



## 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.