



South Australians at war – transcript – PRG 91/3

Manuscript poem of "Advance Australia"

Transcription of full document

Transcribed by Susie van der Sluys, August 2002

"Advance Australia"

(Written on hearing of the proposed despatch of the Australian Contingent for South Africa.)

Off to the conflict comrades!—
Off to the scene of the fray!—
For the sake of your Queen and country,
In the name of freedom—away!—
For the sake of the down-trodden people,
Who look to Britannia for aid,
Go!—join in defending the helpless,—
For Australians are no more afraid
Than their countrymen throughout the Empire—
Who have offered their help, to save
The oppressed from their cruel oppressors,—
Go!—prove that you also are brave;
That our boys have the spirit of Britons,
And are loyal to their motherland,
To their Queen, and the old flag of Britain,
And the cause that is noble and grand.
The cause of protecting the weak ones,
And setting the poor slave free;—
For the cruel Boers must be conquered and taught
That such things are not to be.
As it cannot be peacefully settled,
Then war is the only way out,
And if they complain, they surely must know
That they themselves brought it about.



So, on! to the battle for justice,
And I think it will help you to fight—
To know that you're fighting with reason,
And for Britain the Champion of Rights.
Remember, that though you are leaving
Your home for that land afar,
Our good wishes and blessing go with you;
"God protect you wherever you are."
May your efforts be crowned with success;
May the power of the tyrant fall;
May God grant the victory to Britain,
And bring you safe back to us all.

ELLIE WEMYSS

15th October 1899.