

Lucien Hertog

Lawyer



Family Background

Lucien Hertog was a part of three prominent Kimberley families (**Hertog, Harris and Cohen**). His mother was **Lilly, née Cohen** from Port Elizabeth. Lucien was adopted by her second husband Charles Edward **Hertog**, a lawyer of Kimberley (after Lucien's father Max Nathan had died). Charles was a widower – his first wife Elise Harris, who had also died, was the daughter of diamond pioneer, magnate and distinguished soldier, Colonel Sir David **Harris**.

Lilly Cohen had many siblings, several of them with Kimberley and diamond connections. Several of them and their descendants were accomplished not only in business but also in the arts – poets, songwriters, musicians and painters. Lilly's sister was the extraordinary Augusta (Gussie) who married the farming and business entrepreneur Philip Sussman of Kimberley. Philip worked closely with Sir Ernest Oppenheimer, opening up facilities for his copper mines in Rhodesia and gold mines on the Reef. His wife, Gussie, wowed the Kimberley citizens with her charm and fundraising ability to support soldiers in and after WWI – so much so, that in 1930 the Mayor presented her with an illuminated address for all she had achieved, at a special event at a packed Kimberley City Hall. See their story here: [Sussman, Philip and Augusta \(nee Cohen\)](#)

Another sister of Lilly's was Gladys whose husband Mr Rosenstrauch was in the diamond business. They were parents of twin sons Henry and Andrew and daughter Eva Rosenstrauch. One of Lilly's brothers was Marcus Clayton. (We are seeking more information on this family for our Kimberley website.)

Lucien's adoptive father **Charles Edward Hertog**, was born on 3 September 1872 in Port Elizabeth. He had married Elise Harris of Kimberley on 31 August, 1898. He settled in Kimberley as a lawyer – and legal adviser to De Beers Consolidated Mines of which his father-in-law was a

Director. He became a **Captain in the Kimberley Town Guard**. He died, aged 81, on November 12, 1953

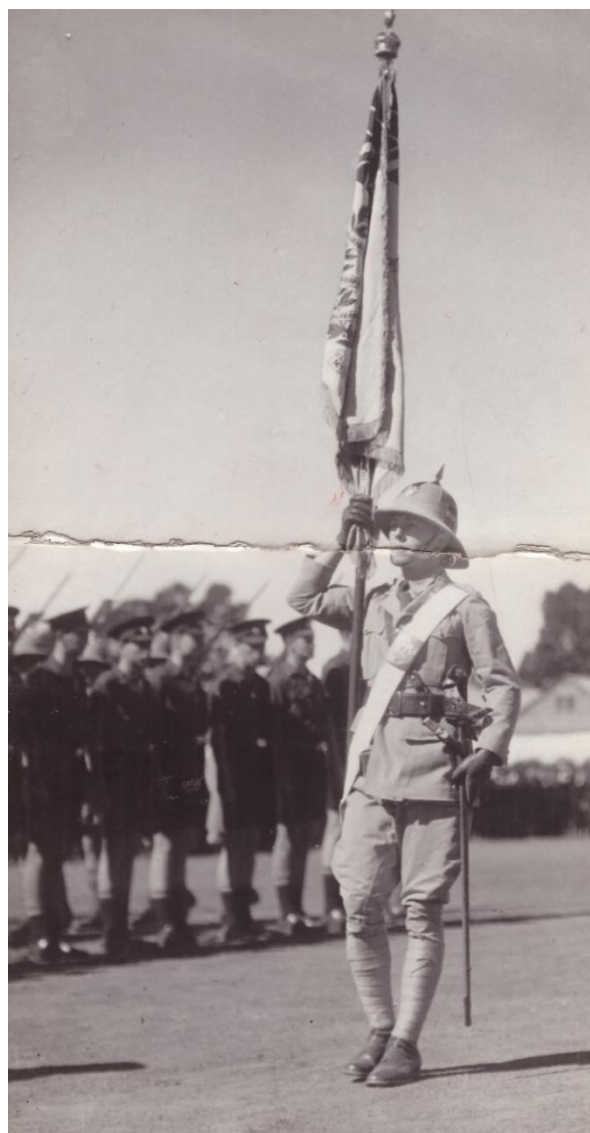
Col Sir David Harris – whose family remained close to the Hertogs, had an outstanding military career. From 1876 he was a keen and long serving Volunteer soldier taking leading positions in the Kimberley forces including the Dutoitspan Hussars, Diamond Fields Horse and Victoria Rifles. 1890 he became Commanding Officer with the rank of Major, of the Kimberley Rifles. He was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel in May 1894 and remained CO until December 1895. Harris took part in the Boer War 1899-1902 when he served in the Kimberley Town Guard. On 1 January 1903 he was appointed **Honorary Colonel of the Kimberley Regiment** and remained such until his death.



Lucien Hertog began his education at Christian Brothers College in Kimberley. He was then sent to Cheltenham College in England under the kind patronage of Sir Ernest Oppenheimer. In his final year at Cheltenham College he was the Dux student in the Commonwealth – first with 97% overall, amongst 28,000 students!

Lucien in WWII

Lucien's son, Clive Hertog of Johannesburg, sent this picture of his father **trooping the colour of the Kimberley Regiment**. Clive remembers: 'My father Lucien volunteered as war seemed imminent, even prior to the outbreak of the War on 3 September 1939 (and before 6 September, when South Africa joined on the side of Great Britain). Clive says: 'I believe, he volunteered together with Harry Oppenheimer. They both served with the **Kimberley Regiment**.



Lucien was promoted to captain in a very short time on 30 October 1939. Clive has seen the request for him to be promoted to Major (after the War) which makes reference to the date of his

appointment as Captain. He says: 'I recall him telling me that the only reason he became an officer was because he had some experience of drilling troops from his schooling at Cheltenham which had not only a classical education but also a military academy'. (Ed: I am wondering whether his family's distinguished military background and standing might have had something to do with it.)

Below is a group of young recruits: Lucien is seated front row, third from left. The setting looks more lush than Kimberley!



Clive believes that Lucien was in an armoured car brigade and part of C Company, with the 1st South African Infantry Division which saw the first service in East and North Africa.

Lucien he says, took part in various skirmish concluding in the **Battle of El Alamein** in Egypt (certainly the second if not also the first battle of El Alamein). Shortly after this at the beginning of 1943 he returned to South Africa for a short while.

The 1st South African Division then amalgamated with other forces to constitute the 6th Armoured Division and at this time recognition could be given to the individual regiments such as the **Imperial Light Horse/Kimberley Regiment**. (ILH/KR). Lucien served with the 11th South African armoured Brigade in Italy in 1943 – 44.

Clive says: 'He was with the first troops to ascend to secure the **Monastery of Monte Cassino**. The Monastery had controversially been destroyed by a massive aerial bombardment by the USA. The ruins were occupied by German Paratroopers, who held the position until Polish troops overwhelmed them in 1944. Following this my father ascended to the monastery.

Clive sent an article which makes reference to the **Kimberley Regiment being on the outskirts of Rome** but having to wait for political reasons in order to allow the Americans to claim the relief of Rome. My father told me that they had actually entered Rome, before receiving orders to

withdraw in order to permit the Americans to claim the victory. (See the picture below of Lucien inside the colosseum in Rome.)



The article – at the bottom of this report, primarily makes reference to the fact that the Kimberley Regiment relieved the City of Florence.

There are a number of Internet articles on the 6th Armoured Division which make reference to the further exploits of the Kimberley Regiment in Italy.

After the War

Once de-mobbed, Lucien also became an attorney and was a partner in the old firm of Haarhoff, Hertog and (Finley) Mout. Like Charles Edward Hertog, his adoptive father, Lucien remained the legal adviser to the Board of Directors of De Beers.

He married Ethne Lesar (nee Riley) on 15 February 1951 and adopted her son Thomas shortly thereafter. They lived in a beautiful old colonial mansion at 32

Carrington Road. Their Law offices were in the city. He had three children of his own with Ethne, Lesley Leah (Lee), Clive and Anthony (who passed away some days after birth).

Lucien was an active and keen sportsman. He represented Griqualand West in clay target shooting and was Chairman of the Griqualand West Clay Pigeon Association and a past Captain and President of the Kimberley Golf Club. He was a past chairman of the CBC Old Boys Association and chairman of the local board of the Natal Building Society at the time of his death.

After the war Lucian was made Second in Command in the Kimberley Regiment and promoted to Major. He remained active in the Kimberley Regiment right until his death on 9 November 1980.

Lucien Hertog, story and pictures supplied by his son Clive, Johannesburg

Edited and added to by Geraldine Auerbach MBE, London September 2020

See newspaper article below 'How the wonder of Florence defeated the Boks'

How the wonder of Florence defeated the Boks

By PETER De IONNO

SOMETHING strange came over thousands of battle-hardened South Africans as they marched as liberating heroes into Florence through the 13th-century southern gateway, the Porta Romana, 50 years ago this week.

It was a culture shock. Like modern tourists, the platteland boys from the Imperial Light Horse and the Kimberley Regiment were left agog as they found themselves in a city that was a living museum. More used to mud and pain and fire, they had never seen anything like Florence.

The city's glorious past, its very buildings, are works of art, and they in turn are filled with the creations of Leonardo, Michelangelo, Dante and Cellini, which transfigured the soldiers who had led the bloody and arduous 960km Allied dash from Rome.

Lieutenant-Colonel Ronnie Gibson, former commanding officer of the Light Horse and now chairman of the regimental association, was a 25-year-old lieutenant when he entered the city.

"The treasures of Florence were indescribable," he says. "We were seeing the best of European culture for the first time.

"A lot of the guys went back to the city for women and song, but their numbers were nothing compared with those who went to see the palaces and the splendours."

Denied the triumph of liberating Rome on June 5 by political reasons, which saw 6 South African Armoured Division halted on the outskirts of the city while US GIs marched in to take the glory, the fighting Springboks battled hard to be first into Florence.

Florence, controlling the only practicable north-south crossing of the River Arno, was the only city liberated by South African forces in the war.

Throughout the Italian campaign, 6 Armoured Division, a composite force of 20 000 men comprising armoured, motorised, infantry and artillery brigades, became SA's most successful fighting formation in the war.

Under the command of Major-General Evered Poole, it was more often than not the spearhead Allied detachment in the theatre.



TRIUMPHANT ENTRY... South Africans march into Florence through the Porta Romana in 1944 — a painting

On the way to Florence the South Africans overran the headquarters of the Axis commander, Field Marshal Albrecht von Kesselring, liberated prisoners of war and risked being outflanked as their Sherman tanks advanced so fast that they lost contact with 8th Army headquarters, writes SANDF archivist Lieutenant Noelle Cowling.

Pressed by other Allied units, the breakthrough came after bruising encounters involving the Imperial Light Horse/Kimberley Regiment and the tanks of the Special Services Battalion.

The competition between Allied forces strikes a contemporary echo. "The New Zealanders were nipping right at the South African's heels, but fortunately the Springboks resisted the urge to bite back and concentrated their energy on the Medici's home town instead," writes Lieutenant Cowling.

The South Africans claimed their prize with a daring probe by a seven-man patrol on August 4.

They were led by Captain D V Jeffrey and Lieutenant J Adamson, who were killed in action several weeks later.

Sergeant Jack Masterton-Smith, who died a year ago after spending years in Rhodesia, Corporal Arnel Foyno, who lived in Krugersdorp until he died about eight years ago, and a Private Putter were led by an unnamed engineer lieutenant and a sergeant detailed to ensure the safety of the bridges across the Arno.

They entered Florence at 4.30am through the Porta Romana and came to the Ponte Vecchio in the half-light of dawn.

Private Putter and the engineer stayed behind to check the Ponte Vecchio, a world-famous 16th-

century brick shops of gold jewellers.

All the other relics left intact, a romantic, cult, gesture Kesselring, Florence and a bombed and relic left intact.

Private Putter officer were huge emotion to a palace, with dignitaries fed and dirty libe

January 1 deadline for united education

By TENDAI DUMBUTSHENA

A NEW single education department will be up and running by next year, says Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu.

The minister, who is recuperating from a stroke suffered a month ago, said in an interview that while

in theory the various departments were working as one, this would become a practical reality on January 1.

On reports that he was being frustrated by a white bureaucracy opposed to change, he said the process of restructuring and rationalising the bureaucracy was underway.

He said that the personnel department did not reflect the demographic realities of the country. He will therefore bring in people from the black community at all levels of the administration.

"This is a demanding exercise with the democratisation. People will see a tangible result," he said. The minister's office on Thursday said he