

Wild Cornwall

Cornwall as a Landscape for
adventure in the writing of
Percy F Westerman

Background

- * The Flying Submarine 1912
- * The Quest of the Golden Hope 1912
- * Rival Submarines 1913
- * The Scouts of Seal Island 1913
- * Sea Scouts of the Petrel 1914
- * The Submarine Hunters 1918
- * The Pirate Submarine 1923
- * Missing Believed Lost 1949
- * Working their Passage 1951

Exterior landscape

Challenges of
interaction with the
natural world

“we dwell always in two
landscapes internal and
external and ... stories bring
those two together”

Interior landscape

Character

Initiative

Resourcefulness

Howarth, William. *Some Principles of Ecocriticism* p. 70 in Glotfelty, Cheryll and Fromm, Harold eds. *The Ecocriticism Reader: Landmarks in Literary Ecology*. Athens and London: The University of Georgia Press, 1996.

The Wider Picture

19th century – exotic in far away places of empire

- * Adventure
- * Mystery
- * The unfamiliar
- * The unknown
- * Foreign-ness

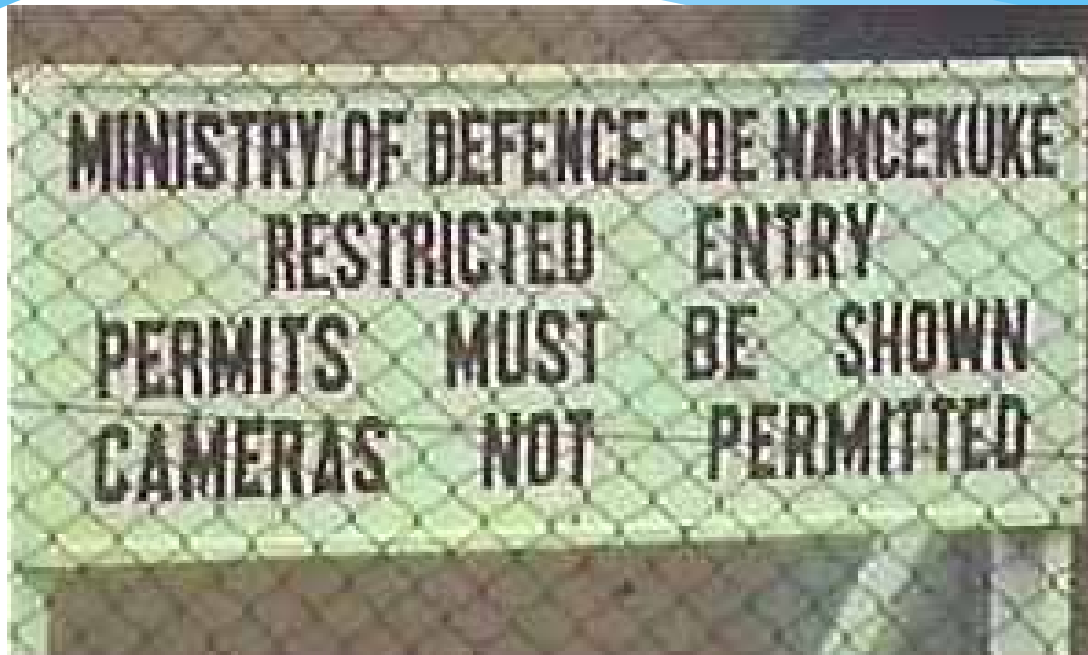
20th century – exotic drawn closer to the centre

- * “Domestic orientalism”

The Wider Picture: Wild Cornwall

- * Cornwall fulfils the need for wild otherness, a sense of remoteness from the 'civilized' centre.
- * Cornish coast, wild seas, wild rocks, rough coastline emphasised in all these titles notably
 - * Scouts of Seal Island
 - * Sea Scouts of the Petrel
 - * Submarine Hunters

Cornwall real and imagined



“girt iron fence”
The Flying Submarine p. 29



What does Cornwall represent as landscape for adventure ?

- * The unknown
- * The remote
- * Danger brought closer to the centre (home)
- * The exotic in domestic space
- * The unfamiliar and threatening aspects of the internal landscape

Wild Cornwall 2014

Charity calendar



Including 'what to see'
wildlife species of the month

www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk



Dr Rachel Johnson
Wareham February 2014