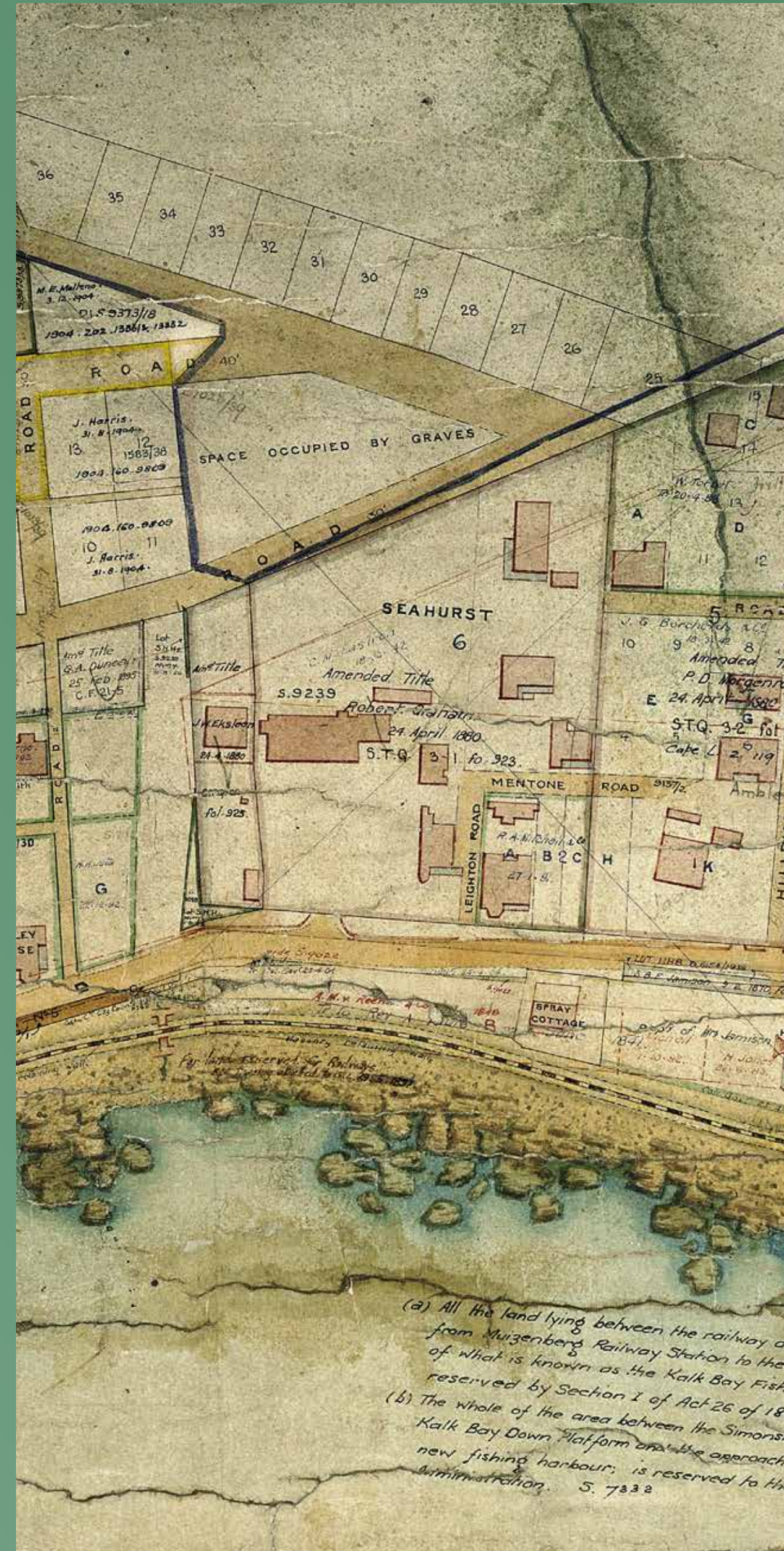


Manila Steps & The Old Graveyard



Source: Map M4/134, 1900. W Cape Archives & Records.

Portion of 1900 map showing location and extent of old graveyard.



Source: RC Chancellery

Fr. John Duignam (1846-1931) St. James RC parish priest 1874-1925.



Source: Steve Herbert.

Shell-encrusted headstone in the upper part of the graveyard 2018

MANILA STEPS & THE OLD GRAVEYARD

Filipinos, known locally as Manilas, settled in Kalk Bay from the early 1840s onwards and formed the backbone of the fishing community. In the 1890s Kalk Bay had the third largest fishing fleet on the Cape coast.

This grassy slope was an informal graveyard for some 50 years from the 1850s to 1903 when it, and others like it in Kalk Bay – St. James were closed. It was evidently a mainly Catholic, and therefore Filipino, burial ground but paupers and others were also interred here.

Catholic burial records from St. James Church show that 46 people were buried between 1896 – 1903, many of them probably in this graveyard. This figure suggests that some hundreds may have been buried here. The outlines of many graves are still evident during the dry summer months when the covering grass dies back.

In 1946 journalist Maxwell Price described a Filipino burial ceremony conducted by St. James Catholic priest Father Duignam around 1900: *“They attended funerals in black suits, silk top hats, starched shirts and white gloves. The procession was always in double line with the coffin bearers in front. The entire community attended and many of the older people at Kalk Bay and St. James will tell you that it was a most impressive sight to see 200 people walking reverently behind the bearers. At the head of the line, in solemn dignity, like a patriarch of old, walked Father Duignam leading his beloved charge to eternal rest.”*

One inscribed headstone reads:

*Here Rust Flep Falleujn
Ten Ouderdom van 6 Jaar
en Een Smal Kindjen
van 2 Maande en 7 Dagen
Zalyt met Du Warengaen
Elk Rusten Jesus Arm
Hoe Zwaar dit Verleenonswar
Troosen Allen Overlede
Den 8 Sept 1900 se Heereis*

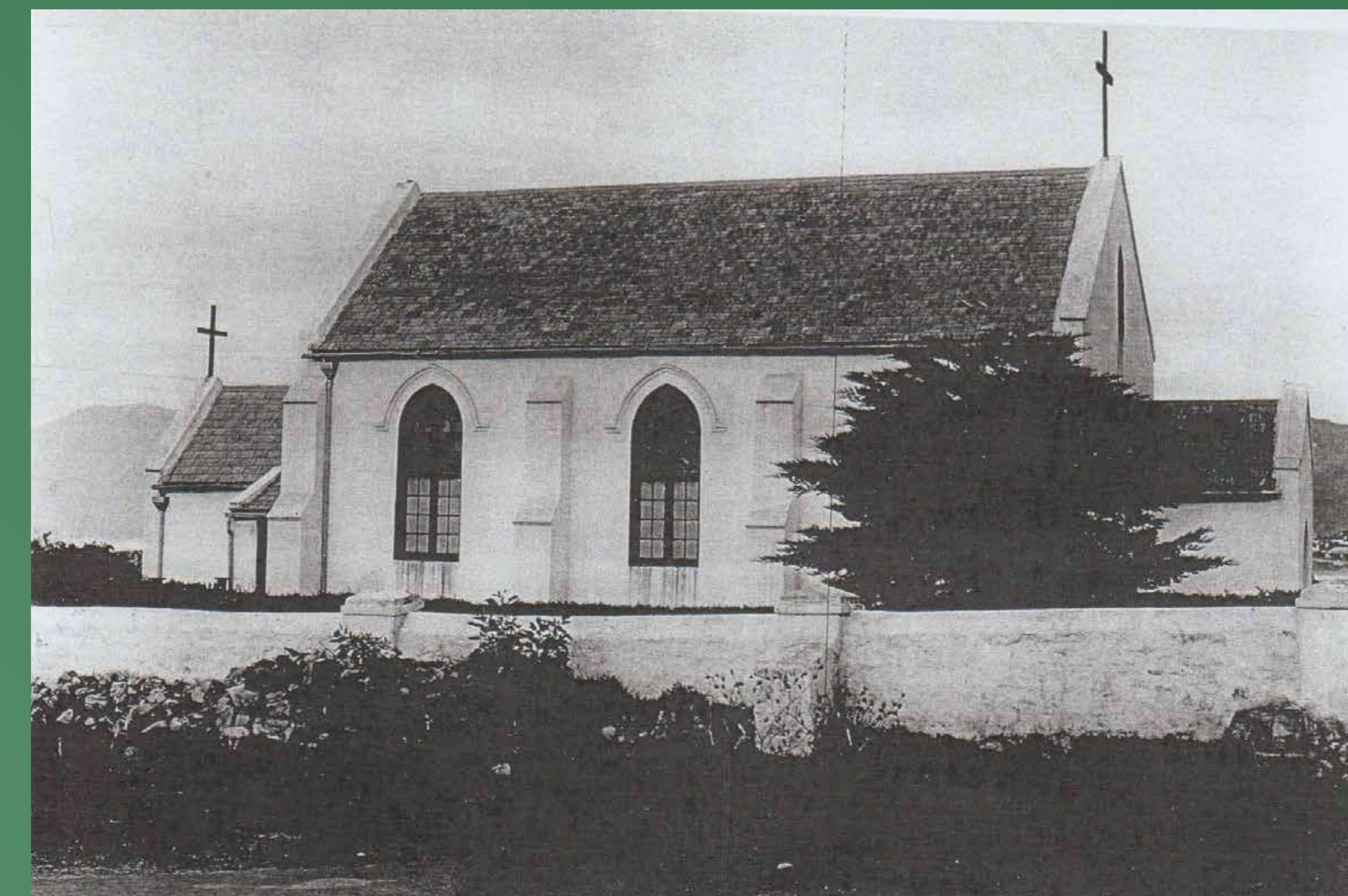
To honour this Manila community, whose descendants still contribute so much to the community of Kalk Bay, the unnamed steps running from Boyes Drive were named Manila Steps in December 2017.

Kalk Bay Historical Association October 2018



Source: MacMillan Collection UCT.

View over the graveyard towards Kalk Bay, c. 1905.



Source: RC Chancellery

St. James RC Church, between Main Road and railway line, c 1890.

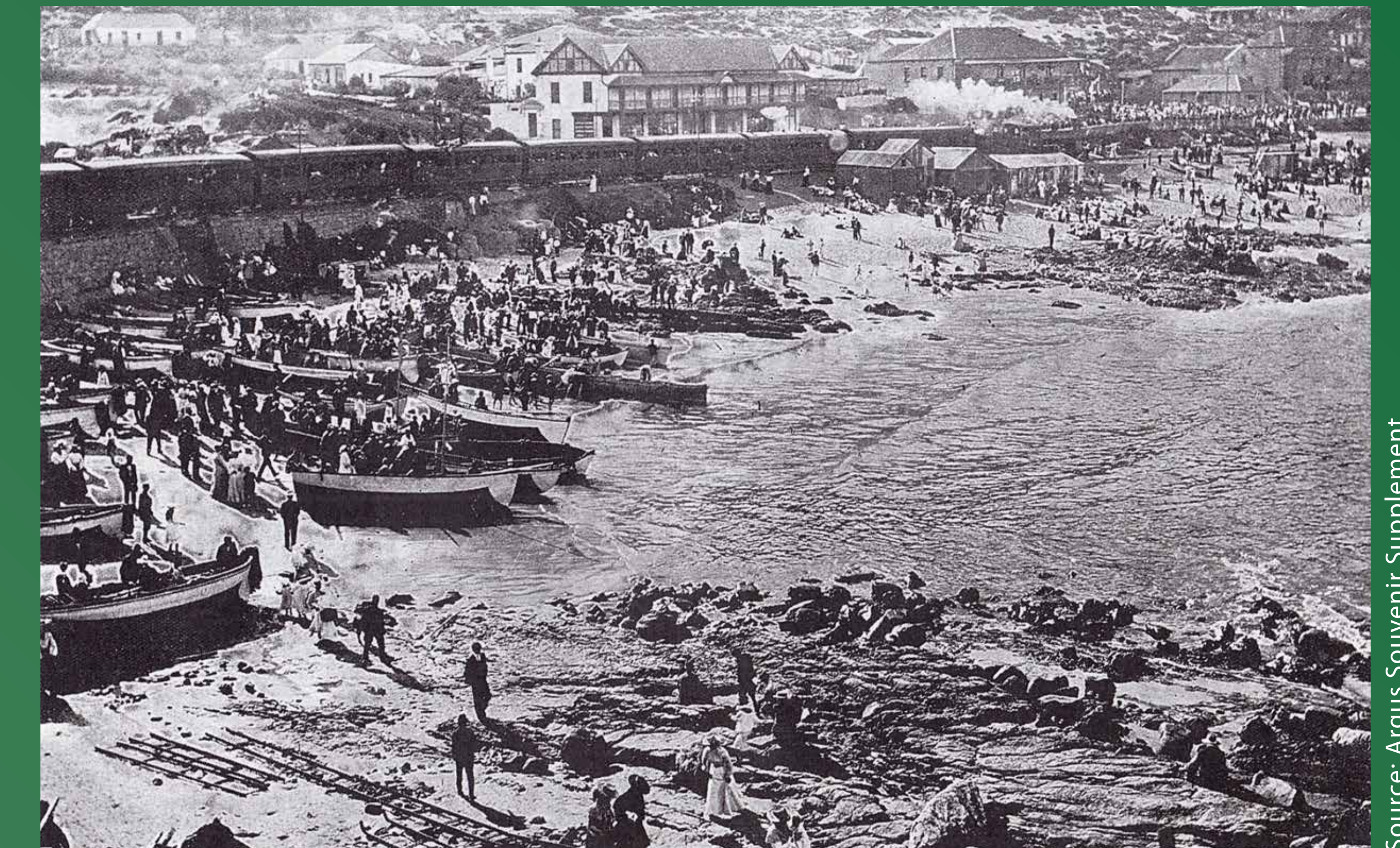


St. James RC Church and Filipino worshippers, on ceramic tiles on St. James post office wall.



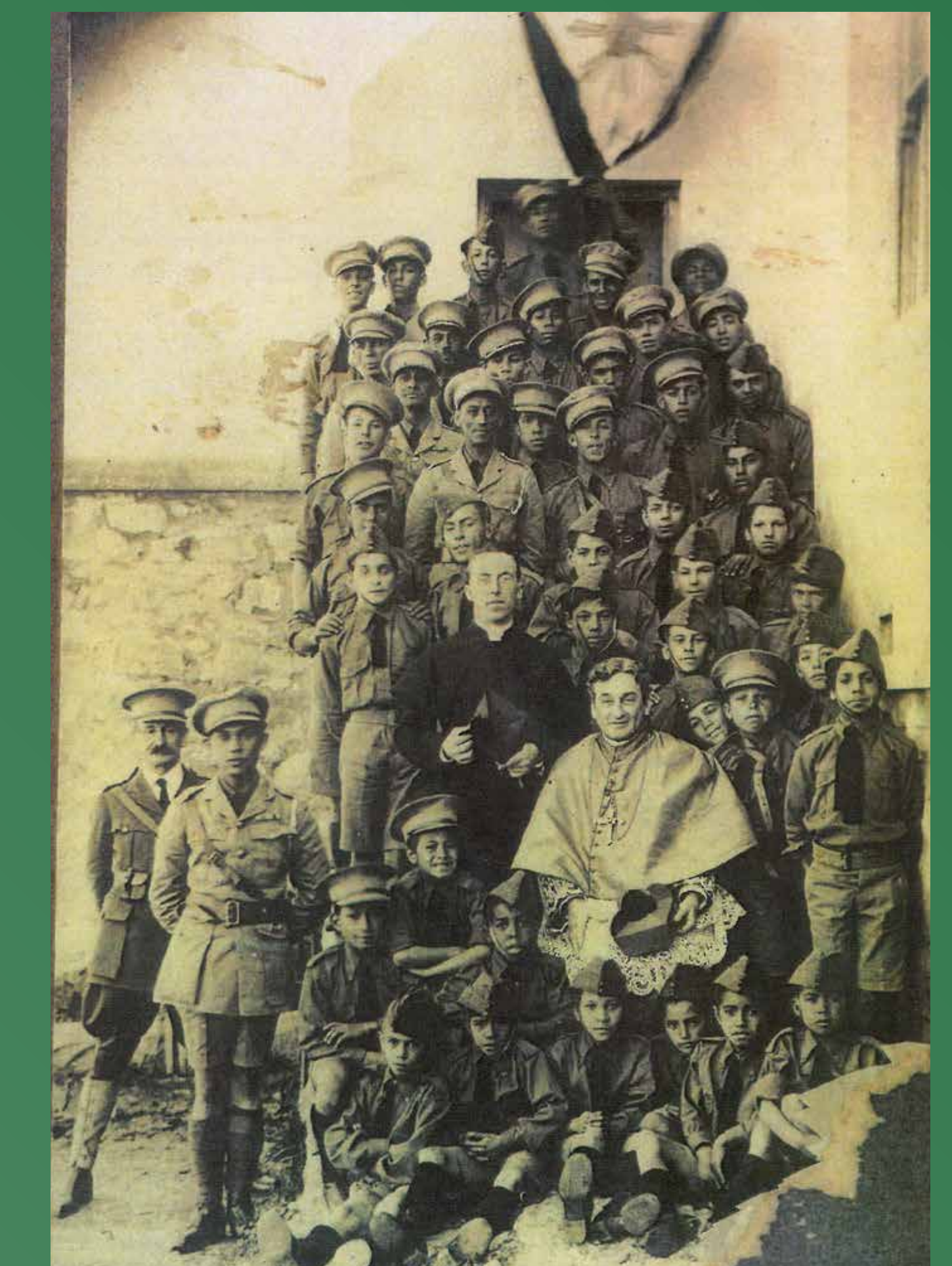
Source: M. Murphy postcard.

Panoramic view of Kalk Bay showing fishermen's homes at Die Land and on The Point, and Fishery Beach, c. 1905.



Source: Argus Souvenir Supplement

Fishery Beach with some of the 35-strong fleet of 6-man Cape beach-boats December 1910.



Source: Tony Trimmel

RC Church Boys' Brigade c.1930 with Fr. Sidney Welch, parish priest 1925-1942.

Compilation of Filipino names from all sources found May 2018

Abardo	Apillon	Cajelano	de la Varcia	Franco	Labror	Medel	Pasqual	Sotero
Abelgas	Appollinario	Carvalli	de Palma	Francisco	Leomagna	Menigo	Pastor	Tenasio
Aguipito	Bablo	Casanto	Domingo	Garcia	Lingafant	Menildo	Pelino	Teyarda
Aguillar	Balani	Citto	Driel	Gella	Ligorie	Menor	Pepino	Toledo
Alberseer	Baptista	Claranio	du Cruz	Gomez	Maboa	Merino	Quimpo	Tollentino
Almacine	Barces	Clemente	Erispe	Granz	Madola	Milano	Ramivierez	Tolestino
Almano	Bastia	Crevallo	Eustoquir	Griego	Macbero	Mollinari	Romariz	Topaz
Almonte	Benturo	Croza	Fernandez	Guissipo	Macranas	Nava	Rosario	Villa Neuva
Alrdao	Bonaventura	Damasio	Fernando	Hermenigildo	Manuel	Nazario	Sadan	Vinsant
Antonio	Borez	de Freitas	Florez	Hilario	Marcelo	Padua	Santiago	Williams
Andrade	Bulibar	de la Cruz	Francis	Joseph	Mazonki	Palma	Simongpong	

Source: Kalk Bay Historical Association.