

Such a view only applied to domestic conditions. The Afrikaners determined to continue the struggle employing guerrilla tactics. In a bid to neutralise the commandos the British, reasoned their highly mobile enemy owed much to food and shelter being supplied them by the rural population. Men, women and children were herded into hastily constructed concentration camps where many would die. Crops, livestock and farm buildings were abandoned, in many cases destroyed. This was just one aspect of the costs of the war: the British forces, for instance, suffered 30,000 casualties and there were an additional 16,000 deaths due to disease. One fact became obvious at an early stage of the war: the price of victory would not come cheaply, either in material or human terms. British expenditure on the war came to over £222 million.¹³

When peace finally came in the summer of 1902 it was obvious interest in the war had diminished considerably. There was nothing like the amount of maffiking displayed in 1900. It was as though the zest for jubilation had disappeared. Of course the coronation celebrations organised for King Edward VII may have been partly to blame for this, though he rather spoiled things by developing appendicitis necessitating a postponement not only of the crowning but many of the projected celebrations. According to one authority, the word maffiking retained a place in the English language for two generations. It appeared in the 1964 edition of the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*, though few contemporary works of reference consider the verb worthy of inclusion. The place that inspired the word does appear in gazetteers and travel books. During the war a British officer complained the town consisted of little more than a railway siding and some tin sheds. In 1980 the name was changed to Mafikeng, and although it retains some significance as a rail and administrative centre, the total population is still under 8,000.¹⁴

¹³ *Banbury Guardian*, 27 Dec. 1900. The last set of prosecutions against those disturbing the peace were reported in the *Banbury Advertiser*, 14 and 28 June, 1900. R Ensor, *England 1870-1914*, (1966), p. 347.

¹⁴ P Magnus, *King Edward the seventh* (1964), pp. 296-97. *Banbury Guardian*, 3 and 31 July, 14 August, 1902.