

Over the dunes of the Kalahari, a Cape detective struggles against the British colonial administration's collusion with the Germans in the genocide of the indigenous Herero and Nama people.

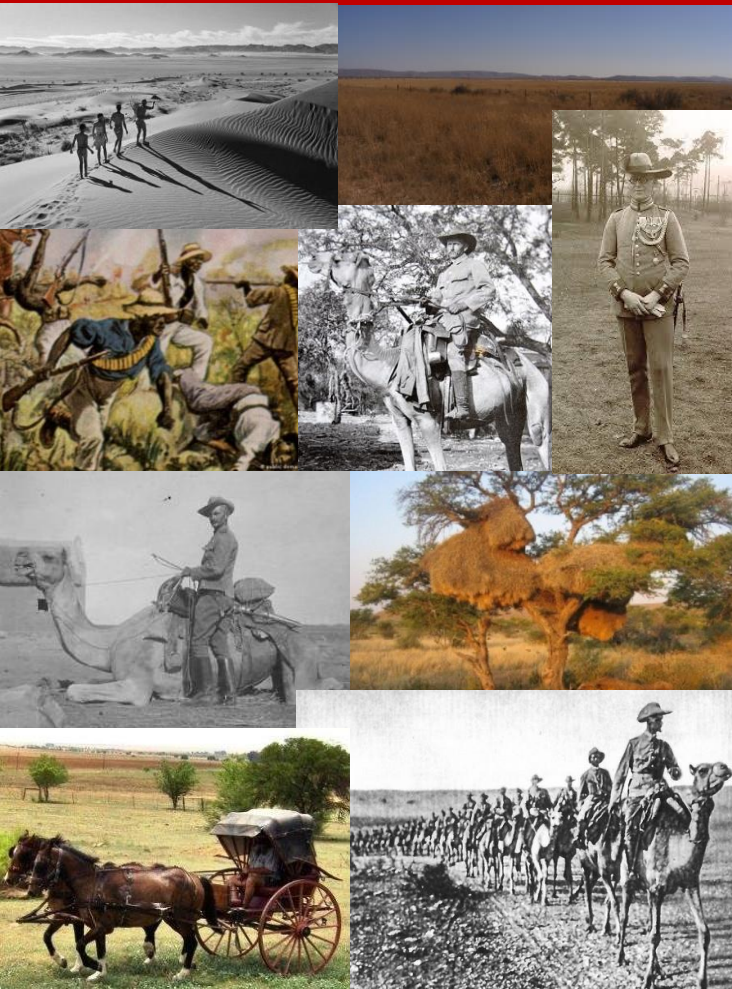
SYNOPSIS

When Red arrives at Molopo, he falls in love with the environment, the local people, the slow pace of life and the gentle loping of camels over the dunes. Promoted to detective, he relishes the challenge of fighting crime in the border zone. As the cases become increasingly more complex and violent, he is shocked as the underbelly of the society is shown. Initially, he is disturbed by the racist attitudes of the local Boers, but when he becomes aware of the more dangerous attitudes of the German and British colonialists towards the indigenous people, Red is forced to choose sides. Originally when he is sent to investigate incidents on the border, he assumes that the Cape government is opposed to the 1904 Herero genocide by the German colonial authority. As the German colonial war heats up, Red grows more and more anxious about how the local groups, especially the Basters, Nama and Bushmen, will be affected. When he realizes that the British government is ignoring his reports on the atrocities and is colluding with the Germans, Red decides to align himself with the local communities against the British and German authorities. This sets him on a collision course with the colonial authorities on both sides of the border.

SETTING

The setting for the series is Molopo in Basterland, the border zone between the Cape Colony, German South-West Africa, and the Bechuanaland Protectorate. A year after the Anglo-Boer War has ended, this northern frontier of the Cape Colony is an area historically owned by the Basters or Bastards with significant sub-groupings of Tswana, Nama, Bushman, British and virulently anti-British Boers. On the other side of the border the Germans rule over the Nama and Boers.

MAIN CHARACTERS



Protagonist: Red is a 20-year-old Englishman born with albinism, leaving his disturbed White family life behind to start anew as a policeman in Basterland. He develops strong relationships with the indigenous people, and especially with the Kaptein of the Basters. Red takes the side of the indigenous people against his own white race that places him in jeopardy with the Cape authority. As the war encroaches he begins to suspect that the British are colluding with the Germans.

Love Interest: The 17 year old Maria is the Kaptein's youngest daughter. Aware of the abuse that Basters generally receive she admires the renegade Agenbag who openly rejects the social norms of Cape colonial law. When he tries to rape her, Red and the Kaptein stand up to protect her. Bruised and humiliated, she becomes receptive to Red's advances.

Antagonist: The Griqua, Agenbag is a criminal who views all authority as the enemy. He passes himself off as innocent and legitimate part of the downtrodden people who bear the brunt of British and German colonial exploitation. After Maria escapes from him, and he realizes that she and Red can see through his facade of innocence, he continues to target them both as his personal enemies.