

# Springbok

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**WREATH LAYERS AT THE BATTLE OF DELVILLE WOOD MEMORIAL SERVICE AT THE DELVILLE WOOD MEMORIAL IN FRANCE FROM LEFT TO RIGHT MAJ. (RETD) TERENCE MILNE, MAJ. GEN (RETD) ROY ANDERSON AND LGR ANDREW BERGMAN. (Both Maj. Milne and Gen. Anderson are members of the South African Legion - Ed.)**

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## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Welcome to this fourth edition of Springbok in 2023. The year 2023 is certainly on a gallop as we hear those in Grade 12 already talking about end-of-year exams.

This edition of Springbok is personally a rather unique one as it was ten years ago that I first published an edition of Springbok in August 2013. In those days I compiled the bulk of the contents whereafter it was sent to the National President who added his message. It was then sent to the National Headquarters where it was printed and distributed by mail to each member. There were only two editions per year, at the end of June and at the end of December each year. This concept was amended at the National Congress of 2018 where it was

agreed that it would be published every two months from 2019 onwards. Due to the increasing cost of printing and postage, the Springbok is now distributed to Chairpersons of each branch who should distribute it to the members of their branch.

Since 2013 the format of the Springbok has undergone some changes, from an A5 double-column printed edition to an A4 single-column electronic edition. The October 2019 edition featured a new banner which was designed by the Late Legionnaire Johann Kruger. Another highlight was the special edition that featured the South African Legion Tour to the centenary commemoration of the Battle of Delville Wood in Franch in 2016. There have also been some bumper editions making up to 80 pages. In more recent years copies of the Springbok were also loaded in the ISSUU and HTML websites with the link posted on the various Facebook Pages of the Legion. The links have also been included in the very popular Military Despatches, an electronic newsletter with a huge distribution. Interesting stories of the Legion have also been sent for inclusion in the Military Veteran Newsletter "WEL EN WEE".

This could not have been achieved without the support of every Legionnaire who, over the years, has sent stories, reports, and photos of the activities of the Legion in their area. ***I sincerely thank you for that and encourage you to continue to ensure that the activities of the Legion are widely publicised.***



## **BRANCH NEWS**

### **CAPE TOWN**

**Military Society Meeting.** Operation “Sea Fox” was a special forces attack diving operation that took place in Namibie Harbour in southern Angola on 4 June 1986 and was followed up by a counterstrike named “Drosdy”. Johan Hechter, the dive commander of this operation, regaled the audience at the Military Society’s monthly talk at Rosedale on 20 July. At the closure of the meeting, Dr Helena Komorova-Cigar of the Russian Club used the opportunity to donate various military books. John Verster (Maj. Retd, MMM) who had contributed to the translation thereof and seen active duty in Angola, accepted one of the books.

**Rosedale Service Centre AGM.** More than 80 people attended the Rosedale Service Centre committee’s AGM on Wednesday 5 July. Whilst this figure is impressive, there were very few non-resident members at this important annual event. Those elected to serve on the incoming committee were Patrick Jennings, Gordon de la Chaumette, Neville Petiteaud, Maria Grace, Don Stokes (secretary), Jenny Jewell, John Gandy (vice-chair) Joyce Gleeson (treasurer), Del Davies (chair) & Isabella Petiteaud. Outgoing chair Tim Reilly had good things to say in his Chairman’s Report and extended thanks to both management and volunteers for their hard work and support over his 2-term of office.

**Rosedale Dinner.** The Cape Town branch of the SA Legion hosts a dinner for Rosedale residents in December every year and decided to extend the exercise to include non-resident legionnaires at a, so to speak, Christmas-in-July event. So, on 14 July 86 guests were treated to a slap-up three-course meal with wine courtesy of Capaia Wine Estate, Durbanville.

**Watching Rugby in the Rosedale Club.** The threatened rain didn’t dampen the spirits of avid ‘Bok rugby fans who turned out to watch the Test against the All Blacks in the Rosedale Club on Saturday 16 July, their enthusiasm sustained by egg- ‘n-bacon rolls and mugs of coffee.

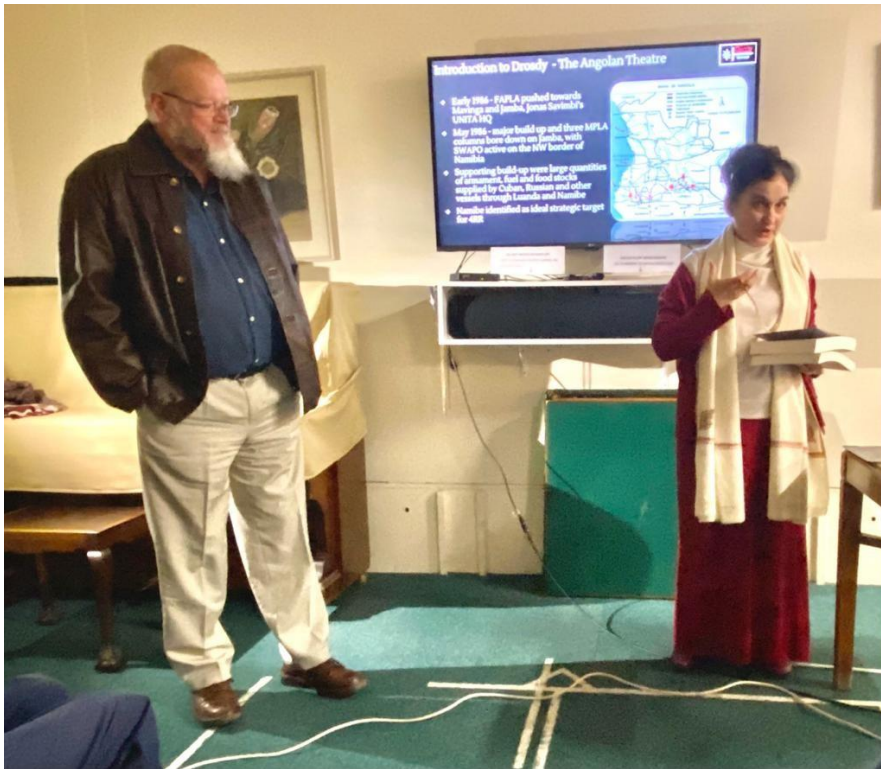
**Dukes (Cape Town Rifles Lunch.** The Rosedale Club has become the ideal place for people of like-minded disciplines to gather – and so it was again on Saturday 29 July when members of the Dukes (Cape Town Rifles) met over lunch and were joined by their fellow compatriots from Cape Town Highlanders and Transvaal Scottish.

**Rosedale Winning Hats.** On Friday 4 August the residents of Rosedale donned their funniest hats for the ‘Winning Hats Competition’. Ed Muller and Gail Thomson are awarded for the most innovative hats, while Shirley Nel’s orchid-bedecked bonnet wins her a R 500,00 shopping voucher.

### **DURBAN**

BRANCH EVENTS. Please offer to assist/be in attendance (where possible/applicable):

**Delville Wood Remembrance Service.** 10:30 on Sunday, 23 July at the Cenotaph, Farewell Square, Dorothy Nyembe (previously Gardiner) Street. Please attend with your family, if possible. Be early to get good seats and then enjoy refreshments, courtesy of the Mayor’s office, at the City Hall afterwards.



*During the Military History Society meeting John Verster (Maj. Retd, MMM) accepts one of the books donated by Dr Helena Komorova-Cigar of the Russian Club.*



*Those elected to serve on the incoming committee were standing Patrick Jennings, Gordon de la Chaumette, Neville Petiteaud, Maria Grace, Don Stokes (secretary), Jenny Jewell, John Gandy (vice-chair) & seated Joyce Gleeson (treasurer), Del Davies (chair) & Isabella Petiteaud.*



*Outgoing Chairperson, Tim Reilly, receives a gift in recognition of his leadership from branch manager David Holmes. Joyce Gleeson & Del Davies applaud warmly.*



*Attendees at the Legion dinner were from left to right Rev Ralph Thornley, Tony Monk, Ken Newton and his wife, Karen.*





*Chairperson of the Cape Town Branch, Lgr Ray Nasset, welcomes guests at the Legion dinner.*



*Residents watching the rugby test between the Springboks and the All Blacks in the Rosedale Club.*



*Alan Brashaw, Don Stokes and John Dorrington enjoy a pre-prandial drink at the bar prior to the start of the Dukes lunch.*



*Jacques van Wyk, Peter Bolton, Magda Bolton and Wendy Pattison enjoy the camaraderie at the Dukes lunch.*





*Garth, Velia and Bianca Garnham tuck into a veritable spread, courtesy of the Rosedale Kitchen during the Dukes lunch.*



*Chairperson of the Cape Town Branch of the South African Legion, Lgr Ray Nessel, ucille Byrnes, Chaplain Anthony Gregorowski and branch manager David Holmes during the Dukes lunch.*





*Smiles all round as (King) Quentin Dixon, (Queen) Barbara Vivier and (Court Jester) Ed Muller enjoy a round of celebratory drinks during the Rosedale Winning hats competition.*



*Ed Muller and Gail Thomson are awarded for the most innovative hats, while Shirley Nel's orchid-bedecked Bonnet during the Rosedale Winning hats competition.*



**Amashova Cycle Race.** Kindly consider assisting with our refreshment table en route from Pietermaritzburg to Durban on Sunday, 22 October: it's a great day out, so please telephone Brad on 031 205 0578 and ask him to add your name/s to our list of volunteers.

**Poppy Day.** Again, we need many volunteers to assist with our annual Poppy Day Collection on Saturday, 11 November (which is also Remembrance Day). So, nearer the time, please put up your hands to collect for an hour or so at a shopping mall/centre conveniently close to you. Many thanks.

## **PORT ELIZABETH**

Much has happened during the months since the last Newsletter. The AGM came and went, a number of parades came and went but the most current situation is the wanton destruction of the various War Memorials, not just in South Africa but in other parts of the world too, nothing appears to be sacred anymore – how long before somebody tries to vandalise the great Menin Gate Memorial. The President of the Gift of the Givers said, in a recent interview, that “Memorial must be preserved irrespective of how much they are disliked, because it is from these memorials that we can learn” wise words.

## **SOUTH AFRICAN LEGION EUROPE BRANCH REGISTERED AS ‘FOUNDATION’ IN THE NETHERLANDS.**

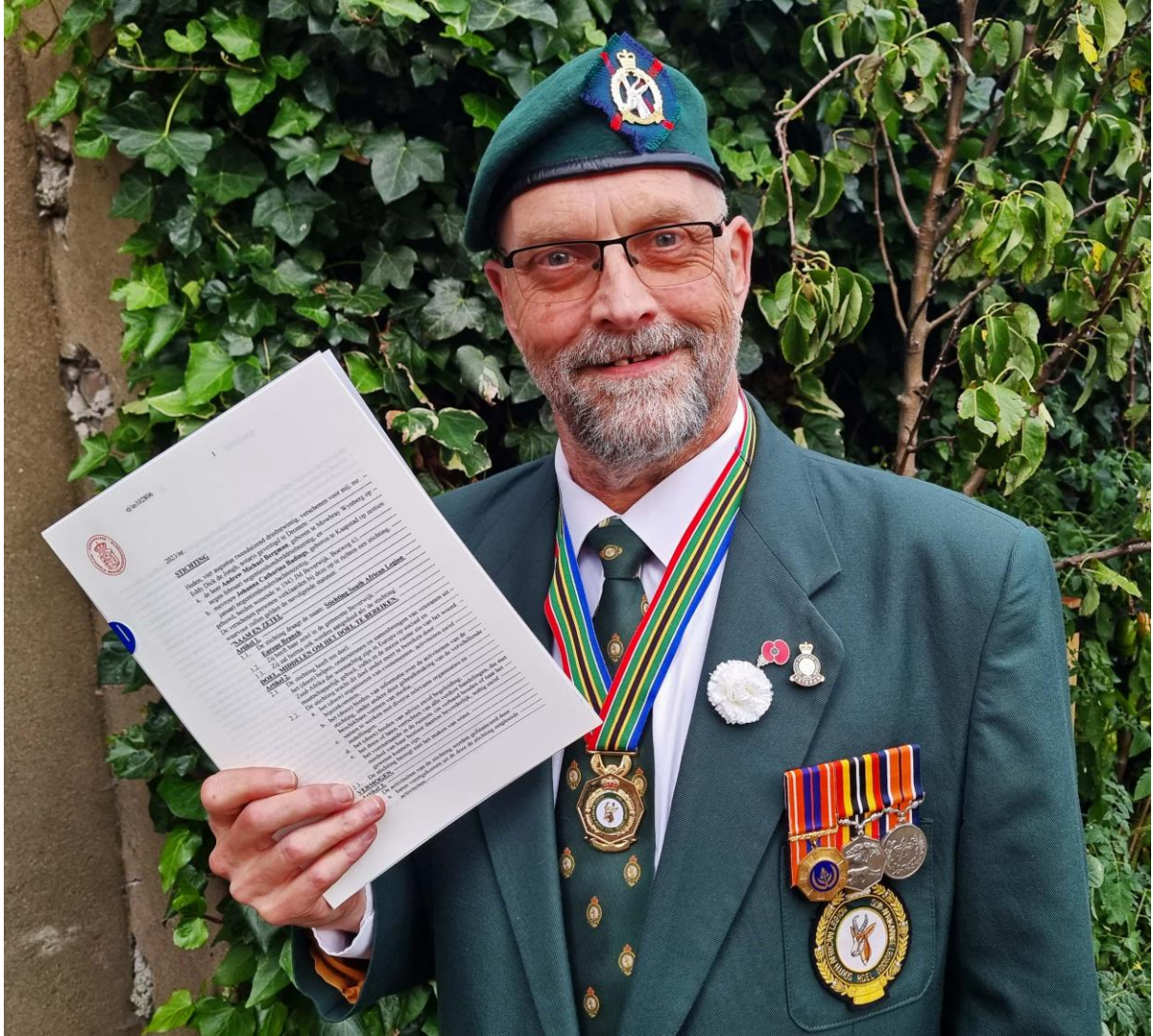
**AMSTERDAM – On August 04, 2023, the South African Legion Europe Branch, was officially registered by the Notarial Act, as a Foundation (Stichting), based in the Netherlands. Several years in planning, this registration marks the ‘coming of age’ of the Branch, which will still be an integral part of (and answerable to) the greater UK & Europe Region. Practically, the registration allows us to raise funds and operate as a non-profit organisation in Europe, which offers many administrative benefits.**

The Europe Branch was founded in 2014 as an ‘outpost’ of the SA Legion UK, in response to the growing number of South African military veterans, their families, and descendants who have settled in Continental Europe. The outpost grew over the years into a fully-fledged branch, as more expat South African veterans became aware of its existence, so that it now boasts members across the Continent. The Europe Branch, like our comrades in England and Scotland, has also been a ‘landing base’ for existing SA Legion members moving northwards.

While the South African veterans in Europe tend live further apart than their colleagues in the UK, in most countries, one is constantly reminded the history of the various wars, from the Crusades, through Napoleon, and later WWI and WWII, as many Europeans truly live among the remaining remnants.

Our regular annual events including the February 21 [SS Mendi Remembrance](#) in Noordwijk, the Netherlands, coincides with Armed Forces Day in SA, and since its small beginning as an SA Legion-organised event, it has grown to be co-organised with the South African Defence Attaché and the Municipality of Noordwijk, and guests include military and civil dignitaries from across the globe.

The [Armistice Day remembrance at Ypres/Ieper](#) in Belgium, and the [Commonwealth Remembrance Sunday service](#) in The Hague, are well attended, and individual members are encouraged to join,



*Legionnaire Andrew Bergman, Chairperson of the Europe Branch of the South African Legion with the registration document.*



participate, and 'fly the flag' at [veterans' and remembrance events](#) in the country or city where they live.

Legionnaires also frequently travel from the UK or elsewhere to the Netherlands to take part in historic [Operation Market Garden](#) remembrance events and reenactment jumps.

Strategically, maintaining even a small but visible SA Legion presence at international events, allows Legionnaires from anywhere in the world, to be welcomed and recognised.

Legionnaires are also encouraged to especially familiarise themselves with any South African war graves in their country or region, to lay appropriate wreaths and tributes, and report any disrepair. We liaise closely with SA Embassies abroad, and in 2022, the SA Legion Europe Branch joined South African Ambassador to plant fresh [rose bushes at the SS Mendi graves](#) in Noordwijk. In December 2022, the Branch [presented a new flagpole to the South African Embassy in The Hague](#), the Netherlands, to replace one that had 'served its time'.

So if you live in Europe and would like to become involved, either as a South African military veteran, or as a non-military associate member (see our [membership criteria](#)), you would be very [welcome to join](#).

## **COMMEMORATIONS**

### **ARQUES-LA-BATAILLE- ANNUAL COMMEMORATIONS IN MEMORY OF SOUTH AFRICAN SOLDIERS WHO FELL IN WORLD WAR 1**

On 06 July 2023, the Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa to France, H.E. Tebogo Seokolo, took part in the annual commemorations of the members of the South African Labour Corps, who laid down their lives during the Great War 1914-1918. These sons of Africa answered Europe's call when it cruelly needed them. The South African government is committed to ensuring that the memory of those who gave their lives for freedom is never forgotten. Their sacrifice and determination serve as an example to all of us.

The commemorations took place in the presence of the Sub-Prefect of Dieppe, Mr Pascal Vion, the Mayor of Arques-la-Bataille, Mrs Maryline Fournier, Mrs Nthabiseng Makuwa, General Mathibeli Lepheane, Minister Plenipotentiary and Defence attaché, at the South African Embassy in Paris, numerous members of armed forces, dignitaries and local school children.

### **SOUTH AFRICAN FALLEN COMMEMORATED IN FRANCE**

**ARQUES-LA-BATAILLE / DELVILLE WOOD – The South African Fallen of the First World War were fittingly commemorated at two separate ceremonies Arques-la-Bataille on 06 July, and at Delville Wood on 08 July.**

The events were hosted by the South African Ambassador to France, Tebogo Seokolo, who led the annual commemoration at Arques-la-Bataille\* for the members of the South African Labour Corps, who laid down their lives during the Great War 1914-1918.

The commemoration was also attended by the Sub-Prefect of Dieppe, Mr Pascal Vion, the Mayor of Arques-la-Bataille, Mrs Maryline Fournier, Mrs Nthabiseng Makuwa, General Mathibeli Lepheane, Minister Plenipotentiary and Defence attaché, at the South African Embassy in Paris, as well as numerous members of armed forces, dignitaries, and local school children.

“These sons of Africa answered Europe's call when it cruelly needed them. The South African government is committed to ensuring that the memory of those who gave their lives for freedom is never forgotten. Their sacrifice and determination serve as an example to all of us,” Ambassador Seokolo said.

**Delville Wood.** On 8 July 2023, Ambassador Seokolo hosted the Wreath-Laying Ceremony at the South African Delville Wood Memorial in Longueval, which was the epicentre of South African military action during the Battle of the Somme.

Wreaths were laid by representatives of the governments of the Australia and the UK, the South African Development Trust, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, representatives of the Gunners Association, the Delville Wood Trust, French citizens, and Community Members of Longueval, South African citizens living in France and neighbouring countries in Europe, Honorary Consul, Mr Tromeur. A wreath was laid on behalf of the South African Legion by Europe Branch Chair, Lgr. Andrew Bergman.

**Longueval.** Military guests, veterans, and civilian attendees then marched to the centre of Longueval, which has long embraced the Mémorial Sud Africain. The Mayor of Longueval, Mr Jany Fournier, led a wreath laying ceremony at the town's war memorial, and hosted a reception at Longueval town hall.

*\*The South African Native Labour Corps arrived in France early in 1917 and No.1 General Labour Hospital was established at its camp at [Arques-la-Bataille](#). Most of the burials in the cemetery are of men of the Corps, many of whom died at the hospital. The cemetery also contains a memorial to all men of the Corps who died in France. This is in the middle of the cemetery and is a Great War Stone of a grey colour, on the face of which is a concave bronze medallion with the head of a springbok in high relief; and inscribed on the stone, in English, Sesuto and Isixosa, are the words:*

*“To the memory of those Natives of the South African Labour Corps who crossed the seas in response to the call of their great Chief, King George V, and laid down their lives in France, for the British Empire, during the Great War 1914-1918, this Memorial is erected by their comrades.”*

**Report: [SA Legion \(Europe Branch\)](#) with information support from the SA Embassy Paris**

## **BATTLE OF DELVILLE WOOD MEMORIAL SERVICE PRETORIA**

The Annual Battle of Delville Wood Memorial Service took place in the Commonwealth plot of the Thaba Tshwane New Military Cemetery, Thaba Tshwane, on Sunday 16 July 2023. The event was





*Scenes from the Memorial Service at the Delville Wood Memorial and Museum (1).*







*Scenes from the Memorial Service at the Delville Wood memorial and Museum (2).*







*Scenes from the Memorial Service in Longueval (1).*





*Scenes from the Memorial Service held at Longueval (2).*



organized by the Pretoria Branch of the South African Legion. In support were the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, South African National Defence Force, Council of Military Veterans Organisations South Africa, Delville Wood Trust, and the Pretoria Memorial Services Council. Many wreaths were laid by members of the Diplomatic Corps, South African National Defence Force, and Veteran Organisations. The event received coverage in the Centurion 'Rekord' Newspaper while an article on the event was published on the Website of the South African Broadcasting Corporation.

## **OTHER STORIES**

### **SOUTH AFRICA'S COURAGE AND SACRIFICE AT DELVILLE WOOD COMMEMORATED by Janet Szabo.**

Military veterans, serving members of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF), and diplomatic representatives have honoured the memories of those who fought and died at Delville Wood during World War I.

Speaking at the annual memorial service held at the Commonwealth plot in the Thaba Tshwane New Military Cemetery, Chaplain Colonel Pieter Roos, said this was a fitting opportunity and venue to pay tribute to soldiers who were willing to lay down their lives on the battlefield. These were brave men who were willing to stand their ground; they displayed selfless devotion because of a commitment towards their country and they paid the highest price.

The Commonwealth plot contains 293 war graves from the Second World War 272 South African, 21 from the United Kingdom, one Greek, one Belgian and 1 non-war grave. It is maintained by the South African branch of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

To honour the Delville Wood sacrifices, according to long-standing tradition, a single bugler played the Last Post, which was followed by two minutes of silence, and then the Reveille to signal the end of the silence, was sounded. Wreaths were laid by representatives of Angola and Mozambique, the City of Tshwane as well as the Council for Military Veterans Organisations, the Delville Wood Trust and the South African Legion.

The Battle of Delville Wood in July 1916, was the first major engagement by the South Africans on the Western Front during the First World War. The South African Infantry Brigade had been instructed to take and hold the Wood North-East of the village of Longueval in France as it was a tactically important salient into the German lines.

Holding the wood became the most costly action the South Africans saw on the Western Front. When the Brigade was finally relieved, after six days and five nights of ferocious fighting, only 780 remained of the complement of 3 152 soldiers around 1 700 had been wounded, 763 had been killed and of these 186 were reported missing in action, presumed dead. 229,000 officers and men served with the South African Forces in the Great War. The South African Native Labour Contingent composed of unarmed Black soldiers and non-military personnel were also involved in providing labour and transport services to the soldiers serving in France and on other fronts of the war.





*Scenes from the Delville Wood Memorial Service held at the Thaba Tshwane New Military Cemetery (1).*







*Scenes from the Delville Wood Memorial Service held at the Thaba Tshwane New Military Cemetery (2).*

Around 10 000 South Africans were either killed in action or died later of their wounds. The names of all those who died in the service of the Union of South Africa are listed in a book at the Delville Wood Museum next to the memorial in France.

### **DESECRATION OF THE WALMER CENOTAPH**

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.

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. 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.

Then these villains started to dismantle the Main Cenotaph in Rink Street. As a result, a group of architects removed all the remaining bronze plaques and placed them in storage.

During the recent SA Navy visit to Port Elizabeth (now Gqeberha), members of the ships’ companies had to go to the Mendi Memorial in New Brighton to clean the memorial and surrounds so the Chief of the Navy (who hails from Motherwell in New Brighton) could lay a wreath at the Mendi Memorial.

If these people cannot even look after their own memorials, how can we expect them to look after the Older Memorial?

### **ANOTHER MAJOR MILESTONE FOR AFRICA’S ONLY SUBMARINE MUSEUM**

#### **SAS *Assegaai*.**

Nearly eight years since it closed to visitors, South Africa’s renowned submarine museum is being brought ashore thanks to two specially constructed cradles from shipbuilder Damen Shipyards Cape Town (DSCT). These were handed over to the South African Navy.

The decision to preserve the SAS *Assegaai* as an annex of the SA Naval Museum was made in 2005, with the understanding that the SA Navy could not legally provide any financial assistance, nor could it allow its personnel to work in the *Assegaai* museum. Despite this and under the auspices of the Naval Heritage Trust (NHT), a team of volunteers (who are mostly ex-submariners) started the *Assegaai* museum in 2008.





*Desecration of the Walmer Cenotaph.*



Being situated in a working naval base posed logistical challenges for the public to access the museum. Despite this, from 2010 until 2015, more than 56 000 visitors from 110 countries visited the submarine museum.

However, the biggest challenge of having the submarine in the water was the corrosive effect of steel and saltwater. The maintenance costs of keeping the submarine in water outweighed the revenue from visitor entrance fees.

When the Assegai was taken out of the water in 2015, the deterioration of its outer hull was evident. Although the submarine's interior was well-maintained, it was necessary to find a permanent solution to keep the submarine out of the water yet easily accessible.

Under the NHT, the volunteers developed a viable plan to house the submarine museum in a safe and easily accessible location. A new concrete foundation was laid at the western end of the Cole Point parking area, near the new NSRI Station 10 building and completed in December last year.

During a ceremony at Naval Base Simon's Town on 14 August 2023, Damen handed over two 7 tonne support cradles that will be used to support the submarine at its new location. The cradles were built using steel salvaged from old Damen ship transport cradles. Work began on the cradles in November 2022.

The cradles, each 3.6 metres long and 9.1 metres wide, were constructed both in the Damen yard in the Port of Table Bay and on location in Simon's Town. What made the work even more of a challenge was the constant electricity load shedding affecting the naval base.

"This definitely increased the complexity of the job," pronounced Damen Shipyards Cape Town MD Jankees Burger.

Burger noted that the involvement of civilians in the military, particularly the submarine service, is crucial. He explained that submarines primarily operate unseen, which often keeps them out of the public eye.

"Having a museum submarine helps to achieve this visibility and attracts a lot of people who are interested in seeing the 'secret service' for themselves," he continued.

C Navy, V Adm Lobese and MD of Damen Cape Town, Mr Jankees Trimpe Burger. **Photo: Dean Wingrin**  
In response, Chief of the SA Navy, Vice Admiral Monde Lobese, told the Damen employees that "without your generous sponsorship of the steel, as well as your dedicated personnel who sacrificed their free time over weekends and holidays to do the welding, today would not have been possible." The process of moving the submarine from the Synchronlift area to its new location will begin in the next few months, with the actual move planned for early 2024.

Lobese emphasized that the Naval Heritage Trust still requires a substantial amount of funding for the project.



*SAS Assegai.*





“We must all play our part in ensuring that we preserve our unique submarine heritage,” he said. “In order to put my money where my mouth is, I pledge a total of R10 000 from the Chief of the Navy Contingency fund towards this project.”

Once on site, with entrance and exit doors installed in the pressure hull, NHT will manage and operate the submarine on similar principles to those previously in place when the boat was in the water.

The Trust is currently in the process of trying to secure further sponsorship to ensure that the Submarine Museum can be realised in a reasonable time frame. Among the costs that need to be covered are R1.8 million to move the submarine and R3 million for the repair and restoration of the external hull of the vessel.

Retired Rear Admiral (JG) Digby Thomson is one of several retired navy men who is assisting on the Naval Heritage Trust Submarine Museum Project. Thomson said: “We have raised about forty percent of the money we need to move the vessel. Once we have moved her, we will cut two holes forward and aft to allow for tour groups. We will use the funds from the visitors to finalise her looks and make her more presentable to the public.”

The Assegai Submarine Museum is the last remaining of three French-built Daphné Class submarines operated by the South African Navy during the 1970s, 80s and part of the 90s and successfully operated as a museum from 2008 to 2015 with the vessel lying alongside the outer wall of the Simon’s Town harbour. After 2015, the vessel required external maintenance and was kept on the synchro lift inside the harbour. The Museum has been closed ever since.

Assegai remains part of the SA Naval Museum, under the ownership of the South African Navy. It is the only naval submarine to be preserved on the African continent. There are 124 preserved naval submarines in the world – only six are in the southern hemisphere. **Source: defenceWeb**

### **FAREWELL, SAS IMMORTELLE**

SAS Immortelle, SA Navy (SAN) headquarters base in Pretoria for the past 46 years, is set to disappear.

The base on the southern side of the Pretoria central business district in Visagie Street will in future be the SAN Headquarters Unit. This, C Navy Vice Admiral Monde Lobese told a recent KwaZulu-Natal medal parade, follows a submission to Defence and Military Veterans Minister, Thandi Modise.

She approved it and SAN HQ Unit has started with “the relevant processes and system adjustments” to consign SAS Immortelle to the history books.

The name change decision, Lobese said, brings the maritime service “in line with most other services and divisions by calling their support units to the respective service and division chiefs the same name”.

The SAN will join the SA Air Force, with its SAAF HQ Unit, and the landward force’s SA Army HQ Unit.



SAS Immortelle came into being in January 1977 when what was naval headquarters moved to Pretoria from Simon's Town. Open source information has it: "The then SA Naval Headquarters Unit was there to support Chief of the Navy and his five Chiefs of Naval Staff and their staff officers in matters pertaining

to personnel, administration, operations, logistics, intelligence and finance as well as naval matters related to the inland area".

"Under the guidance of Commander PR Bredenkamp it was decided to change the name of the unit and bring it into line with the naval custom that shore establishments bear a ship's name. On 20 February 1981 at a colourful ceremony in the heart of Pretoria, the then Chief of the Navy, Vice Admiral Ronald Edwards handed the telescope of command to Commander Bredenkamp, thereby charging him with command of the SA Naval Headquarters Unit under the new name SAS Immortelle."

Lobese did not give the medal parade a date when the new name will be taken into use.

On the relocation of the SAN facility on the Port of Durban's Salisbury Island, he said the "planned move to Richards Bay is progressing steadily and we [the SAN] are at the mercy of Transnet National Ports Authority to move the process forward. Remember, the TNPA asked us to move, not the other way around. The Navy agreed to the move in principle, but made it clear we expect a brand new naval base in Richards Bay before we move there. Currently the memorandum of understanding between the SANDF and TNPA has been finalised and we are waiting to sign it."

At present there is no indication when the commissioning ceremony for the second MMIPV (multi-mission inshore patrol vessel) SAS King Shaka (P1572) will take place other than SAN Public Relations saying it will be in October. Durban was touted as home port for the patrol squadron and this arrangement will continue until Naval Base Richards Bay is fully operational. **Source: DefenceWeb.**

## **OBITUARIES**

### **PIETERMARITZBURG**

Lgr D. Naicker.





*In Flanders fields the Poppies grow.... Images supplied by Lgr Andrew Bergman.*



# SOUTH AFRICAN LEGION



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## SOUTH AFRICAN LEGION STRUCTURE

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