

***The Red White and Blue in Knout, Notebook VI.B.42***

Ian MacArthur and Viviana-Mirela Braslasu

The article referenced below “The Red White and Blue. A Footnote to English Literary History” was published in *Notes and News. English Studies*<sup>1</sup> in 1937. It investigated the Jingoism of the 1890’s as captured in the writings of the times. The flag of England (the ‘Red White and Blue’) and descriptions of soldiers and war were especially popular throughout the Victorian age and found particular expression in the poems and songs of the Boer Wars. Also called the Wars of Independence, the two Anglo-Boer Wars were fought from December 1880 to March 1881 (The First Boer War) and from October 1899 to May 1902 (The Second Boer War), respectively.

From “The Red White and Blue” Joyce extracted a short list of words and phrases, most of which were crossed out and used in galley proof additions to Book I of *Finnegans Wake*. Of particular interest is the entry at 095(d): ‘avenge Majuba Hill’ (*FW* 178.22). The Battle of Majuba Hill (1881) in the First Boer War was a decisive victory for the Boers and a humiliating defeat for the British Army. ‘Avenge Majuba!’ became a rallying cry in the Second Boer War. In the galley addition Joyce further reworked the notebook entry. It became: ‘but vying with Lady Smythe to avenge MacJobber’ another reference to one of the battles mentioned in the article: the battle of Ladysmith, an early defeat for the British army in the Second Boer War. His rendering of ‘MacJobber’, probably a pun on ‘Majuba’ and ‘Joubert’, reminded the reader of “The Red White and Blue” of ‘the victor of Colenso’ (*RW&B* 162), the Commander-general of the South African Republic, Piet Joubert.

Joyce’s next two entries (095(e) and 095(f)) were more of a challenge to interpret. Due to the illegibility of the last parts of the entries, we stumbled on their transcription. Although the clean written parts of the entries suggested they came from “The Red White and Blue,” we could not link them directly to the source. Our tentative reading of unit (f) ‘the old S[ir]’ if correct, could be an afterthought of ‘the old President’ and ‘Sir’ in the following two passages in the source:

When in the spring of 1900 it looked as if the Boers were beaten, none of these writers evinced any trace of respect for a brave enemy. The flight of **the old President** was hailed with derisive comments.

*(The Red White and Blue 163)*

A good deal of the talent which the war called forth was of a somewhat eccentric character. One gentleman, who signs himself Stephen Downes and prints his photograph above his poem, reminds the President that:

I told you at the beginning of the war  
Your great responsibility, and what it all was for.

But as Mr. Kruger has failed to take his advice he very naturally concludes:

From me you have no pity, I cannot sympathize  
With such a scamp as you, Sir, full of deceit and lies.  
And now just let me tell you, Sir, that in another world  
You'll suffer for the innocents you've massacred so bold.

*(The Red White and Blue 164)*

The first passage that we quoted could also be the starting point for the unit 'the boers were [again]'.

The last entry that we could identify as coming from *The Red White and Blue* summarises the wish of a dying soldier, who wanted to have a box of sweets sent to his mother: 'royal choc box / to mother / papal leaflet / to mother dear (096(a)). Queen Victoria sent tins of chocolates (see snippet<sup>2</sup> below) to British troops fighting in South Africa as a Christmas gift. These were highly prized and many soldiers sent their present back home for safe-keeping. The last part of the entry is obscure and not found in "The Red White and Blue". It may be Joyce's parody of the first half.



## References:

1. Bodelsen, C.A. "The Red White and Blue. A Footnote to English Literary History." *Notes and News. English Studies*, Volume 19, 1937 - Issue 1-6.  
Online at: <https://ur.booksc.eu/book/32609666/22460b>
2. Online at: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cumbria-44757386>

## VI.B.42.094

### (a) 'Pat Pig's Monster >

*Note:* See 066(a) Pat Pigs other / Island

Transferred via Sheet viii-11(p).

MS 47476a-107, ScrPrRMA: ^+from the Monster Book of Paltryattic ~~Puer~~ ^+Puetrie,+^+^ | *JJA* 49:225 | 1937-8 | I.7§1.10/2.10 | *FW* 178.16

### (b) 'Book of Patriotic / Verse

*RW&B* 159: A contributor to the "Tit-Bits Monster Book of Patriotic Verse" throws open wider historical perspectives in a poem called "John Bull's Flag"

MS 47476a-107, ScrPrRMA: ^+from the Monster Book of Paltryattic ~~Puer~~ ^+Puetrie,+^+^ | *JJA* 49:225 | 1937-8 | I.7§1.10/2.10 | *FW* 178.17

### (c) 'home of old seaking >

*Note:* Transferred via Sheet viii-04(g).

MS 47476b-438, ScrPrLPA: ^+, the home of the old seakings,+^ | *JJA* 49:062 | 1937-8 | I.3§1.9/2.9/3.9 | *FW* 049.10

### (d) 'r& thus gain from / the nation true / thanks

*RW&B* 160: But generally the poet does not come down to particulars, but confines himself to celebrating "the home of the old Sea-Kings" (a favourite expression) and its sons, or to give expression to such sentiments as :

All men may be heroes in England, we know,  
From the general down to the ranks,  
And our soldiers will conquer wherever they go,  
And thus gain from the nation true thanks.

*Note:* Transferred via Sheet viii-11(i).

MS 47476a-115, ScrPrBMA: ^+and se ^+thus+^ earn from the nation true thanks,+^ | *JJA* 49:241 | 1937-8 | I.7§1.10/2.10 | *FW* 190.20

### (e) 'purely defensive >

*Note:* Transferred via Sheet viii-11(j).

MS 47476a-49, ScrPrLMA: ^+, each, of course, on the purely doffensive since the eternal were owlwise on their side every time,+^ | *JJA* 49:103 | late 1937 | I.4§1.9/2.9 | *FW* 078.30

(f) **rfoeman**

*Note:* See VI.B.46.106(c) foeman. Unit not cancelled.

*RW&B* 161: It need hardly be said that the war is a purely defensive one:

The foeman's foot is on England's soil  
Our homes to pillage, our lands to spoil.

Not located in *MS/FW*.

(g) **rwar to end / war**

*Note:* See also VI.B.45.156(g).

*RW&B* 161: It is curious to see how these poets anticipate the sentiments of 1914. One of them asserts e.g. that this is a war "to save: humanity" and that it will result in "freedom won for all mankind".

*Note:* Transferred via Sheet viii-11(k).

*MS* 47476a-107, *ScrPrBMA*: ^+after the war-to-end war+^ | *JJA* 49:225 | 1937-8 | I.7§1.10/2.10 | *FW* 178.25

## VI.B.42.095

(a) **rAlmighty on our / side**

*RW&B* 161: That the Almighty himself was fighting on the side of the British, little as the results might appear to show it, is a statement which frequently occurs.

*Note:* Transferred via Sheet viii-11(l).

*MS* 47476a-49, *ScrPrLMA*: ^+, each, of course, on the purely doffensive since the eternal were owlwise on their side every time,+^ | *JJA* 49:103 | late 1937 | I.4§1.9/2.9 | *FW* 078.30-1

(b) **r'bump him black / " " blue >**

*Note:* Transferred via Sheet viii-11(m)

*MS* 47476a-106, *ScrPrLMA* and *PrMT*: ^+bamp him+^ bach and ^+bump him+^ blues, | *JJA* 49:223 | 1937-8 | I.7§1.10/2.10 | *FW* 176.34

(c) **rrebels**

*Note:* See also VI.B.42.035(c).

*RW&B* 162: We'll bump old Kruger straight  
Bump the Boer with all our weight,  
Bump him fair and bump him square  
Bump and make him grin and stare.  
We'll bump and make him quake,  
Bump him black and bump him blue.  
British pluck and steel shall make  
The wretched rebel rue.

Transferred via Sheet viii-11(o).

*MS* 47476a-103, *ScrPrBMA*: ^+among those rebels+^ | *JJA* 49:217 | 1937-8 | I.7§1.10/2.10 | *FW* 171.07

(d) **ravenge Majuba Hill**

*RW&B* 162: When a chance comes near, lads,  
Show the Boer some steel;  
Make him flee before you  
Make him cringe and kneel;  
Crush him on the fields, lads,  
Fight with British will.  
Win, my lads, at all costs.  
Avenge Majuba Hill.

*Note:* Transferred via Sheet viii-11(n).

*MS* 47476a-107, *ScrPrBMA*: ^+, but vying with Lady Smythe to avenge MacJobber,+^ | *JJA* 49:225 | 1937-8 | I.7§1.10/2.10 | *FW* 178.22

(e) **'boers w[ere] / again]**

MS 47476a-54, ScrPrTMA: ^+the boer's+^ trespass on the bull | *JJA* 49:117 | 1937-8 | I.4§1.9/2.9 | *FW* 087.21

(f) **'the old S[ir]**

Not found in *RW&B*.

?MS 47476b-438, ScrPrLPA: ^+, saying, This papal leaflet ^+leafless+^ to old chap give, rawl chawclates for mouther-in-louth.+^ | *JJA* 49:062 | 1937-8 | I.3§1.9/2.9/3.9 | *FW* 049.14

(g) **Ultimately got / printed in vols / at 6 sh.**

*RW&B* 162: The Poet Laureate, Alfred Austin, belonged, of course, to a different class of writers to the ones we are dealing with here, in so far as his works appeared in *The Times* and ultimately got printed in volumes at 6 sh. instead of in penny sheets, but otherwise there was not much to choose between them.

## VI.B.42.096

(a) **'royal choc box / to mother / papal leaflet / to mother dear**

*RW&B* 164: The idealization of the private soldier to which the audience is treated bears witness to the same divorce from reality. [...]

In another song a dying soldier says (referring to the Queen's Xmas gift of boxes of sweets):

Give this — it is my last request —  
Royal chocolate box to mother.

Transferred via Sheet viii-04(e).

MS 47476b-438, ScrPrLPA: ^+, saying, This papal leaflet ^+leafless+^ to old chap give, rawl chawclates for mouther-in-louth.+^ | *JJA* 49:062 | 1937-8 | I.3§1.9/2.9/3.9 | *FW* 049.14-5