

Springbok

Journal of the South African Legion
Tydskrif van die Suid-Afrikaanse Legioen



ISSN: 221-9854

AUGUST 2022



MEMBERS OF THE JOHANNESBURG – CENTRAL WITWATERSRAND BRANCH THAT ATTENDED THE BATTLE OF DELVILLE WOOD COMMEMORATION SERVICE AT THE SCOTTISH MEMORIAL OUTSIDE THE VIEW IN JOHANNESBURG ON 17 JULY 2022

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



We have received several compliments for the June edition of the Springbok. This was largely due to the contributions by the branches which reflected the activities of the South African Legion. This portrays the image of the Legion not just to members of the Legion that read the Springbok, but also to non-members of the Legion. This is achieved with the posting of the editions on two international websites, ISSUU and FLIPHTML5, where International readers can read them. These links are further posted on the various Facebook Pages of the Legion where friends of the Legion, not necessary Legionnaires, can read them.

Building on the June edition I am pleased to note the reaction of the Johannesburg – Central Witwatersrand Branch who submitted a lengthy report of their activities since the beginning of the year. While some of these events took place as early as February, I have decided to include them in this edition for all to read. May I then challenge all branches to follow Johannesburg – Central Witwatersrand and let us make the October edition even better.

It is encouraging to see the large number of Commemoration services which are attended by members of the Legion. Nothing better for marketing than to see Legionnaires in their Legion attire attending events. Let us keep it up and, where possible, increase the presence.

In this edition, I have launched a new section, Legion accommodation, which I hope to continue in the next editions until we have covered all the venues where the Legion provides accommodation for veterans or their next of kin.

As we head into the last four months of the year, let us remain vigilant as in various news reports there are predictions of another wave of COVID.

NATIONAL OFFICE BEARERS

NATIONAL PRESIDENT

During his recent visit to Europe the National President, Lgr Brian Smith, met with the Chairman of the Europe Branch of the South African Legion, Lgr Andrew Bergman at the Kop Van De Haven in Ijmuiden, The Netherlands, on 15 July during which plans were discussed.

REGION NEWS

GAUTENG

A new standard was recently manufactured for the Gauteng Region. This was done in cooperation with the Johannesburg – Central Wits Branch.



The National President, Lgr Brian Smith, and Lgr Andrew Bergman, Chairman of the Europe Branch.



The new Standard of the Gauteng Region.



Members of Rosedale that donned their rags for the currie and rice.

BRANCH NEWS

CAPE TOWN – ROSEDALE

With the easing of restrictions, members of the Rosedale Service Centre donned their glad rags on Saturday 11 June for Currie and rice event where everyone enjoyed themselves.

A new Rosedale Service Centre committee was recently elected. They are Tim Reilly, Chairman, Pat Evans, Secretary, Joyce Gleeson, Treasurer, and members Don Stokes, Gordon de la Chaumette, Sue Gow (co-opted), Neville Petiteaud, Isabella Petiteaud, Beryl Lategan, Del Davies and Johan Johnson.

JOHANNESBURG – CENTRAL WITS

Transvaal Scottish Association Lunch – 29 January. On the 29 of January, Lgr. Brian Smith and Lgr. Maurice Paoli attended Transvaal Scottish lunch that was held at their regimental HQ – The View. The lunch was well attended, and well catered. It was one of the 1st functions that could be attended with the more relaxed COVID rules. This offered a great opportunity to discuss the collaboration of the Transvaal Scottish association and the SA Legion – Johannesburg branch to form a team to work on the Deville Wood parade that will be held in July. It helped bring the Johannesburg branch and the Transvaal Scottish association a lot closer together.

Fairmount Bowls Club – Potjie Competition – 27 March 2022. In support of the Fairmount Bowls club – which has kindly been providing a venue for the Johannesburg branch to hold their monthly and executive meetings (including the branch AGM), members of the Johannesburg branch entered a team into the potjie competition. It was a wonderful achievement to receive the 2nd prize for the Johannesburg branch. A well-deserved reward to all the members who worked hard to make the event a success.

UAV (United Veteran’s Association) Civil safety workshop - 2 and 3 April 2022. Over the weekend of the 2 and 3 of April, all military associations were invited to attend a workshop geared at looking at the civil safety situation within South Africa and the direct impact it has on the greater community as a whole. The workshop was hosted at the Cozy Corner Shell hole – Brakpan (East Rand - Gauteng). The Johannesburg branch sent a team to attend and bring information that may have a bearing on the Johannesburg ranch and possibly the SA Legion. The 2-day workshop turned out to be extremely valuable and a lot of information was shared with the Johannesburg branch by the member who attended. There were also great contacts made with other military associations for example the 32 Bn veterans association, and the 61 Mechanized veterans association.

Voortrekker Monument Pro Patria Veterans Show - 2nd May 2022. On 2 May both Central Wits & Pretoria branches shared a table at the first Pro Patria Military Show at Voortrekker Monument. This was an excellent opportunity again, for both branches to be able to work closer together and help forge a closer comradeship for the greater good of the South African Legion. Some six thousand patrons visited the show where the Legion including most veteran associations on the reef, showcased their wares and lobbied to recruit new members. The event was a great success with old soldiers reminiscing & catching up on old times. Books sales and related memorabilia were brisk with our

Members of the newly elected Rosedale Service Centre committee.



A scene from the Transvaal Scottish Association Lunch.

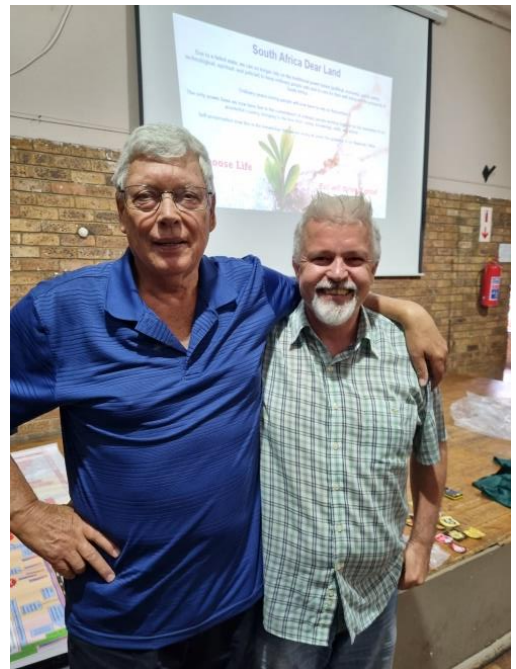
The Johannesburg – Central Witwatersrand Branch team waiting for the judges during the potjie competition.





The Johannesburg – Central Witwatersrand Branch captain (with the hat), Lgr Mike Ribí, ensuring that all is ready for the judges during the potjie competition.

Maj Gen De Vries, SA Army Retired, with Lgr Marice Paoli during the UAV Civilian Safety Workshop.



Lgr Fernando Alves, Lgr. Maurice Paoli, Lgr. Mike Ribí, Lgr Derek Morgan from the Johannesburg – Central Witwatersrand Branch at the Pro Patria Military Veterans Show.

booth making some R2000 in sales from raffle tickets, Legion poppies, badges and similar. The event was the second collaboration between the two branches where earlier both units celebrated their respective centenaries in September 2021. We plan to repeat the collaboration at the same event in November later this year.

Jeppy Boys High School Piping Competition Gathering – 14 May 2022. One of the biggest supporters of the Johannesburg branch of the Poppy Appeal over many years has been the Jeppy Boys High School. We have always received very generous donations from them, and the school has been very supportive of the Poppy Appeal, undertaking to take a lot of tins in November, even during the Covid lockdown there was some support from the school. This year the Johannesburg Branch made an exerted effort to support the school, with one of their events, namely the School Pipe and drums gathering competition. This was well appreciated by the school and gave the Johannesburg branch yet another great opportunity to network with the public and increase the SA Legion's profile in the public eye.

Lgrs at the Companies Gardens Cape Town (Moth 95th). Three Legionnaires who are also Moths attended the Moth 95th celebrations in May. They were comfortably housed at the Rosedale Legion facilities which are very central for visitors to Cape Town. Speaking of facilities the flat has everything one requires & made for an enjoyable stay. The Great War gun at the Companies Gardens is a Vickers 6" breach loading Howitzer which the restoration committee of the SA Gunners Association have been working on for several years. Six guns of the Nugent battery were gifted to South Africa after the war & are placed around SA as memorials.

Restoration of Great War Gun JOHANNESBURG Zoo – 31 May 2022. The Johannesburg - Central Witwatersrand Branch was invited to attend the unveiling of the restored World War 1 gun at the Johannesburg Zoo recently. The SA Gunners restoration committee Chaired by Gen Anderson (a member of Johannesburg – Central Witwatersrand Branch have restored a number of the six guns located in main centres in SA, These guns served at Delville Wood and were returned to South Africa by the instruction of Major General Tin Linkin. The 6" Howitzers were names Nugent Battery after Major Percy Nugent George Fitzpatrick (the son of Sir Percy) who lies buried in Flanders Field. The restoration of the gun at the zoo was completed in 2021 and unveiled on 31 May 2022. More information can be found on the gunners' website under Heritage Portal. The places where the other five guns are located are Company Gardens Cape Town, Kimberly, Union Buildings (Pretoria), Warriors Gate Durban & Queens Fort Museum Port Elizabeth. The project to restore the guns is common knowledge and whilst in Cape Town during the Moth 95th in May the Johannesburg Legionnaires from Central Wits Branch visited the gun at the Companies Gardens (behind the pools of reflection & the Cenotaph). The gun is in good condition still with the plaque missing but this will be replaced with a resin version later.

Johannesburg Regimental Association Annual Dinner – 3 June 2022. This was a very good dinner, well organized by the Johannesburg Regiment Association. Lgr. John Wilson and Lgr. Maurice Paoli attended the dinner. The guest speaker was Brig. General Lawrence Smith from the Infantry Formation. The topic touches on the current uncertainties curtly in the world, especially post the Covid lockdowns, and the importance of the various association to continue. The evening served as a great opportunity to spread the identity of the SA Legion to the various veterans' associations present.

Members of the Johannesburg – Central Witwatersrand Branch that attended the Jeppe Boys High School piping competitions are from left to right Lgr Derek Morgan, Lgr Allen Selesnick, Lgr Maurice Paoli, Lgr Brin Smith (Nat Pres), Lgr Anthony Mc Callen, Lgr Edwin Wilkin, Lgr Mavis Knight.



Members from the Johannesburg – Central Witwatersrand Branch that attended the restoration of the Great War Gun in the Johannesburg Zoo are from left to right; SAL NP Lgr Brian Smith, Gunner Albert Pestana (JOHANNESBURG Gunner Association Chairman), Lgr Fernando Alves, Lgr. Mark Louw (SAL Johannesburg _ Central Witwatersrand Branch Chairman), Lgr. Derek Morgan, Gunner Kevin Ashton (Chairman Gunner's Association of SA), Sven Smuts-Muller,

Attendees at the Johannesburg Regimental Association Dinner were from left to right: Lt Cdr. Hewitt Frieslaar, Lt Col (ret) Spike Bekker (TSA), Lgr Maurice Paoli, Lt. Col Donald Smythe (TS), Glen Lambert (Para ass).





Left – right: Lgrs from Johannesburg - Central Wits Branch: Mark Louw, Stuart Moll, and Eddie Welkin May 2022 at newly refurbished 6" Delville Wood Gun from Nugent Battery

Members of the Johannesburg – Central Witwatersrand Branch at Rosedale Cape Town office.



Lgrs: Ray, Derek & Mark at the MOTH 95th with Miss Murphy at the Castle Cape Town.

Johannesburg Central Wits Branch AGM – 25 June 2022. The Johannesburg Central Wits Branch held its centenary AGM at the Fairmount Bowls Club on 25 June. The event was well attended by members and a few visitors including the Gauteng region Chairman Andre de Gange and Debbie Taylor. Also in attendance, as a branch member was the National President Brian Smith. The usual agenda was followed, with reports from the Chairman and treasurer taken care of the new executive was voted to their positions under the watchful eye of the NP Brian Smith who presided over the proceedings. This was followed by a light lunch of lasagne. A vote of thanks to the National President and Regional Chairman and to Fairmount Bowls Club for hosting the event.

SA Indian Legion Johannesburg Branch Annual Gala Dinner – 2 July 2022. The Indian Legion hosted its annual dinner in Johannesburg at the Qurtuba Convention Centre in Linbro Park Johannesburg. This was the beginning of the planned annual event to honour Indian Legion members for services to the branch including their spouses who work hard to support the branch. The Johannesburg Legion met and networked with the Indian Legion members discussing matters of interest common to both organisations.

Johannesburg Branch Award - 9 July 2022. At the branch meeting held on 9 July, the branch chairman, Lgr. Mark Louw was awarded a certificate of merit for the outstanding work he has been doing for the branch, and the many, many years he has tirelessly offered up his time for the Johannesburg branch as the SA Legion as a whole.

Cenotaph Work Party Delville Wood – 16 July 2022. The Deville Wood service took a lot of planning and coordination between the Johannesburg branch, the Transvaal Scottish association and the Johannesburg municipality. It was already identified that the cenotaph would require cleaning ahead of the parade on Sunday 17 July. The grounds surrounding the cenotaph needed some garden and cleaning maintenance. The work party on Saturday before the service comprising of Maurice, Matthew and Mark. The grounds that the Johannesburg municipality had allowed going into seed were cut back of weeds and Kakki-bos. The Cenotaph was scrubbed clean of all graffiti and highveld dust fitting the honour of the men represented by the edifice. The grounds & roads were swept of dirt after which the infamous chicken parade sorted out the litter and waste left there by the vagrants. Well done chaps for a job well done.

Wine in Memory of the Fallen – Delville Wood. Delville Wood wine was on sale at the Delville Wood Service on 17 July where a portion of the proceeds was paid to the SA Legion Johannesburg Central Witwatersrand Branch as part of the fundraising project for indigent veterans. The labels on each bottle had a Delville Wood motif. The branch sold 10 mixed cases raising much-needed funds for our veterans' fund.

Speaker of Johannesburg Awards Dinner. The speaker of Johannesburg award dinner held at the Johannesburg City Chambers in recognition of veterans who have assisted the city in events of a cultural & civil nature, including hosting parades & services, and charity events. After the speeches and a one-man show regarding the Great War, awards were presented by the Speaker of Johannesburg, Counsellor Vasco de Gama.



Attendees at the Annual General Meeting of the Johannesburg – Central Witwatersrand Branch were Left – Right: Brian Lewis (Treasurer) visitor Sidney Knowlik, Sven Smuts-Muller, Allen Selesnik, Derek Morgan, Mike Ribi, Andre le Grange (Gauteng Chairman) Rubin Ezekowitz, Debbie Taylor (Nat Communications) Fernando Alves, Joanne Welkin, Eddie Welk



Attendees at the dinner of the Johannesburg Branch of the South African Indian Legion Left – Right: Miss India Johannesburg, Maj Gen Lawrence Smith (SA Army Retired), Mrs Smith, Lgrs: Fernando, Mark, Maurice & National President Brian Smith.



Lgr. Mark Louw receiving the award certificate and Poppy Appeal historical model vehicle from the branch secretary Lgr. Maurice Paoli on behalf of the National President.



Matthew Louw removing all the litter around the Scottish Memorial prior to the Battle of Delville Wood Commemoration Service the next day.

Delville Wood wine that were sold after the Battle of Delville Wood Commemoration Service as part of the fund raising for the Johannesburg – Central Witwatersrand Branch.



Members of the Johannesburg – Central Witwatersrand Branch that attended the Speaker of Johannesburg Award Ceremony were from left to right; Lgr. Fernando Alves, Lgr. Derek Morgan, Lgr. Allen Selesnick.



The judges tasting the soup prepared by the Johannesburg – Central Witwatersrand Branch team during the UAV soup competition.

The stand of the Johannesburg – Central Witwatersrand Branch at the UAV soup competition.



SA Legion Johannesburg - Central Wits compete at the UVA (United Veterans Association) Soup competition – on 6 August 2022. On 6 August, the Johannesburg branch competed in a soup completion hosted by the UVA. It was decided to make two types of soup on the day, namely the Portuguese Chorizo soup and a traditional Italian Minestrone soup. After setting a very smart-looking gazebo decorated with paraphernalia from the 1st world war, the 2nd world war and the border campaign, the table was set for the judges to mark the Johannesburg branch's entry. The Johannesburg branch received 2nd place, with a lot of enthusiasm, from all the other associations competing.

Central Wits Branch has a new Badge. After seven years in limbo, the Central Wits Branch was reconstituted in 2018. The branch has not been idle and has worked to build up membership to service the needs of the veterans in Johannesburg. The branch faced a complete breakdown of communication with the veteran associations including military units in Johannesburg & has worked to re-establish our network with these units. Remembrance services at schools are once again attended and we work closely with the Soweto branch. Welfare activities have increased however, collections are nowhere near what they should be considering the size of the city and the need from indigent veterans. To build our profile the branch has formalised our communications media and created a web page (which will be finalised shortly in October). Through this portal, our email is also now under our IP and will not be changed in the future thus keeping our network of contacts. The members feel that after our centenary we modernise our activities to reflect the 21st century. To this end, we have a new branch logo and have added "Johannesburg" to the name before "Central Wits". Preserving our heritage is as important as changing to the ever-changing trends.

New email addresses:

chairman@salegionjhb.co.za secretary@salegionjhb.co.za

Website: www.salegionjhb.co.za

Lost Johannesburg Branch Banner. The branch was re-formalised after several years in limbo. The members then started looking for the branch assets and related regalia befitting a branch with 100 years under its belt. Unfortunately, very little remained and what was in evidence was claimed by Dan Pienaar House. We recently discovered some of the branch archives in a dark and dusty storeroom (which was required to make way for other equipment) including the original Johannesburg banner (of the BESL). Included was the Johannesburg charter in very good condition stating the branch establishment in September 1921. In the interim, the branch could not operate without a banner and a new version was manufactured including a Gauteng banner.

PORT ELIZABETH

Regular EXCO meetings were held. The branch also, sadly, said goodbye to one of our stalwart members, Lgr. Lorna Els, who recently passed onto higher service.



The new branch badge of the Johannesburg – Central Witwatersrand Branch.



The lost Johannesburg Standard.



The new Johannesburg – Central Witwatersrand Branch standard.

SOWETO

SOWETO Branch AGM - 9 July 2022. Held on 9 July 22 at Dube Chapel Soweto. A good turnout was present including members of the local community. The future of the branch was discussed in detail with the past Chairman Lgr Jones presenting a PowerPoint presentation of the position of the branch including the future. The liabilities of the branch were debated in detail and a plan to find solutions for membership and fundraising. There is much to be done but the branch is an important contributor to the SA Legion. The history of the branch needs to be remembered where veterans of the First & Second World Wars worked & sacrificed for the people of South Africa. In recent years veterans have also been part of the branch however unfortunately these are no longer members due to various matters. The Chapel & Community Centre serves the Dube (central Soweto) as a congregation place, hosting church services, birthday parties & the SA Legion monthly meetings. Some building maintenance is needed but in general, the place is clean and secure, and this can be credited to the executive who is managing the property. Congratulations on the new committee voted to their posts.

SOUTH AFRICAN LEGION ACCOMMODATION

B.E.S.L COURT – DURBAN

B.E.S.L. Court was erected in 1956 with a National War Fund bond, which was repaid in 1986. The land was bought from the Durban Corporation in 1996 and paid for by 1998. The multi-dwelling five-storey block of flats consists of 24 two-bedroom, 17 1-bedroom, 2 bachelor flats, four 1-room quarters, staff accommodation, storerooms, undercover parking for 22 vehicles and additional secure open parking for 10 cars. Furthermore, a storeroom (converted for recreational activities of tenants, no longer used) became the Durban Branch office in 2015.

COMMEMORATIONS

SS MENDI AT AVALON HOSTED BY SOWETO BRANCHES 19 FEBRUARY 2022

The annual *SS Mendi* service hosted by the Soweto branch of the SA Legion & the City of Johannesburg is an annual event held at the Avalon Cemetery in Soweto. This year the event was held on 19 February and was well-organised by the Soweto Branch vice chair Lgr Arthur Khosa who was also the service Program Director. The speaker of Johannesburg Cllr Vasco de Gama planted a wreath for the people of the city and was supported by most of the military units including veterans' associations in Johannesburg. Some 607 crosses were planted in front of the cenotaph, as a visual testament to each man lost to the sea on that day.

RAND REBELLION 1922 – 12 MARCH 2022.

In memory of the sad and terrible event of the Rand Rebellion of 1922, an armed uprising that is also referred to as the Rand Revolt or Red Revolt. This occurred during a period of economic depression following World War I, when mining companies were faced with rising costs and a fall in the price of gold.... the Rand Rebellion of 1922 was arranged by the Johannesburg history association and the Johannesburg Municipality arranged the service that was attended by SA legion Johannesburg branch.



Newly elected committee of the Soweto Branch Left – Right: Lgrs Thabiso Mthembu (Vice Chairman), Thuli Semela (Secretary), Arthur Khosa (Chairman), Sarah Makanda (Treasurer).



B.E. S. L. Court Lot 542E Umbilo of the Townlands of Durban No. 173 (3 027 square metres), 839 Umbilo Road, Durban.



*Members of the Johannesburg – Central Witwatersrand Branch that attended the SS Mendi Memorial Service in the Avalon Cemetery, Soweto
Left – Right: Lgrs: Maurice Paoli, Mark Louw, Fernando Alves, Derek Morgan.*

The National President, Lgr Brian Smith, in attendance at the Rand Rebellion 1922 Commemoration Service.



Major General Roy Anderson laid a wreath on behalf of the Gunners Association at the Rand Rebellion 1922 Commemoration Service. He is also a member of the Johannesburg – Central Witwatersrand Branch.

Wreaths were laid by Brig. Gen (ret) Roy Anderson on the behalf of the Gunners' association who lost their lives. (Gen Anderson is also a member of the Johannesburg branch of the SA Legion). The SA Legion National President – Lgr. Brian Smith laid a wreath on the behalf of the SA Legion. Lgr. Maurice Paoli was also in attendance at the service.

GUNNERS' MEMORIAL SERVICE – 15 MAY 2022

The National Gunners' Memorial Service took place at the National Gunners Memorial Site in Potchefstroom on Sunday 15 May 2022, in memory of all the Gunners who paid the ultimate sacrifice defending South Africa in the various wars and services. The Johannesburg branch laid the wreath on the behalf of the SA Legion.

BATTLE OF DELVILLE WOOD COMMEMORATION SERVICE BLOEMFONTEIN – 10 JULY 2022.

The Annual Battle of Delville Wood Commemoration Service took place at Springbok Park on 10 July 2022. The service was streamed live, and the replay is available on The SA Legion Free State Region Facebook page. Members of the SA Legion, the Air force Association, Moth's, PVO, VK recces and Club 55 were in attendance. Apologies were received from the MOTHWA'S, SAWV, ARMC, BSAPRA AND CLUB OMUTHIYA.

BATTLE OF DELVILLE WOOD COMMEMORATION SERVICE – UNITED KINGDOM

The Annual Battle of Delville Wood Commemoration Service took place at the South African Cenotaph, East Sheen Cemetery – Richmond, the United Kingdom on Saturday 16 July 2022. Following the religious service in the chapel, the attendees marched to the cenotaph where several wreaths were laid. The service was followed by a get-together.

BATTLE OF DELVILLE WOOD COMMEMORATION SERVICE DURBAN

Durban Branch held a very 'low key' Delville Wood Commemoration Service in front of the Delville Wood Cross at the Cenotaph on Sunday, 17 July 2022 - low key because there were no SANDF troops, etc. on parade. Nevertheless, we had a great turnout of military veterans and other public supporters! Cllr Ntando Khuzwayo (represented the Mayor of eThekweni) and Branch Chaplain, Lgr Fr Thami Shange assisted with the Service. At the end of the Service, Branch President Lgr Pat Acutt presented George Jacobs with a Certificate of Appreciation for voluntarily undertaking to regularly maintain the Delville Wood Cross in excellent condition.

DELVILLE WOOD SERVICE AT THE VIEW TRANSVAAL SCOTTISH - 17 JULY 2022

The Annual Battle of Delville Wood Commemoration Service took place on Sunday 17 July 2022 at the Scottish Memorial outside The View. Hosted by the SA Legion Johannesburg Central Wits, the MOTH and the Transvaal Scottish Regimental Association and held at the cenotaph at the View in front of the Transvaal Scottish Regimental Association in Parktown Johannesburg. Some 80 veterans mustered for the parade on a very cold Sunday Morning. Around 140 braved the weather to honour the men who held the most difficult salient on the British front. Delville Wood is known as the death's corner where

Lgr Maurice Paoli, from the Johannesburg – Central Witwatersrand Branch, saluting after laying the wreath on behalf of the SA Legion at the Annual Gunners Memorial Service.



Attendees to the Battle of Delville Wood Commemoration Service in Bloemfontein were from left to right Martin Janse van Rensburg (VK Recces), Gavin Lavis (SA Air Force Association), Lgr, G van Heerden (SA Legion Bfn Branch committee member), Lgr, JJ van der Merwe (PPFL), Chaplin Tommy Lessing (Moth and SA Legion Bfn Branch Chaplin), Lgr, Willie Janse van Rensburg (SA Legion Bloemfontein Branch Chairman), Butch Williamson(PVO).

Lgr Willie Janse Van Rensburg addressing the attendees at the Battle of Delville Wood Commemoration Service in Bloemfontein.





Standard bearers formed up prior to the commencing of the Battle of Delville Wood Commemoration Service in Richmond, The United Kingdom.

Attendees in the Chapel during the Battle of Delville Wood Commemoration Service at Richmond, The United Kingdom.



Sounding of the Last Post prior the laying of wreaths at the South African Cenotaph, Richmond, The United Kingdom during the Battle of Delville Wood Commemoration Service.



A group photo of the attendees to the Battle of Delville Wood Commemoration Service in Durban.



Attendees to the Battle of Delville Wood Commemoration Service, Durban.

Durban Branch President Lgr Pat Acutt presented George Jacobs with a Certificate of Appreciation for voluntarily undertaking to regularly maintain the Delville Wood Cross in excellent condition.





Veterans marching to the Scottish Memorial for the Battle of Delville Wood Commemoration Service in Johannesburg.

Some of the wreaths that were laid during the Battle of Delville Wood Commemoration Service at the Scottish Memorial, Johannesburg.



Some of the standard bearers that attended the Battle of Delville Wood Commemoration Service at the Scottish Memorial, Johannesburg.

the enemy concentrated their fire. For five nights and six days, the South Africans held out losing 75% of the Brigade.

BATTLE OF DELVILLE WOOD COMMEMORATION SERVICE – PORT ELIZABETH – 17 JULY 2022.

The branch was invited to attend the annual Delville Wood Memorial Parade hosted by the Aloe White Ensign Shellhole (MOTH) on 17 July 2022. The Parade was very well attended with +- 150 Veterans being present. The SA Legion Port Elizabeth Branch Standard was front and centre and all Legionaries on parade were correctly attired. After the memorial service, all present adjourned for “Harmony” and a light lunch in the Shellhole proper.

BATTLE OF DELVILLE WOOD COMMEMORATION SERVICE – PRETORIA -

Due to security reasons, the Annual Battle of Delville Wood Commemoration Service was moved from the Memorial in Burghers Park in Pretoria to the MOTH Evenden House in Lyttelton. The service was attended by numerous veteran organisations. Lgr André Le Grange (Jnr) laid a wreath on behalf of the South African Legion. Photos courtesy of Janet Höll.

61 MECHANISED BATTALION GROUP MEMORIAL SERVICE - 20 AUGUST 2022

This memorial service is held each year in memory of not only all the fallen during the period from 1978 until 2005 but their grandparents, parents, brothers, sisters, and children who were affected by the border war. Lgr. Maurice Paoli, and Lgr. Craig Franck attended the service and wreath laying ceremony held at the Ditsong National Museum for Military History.

BORDER BOYS PARADE PRETORIA

The Annual Border Boys Parade in Pretoria took place at the MOTH Cottages in Eloffsdal on Sunday morning, 21 August 2022. The parade was organized by the MOTH and was attended by various veteran organisations. Following the religious service, wreaths were laid by representatives of the various veteran organisations. Lgr André Le Grange (Jnr), Chairperson of the Pretoria Branch, laid a wreath on behalf of the South African Legion. Following the parade, attendees enjoyed a traditional “Baal”. Photos courtesy Janet Höll.

OBITUARIES

ALEXANDRIA

Lgr O. Davies.

BRAKPAN

Lgr J Esterhuizen.

Lgr (Ms) A. Brewer.

Attendees at the Battle of Delville Wood Commemoration Service at Talana, Dundee.



Veterans on parade at the Battle of Delville Wood Commemoration Service in Port Elizabeth.

Attendees at the Battle of Delville Wood Commemoration Service in Pretoria.





Wreaths laid during the Battle of Delville Wood Commemoration Service in Pretoria.



Lgr André Le Grange (Jnr), Chairman of the Pretoria Branch with District Old Bill Thinus Prinsloo, who is also a member of the Pretoria Branch after the Battle of Delville Wood Commemoration Service in Pretoria.



Enjoying refreshments after the Battle of Delville Wood Commemoration Service in Pretoria are Veteran Colin Bowring and Lgr Kevin Bolton from the Pretoria Branch.

Lgr Maurice Paoli with man's best friend after the 61 Mech Veterans Association parade.



Lgr André Le Grange (Jnr) laying a wreath on behalf of the Legion at the Border Boys Parade in Pretoria.

EAST LONDON

Lgr G. Bell.

NORTH COAST

Lgr W. Venter.

PIETERMARITZBURG

Lgr A Lloyd

PORT ALFRED

Lgr M. Koning.

PORT ELIZABETH

Lgr L. Els.

SOUTH AFRICAN LEGION



Springbok is the Journal of the South African Legion, ISSN number 2221-9854. It is compiled by Lgr Charles Ross for the Communication and Liaison Portfolio. Body text is set in Calibri 11 and headers, Calibri 12 pt.

SOUTH AFRICAN LEGION STRUCTURE

Patron in Chief: President of the Republic of South Africa

Past Presidents for Life

- Lgr Chris PC de B Venter.
- Lgr Jurie Van der Merwe.

Honorary Life Past President

- Lgr Brian Klopper.

Honorary Life Vice Presidents:

- Lgr Jurie van der Merwe.
- Lgr Arthur Blake.
- Lgr Bazil Kriel.
- Lgr Rick Andriès.
- Lgr Quentin Gibson.

National President: Lgr Brian Smith.

National V/President: Vacant.

National Treasurer: Lgr Johan Johnson.

National Secretary: Vacant.

National Comms and Liaison: Lgr Debra De Billot.

National Wellbeing and Relief: Lgr Rick Andriès.

National Ceremonial/Conduct: Lgr Peter Smit.

National Fundraising: Vacant.

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- Benoni
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- Brakpan
- Cape Town
- Johannesburg - Central
- Johannesburg - Witwatersrand
- Durban
- East London
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- Europe
- Grahamstown
- Kagiso-West Rand
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- Lower South Coast
- North Coast
- Pietermaritzburg
- Port Alfred
- Port Elizabeth
- Pretoria
- Scotland
- Soweto
- Strand

Regional Chairmen:

- Cape: Lgr Ray Nessel.
- Eastern Cape: Lgr Brian Klopper.
- Free State: Lgr Deon Bester.
- Gauteng: Lgr A. Le Grange (Jnr) Acting.
- Kwa-Zulu Natal: Lgr Steve Leahy.
- United Kingdom: Lgr Cameron Kinnear.
- Europe: Lgr Andrew Bergman.