

REV D.C. LUSK

May 1952 -

PC1/1/7/8-15



J. H. HOFMEYR came as a Rhodes Scholar, from S.A. College ✓  
Cape Town, to Balliol College, Oxford, in 1913. I met him ✓  
for the first time in the following year, when I ~~went~~ <sup>returned</sup> to Oxford ✓  
as Chaplain to Presbyterian Members of the University. My pre- ✓  
decessor, the Rev Donald Matheson, told me of him as "a very able, ✓  
earnest man", and as already the author of a Life of his uncle ✓  
a leader of the ~~Cape Dutch~~ <sup>April 1914</sup>. He had been commended to Matheson ✓  
by the Rev R.B. Douglas of Mowbray, C.P. ✓

I think he was living that year (1914-15, his second year) <sup>DOUBT</sup>

in College. His Mother, of course, was with him and she was living  
in Museum Road. My wife and I saw both of them ~~from time to time~~ <sup>frequently</sup> <sup>DOUBT WAS</sup>  
and greatly liked them. Oxford had then few undergraduates, and WAR  
was filling up rapidly with Officer Cadets in training, and with ✓  
an increasing stream of wounded, who before long filled the large ✓  
"Base Hospital," in the Examination Schools, in High Street, and ✓  
later overflowed into the Town Hall, and Somerville College, etc. ✓

In 1915 (and perhaps earlier) Jan Hofmeyr was taking a <sup>BBC</sup>  
Boys' Bible Class at the Balliol Boys' Club, in a poorer quarter ✓  
of the town called St Ebbe's. In Sept. that year He and his ✓  
Mother were in Edinburgh; and I met them there. In the autumn ✓  
term (Michaelmas) they were living together, I think, at 42 New Inn <sup>Had</sup>  
Hall Street. He was keen on the evangelistic work of the Christian ✓  
Union (now the Student Christian Movement), and that winter he ✓  
was at the Balliol Boys' Club every Sunday night, and must, I think, ✓  
have been running the Club with very little help.. That Christmas ✓  
I believe they went to Torquay; and to Wales in the Easter vacation. ✓

As you know, he took "Greats" in summer 1916. He got a 1st Class.

I have a note that he was planning to go to camp with his Boys' Club after his "schools" (examinations), and to leave for South Africa about the end of June. He expected to teach there.

I cannot say that I remember connections with the Baptist Church, but both he and his Mother were ~~so~~ keenly interested in all the religious life of the place. I think he inclined in

those days to pacifism; but, considering his background, that was perhaps not surprising.

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The "Balliol College Register", (1914), notes that his Tutor (in Classics) was (the late Sir) Arthur Pickard-Cambridge; and that he got a 1st Class in Honour Moderations (classics) in 1914.: and that he was a member of the Arnold Society, (an undergraduate debating society in Balliol); and also of the University Union.

DC Ashk.  
26/5/52