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# Trekking On: A Boer Journal Of World War One

DENEYS REITZ  
**TREKING ON**  
A BOER JOURNAL OF  
WORLD WAR ONE



## Synopsis

On the 31st of May, 1902, the war in South Africa came to an end after three adventurous years. Now Reitz would join the war in Europe. Following his father's example, Deneys Reitz refused to accept the terms of the peace treaty and went into exile, on Madagascar. After four years of trials and adventures, Reitz recounts how his former commander, J. C. Smuts, eventually persuaded him to return home to help rebuild their country. A long and troubled process, shortly after the outbreak of the First World War South Africans were further divided by the September 1914 rebellion. Serving alongside Smuts once more, Reitz describes an oft-overlooked theatre of the war as they continued their campaign into Germany's African Colonies. Continuing immediately from *Commando: A Boer Journal of the Boer War*, Reitz's stirring memoir carries him towards the Western Front and the final years of the war, fighting with the British, but not for them. Deneys Reitz (1882-1944) was a Boer soldier, lawyer, author and politician. After commanding the 1st Battalion Royal Scots Fusiliers on the Western Front, at the end of the First World War he returned home, later becoming a member of the South African government. *Trekking On* is the second of three volumes he wrote about his life. Albion Press is an imprint of Endeavour Press, the UK's leading independent digital publisher. For more information on our titles please sign up to our newsletter at [www.endeavourpress.com](http://www.endeavourpress.com). Each week you will receive updates on free and discounted ebooks. Follow us on Twitter: @EndeavourPress and on Facebook via <http://on.fb.me/1HweQV7>. We are always interested in hearing from our readers. Endeavour Press believes that the future is now.

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## Customer Reviews

I finished this book on the 100th anniversary of the start of the battle of the Somme. Reitz fought against the British in the Boer War but joined the British Army late in 1916 and rose to command a regiment, serving through early 1919. His account of the German Spring Offensive in 1918 is hair-raising. His style is unaffected, modern in tone, and matter of fact despite having seen the worst fighting imaginable, and being gassed and badly wounded twice. This book followed on his account of the Boer War, "Commando." Reitz went on to be a prominent political figure in South Africa, and the third book, "No Outspan" covers those years.

Despite being a great admirer of Denys Reitz's book "Commando," I had never got around to reading his follow up book, "Trekking On." As someone with a keen interest in South African history, I found his writings on the little known rebellion against Smuts and Botha immediately prior to the First World War, very enlightening. Also, his experiences in German South West Africa and German East Africa threw new light on that almost forgotten part of that terrible war. I went on to read of his experiences in the Western Front where he ultimately commanded the Royal Scots Fusiliers, quite a remarkable feat for a man who, 15 years earlier, had fought against the British in the Boer War! His writings on the day to day struggle in the trenches, more than anything I have ever read, brought home the horrors of that war in a way I had not fully comprehended. Highly recommended for any student of history.

This book follows the exploits of Denys Reitz after his exile at the end of the Second Boer War to the end of World War 1. From his initial exile in Madagascar to his return and life as a lawyer. At the start of WW 1, he joins the South African army and fights the Germans in both today's Namibia and Tanzania. At the end of these battles, he joins the British Army and fights in France. The details of the senseless loss of life during the battles in Africa and France is overwhelming at times. This book would appeal to those looking to find information on WW1 in Africa and details of the trench warfare.

in French.

A gifted writer carries the reader into the deadly trenches where the British fought the Germans...it's the most graphic True account of trench life and death..and the constant artillery bombardment with men being shredded with shrapnel...The best account of WW 1 I have ever read.

Following on from his first book, Commando, in which he wrote of his experiences in the Anglo-Boer war, Reitz now chronicles his experiences during WW1. This was a man of steel. He fought fearlessly in great wars, sustaining serious injuries but fighting on. He writes very matter-of-factly, as if that's just what one does. He must have been an amazing man. His books are a great read.

A fascinating journal of the history of the first world war. It opened up information and detail I was never aware of. It also illustrates the horrors of wars of such magnitude which was followed by the next horrendous War II. We don't want this experience again.

TREKKING ON. THE FIRST PORTION I FOUND VERY INTERESTING, THE SECOND PART WAS INTERESTING AND INFORMATIVE BUT THE DAY TO DAY ACCOUNT OF THE WAR BECAME A BIT BORING, MAYBE ALSO BECAUSE I HAVE NEVER BEEN TO FRANCE SO THE TOWNS AND THE LAYOUT IS NOT FAMILIAR.

It isn't quite as exciting as his first book, but pretty good. Also, it is the only Ally side book about the war effort in German East Africa that I have read that isn't propaganda. I have already recommended it to friends, but y all means read Commando first.

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