

# Springbok

Journal of the South African Legion  
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***Lgr Jaco Lötter with one of the many wheelchairs that he donated to less privileged veterans.***

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## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Once again it is my pleasure and privilege to bring this edition of Springbok. The second edition of 2023. Once again it is heartening to report on how the Legion is still very active and living up to our motto, 'Not for Ourselves, But for Others'. Here I wish to congratulate Lgr Gerard 'Yster' Smal on again organizing the Ramcat Fishing Competition for the disabled in the Durban Harbour. Do read the report on the event later in this edition.

Conflict across the Globe is still a challenge for human beings. The situation in Sudan has once again highlighted how frail peace is in our time. It reminds me of a tour that King George V undertook after the First World War. His last stop on the tour was the Terlincthun coastal cemetery where he laid a wreath at the great white Cross of Sacrifice while Queen Mary placed a wreath at the Stone of Remembrance. The King then addressed the crowd, *"In the course of my pilgrimage I have many times asked myself whether there can be more potent advocates of peace upon earth .....than this multitude of silent witnesses to the desolation of war. And I feel that, so long as we have faith in God's purpose, we cannot but believe that the existence of these visible memorials will, eventually, serve to draw all peoples together in sanity and self-control, even as it has already set the relations between our Empire and our allies on the deep-rooted bases of common heroism and a common agony"*. The more one look at the World around us and the various conflicts the more one wonder if World peace will be achieved in our time. All we have to continue do is to pray for World peace.

In South Africa, winter is fast approaching and with it will come the usual winter ailments, so do take care, and look after yourselves.

And if this edition leans towards the Maritime side, forgive me.

## **BRANCH NEWS**

### **CAPE TOWN**

**Gratitude Function.** Forums such as the Rosedale Service Centre would not be possible without the backing of its sponsors and the contributors who provide so much by way of funds and goods in kind. There are also the many volunteers who help keep the wheels smoothly rolling and at a cocktail party on Friday, March 6, these many supporters were hailed and applauded by a grateful crowd.

**Induction Ceremony.** Several new members of the Cape Town Branch were inducted during an Induction Ceremony at Rosedale on 6 March 2023.

**“A Quiet Wedding”.** On Thursday 30 March 2023 members of Rosedale were treated to a production written and produced by Rosedale resident Ralph Kelly, “A Quiet Wedding”.

**High Tea.** The Rosedale Service Centre hosted a High Tea for its nonagenarian members on Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. This annual event is the opportunity to recognize not only the fine achievement of having turned 90 but to thank those present for their loyalty as members.

**Cape Garrison Artillery Regimental Association.** The Cape Garrison Artillery Regimental Association met in the Rosedale Club on Wednesday 26 April when a new plaque bearing their coat-of-arms was unveiled by Bruce Risien and David Holmes the branch secretary of the Cape Town branch of the Legion.

**96<sup>th</sup> Birthday.** Pam Hare moved to Rosedale in July 2004. Our second longest-standing resident, she turned 96 on Saturday 29 April which makes her our oldest resident.

### **DURBAN**

**Annual Ramcat Fishing Competition.** The Annual Ramcat Fishing Fun Day took place on 23 April at the MSC Terminal. The branch sponsored the event with R 2 500.00. *See report later – Ed.*

**Comrades Marathon.** The branch will offer to operate a water point during the Annual Comrades Marathon on Sunday 11 June 2023 as they did so successfully last year in conjunction with Eskom Athletic Club.

**Annual Civic Commemoration Parade and Service.** This has traditionally been conducted on the Sunday closest to 11 November each year and now memorialises all South Africans who have lost their lives in Service since WW1. However, certain influencing factors have developed over time and have required consideration as to whether we should move to a more convenient date, factors such as: - SANDF ability to provide support; - weather conditions; - school activities and academic programmes; - focus of Remembrance in our current society; - general year-end pressures and contingencies. Therefore, this year we are considering 23 July as a more appropriate date and will be including this in planning renewed discussions at City Hall re the Cenotaph. The above will not change SA Legion Durban's commitment to commemoration of SAS *Mendi*, Delville Wood, Square Hill and Remembrance Day.



*Here volunteers Isabella Petiteaud, Avril Lorenzo and Barbara Dawson enjoy an evening of fun with their fellow compatriots at the Gratitude Function.*

*Volunteer in the beautification of Rosedale's gardens Kevin Newton and his wife, Iris at the Gratitude Function.*



*Branch manager David Holmes and Gordon de la Chaumette enjoying snacks prepared by the Rosedale kitchen at the Gratitude Function.*



*Exco member Kevin Ashton and exco chair Ray Nessel during the Gratitude Function.*

*Two of the loyal supporters, Jenny Jewell and Sue Ritchie, enjoy a welcome sherry during the Gratitude Function.*



*Louise Smith, Carol Venter and Marianne Gertenbach at the Gratitude Function.*



*Photos from the Induction Ceremony of the Cape Town Branch.*





*An attentive and receptive audience join in the spirit of the performance of the Quiet Wedding.*

*Narrator Glen Villet hands Ralph Kelly a token of appreciation from the performers. Looking on are members of the cast Peter Bolton, Tim Evans, Beryl Lategan, Fiona Gibbons and Ed Wittert. The Quiet wedding.*



*Here Pam Hare is applauded by Norma Hosking, Rosemary du Plessis and Phyllis Webb on 96<sup>th</sup> birthday.*





*Entertainments Co-ordinator Del Davies hosts a gathering of nonagenarians in the Recreation Room at Rosedale during the Nineties High Tea.*



*Chair Tim Reilly and this bevy of beauties enjoy a sumptuous spread at the Nineties High Tea.*



*During a meeting of The Cape Garrison Artillery Regimental Association, a new plaque bearing their coat-of-arms was unveiled by Bruce Risien and David Holmes the branch secretary of the Cape Town branch of the Legion.*

*Enjoying the interaction and socialising with other legionnaires are members of the Cape Town branch's EXCO, Willie Millar (l), Kevin Ashton (r), and branch secretary David Holmes.*



*Admiring the plaque and thoroughly enjoying the evening are Bruce Risien, Marianne Minnaar, Barrymore Canning, Roger White, Stratford Canning and Kevin Ashton.*

**Gin & Bowls Day.** On Saturday, 15 April 2023 the South Africa Legion Durban Branch took part of the annual Westville Gin & Bowls charity event held at the Westville Bowling Club. The event was organised by Westville 189 Round Table to raise funds for various charitable causes. The Legion took part in this year's function signing up a 3-man team consisting of Lgrs Bradley Fourie, Louallen Nympe and Kassie Nel, playing three games, winning two of them while, as the same time managing to share information about the SA Legion with participants and other guests. At the end of the day, we closed off with some eats and drinks provided by the Round Table. Overall, it was a lovely day filled with fun and good energy.

## **PORT ELIZABETH**

During April, the Port Elizabeth Branch has undertaken to facilitate/organise the repairs to the Walmer War Memorial which is used every year to hold the Civic Remembrance Parade in respect of the fallen in all Wars.

Unfortunately, some nefarious persons decided to steal the bronze plaques with the names of the fallen and the bronze Springbok head from the Cenotaph, causing damage in the process. See attached pictures for the before and after of their visit. We have liaised with the department of fine art at NMMU with regard the Springbok head and with local stonemasons for the replacement of the plaques. All will be manufactured in a material that is not so attractive to "affirmative shoppers"!

On our part we are busy liaising with other Military Veteran organisations to raise the necessary finance and at the time of writing are waiting on a reply from the Metro with regards some financial assistance. Watch this space for some progress reports!

## **PRETORIA**

Due to some clashes, the branch has had to move its Annual General Meeting to Saturday 10 June 2023. The branch is also planning the Annual Battle of Delville Wood Commemoration Service. Due to security concerns, the service will be moved from the memorial in Burghers Park in the city centre to the Commonwealth war graves plot in the Thaba Tshwane New Military Cemetery in Thaba Tshwane. On the Welfare side, Lgr Gerard 'Yster' Smal was again very busy in Durban where he planned and presented the Annual Ramcat Fishing Competition. At the same time, Lgr Jaco Lötter donated nine wheelchairs to less privileged veterans while also donating an electric wheelchair to Lgr Smal. The Pretoria and the Johannesburg – Central Witwatersrand Branch will man a stall at the Pro Patria Military Fair at the Voortrekker Monument on Monday 1 May 2023.

## **COMMEMORATION SERVICES**

### **SAP 'KOEVOET' COMMEMORATION SERVICE**

The Annual SAP 'KOEVOET' Commemoration Service took place at the 'KOEVOET' Memorial at the Voortrekker Memorial on Saturday 8 April 2023. It was 10 years since the memorial was erected at the current site. Since the erection of the memorial the reverse side of the memorial has been changed and members of the former 'KOEVOET' unit that have passed away since 1989 are now

*The Durban Branch team at the Gin and Bowls Day  
Lgrs Kassie Nel, Brad Fourie, and Louallen Nympe  
with Lgr Andrea ("Elvis") Giglio.*



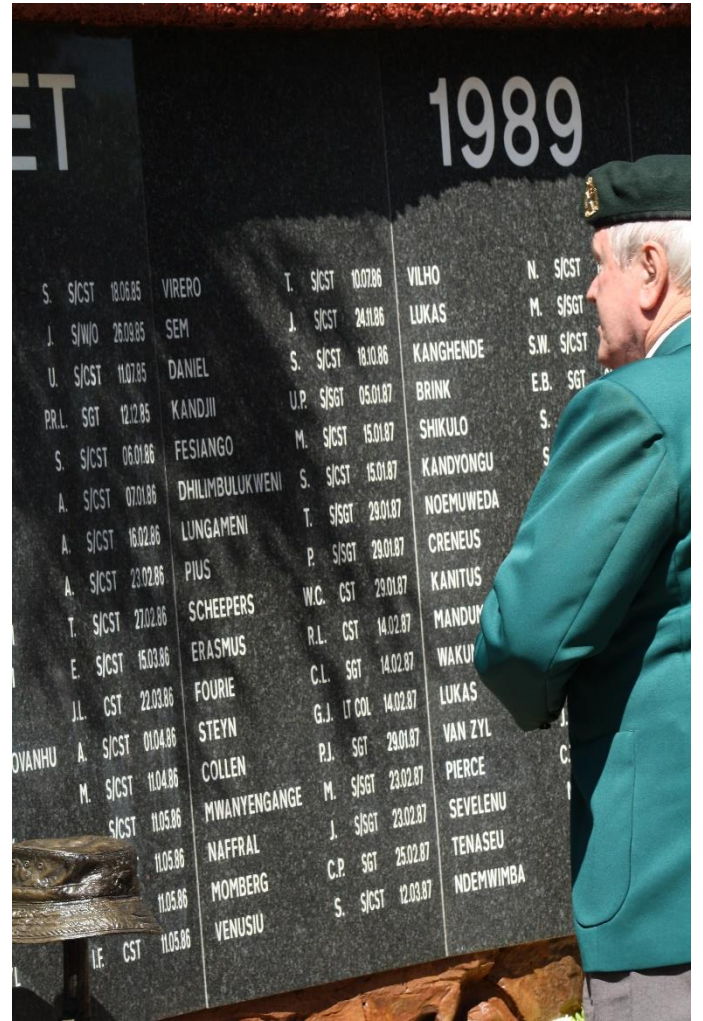
*A general view of the activities at the Gin and  
Bowls Day.*

General activities at the Gin and Bowls Day.



*The Walmer Memorial.*





Photos from the Annual SAP – 'KOEVOET Memorial Service.



commemorated there. The service was attended by Lgr's André Le Grange, Debra De Bilott, and Charles Ross. Lgr Ross laid a wreath on behalf of the Legion.

### **ANZAC DAY DAWN COMMEMORATION SERVICE STAFFORDSHIRE UNITED KINGDOM**

Members of the South African Legion United Kingdom Branch attended the Annual ANZAC Day Dawn Commemoration Service in Cannock Chase, Staffordshire on Sunday 23 April 2023. Lgr Brian James laid a wreath on behalf of the South African Legion.

### **OTHER STORIES**

#### **RAMCAT FISHING**

Lgr Gerard 'Yster' Smal was once again responsible for the Annual Ramcat Fishing Competition for disabled friends at the MSC terminal in the Durban Harbour on Sunday 23 April 2023. All participants received breakfast and lunch as well as a gift. A fair number of fish were caught while a massive 'bunny chow' was put together. In Yster's own words: *"The fishing was excellent. We caught more than 100 fishes overall, plus 30 really good-size fish. This year was our total best ever!"*

#### **LITTLE-KNOWN FLYING ACE OF THE KAROO by Chris Marais in Daily Maverick , 11 January 2023**

One of the great fighter pilots of World War 2 was a son of the Karoo. His story reads like a Shakespeare battle tragedy, replete with glory, loss and splendid isolation.

I'm sitting on a long *stoep* swirling Cremora into coffee, savouring the pre-dawn inky-blue blackness of the big sky, in the gritty nub of the Hard Man's Karoo. It's a symphony of quiet but when you listen, really listen, you can break it up into little sound parts: there's the percussive tonk-tonk of the wind pump on the farmstead, bottom-noted by the rustle of the early winter wind through the poplar trees on the nearby water course. A hidden lark on its morning breakfast run provides a high, sweet whistle solo. For the rest, silence rules.

**Contrails in a clear Karoo sky** Here, literally in the middle of a stony nowhere, I see traces of jet planes in the sky: first a contrail streak then another one, and then a third. The Johannesburg-Cape Town air run is picking up. It's blissful to be a distant bystander anchored in the Karoo, surrounded by *bossies* and rocks and little critters that lurk and hunt. And, of course, sheep. Never forget the sheep. This, I reckon, is probably how the Karoo's greatest aerial ace, its finest warrior-export, must have felt not that long ago as he sat right here drinking coffee, gazing up at the heavens which were once his battleground. On the bench nearby lies a thick folder of cuttings, printouts and general papers detailing, from all manner of sources, the life and times of one 'Khaki' Hugo. Or, if you're looking at him from a British standpoint, 'Dutch' Hugo. I am staying on Canariesfontein Guest Farm in the Carnarvon-Loxton area of the Northern Cape. This is where Petrus Hendrik Hugo, who went across "the pond" to Britain to fight for the Allies in WW2 and became one of their top fighter pilots, spent the last period of his vivid, textured life. *The farmstead at Canariesfontein, with its well-maintained wind pump – in true Hugo tradition. Image: Chris Marais*





Photos from the ANZAC Day Service at Cannock Chase, Staffordshire, United Kingdom.



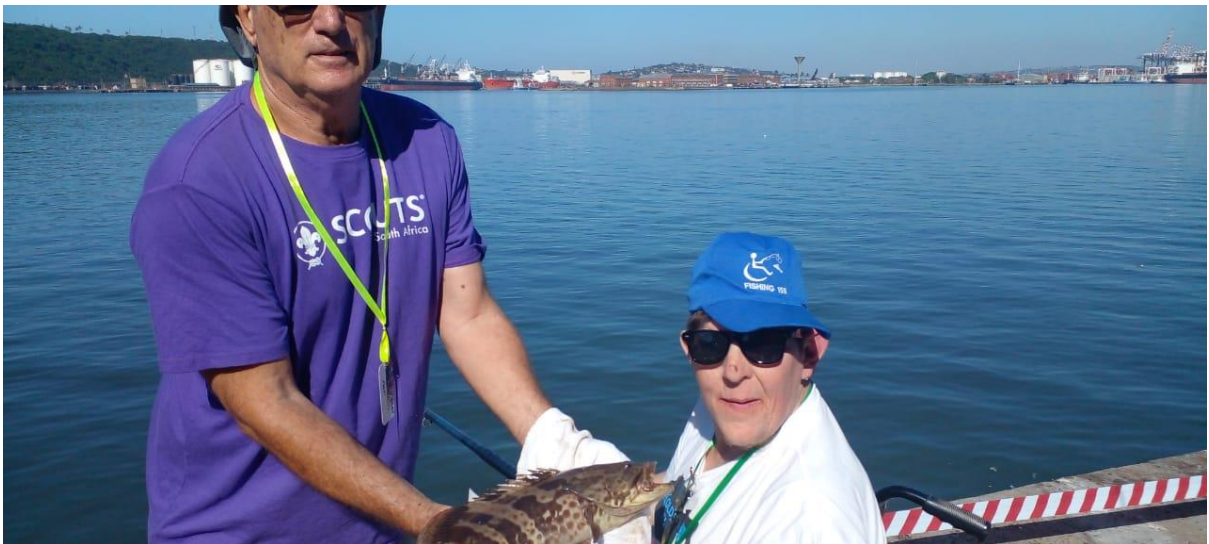


Photos from the ANZAC Day Service at Cannock Chase, Staffordshire, United Kingdom.





*Photos from the Ramcat Fishing Competition in Durban Harbour.*





*Photos from the Ramcat Fishing Competition in the Durban Harbour.*



**A top fighter pilot** In an interview given many decades ago, he recalls: “My first squadron was No. 615, AAF, and I stayed with them from 16 December 1939 to 26 November 1941. Winston Churchill was our Honorary Air Commodore, and he came to see us at our base in France, Vitry-en-Artois, and later, regularly, at Kenley and Manston. “Initially we flew Gloster Gladiators but in early May 1940 received Hurricanes.” “A great friend of mine, Bill Fowler, and I rebuilt a derelict, abandoned Morane 138E Parasol Monoplane with a Gnome Rhone rotary engine. We had a lot of fun giving attractive French girls joy rides off the beach at Wissant. Sadly, we had to abandon it when we evacuated France.” He’s referring to the hasty mass exodus of Allied forces: 224 585 British and 112 546 French and Belgian troops, from the beach at Dunkirk a scant six weeks later. While German fighter planes bombed and strafed the men on the sand, almost anything that could float came across the English Channel to rescue them. Then Paris fell, France capitulated, and the Battle of Britain was on. Again, Dutch Hugo was in the thick of it.

**A battle diary** One of his combat reports after downing a Messerschmitt ME-109, dated 27 July 1940, states: “Dense smoke and liquid poured from the German pilot’s machine. Although my engine stopped, I dived after him. Fortunately my engine restarted. The pilot pulled out of his dive at about 6 000 feet and then started to dive again. I was hot on his tail and at about 3 000 feet opened fire. He continued to dive and landed in the water. Within a minute the aircraft had sunk, and I saw the pilot swimming about in the middle of a big patch of air bubbles which had been caused by the sinking of his machine. I sent back a message asking for a launch to be sent out to the German airman’s rescue and gave his position. I then flew to base.” Just about everything in this file I’ve collected over time reads like it comes from a stirring adventure novel, something Wilbur Smith would feast on for new book material. Or a documovie with lots of actual WW2 file footage, of the Battle of Britain in particular. Imagine being a 24-year-old Karoo boy in the thick of war, with 22 aerial kills under your belt. Each of those kills counted towards your overall contribution to saving Britain from invasion – and possibly losing the war. Imagine the adrenalin rush after adrenalin rush of flying five battle sorties in one day, landing, cleaning up an old wound, reloading, refuelling, downing a quick cup of tea and taking off again, on the lookout for what the *Boys’ Own* comics used to call “The Hun”. Petrus Hendrik Hugo was born on 20 December 1917, and grew up on the farm Pampoenoort near Victoria West. Even as a boy hunting springbok in the semi-desert of the Northern Cape, he showed great promise as a deadly shot. He loved to tinker with machines and harboured aerial ambitions. Being a fighter pilot was an apex aspiration for a young man looking for adventure. Europe in the 1930s was bubbling with Nazi madness and war was imminent. Hugo studied aeronautical engineering in Johannesburg and then, in 1938, went to Britain for Royal Air Force training. His instructors said he was “an exceptional pilot, an excellent marksman and suitable for posting to a fighter squadron”. And even though Peter Hugo was nicknamed ‘Khaki’ back home (either for choosing to train in Britain or for his sun-reddened complexion which, friends said, gave him the look of an Englishman), over in the UK they called him ‘Dutch’ because of his clear South African accent. It is not known what his doomed German foes called him in the heat of battle. Probably some expletive with the word “Englander” attached to it.

**Home town buys him a Spitfire** The sun is starting to warm up the *stoep* and I’m on my second cup of coffee, completely lost in what I always called Dad’s War – because my late father was a navigator on a bomber in North Africa, shot down and locked up in an Italian POW camp for a while. I pick up an interesting snippet about Group Captain Hugo’s home connection from Eric Rosenthal’s slim but



*The farmstead at Canariesfontein, with its well-maintained wind pump – in true Hugo tradition.  
Image: Chris Marais*



*Group Captain Petrus Hendrik Hugo, in a portrait sketch on display at the Victoria West Museum. Image supplied by Chris Marais*

priceless town book called *One Hundred Years of Victoria West*. Back in those WW2 days, the people of Victoria West established a Petrus Hugo Spitfire Fund and raised £4 000 towards an aircraft for their local hero, which was then dubbed “*Karoo*”. Unfortunately, Hugo was later shot down over the English Channel. He was rescued and soon was back in the thick of things. However, there is a Spitfire called “*Karoo*” lying somewhere on the seabed off Dover. His eventual medal tally tells much of his war story: The DFC and 3 bars; 1939-1945 Star (with Battle of Britain Bar); Air Crew Europe Star (with France and Germany Bar); Africa Star (with North Africa 1942-43 Bar); Italy Star; Defence and War Medals; American Distinguished Flying Cross; and French Republic Croix de Guerre 1939-45. I don’t know if other warriors have ever been awarded such medals by three countries – there can’t be that many. These medals, along with several pieces of shrapnel and a German bullet removed from Hugo himself, were auctioned off in London for £125 000 in 2010. After WW2 a grateful British government named Hugo Gardens in the London borough of Havering after him.

**Sorrow in Tanzania** Group Captain Hugo was also awarded a farm in Tanganyika (later Tanzania), on the western slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro. This is where he and his wife Angela and their three daughters lived for two decades. But 1971 was a sorrow-filled year for the flier-turnedfarmer. First, his beloved Angela died. Then in September, Petrus Hugo and his three children were summarily evicted from the farm by the new government – they were given two weeks to pack up and leave. The Hugo clan sailed from Mombasa to Durban and then returned to his family in the Karoo. One of his prized possessions, a Cessna 182, had to be smuggled out of the country by a friend. And so, for the better part of 15 years, the celebrated warrior came to live and farm at Canariesfontein, here in the middle of this stony nowhere.

A distant relative, Michael Muller, now owns the property and has turned it into a guest farm. He remembers visiting “*Oom Khaki*” as a boy on the odd occasion. “I got the sense that *Oom Khaki* was less fascinated by sheep than he was by machinery,” he tells me. “He loved installing new wind pumps, and he repaired them all himself.” Group Captain Hugo drove an old *bakkie* and lived quietly on his own until his death in 1986. Later, I follow Muller’s directions to Bo Pampoenpoort, Hugo’s childhood farm where he lies buried in the family graveyard. The inscription on his flat gravestone simply reads: “Here lies a hero.” And that’s all. But that’s enough! *by Chris Marais in Daily Maverick , 11 January 2023*

## **PRINCESS ANNE REOPENS NEWLY REFURBISHED POPPY FACTORY**

The Princess Royal has officially reopened the Poppy Factory in Edinburgh after its two-year refurbishment. Princess Anne toured Lady Haig's Poppy Factory and its new exhibition space, and visited Bud, Poppy Scotland’s mobile museum. The Royal visitor also took time to talk to the veterans who work at the factory about their experiences and how to make poppies and wreaths. David Adamson, a wreath-maker and tour guide, who served for 22 years with the Royal Highland Fusiliers, gave her a tour of the factory: "She was very interested in everything and took the time to speak to as many of the guys as possible. She also noticed the big difference from the last time she visited," Mr Adamson said.

Thirty-three disabled veterans work in the factory, which after being founded in 1926, makes over three million poppies each year for the Scottish Poppy Appeal. The Royal visitor also signed a



*Opening of the newly refurbished Poppy Factory by HRH Princess Anne.*



'reflection postcard' which will form part of a wall display in the factory. Austin Hardie, Poppy Scotland's director, said they were "honoured" to welcome Princess Anne to open the refurbished factory: "This is the culmination of two years of hard work to ensure we have a modern facility dedicated to supporting Scotland's veterans' community," he said. "We are very proud of our heritage, and this marks an exciting new chapter in the factory's 97- year history. "We are looking forward to welcoming school groups and the wider public to the factory and exhibition space, telling the story of the poppy to new generations.

During her visit, the Princess Royal also met Summer Saunders and Kate Miller, who designed a red silk poppy dress as part of the 'Junk Kouture' sustainability project. She also met Sophie Henderson, 14, from Ayrshire, who won Poppy Scotland's 2020 poetry competition with her poem In Future Fields, a response to John McRae's 1915 poem In Flanders Fields. After touring the Bud mobile museum, an 18- tonne truck that transforms into a micro-museum, the Princess Royal unveiled a plaque before being presented with a framed copy of both poems by chair of Poppy Scotland, Helen Owen. "We are very grateful to Her Royal Highness for taking the time to meet the team involved in this exciting project, as well as her continued support for our Armed Forces community," Ms Owen said. - *by Harry Adams in Forces.com, 19 January 2023*

### **NEW ROYAL NAVY CAP BADGES**

With the Coronation of King Charles III early on 6 May 2023 the Royal Navy had to change its cap badges to bear the King's cypher.

### **SAS ASSEGAAI MUSEUM SUBMARINE**

By 18 April all the lifting frames had been securely welded on to the boat and all that remains is the painting of them. Our sincerest thanks to Damen for all the work they have done to enable us to reach this stage. All that is now still to be done before she is ready for the move to our site is for the Dockyard to finish fixing the bogeys to enable them to move her to N3 on the hard from where she can be accessed by the hydraulic lifting platforms and for the Navy and Dockyard to clear the route and lift the concrete lambda walls! But then we still need to obtain the funding for the move! We have also been informed that the Naval Base Transport Section that has occupied the site for some years will now start moving up to Dido Valley from Tuesday 2 May and that the Naval Museum will finally take occupation. This is very good news as the Naval Heritage Trust which has responsibility for preserving *Assegai* has to vacate its offices in the Simon's Town museum by 01 June and will now move into the Assegai Museum offices and start site and facility preparations. *NOASA Spindrift May 2023.*

### **SA NAVAL MUSEUM 30 YEARS ON.**

The SA Naval Museum this year marks its 30th anniversary with its origins going back 57 years to 1966 when a naval historical collection was displayed at the Castle in Cape Town. In the mid-1970s this collection was transferred to the Martello Tower in Simon's Town and later moved to Fort Wynyard where it was enlarged to include a wider display of naval and associated artefacts. With decentralisation of museums from the former Directorate Military Museums to the then SA Defence Force (SADF) services in June 1987, the SA Navy Museum (Martello Tower) was transferred to



*Top left is the new Petty Officer cap badge, top right is the new Chief Petty Officer cap badge, below left is the new Warrant Officer Class One cap badge and below right is the new Officer cap badge.*

functional control of the SA Navy (SAN) with Fort Wynyard transferred to Western Province Command (Army).

Investigations to establish a museum for the SA Navy (SAN) in Simon's Town were launched during 1988 and the project, dubbed Project Oubos, registered at Navy headquarters according to the Museum website. It was finally decided the most appropriate location for the new museum would be the former Royal Navy Mast House dating back to 1815 and the adjacent Dutch Store House that dates back to 1743. Both buildings are in the historic West Yard of Naval Base (NB) Simon's Town.

The new SA Naval Museum was officially opened by then Chief of the Navy Vice Admiral Robert Simpson-Anderson on 1 April 1993.

The first phase of the new display comprised exhibitions of the historic clock tower and part of the sail loft. The second phase of development included utilisation of two display areas on ground level with the history and functioning of the Submarine, Divers and Weapons branches suitably displayed. The SAN itself was involved in converting the building to one suitable for a museum. This internal SAN capacity was aptly displayed in the work of the SAN Works Branch responsible for all structural changes and enhancements to the building. SAN units including SAS *Simonsberg* and SAS *Chapman* took ownership of many new displays and contributed by donating display items as well as physical construction of new displays.

Later additions to the museum display include a Westland Wasp maritime helicopter and Leyland Cub fire tender. The new Mac Bisset Display Hall, named in honour of the museum's first curator from 1985 to 2002, in the Dutch Storehouse now houses the Transformation, Arctic Convoy, an updated Chiefs of the Navy display and 100 years of naval forces displays. A popular feature of the 'living museum' concept is occasional firings of the museum's rifled muzzle loader cannon at Middle North Battery.

Apart from the submarine SAS *Assegaai*, other significant items allocated to the museum are the navy yacht *Voortrekker* of Bertie Reed fame and a World War II marine tender (MT2800). The future placement of these large items is dependent on allocation of additional indoor space to the museum.

In November 2003 the SAN decommissioned the last of its three Daphne Class submarines, SAS *Assegaai* (formerly SAS *Johanna van der Merwe*), in preparation for the introduction of the new Type 209 Submarines. A submission was made to Chief of the Navy and the Naval Board to preserve *Assegaai* as an exhibit of the SA Naval Museum.

Approval was given and the submarine – then still in the water – was opened to the public on a trial basis. Africa's first submarine museum was officially opened in Simon's Town on 1 March 2011 by the then Chief of the Navy, Vice Admiral Johannes Mudimu. The project managing team consisted almost entirely of retired naval officers and volunteers who guided tours through the submarine daily. The main purpose of the project is to preserve the submarine as a museum and promote technology and science among the youth. The official opening marked the first step in the *Assegaai*'s eventual placement ashore.

A memorandum of agreement was signed in May 2022 between the SAN and the Naval Heritage Trust (NHT), entrusted with the project. This will see relocation of the submarine ashore near Cole Point and re-opening to the public in 2024.

At the end of last month (March) former and current curators and staff gathered to celebrate 30 years existence of the museum. A special 30 years logo was unveiled, which adorned the birthday cake and 30 cupcakes. In his speech first curator, Commander “Mac” Bisset, regarded as father of the museum, congratulated current curator Commander Leon Steyn and his staff on the achievement and wished them well for the future. **Source: defenceWeb.**

## **OBITUARIES**

### **BRAKPAN**

Lgr Brian Brewer.

### **PIETERMARITZBURG**

Lgr L. Adler.

Lgr G. Saville.

Lgr R. Vorster.

Lgr Charlie Dickinson.

### **STRAND**

LGR Michael Snyder

# SOUTH AFRICAN LEGION



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