of Rand Mines.

ZAR P/Stationery card posted from Johannesburg to Vryburg on 26 January 1892.

The imprinted 1d Vurtheim/ stamp covers the inland postal rate and is tied by a Johannesburg large squared circle handstamp and bears a Vryburg cds backstamp dated 29 Jan. 1892



1d ZAR "Vurtheim" stamp cancelled with a Johannesburg double circle cds dated 5 Feb. 1894

ZAR P/Stationery card from Johannesburg to Hamburg dated 10 Dec. 1894

The imprinted 1d stamp, type "wagon with shaft", the correct inland postage, is tied by a Johannesburg double circle cds



The prospect of deep level mining also brings the **realization** that the reef could not be mined by individual diggers anymore.

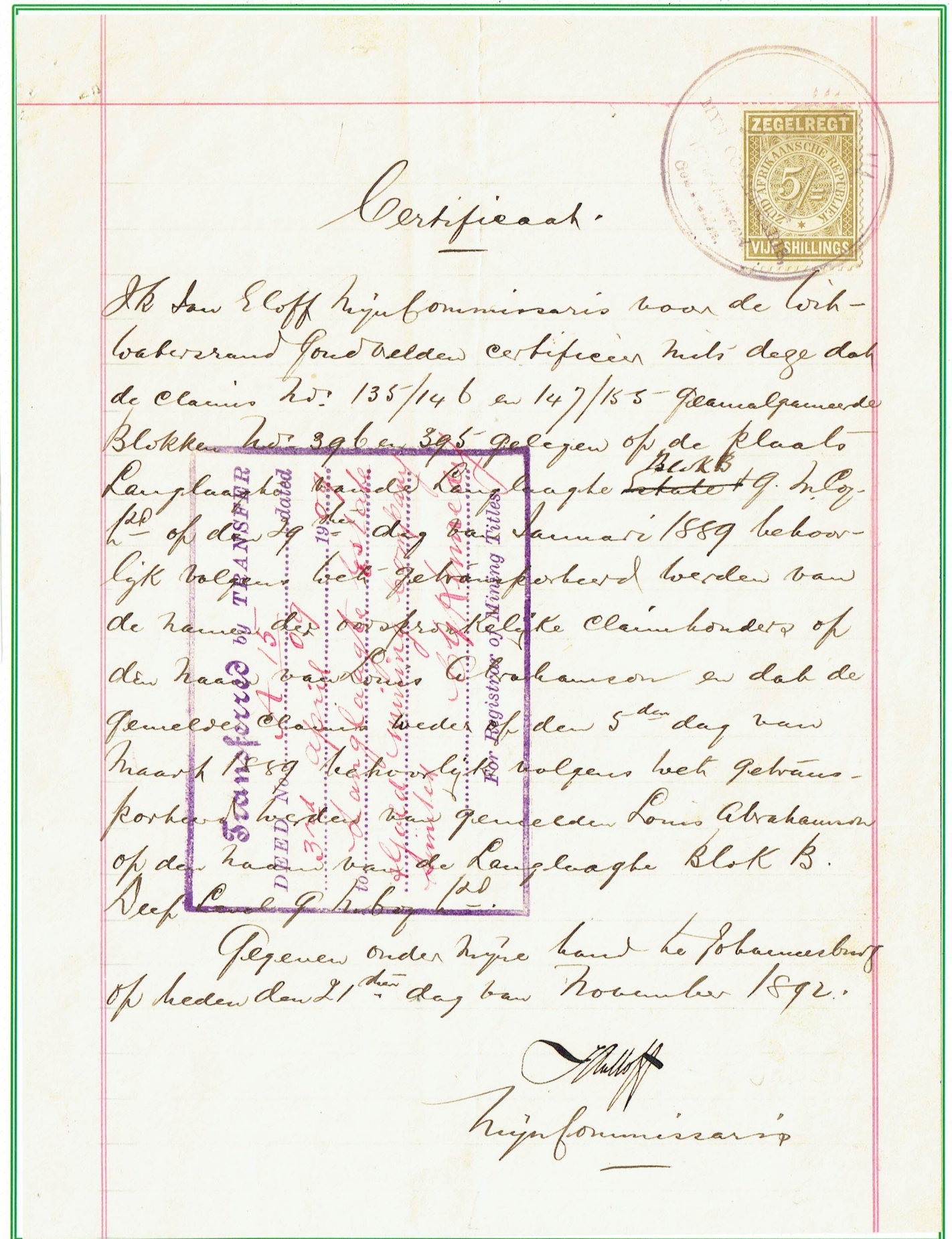
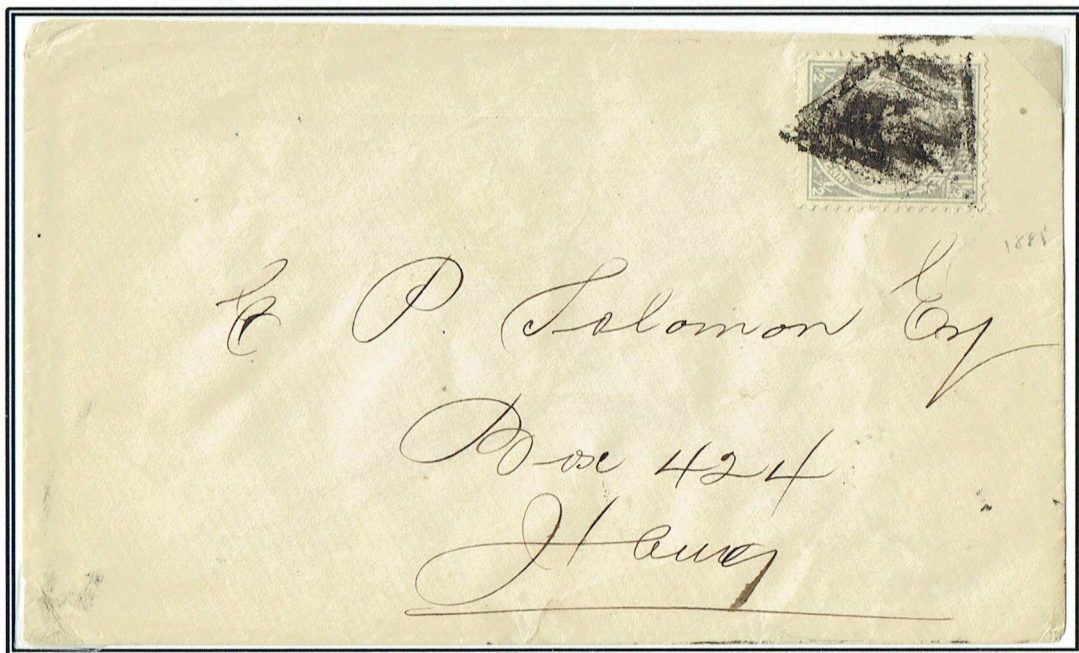
MINING THE GOLD

The first mining company on the Rand were the Johannesburg Pioneer Gold Mining Company Ltd., that was Established in 1886. In 1888 three gold mining companies were established on the farm Langlaagte of which Langlaagte Estate and Gold Mining Company Limited was one who held a certain number of claims on the farm.



One of its kind Duty receipt for 21 claims, claim numbers 135 – 155, at Langlaagte Estate sold for £2 000 by E J Abuaray to L Abrahamsen on 29 January 1889

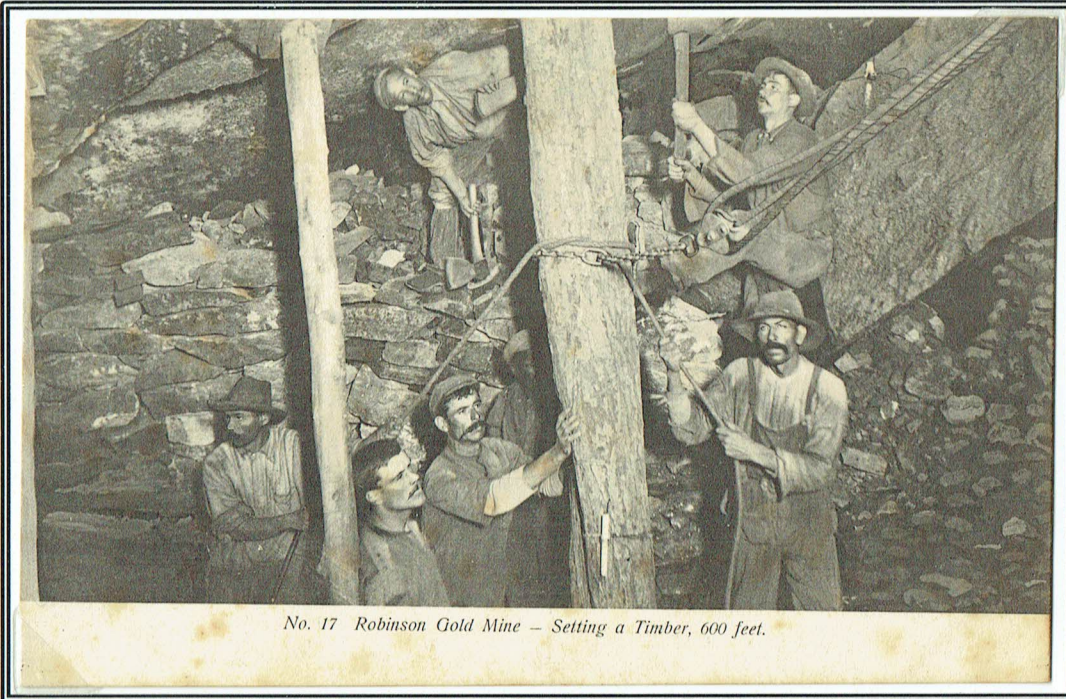
Cover addressed to Johannesburg franked with a 1/2d Vurtheim stamp that is tied by an unclear barred triangle obliterator (circa 1889)



Unique handwritten certificate signed by Mining Commissioner Jan Eloff validated a with 5/- revenue stamp cancelled with a round Mine Commissioner handstamp on 21 November 1892 confirming the sale of 21 claims, claim numbers 135 – 155, at Langlaagte Estate to L Abrahamsen on 29 January 1889 with transferal of claim deed transfer on 5 March 1889  
One of its kind

**MINING THE GOLD – DEEP LEVEL MINING**

Diggers started to work together to save on expenses, forming small companies by joining their claims. It follows that claims were subjected to **amalgamation** to form organized mining companies. In 1887 three gold mining companies were established on the farm Langlaagte of which Langlaagte Estate and Gold Mining Company Limited was the most prominent. In 1888, 14 mines and 93 stamp mills were in operation on the Rand.



No. 17 Robinson Gold Mine – Setting a Timber, 600 feet.

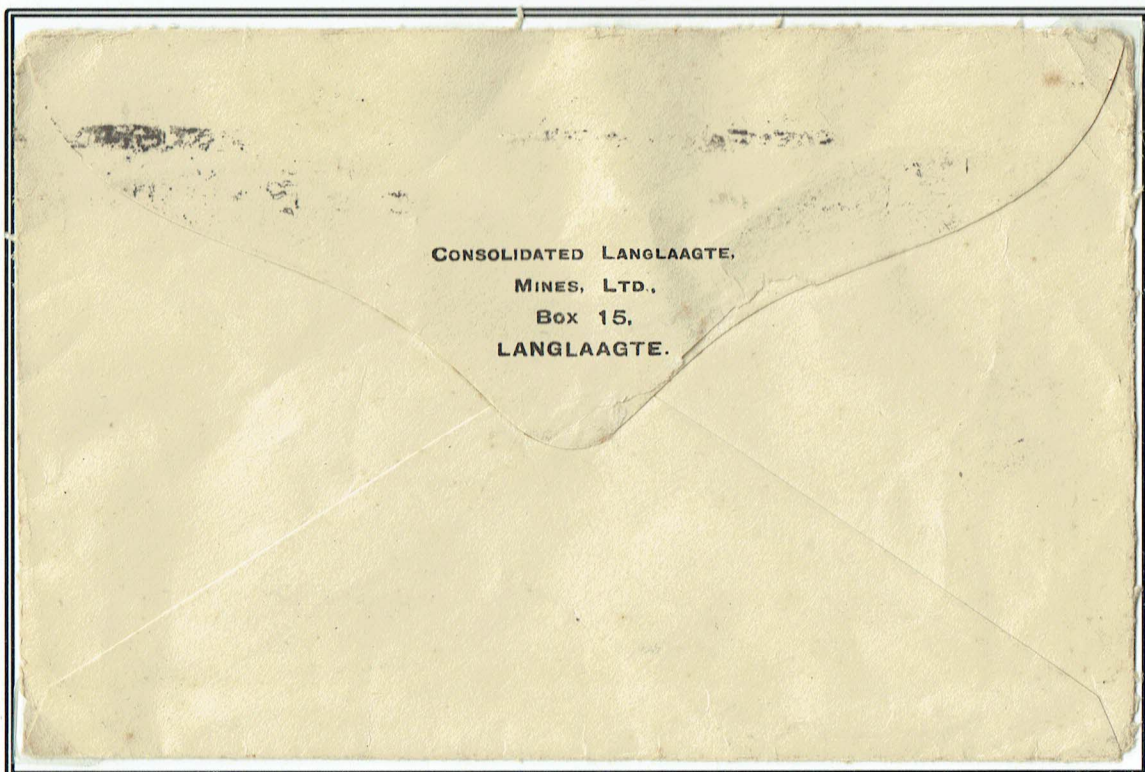
Stabilizing an underground stope roof  
Publisher unknown and numbered 17 with DB in black

One of its kind original Claims Amalgamation Deed dated 21 July 1892 merging claims 685 to 695 on Langlaagte Estate in the names of 11 people, validated with a £2 ZAR revenue stamp cancelled with an oval blue Mine Commissioner handstamp



1/2d ZAR "Vurtheim" stamp cancelled with Johannesburg cds dated Feb. 1894

Back of envelope with imprinted address of Consolidated Langlaagte Mines, Ltd, Box 15, Langlaagte



Blak. 1554

DEPARTMENT VAN MIJNWEZEN, MODEL No. 24.

**ACTE VAN AMALGAMATIE**  
VAN  
**PROSPECTEER CLAIMS.**

Zij het kennelijk aan allen die het moge aangaan:

Dat ik de Mjncommissaris van de *Wetwaters Rand* Goudvelden Verantw. Klerk te *Johannesburg*, Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek, op heden den *20<sup>th</sup>* dag van *Juli* A.D. 18 *92* eene amalgamatie van *11* claims van No. *685* tot No. *695* geregistreerd heb, gelegen op de *Wetwaters Rand* Goudvelden, plaats *Langlaagte Estate*, onder de naam van de *J. Thonissen 11 personen* overeenkomstig art. 52 der gewijzigde Wet No. 8, 1885.

Aldus gedaan te *Johannesburg*, Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek, op heden den *20<sup>th</sup>* dag van *Juli* A.D. 18 *92*.

*[Signature]*  
Mjncommissaris  
of Verantwoordelijke Klerk.

Agent en Curator (Trustee).

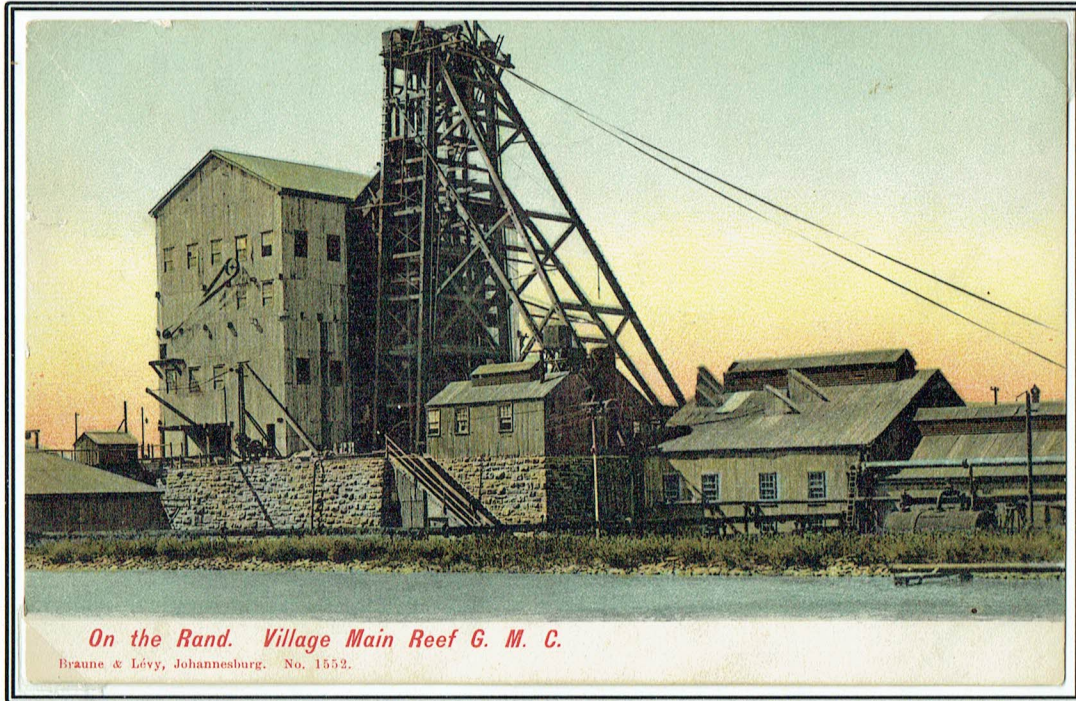
685 1. B. W. Blaauw  
2. V. " "  
3. F. " "  
4. V. " "  
5. G. L. de Vries  
690 6. M. " "  
7. h. " "  
8. C. F. " "  
9. h. " "  
10. C. de Vries  
11. h. " "  
12. ~~h. B. Blaauw~~

*[Handwritten notes in red ink:]*  
Transporteur van mijnbouw  
Dieps en de  
Mijnbouw  
No. 694  
25/7/92

*[Circular blue stamp:]* Mjncommissaris Kantoor, 25 JUL 92

### DEEP LEVEL MINING

Early 1888 several vertical shafts were started at **Langlaagte** Estate Mine, a holding of **Rand Mines**, with the **inclined shaft** acting as the main shaft. Four inclined shafts were sunk to a depth of 18,2m and connected by a level of  $\pm 366m$ . By the mid 1890's, headgears were essential not only to hoist the ore economically, but also to transport miners between the surfaces.



Headgear of Village Main Reef mine  
Publisher unknown and numbered 17 with DB in black

Two mining houses that played a major role in the development of deep level mining was that of Herman Eckstein & Co (**Rand Mines**) and;

**Gold Fields** of South Africa that was formed in 1887 by Cecil Rhodes and Charles Rudd to hold properties they had acquired on the Witwatersrand gold fields.

Although plagued by uncertainties, Gold Fields kept playing a **leading** role in deep level mining on the Rand.

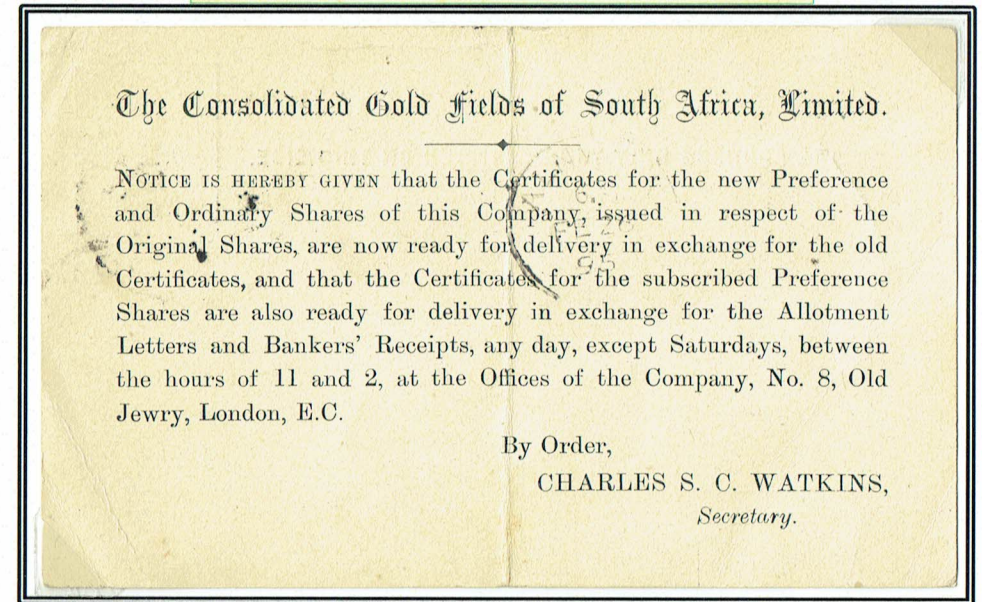


1/2d ZAR "Vurtheim" stamp cancelled with an early Johannesburg small, squared circle handstamp dated 9 Aug. 1893



1/2d ZAR "Vurtheim" stamp cancelled with a Johannesburg cds dated 5 Feb. 1894

Correctly franked Consolidated Gold Fields of SA HQ with GB 1/2d QV stamp, tied by London double circle cds, to cover the local postage from London to Chadwick, UK dated 25 February 1895



Notice regarding share certificates of The Consolidated Gold Fields of South Africa, Ltd to shareholders of the company

Gold Fields of South Africa was reorganized as Consolidated Gold Fields of South Africa in 1892.

**Village Main**, a largely owned **Gold Fields** mine, was the **first** mine on the reef where gold was struck at depth. This discovery placed the question of **continued** mining and wealth of the main reef beyond doubt. Village Main had become the proving ground for deep level mining.

A new law policing usage of **explosives** came into effect in August 1896, followed by a revised Gold Law in 1898 regulating Registration of Mine Rights.

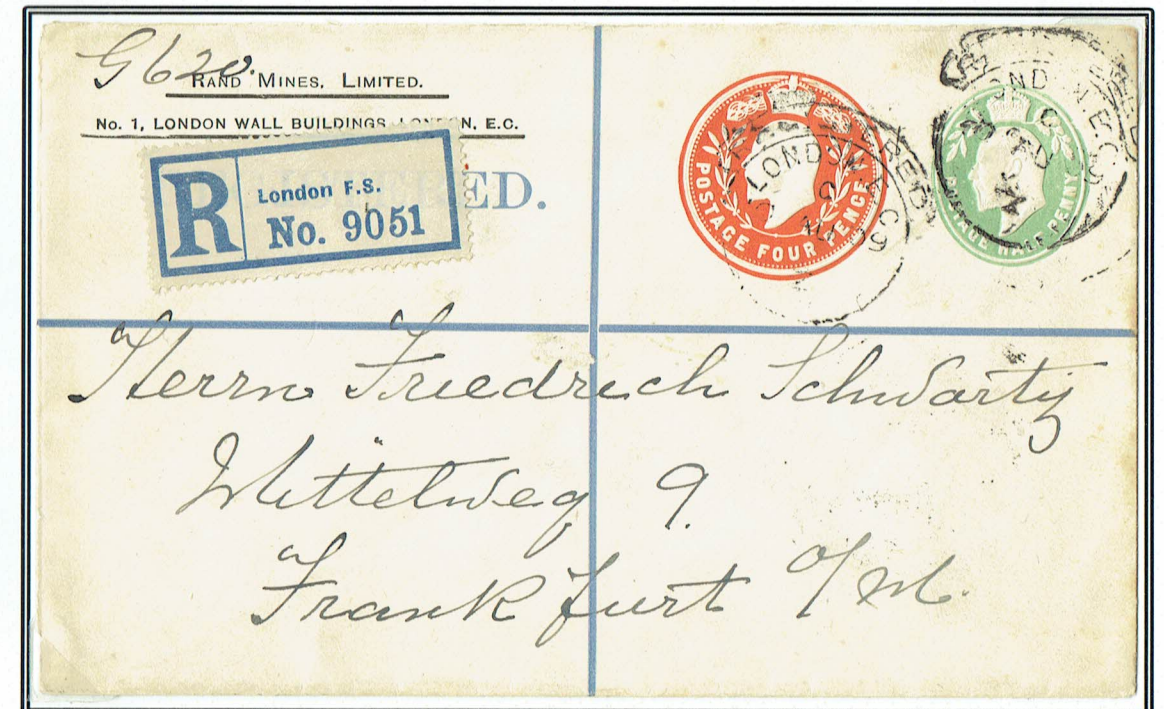


Used strip showing rare variety Green over the gold of the vignettes  
The colour change was not caused by any chemical or other reaction



One of its kind original ZAR "Certificaat voor schietarbeid" (**Blasting certificate**), issued on 5 September 1896  
One of the first to be issued under the new law of 1896, cancelled on 7 March 1907 (noted on back) Unique item

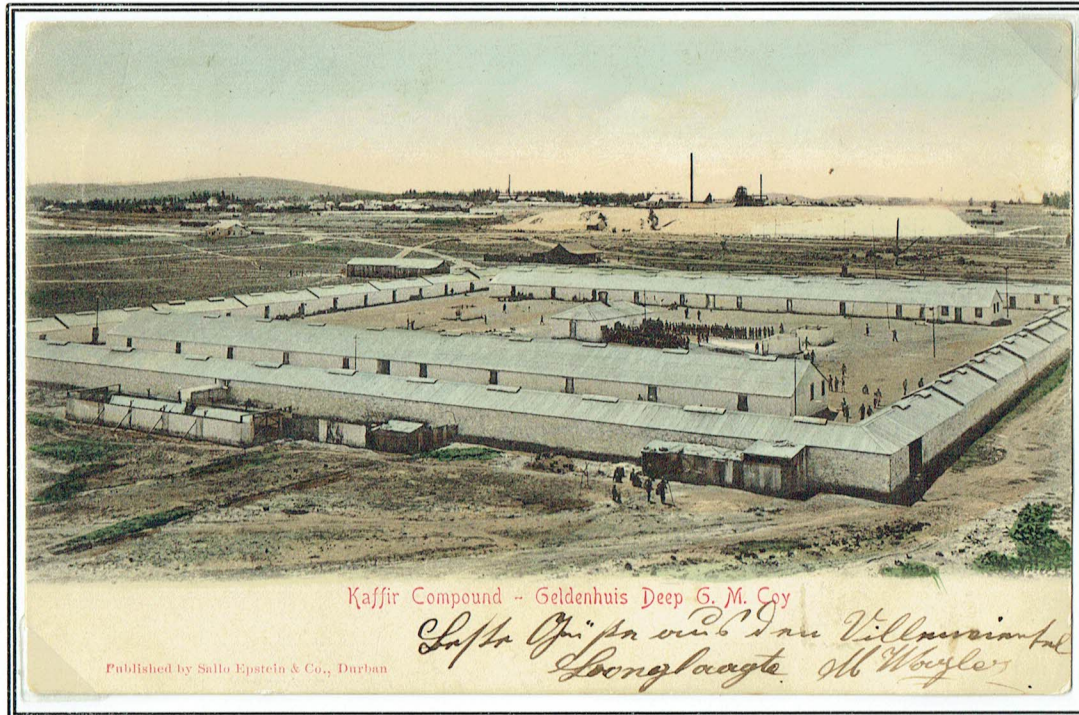
Preprinted Registered Rand Mines Ltd. HQ cover with imprinted GB 4d and 1/2d KE VII stamps to cover the postage from London to Germany, tied by Registered London canceller dated 10 Sep. 1909.



### LIVING CONDITIONS

As the gold mining industry developed, so did the need for labour increase and thousands of people flocked to the new town to seek their fortunes or to offer their labour.

More than half the population was black, most living in multi-racial shanty towns near the gold mines in the centre of the town. Migrant labour was started, and these workers were housed in mining compounds.



Kaffir Compound - Geldenhuis Deep S.M. Coy

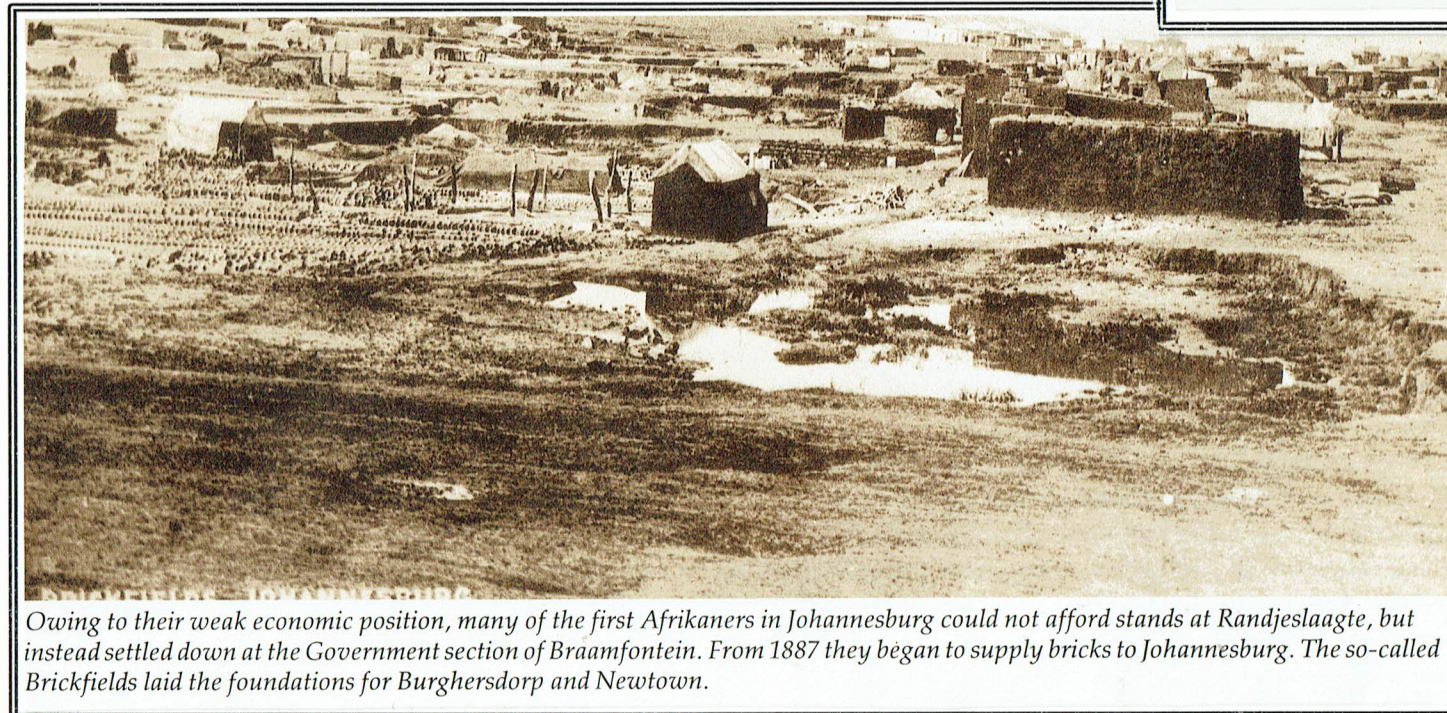
*Sallo Epstein & Co. Durban*  
*Longlaagte M. Weylers*

Typical black miner's compound

Published by Sallo Epstein & Co., Durban. No serial number and UB in black

In October 1887, Government bought a portion of the farm Braamfontein with large quantities of clay suitable for brickmaking, issuing brick maker's licenses.

Many landless Dutch-speaking burghers erected shacks, started making bricks. Poor working class Coloureds, Indians and Blacks also settled there, and the area became known as Veldschoendorp.



Owing to their weak economic position, many of the first Afrikaners in Johannesburg could not afford stands at Randjeslaagte, but instead settled down at the Government section of Braamfontein. From 1887 they began to supply bricks to Johannesburg. The so-called Brickfields laid the foundations for Burghersdorp and Newtown.



1896 ZAR 1/2d and 2d "Wagon with disselboom" stamps on cover cancelled with a Johannesburg cds dated 8 Mar. 1897



Urban Contrasts: A Street in a Shanty Town

[Photo: L'atelier (Pty) Ltd., Johannesburg]

Source: The Johannesburg Story



1885 ZAR 2d Vurtheim stamp cancelled with a Johannesburg double circle cds dated 16 April 1894

The word "kaffir" was a term for a black person that was commonly used in South Africa and other countries. In South Africa today using this term is an insult to black South Africans and use of the word has been successfully actioned in SA courts as an offence and most derogatory.



Melville and Parktown West.

Parktown - where the rich build mansions

Published by Sallo Epstein & Co., Durban with serial number 2473 and no. A15873 in manuscript at bottom right front. DB in green

A policy of separating the white and black working class, lead to suburbs for whites such as Doornfontein, Fordsburg, Jeppetown and Parktown.

Separate suburbs (location) were created for workers of a different colour. This set of policies informed the development of segregation and later apartheid.

In contrast with the affluent lifestyle of many whites, housing facilities for blacks were appalling.

Postcard from Johannesburg to the USA franked with a 1d KE VII stamp to pay the International Postcard postage rate and tied by a Johannesburg cds



Siemert Wedge - Doornfontein.

*This is a scene in Doornfontein one of the pretty suburbs of Johannesburg.*

Street scene in Doornfontein

Published by Sallo Epstein & Co., Durban with serial no. 502. UB in black