



Transvaal, Transvaal...

I always wanted to translate this old song into English despite the fact that English is not my first language.

This song was written in 1899, at the very beginning of the Second Boer War (1899-1902) by Galina Rinks and was quite popular in Russia until 1917.

Well, here it is for you in English and the link below will let you listen to the original song in Russian.

Disclaimer: this song is a bit "politically incorrect" but... it belongs to history, and those who wrote it knew nothing about "political correctness".

And here is the original song with historical slide show:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mSHHQvY2UOs>

Transvaal, Transvaal, my dear land!
Today you are in flame!
A Boer is sitting on the strand
He's sad, he's old and lame.

What's wrong with you, my good old man?
And why are you so sad?
I'm sorry for my people slain
And for my fathers' land.

I had nine sons before this strife
And two of them have died,
But seven others still alive
Continue bitter fight.

My oldest son - his head was gray
In action was he killed,
With no cross and no pray
They buried him in the field.

My youngest boy - thirteen years old
He said: "I'll join you! Please!"
But I was firm: "I know you're bold
But war is not for kids!"

He frowned and said: "I'll go with you
Or else I'll go alone!
I'm young and small, and that is true
But still my hand is strong!"

Please, dad! You'll never be ashamed
Of me – your "little boy"!
For our freedom and our land
I'll fight and die with joy!"

I heard his word, I kissed his head
And took my boy with me,
And for the battlefield we left
For our right to be.

Through powder smoke he went ahead
He bravely fought and died
Black traitor shot him in the head
Like coward from behind.

Transvaal, Transvaal, my dear land!
Old Boer said once again
May us protect our God's strong hand,
And other honest men.