

Springbok

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***LEGIONNAIRE JURIE VAN DER MERWE, PAST PRESIDENT FOR LIFE AND HONORARY
LIFE VICE PRESIDENT***

21 MARCH 1943 – 25 NOVEMBER 2022

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MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT: LGR BRIAN SMITH



Dear fellow Legionnaires.

Another year has nearly ended, our first post the Covid pandemic. The Legion in general has had a successful year thanks to the active members of the branches, a few hiccups along the way but that is to be expected.

It is satisfying to see the new members being inducted into the branches on a regular basis, long may this continue. Branch newsletters, albeit few and far between, show that the Legion all over South Africa and abroad is active and vital in supporting vulnerable veterans. Sometimes we lose sight of our reason for being, “Not for ourselves but for others”, which I hope we will realign ourselves within 2023.

My sincere gratitude to my Manco, NEC, Regional and Branch chairmen for their ongoing support, by working tirelessly to ensure that we work to achieve our mandate.

As Christmas approaches, we must take the time to reflect upon what has been successful and commit ourselves to succeed in the coming year. We must also remember those called to higher service and their families at this time.

My very best wishes go to all Legionnaires and your loved ones this Christmas time, may you all remain safe. May 2023 bring all of you happiness, prosperity, and good health.

I am looking forward to one of the best years that the Legion has ever had, in 2023.

Take care and may Our Lord bless and keep you over this festive season.

Legion greetings

Brian Smith

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Every year is like a new book that we read. It has 12 chapters (12 months) and a total of 365 (days) pages filled with achievements, failures, progress, and lessons learnt. By the time you receive this edition of Springbok, you may be reading the last pages, or you may have completed the book “Two Thousand and Twenty-Two”. When we look back at the book “Two Thousand and Twenty-Two” everyone will have their own memories of the book. It has certainly been a year of contrasts. We started the year wearing masks as we were once again in a wave of COVID-19. Fortunately, this gave way early in the year to the relaxing of strict COVID-19 regulations and we could largely return to “normal”.

We would have started reading the new book “Two Thousand and Twenty-Three” and everyone would be looking at reading this new book with their own expectations. Unfortunately, certain things will remain with us, and it will be up to each of us to handle these challenges positively.

After many delays, the Centenary Conference of the Royal Commonwealth Ex-services League (RCEL) finally took place in the United Kingdom over the period of 24 to 28 September 2022. The South African Legion was represented at the conference by the National President, Lgr Brian Smith, and the Acting National Secretary, Lgr Izelle Potgieter. *See the full report later in this edition.*

Many Legionnaires were Called to Higher Service in 2022 and my prayer is that their families and friends have found peace. However, on 25 November 2022, the Legion lost a stalwart when Lgr Jurie Van Der Merwe from the Bloemfontein Branch was called. This edition of Springbok is dedicated to the late Lgr Jurie Van Der Merwe. *Read the tributes to Lgr Van Der Merwe later in this edition.*

Thanks to the branches this is once again a bumper edition of Springbok. **A whopping 47 pages!!!** It is encouraging to notice how many Remembrance Day Services were held across the country in November. Not only did these occur in the major centres, but many took place in the smaller towns of our country. The service in Hermanus was one of these. In many of these, the Legion was directly or indirectly involved. Well done to all those branches. In Naval terms “BZ”.

Need to commend the activities of the Europe Branch under the leadership of Lgr Andrew Bergman. Please ensure that read the article in this edition under the heading ‘NEW FLAGPOLE PRESENTED TO SA EMBASSY IN THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS’ later in this edition. Certainly, living up to our motto, Not for Ourselves, But for Others. Well done Lgr Bergman and team.

Residents of Cape Town can look forward to an impressive new memorial which will be erected in the Gardens during 2023. It is certainly a very impressive memorial which is been erected by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) and will commemorate more than 2 600 South Africans who are not commemorated by CWGC. These are mainly members of the Cape Corps. *See the article later in this edition.*

**EULOGY BY THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT, LGR BRIAN SMITH, AT THE FUNERAL OF THE LATE
LGR JURIE VAN DER MERWE**

My fellow Legionnaires,

With the utmost sadness, I inform you of the passing to Higher Service of Legionnaire Jurie Johannes van der Merwe Past President for Life. Oom Jurie, as he was affectionately known, joined the South African Legion of Military Veterans in Bloemfontein in 1986.

Oom Jurie served on the branch financial committee before becoming Branch Vice Chairman and subsequently Branch Chairman, a position he occupied with dignity for over twelve years. Oom Jurie also served as Regional Chairman, and National Vice President and was elected to the position of National President in 2007.

The following awards have been bestowed on Oom Jurie:

- Ten, twenty and thirty-year-long service awards
- Meritorious Life Member
- Honorary National Vice President
- Past President for Life, conferred in September 2010

Oom Jurie is survived by his wife Martie, daughters Nicola, Babette, Jurika, Louise, Joanne, and family. On behalf of The South African Legion, we convey our deepest sympathy to all family and friends of Legionnaire Jurie van der Merwe PPFL.

May his dear soul rest in peace.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember



Left. The funeral of the late Lgr Jurie Van Der Merwe.



Right. The National President, Lgr Brian Smith, delivered his Eulogy at the funeral of the late Lgr Jurie Van Der Merwe.



Members of his former Regiment attended the funeral Col André de Beer (Ret), Maj Johan Le Roux (Ret) en Maj Riaan Slingerland (Acting OC).

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE LGR JURIE VAN DER MERWE BY THE BLOEMFONTEIN BRANCH

MILITARY CAREER

July 1962. 9 Month basic training and junior leader course in the Armour Corps at 1 Special Services Battalion (SSB) Tempe Bloemfontein. Became a citizen force member of Regiment President Steyn in 1963 and was commissioned in 1965. Attended all the necessary promotions and other applicable courses. Progressed to the rank of Major. Promoted to Lt. Col. and became the first OC of Regiment Vrystaat. Retired in 1985.

Devotes all his time to SA Legion and to the Basotho Legion as Honorary President.

Medals and Decorations

John Chard Medal 1975

Pro Patria Medal 1977

Chief of the Defence Force Recommendation Medal 1982

John Chard Decoration 1983.

S.A. LEGION SERVICE

1986. Joined in Bloemfontein

1987. Elected as Branch Vice Chairman

1988. Elected Branch Chairman Served in this capacity for 12 years.

Elected Branch President in 2000 and still serves in that capacity. In the meantime, elected as Provincial Chairman and became a member of the National Executive. Served one term as second National Vice President and one term as first National Vice President. During this period stood down as Provincial Chairman. Afterwards again elected as Provincial Chairman. Elected National President in 2007 and again stood down as Provincial Chairman.

Legion Awards

Branch.

Honorary Life Vice President.

Honorary Life President.

National

Meritorious Life Member 1994

Honorary Life Vice President 2002

Awarded High Honour of Past President for Life 2010

Long service awards 10,20 and 30 years.



Legionnaire tot president verkies

LEGIONNAIRE JURIE VAN DER MERWE is op die nasionale kongres van die Suid-Afrikaanse Legion vir militêre veterane in Port Elizabeth as nasionale president verkies. Legionnaire van der Merwe is ook die president van die Bloemfontein-tak en was tot sy verkiesing ook die provinsiale voorsitter. F

oto: Marietjie Gericke



Left. This is how the Bloemfontein Newspaper, 'Ons Stad' reported on 11 October 2007, the election of Lgr Jurie Van Der Merwe as the National President. The rest of the photos are some of the numerous activities of Lgr Van Der Merwe.

As seen above, he dedicated his life to military veterans and their families. The Bloemfontein Branch will remember him for his firm and unwavering dedication to the SA Legion and the objectives thereof.

I will remember the many breakfasts at the Spur we had when I started working at the Bfn Branch nine years ago. The discussion was always on the history and the purpose of the SA Legion. I could see that he loved the organization. I will also remember that he was always available when I needed information. He was an encyclopaedia of information about the SA Legion, which is what I will miss the most. Lindy Bfn Branch secretary.

He was one of the funder members of the "Vriende van die Legion Klub". I will remember the functions and all the Sheepshead eaten. Lgr. Wallie Stofberg-Chairman Housing.

My hart is seer--- u ' hier wees' sal gemis word. U omgee vir die Legioen – maar veral vir ons mense-dit is onvervangbaar.....Rus in Vrede, ANNEMARIE

When they asked me to say something about Oom/Lgr/PPFL Jurie van der Merwe a beautiful song came up that so describe Oom Jurie and what he was to me. Frank Sinatra's - "My Way" Since I joined the Legion in 2014, I wish I joined earlier but life sometimes has other plans for a person. As I got to know him better, I realised he was absolutely a people person he loved people and care for people

The Legion was absolutely his passion and pride and joy

From 2014 until now I am a member of the Bloemfontein Branch Committee. In 2020,2021 and 2022 I was elected as Branch Chairman as Oom Jurie had some challenges with his health Until his passing he took me under his wing and taught me so much and I learned so much and interesting things and stories from him. He literally threw me in the deep end, and he was the one that pushed me and always believed in me when I wanted to give up or quit.

Oom Jurie left a great void, and we lost so much knowledge. I still wanted to learn so much more, but unfortunately, time is not always our friend, and our time is not our Heavenly Father's time We will keep on building on his legacy.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will so remember and miss him

Lgr Willie Janse van Rensburg
Chairman
SA Legion Bloemfontein Branch



Photos of the involvement of Lgr Jurie Van Der Merwe in the South African Legion.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

RCEL 34TH CENTENARY CONFERENCE LONDON: 24 – 28 SEPTEMBER 2022 by Izelle Potgieter, Acting National Secretary

The Royal Commonwealth Ex-services League (RCEL) Centenary Conference took place in London from 24 to 28 September 2022. International delegates arrived from 37 countries and were accommodated at the Army & Navy Club which is situated across the beautiful St James Square characterized by local squirrels collecting food for the winter against the beautiful historical architectural landscape.

On Sunday 25 September 2022, a Remembrance Service was held in The Guards Chapel, representatives of each country Laid a wreath including the SA Legion National President Lgr Brian Smith. A Tragedy took place on 18 June 1944 when the Guards' Chapel was destroyed by a V1 flying bomb. The apse alone survived during this morning service where 121 soldiers and civilians lost their lives. This magnificent apse with its glittering mosaics in Lombardo-Byzantine style is all that remains of the first Chapel embellished by the eminent Church architect George E. Street in 1879. Today's Chapel designed by Bruce George in 1962-63 serves as their enduring memorial.

On 26 September, many pre-conference discussions involved the future distribution of welfare funds to military veterans across the globe. South Africa was elected to chair the Africa group consisting of Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland, and Zambia. Many countries relayed harsh realities and challenges on account of a lack of technology, general assistance and various impediments which hamper the grant administration process in their country. The group discussions concluded with each group leader presenting the information in a report to the Conference. The Conference proper took place at the beautiful Canada House, across from South Africa House, and was adorned by our national flag.

On the last day of the Conference 27 September, we ended the day at Grosvenor Gallery for the Commonwealth Art Exhibition.

On arrival and during the trip, I took the opportunity to walk and absorb and capture the beauty and character of the environment. The experience was ineffable as one does not typically have the opportunity to travel abroad. From Big Ben to the Royal Guards who are seen proudly and dutifully manning their posts, to the 135-metre Eye of London that sits on the South Bank of the River Thames overlooking the British Houses of Parliament.

Images captured on my camera are of the walkway towards Buckingham Palace with hundreds of visitors wondering the streets, Buckingham Palace in its glory, walkways through piles of flowers, messages and teddy bears left in memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the 2nd of Windsor after her passing.

Many Memorials can be seen across the area where we were located. The first image is the Cenotaph, the Memorial commemorating those from the Household Division who died during WWII, and the images of the Woman of WWII, From MUD. Through Blood. To The Green Fields Beyond & the Battle of Britain monument.



A group photo of the attendees to the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League at the 34th Centenary Conference in London over the period 25 to 28 September 2022.



Lgr's Brian Smith, National President, and Izelle Potgieter, Acting National Secretary, seated at the RCEL Centenary Congress.



National President, Lgr Brian Smith, with Lord Richard (centre) and Chris Warren (right) at the RCEL Centenary Congress.

The Conference concluded with a cultural day on the 28th of September with a cruise on the river Thames. The scenery was spectacular, and the experience was a learning curve as the tour guide provided a brief historical background.

The last day of the conference concluded with a Royal Reception at St James's Palace and was briefly graced by His Royal Highness Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex. While no photos were allowed inside the palace, the Royal Photographer took a special photo of National President Smith and the Prince in conversation.

Ending my story where I tried and enjoyed my first "Famed" English pint of English beer after the Royal Reception in the Army & Navy Club Bar. With this, I share my favourite photo that I took of Big Ben.

BRANCH NEWS

BLOEMFONTEIN

The "Vriende van die SA Legioen Klub" had a stall at the Trekker Day that was held on 29 October 2022. The Committees of the Bloemfontein Branch held their yearend functions on 3 December 2022 at Taumerei coffee shop.

CAPE TOWN

The Annual General Meeting of the Cape Town Branch took place on Wednesday 2 November 2022 at the Rosedale Complex. The meeting was attended by the National Treasurer, Lgr Johan Johnson. During the meeting the following office bearers were elected:

- Chairperson. Lgr Ray Nessel.
- Vice-Chairperson. Lgr Peter Muirhead.
- Treasurer. Lgr Adi Fourie.
- Branch Manager and Secretary. Lgr David Holmes.
- Welfare. Lgr Peter Napier.
- Fund Raising. Lgr Kevin Ashton.
- Ceremonial. Lgr Claudio Christie.
- Facilities. Willie Millar.
- Chairperson Residential Committee. Lgr Dave Kenny.
- Chairperson Service Centre Committee. Lgr Tim Reilly.



Left and below. The stall of the Friends of the Bloemfontein Branch at the 'Trekker Day' event.



Volunteers at the 'Trekker Day'.

Members of the various committees of the Bloemfontein Branch that attended the end of year function.



Members of the newly elected committee of the Cape Town Branch. Front from left to right David Holmes, Ray Nessel and Peter Muirhead. Back from left to right Dave Kenny, Kevin Ashton, Johan Johnson, Tim Reilly, Peter Napier, Claudio Christie and Adi Fourie.

Christmas Dinner. The branch held its Christmas dinner at the Rosedale complex on Saturday 10 December 2022. During the dinner, the Chairman of the branch, Lgr Ray Nessett, handed Pamela Poole a Certificate of Merit “In recognition of her ongoing service to military veterans through her involvement in the annual Poppy Day Street Collection”. Two other recipients of Certificates for their respective endeavours were Legionnaires, Lucille Byrnes, and John Gandy. During the dinner, the monthly parcel with goodies was handed to a representative of the Salvation Army (Beth Rogelim) vets.

Rosedale

Ladies of Love. On Thursday 10 November willing workers rolled up their sleeves to spread 45 loaves of bread with jam and peanut butter as part of the Ladles of Love initiative, which has grown from serving 70 meals at their first soup kitchen to one of the most prolific food charity organisations in South Africa.

Carpet Bowls. Residents from Pinelands Place took up the challenge at Rosedale where a carpet bowls match took place on Thursday 10 November. They were looking for revenge, having lost to our team in 2021, but it wasn't to be, and they were well and truly beaten by the better team.

Poppy Day Walk. Lgr John Gandy embarked on a mission on Poppy Day, 12 November 2022, walking for Poppy Day from Jubilee Square, Simon's Town, to Rosedale some 32 kilometres. His mission started on Friday afternoon, 11 November 2022, with an interview by Pippa Hudson on Cape Talk 567 radio station. Anxious Rosedale residents gathered around a small portable radio in the dining room where they listened to the interview. Here is the link if you wish to listen to the interview <https://omny.fm/shows/afternoons-with-pippa-hudson/on-the-couch-sa-legion-on-remembrance-day>

The next phase of the mission was the walk from Simon's Town to Rosedale. Accompanied by his supporters, Lgrs Marianne Minnaar and Rodger Buchanan, John travelled by car to Jubilee Square where the group paid tribute to Just Nuisance before setting off on the journey at 06:00. With his supporters following in a car. The journey took John through Glencairn, Fish Hoek, Lakeside, Kenilworth, Rosebank and then on to Rosedale. Well done, John. He raised over R 1 0 000.00.

Snoek Braai. The generosity of legionnaire Philip Miller of Heidelberg made it possible for 80 RSC members and their family and friends to enjoy a snoek braai on the lawns of Rosedale on Saturday 26 November. Accompanied by “soetpatat”, green salad and rolls and washed down with liquid victuals from the Club's bar, the crowd danced the night away to the music of Shades of the Shadows.

Carol Service. A picnic carol service was held on the lawns of Rosedale on Saturday 3 December. Led by Cape Town Children's Choir director Bronwen Leith and accompanied by Penny Middelkoop, residents' family and friends joined in the singing of traditional carols and shared in the spiritual messages read by Veronica Trollip and Tim Reilly, with a poem entitled “Christ's Donkey” written and read by Sue Gow.

Attendees at the Christmas dinner of the Cape Town Branch.



Left. Lgr Ray Nessett, handing Pamela Poole a Certificate of Merit "In recognition of her ongoing service to military veterans through her involvement in the annual Poppy Day Street Collection".



Right. The monthly parcel with goodies being handed to a representative of the Salvation Army (Beth Rogelim) vets.

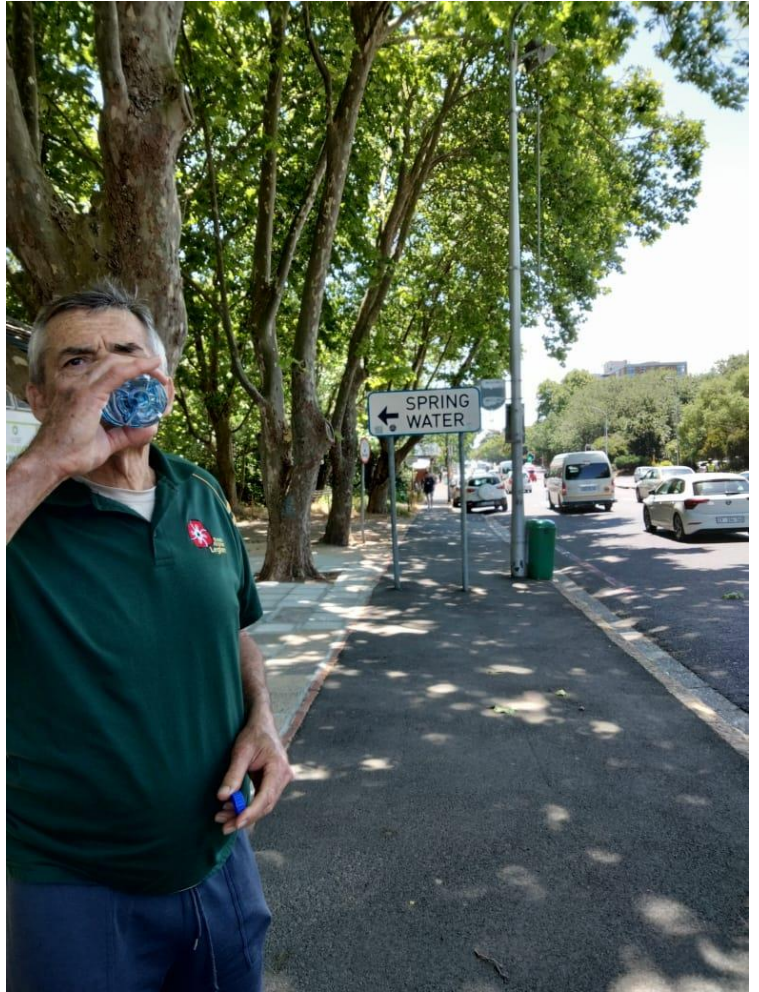


Ladies of Love. Here Joyce Gleeson, Alet Graf, Beryl Lategan and Abraham Ross get stuck in (Annette Ledger looks on).

Members participating in the carpet bowls.



On Friday afternoon, 11 November 2022, Lgr John Gandy had an interview with Pippa Hudson on Cape Talk 567 radio station.



Photos from the Poppy Day Walk by Lgr Joh Gandy.

A scene from the Rosedale 'snoek braai.



Residents from Rosedale enjoy the annual carol service.

A scene from the Rosedale family 'braai'.



Rosedale Family Braai. One of the many activities open to residents, their families and friends is the monthly braai on the lawns at Rosedale. The weather on Saturday, November 5th was ideal and drew residents out of their flats to join in the fun. To add to the atmosphere, the Rosedale Club, with its bargain prices, was well patronised and a great time was had by all.

Ladies of Love. The year ended on a high for this band of volunteers. The occasion was the making of sarmies donated to and distributed by the Ladles of Love network: 45 loaves in less than an hour. (Amazing what a sherry and a Boney M's "We wish you a merry Christmas ..." can do!).

Christmas Lunch. The residents of Rosedale enjoyed a buffet lunch on Christmas Day, 25 December 2022. It was a feast that lasted from 13:00 until 17:00 and was enjoyed by all that attended the lunch.

DURBAN

The Annual General Meeting of the Durban Branch took place at the Provincial Grand Lodge of Natal (Irish Constitution) in Rosburgh Durban. During the meeting Branch Chairman, Lgr Bryan Doré and Vice Chairman, Lgr Rick Andriés, inducted three recruits, Lgrs Jeannette Geel, Louallen Nympe and Daniel Neethling. Old Bill of Journey's End Shellhole, Moth John Grewar, receiving a certificate from Lgr Bryan Doré for being an Associate Member of the Durban Branch for the past 10 years. The new committee elected during the meeting are:

- Patron: Lgr Rev Clive Jacobson.
- Branch President. Lgr Pat Acutt.
- Accountant. Rudi Vermaak.
- Chaplain. Lgr Rev Clive Jacobson.
- Comms and Liaison. Lgr Rick Andriés.
- Welfare. Lgr Fr Thami Shange.
- Membership. Lgr Bryan Doré.
- Events and Projects. Lgr Brad Fourie.
- Ceremonial and Conduct. Lgr Peter Smit.
- Tenants Rep (coopted). Lgrs Daniel Neethling and Obie Oberholzer.

The chairman, Vice Chairman and Finance committee are to be elected by the committee.



The Rosedale 'Ladies of Love' again busy making sandwiches for distribution.

Right and below. Scenes from the Rosedale Christmas buffet lunch on Christmas Day.



Scenes from the Annual General Meeting of the Durban Branch.



PORT ALFRED

For many years, the Port Alfred Branch has supported Veterans and other persons in financial need. Recently, the committee decided to donate an amount of R 4 600.00 to the local SPCA which is currently busy with overdue upgrading activities. The local SPCA does not get any support from Lotto and the Ndlambe Municipality, rather 100% of its income derives from personal donations. Presenting the Kennel Manager, Forbes Coutts, with a cheque is Lgr J Hodges (Chairman) with Anel Slabbert (Senior Inspector) and Lgr Sylvanna Scheepers (Treasurer) looking on.

Lgr Ivo Chunnnett (past Chairman) has always said that the monthly Legion Lunch is the best Sunday meal in Port Alfred. All participants bring a salad for sharing while the Legion supplies the rest, chop or hamburger or chicken a la king etc. Unfortunately, the pandemic played havoc with our attendance at the lunches, but matters are improving as time goes by.

Our two newest members, Sylvanna Scheepers, who has kindly taken over the treasurer's position, and Tyron Probart – our Honorary Member, Wally Probert's' grandson who has slotted into the "braai master" position extremely well.

PORT ELIZABETH

The Branches Tin Shake took place this year on Saturday 12th November. Many of the donations come from various Schools and Churches in Port Elizabeth while the "feet on the ground" at various shopping malls add to the end total. There are other significant donations such as the South African Military History Society East Cape and others. Whilst the last loose end of the collection is being tied-up, the totals from some of the Churches and Schools indicate that we do live in tight economic times. The Branch is indeed grateful to those "troops" on the ground as well as the contributions from the Churches and Schools as well as the various donors large or small. Thank you all.

PRETORIA



On 25 November 2022 Pretoria Branch Member responsible for Welfare, Lgr Bazil Kriel, and his wife Brenda, visited Sheila Kriel, widow of the past Chairman of the Pretoria Branch at the Magaretha Ackerman Old Age Home in Pretoria West. The late Malcolm Kriel was the Pretoria Branch Chairman from 1988 to 1994 and from 1995 to 2003, after relocating to Sasolburg. Not only was he Chairman of the Pretoria Branch, but Malcolm was also the Old Bill of the Aerial Shellhole in the late eighties/nineties, and also Chairman of the Pretoria Memorial Services Council.

Malcolm also served the SA Legion executive in the nineties. He was always visible at all Congress venues supplying the sound system from 1999 to at least 2003. He served the SA Legion as a Branch Chairman, NEC member and later as a



Presenting the Kennel Manager, Forbes Coutts, with a cheque is Lgr J Hodges (Chairman) with Anel Slabbert (Senior Inspector) and Lgr Sylvanna Scheepers (Treasurer) looking on. Port Alfred Branch.



Left and right. Scenes from the monthly Port Alfred Branch monthly lunch.



Our two newest members, Sylvanna Scheepers, who has kindly taken over the treasurer's position, and Tyron Probart grandson who has slotted into the "braai master" position extremely well.

member of the Brakpan Branch from 2003 to 2009. After moving to Springbok Park in Bloemfontein he served the Bloemfontein Branch General Committee until his health forced them to relocate back to Pretoria in early 2015. Malcolm spent his final year in Frail care with his wife Sheila at the MOTHWA Haven in Eloffsdal, Pretoria.

Unfortunately, Malcolm Passed on to Higher Service on 15 July 2015. The SA Legion Pretoria Branch with the MOTH Order arranged Malcolm's funeral at the Westview Methodist Church where we celebrated his life in a true military veteran way. Sheila remained at the MOTHWA Haven for another year and relocated to an Old Age Home in Krugersdorp. In August 2022 returned to Pretoria West. At the initiative of Pretoria Branch Communication member, Lgr Debbie de Billot, a SA Legion blanket was arranged for her and during our visit to her in November the blanket was handed over to her with a pamper pack prepared by Bazil's wife, Brenda. Sheila is in good spirits and happy where she is. I thank the Pretoria Branch of the SA Legion for the support. Sheila was also a full member of the SA Legion. Not only because Malcolm was my brother, but Malcolm was also always an active Legion and MOTH members, and Pretoria Branch will continue serving Sheila in a dignified way.

COMMEMORATIONS

VETERANS DAY

DURBAN

Glenwood High School learners and Deputy Headmaster Lgr Kevin Jordan at Stellawood Cemetery in Durban where they placed poppies on the headstones of all MV's buried there on Veteran's Day, 5 November 2022. Glenwood High School learners and Deputy Principal, Lgr Kevin Jordan, at the grave of Glenwood Old Boy, Bruce Stafford Baines, SAAF.

PORT ELIZABETH

This event took place on Sunday 6 November. The task is to place a Poppy on each of the war graves in and around Port Elizabeth. This year there was a good turnout of Legionnaires and others, 22 in total. Fort Frederick is the oldest historical building in PE it was built in 1799 and contains a guardhouse, powder magazine and some 12-pounder guns. A poppy was placed on the grave of Capt. Francis Evatt who was Commandant of the fort between (1817 - 1847) also supervised the landing of the 1820 Settlers. Lgr. Chris Papenfus and others discussing an Anglo-Boer War grave of a rebel that was buried there under different initials by the British forces. Rectified later by the family by placing an explanatory small stone panel on the grave.

PRETORIA

On Saturday, 5 November 2022, a small group from the Pretoria Branch of the South African Legion joined by members from the Casa Mia Shellhole of the Memorable Order of Tin Hats and the South African Air Force Association Pretoria Branch placed Poppies on war graves in the Thaba Tshwane New Military Cemetery. These were largely Border War graves. As the Remembrance Day Service will be held in the Commonwealth Plot of the cemetery no poppies were placed on these graves. Following



Left. Deputy Headmaster Lgr Kevin Jordan and learners from Glenwood High School placing Poppies on World War graves in the Stellawood Cemetery during Veterans Day.

Right. Members of the Port Elizabeth Branch placed Poppies on World War Two graves in Port Elizabeth during Veterans Day.



Lgr Ray Cumming placing a Poppy on a veteran grave in the Thabe Tshwane New Military Cemetery during veteran's day in Pretoria.

the service on Sunday 13 November, attendees will be invited to place a cross at each of the Commonwealth war graves.

The team was greeted at the cemetery with a hub of activities with several contractors busy cleaning the cemetery. This was done under the auspices of the South African Defence Force Association (SADFA). Thank you and well done SADFA!

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICES

ALEXANDRIA.

The Annual Remembrance Day Service took place at the Catholic Church Bushman's River Mouth on Sunday 13 November 2022. The service was attended by members of the branch and friends.

CAPE TOWN

Members of the Cape Town Branch attended the Annual Remembrance Day Service at the Cenotaph in Adderley Street on Sunday 13 November 2022. A wreath was laid on behalf of the South African Legion. Also in attendance was Lgr Van Wyk, a survivor of World War Two.

Rosedale

Residents of Rosedale attended the Annual Remembrance Day service at Rosedale on Sunday 13 November 2022.

DURBAN

Due to inclement weather, the Annual Remembrance Day Service had to be moved to the City Hall. Once again, the service was very well attended. The Chairman of the Durban Branch, Lgr Bryan Dore laid a wreath on behalf of the Legion.

Glenwood High School Remembrance Day Service. Glenwood High School held its Annual Remembrance Day Service on Wednesday 9 November 2022 at the school. Members from the Durban Branch attended the service Lgrs Bradley Fourie, Louallen Nymphe, Pat Acutt, Kassie Nel, Obie Oberholzer and Jeannette Geel.

FISH HOEK

The Moths Battledress Shellhole, Fish Hoek held a memorial service in recognition of Remembrance Day on Sunday 6 November. Members of the Cape Town Branch attended, Derek Stidwell carried the flag, and Peter Napier laid a wreath.



Scenes from the Alexandra Remembrance Day Service held at the Bushman's River Mouth Catholic Church.





Scenes from the Remembrance Day Service held at Rosedale on Sunday 13 November 2022.



Scenes from the Remembrance Day Service in Durban.





Above and right. Scenes from the Remembrance Day Service at the Glenwood High School, Durban.



A photo of the Remembrance Day Service held in Fish Hoek.

HERMANUS

OVERSTRAND MUNICIPALITY REMEMBRANCE DAY: HERMANUS: NEVER FORGET THE PRICE OF FREEDOM

A service to mark Remembrance Day, also known as Poppy Day, was held on Sunday morning, 13 November 2022 in Hermanus, to pay tribute to the members of our armed forces who have died in the line of duty.

The sound of a lone bugler playing the Last Post, the South African flag slowly being lowered to half mast, the observation of two minutes' silence at 11:00 and the solemn laying of numerous wreaths, deeply moved onlookers at the Cenotaph War Memorial at the old Harbour.

The Cenotaph War Memorial was built in 1929 to commemorate the 11 volunteers from Hermanus who never returned after the war. Interesting to note that Hermanus had the highest level of volunteering per size of population in the British Empire during World War I.

Overstrand was especially honoured to have a World War II female veteran present at the wreath-laying ceremony. Ena Burnett enlisted in the British Army in January 1944 and was part of the logistics surrounding the D-Day landings. Her job was to manage the loading and shipping of ammunition to the frontlines. Ena is a MOTH and lives in Kleinmond.

Legionnaire Peter Dickens said he is a national treasure, both here and in the UK, "one of small grouping of very special people and it is our privilege to have him here today".

Lieutenant-Colonel Harvey Saayman, former commanding officer of the Regiment Westelike Provincie (now Jan Smuts Regiment), encouraged those present to remember the dead by living life. "Never forget the price of freedom as the cost of peace is much higher than the causes of war".

He also shared some snippets about Hermanus' rich history with WWI and WWII, viz the two-minute silence in remembrance observed worldwide that originated in Cape Town during WW1. The two-minute silence ritual, calling Cape Town to attention by the firing of the Noon Gun, continued throughout World War 2, and the entire city came to a standstill every single day.

Hermanus also had a connection with General Jan Smuts. Besides him been being the Colonel in Chief of Regiment Westelike Provincie (now re-named the General Jan Smuts Regiment), present at the event on Sunday and having the freedom of the Overstrand, his sister, Bebas Smuts, served as Mayor of Hermanus during the Second World War from 1941 to 1946. During the war, Hermanus was a radar station and actively involved in the war effort.

Other war heroes included Victoria Cross winner, Lance Corporal William Henry Hewitt, whose ashes were scattered at sea off the cliffs at Gearing's Point and Roger Bushell whose grandparents and parents used to live in Hermanus. He led the famous Great Escape from the German prisoner of war camp and a film 'The Great Escape' followed many years later. Hermanus High School has a trophy for the highest achieving learner named after him.

Scenes from the Remembrance Day Service in Hermanus. Lgr Peter Dickens laid a wreath on behalf of the Legion. Photos 'Village News' newspaper.



Having laid a wreath on behalf of the Overstrand community, Overstrand Executive Mayor, Dr Annelie Rabie said according to one source, the reason for WW1 can be summarised by the acronym M-A-I-N (militarism, alliances, imperialism, nationalism). "Perhaps it is as true now as it was then," she said. In South African today we are also fighting a war that is leaving millions wounded or ill: poverty, unemployment, and inequality - Overstrand is not spared this reality either.

Mayor Rabie emphasised that history will judge people and events. There seems to be consensus that the three most important lessons learned from WWI are:

1. exhaust diplomacy before using force
2. war is always unpredictable
3. history should be remembered.

As is customary, Regiment Jan Smuts holder of the Freedom of the Overstrand, lent military colour to this occasion that was organised by the Seagull Shellhole, the local unit of the Memorable Order of the Tin Hats (MOTH's). The Mayor thanked all who were involved in arranging the event.

Major Mditshwa of the South African National Defence Force - Second in Command General Jan Smuts Regiment, Legionnaire Peter Dickens, Honorary President of the South African Legion UK and Europe branch, Overstrand Mayor Annelie Rabie and Fire Chief Lester Smith obo Overstrand Protection Services, WW II Veteran, 97-year old Moth Ena Burnett who enlisted in the British Army in 1944 and participated in Operation Overload of MOTH Battledress Shellhole, Moth Shaun Booth of MOTH Western Cape Dugout, Moth Peter Goldie of MOTH Seagull Shellhole, Moth Tammy Lawrance of MOTH Tommy Rendel VC Shellhole, Moth Norman Sander of MOTH Cyber Shellhole, Moth Ellis of MOTH Cape Winelands MMA (Motorcycle Association), Moth Llewellen Tillman of MOTH Hermanus Motor Cycle Association, Moth Esme Hounsom of MOTH Women Association, Noël Greeff of RLI (Rand Light Infantry) Regiment Association, Moth Deon van den Berg of 31/201 Battalion Regiment Association, Marthie Visser of the South African Air Force Association, Robby Abrahamse of the Royal Navy Association, Stick Commander Jaco of the Cape Canopy of Paratroopers, Samantha Jackson on behalf of Dave Jackson of Boland Airborne Canopy, Road Captain Marius of the Airborne Riders Motorcycle Association, Platoon Commander Pretorius of the Dogs of War Motorcycle Association, Karen Dickens of the Royal British Legion, Antonie de Klerk and Danielle Fourie of the National Sea Rescue Institute, Peter Dagg of the Hermanus Lodge 7015 of Free Masons, Basil Haman, Founder and Honourary Member of the Hermanus Old Boys, Hermanus 1st Sea-Scouts Group Leader Nicole du Plooy, SA Sea Cadets, TS Birkenhead Lt Noël Dreyer, Marli Snyman and Ryan Ingles from Hermanus High School and Divan Brand and Zoe van Asperen from Hermanus Primary participated in the wreath-laying ceremony.

Members of the public were also given an opportunity to pay their last respect by placing a rose at the foot of the cenotaph.

Issued by: Overstrand Municipal Manager, Dean O'Neill

A photo from the Remembrance Day Service at the Cenotaph in Kimberley.



Above and below. Scenes from the Remembrance Day Service held in Port Alfred. In the photo below Chairman of the Port Alfred Branch, Lgr John Hodges preparing to lay the Legion wreath on behalf of all members.



KIMBERLEY

The Annual Remembrance Day Service took place at the Cenotaph in Kimberley on Sunday 13 November 2022. The service was attended by representatives of the Sol Plaatjies Municipality and veteran organisations. The Kimberley Regiment provided the Guard of Honour which was led by the Pipes and Drums of the Kimberley Regiment. Refreshments were served at the Drill Hall after the service.

PORT ALFRED

The Annual Remembrance Day Service took place at the MOTH Garden of Remembrance in Port Alfred and was attended by members of the branch and the MOTH.

PORT ELIZABETH

Grey High School. The Grey High School Remembrance Service which takes place in the quadrangle of the school took place on the 11th. The Chairman, together with several other wreath layers, laid a SA Legion wreath on behalf of the Branch. A flypast by Mr Stu Davidson in his aircraft low over the school is timed for the last strike of the school clock at 11:00.

The Umzintzani Parade. The last of the remembrance parades took place on Sunday 4 December at the PAG Memorial.

PRETORIA

Due to inclement weather, the Remembrance Day Service had to be moved from the Thaba Tshwane New Military Cemetery to the MOTH Evenden House in Lyttelton. Once again, the service was very well attended by High Commissioners, Ambassadors, Military Attaches and Military Veteran Organisations. Lgr Debra De Billot laid a wreath on behalf of the South African Legion.

COMMONWEALTH SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE, THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS

THE HAGUE – Sunday, November 13, 2022 Ambassadors, Consular representatives, Defence Attachés, officials of the Netherlands Government and Dutch Armed Forces, the Mayor and Aldermen of The Hague, as well as representatives of veterans' and other related organisations, Scouts, Guides, and numerous interested members of the public, gathered at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission section of [Westduin Cemetery in The Hague](#), the Netherlands, to pay their respects to the Fallen of the Commonwealth during both World Wars and all conflicts since.

The Act of Remembrance and wreath laying was preceded by a moving service at the [Anglican Church of St John & St Philip](#).

Following a welcome by British Ambassador Joanna Roper, Reverend Canon Michael Roden led the opening prayers. A lesson (Micha 4, 1-5) was read by South African Ambassador Vusi Madonsela,



Chairman of the Port Elizabeth Branch, Lgr Terry Pattison, laying a wreath during the Remembrance Day Service in the city.



Above and right. Scenes from the Remembrance Day Service in Pretoria. On the right Lgr Debra De Billot, National Communication Officer laid a wreath on behalf of the Legion.

followed by a reading of the Beatitudes (Matthew 5, 1-12) by British Deputy Head of Mission Lucy Ferguson.

At 12h00 (CEST), to synch with the 11h00 GMT observances across the UK, with the Dutch, British, and South African flags at half mast, bugler Capt. Henry Redshaw of the Royal House Artillery sounded Last Post, and all observed the Act of Remembrance and customary two minutes' silence, to mark the moment when the guns of the First World War fell silent on the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918.

Wreaths were laid at the Cross of Sacrifice, after which Scouts and Guides laid flowers at the graves of 70 identified and many more unidentified WWII casualties who lie buried there. Piper John Hermans then led a procession to pay tribute at the nearby graves of the [Stijkel Group](#) – 47 men and women who were actively involved in the resistance against German occupation after the invasion of the Netherlands on 10 May 1940, who were eventually betrayed, of whom 32 were executed on 4 June 1941 and 11 subsequently died in captivity.

Annual service

The annual Service of Remembrance, held under the auspices of the Commonwealth-Netherlands Joint Committee of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, is hosted rotationally by Commonwealth Embassies in The Hague. This year's event was due to be hosted by South Africa, however, following the recent death of HM Queen Elizabeth II, who was also head of the Commonwealth and a bona fide WWII veteran, South African Ambassador Vusi Madonsela passed the baton to British Ambassador Joanna Roper.

Ambassador Madonsela was joined by the SA Defence Attaché to Brussels (EU & NATO), Rear Admiral N. S. Gogi. The South African Legion, represented by Europe Chair Andrew Bergman, was joined by Richard van den Berg, John Wertenbroek, and May van Vondelen of [Veteranen Noordwijk](#), whose town hosts the graves of [casualties of the SS Mendi](#), and with whom we have built-up a [warm camaraderie](#) over many years.

UNITED KINGDOM

The Annual Remembrance Day Service on Sunday 13 November 2022 was preceded by a Remembrance Day Service at the Memorial in the Richmond Cemetery on Saturday 12 November 2022. The service was attended by members of the United Kingdom Branch. The branch was also very well represented at the service in London.

JINGUASHI, NEW TAIPEI CITY, TAIWAN.

Some photos from a rather rainy Remembrance Sunday held at the Taiwan POW Memorial Park last Sunday on the site of the former Japanese Kinkaseki POW Camp. The event remembered the approximately 4500 Allied POWs from the Australia, Canada, Netherlands, New Zealand, South Africa, United Kingdom, & the USA that were held on Taiwan (Formosa) in Japanese POW camps from 1942-1945. The Allied generals and senior staff officers captured at the Fall of Singapore, and during the surrenders in the Netherlands East Indies and the Philippines were transported to Taiwan (Formosa), which was a Japanese colony from 1895-1945, and held here until late in the war, when they were



Left and below. Lgr Andrew Bergman with some of the dignitaries that attended the Remembrance Day Service in The Hague, The Netherlands.



Members from the Scotland Branch of the Legion that attended the Remembrance Day Service in Glasgow, Scotland.

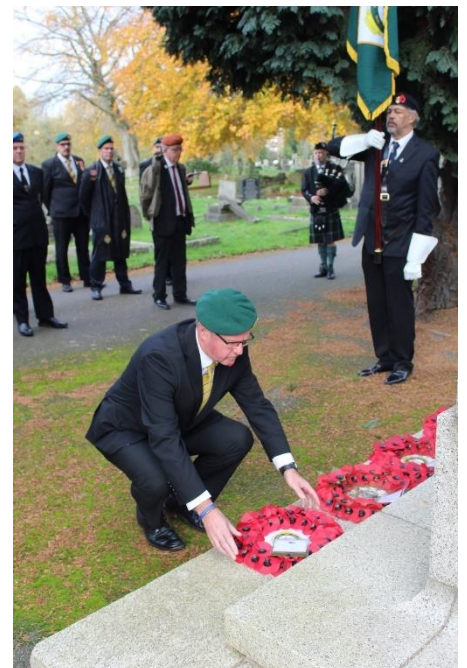
Members from the United Kingdom Branch marched in the march past during the Annual Remembrance Day Service in London.



Members of the United Kingdom Branch enjoying some refreshments after the Remembrance Day Service in London.



Left and right. Scenes from the Remembrance Day Service in the Richmond Cemetery, United Kingdom.



transported to Mukden in northern China via Japan. The rank & file and junior officers remained on the island until liberation in early September 1945.

While Taiwan was where the majority of senior officers were held in senior officer camps, the island was also the location for some of the most brutal Japanese POW camps. Kinkaseki Camp and Copper Mine in northeast Taiwan is where the Taiwan POW Memorial Park is located and was among the most notorious of camps. Down in the southwest of the island was Heito Camp (Pintung). This camp was located next to a malaria-infested swamp and POWs had to clear the rocky wasteland for sugarcane cultivation under the brutal tropic sun. Six South Africans who had been captured while serving in Royal Engineers and ROAC were in Heito. Three other South Africans were held in Shirakawa Camp (Baihe, Tainan) about 50km north of Heito.

Remembrance Day is organized by the charity, the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society, of which I'm deputy director, in conjunction with the diplomatic missions of several Commonwealth countries. The diplomatic missions of the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada and New Zealand take turns in co-hosting the event with the society and the Taiwan government authorities. This year the UK was the co-host. A separate event is held each June for American aircrews shot down over Taiwan and taken prisoner. Most of these men were executed by the Japanese who regarded captured aircrew as war criminals, and that is why a separate event is held on the site where the executions took place. The US diplomatic mission always co-hosts that event.

Taiwan has quite a sizable expatriate community that includes several thousand South Africans. In the run up to Remembrance Sunday, a few of us SA Legion members and a New Zealand Army veteran go clean the memorials in the southern and central part of the island and also place messages of remembrance at the memorials on behalf of the families of former POWs that we are in contact with. The majority of these are for British and Commonwealth POWs. Additionally, we also remember South Africans who saw service in this part of the world. Many SANF personnel seconded to the Royal Navy saw service in the waters around Taiwan. At least 18 SANF men took part in the evacuation of POWs from Taiwan to liberation camps in the Philippines at the end of the war, and many others, including several South Africans of all races serving in the merchant Navy, served on ships that transported liberated Allied POWs in Operation Magic Carpet. There were also South Africans lost in air and sea battles around the island in 1944-1945.

SIDI REZEGH

The 80th Sidi Rezegh Drumhead Service of Remembrance and Rededication took place at the Scottish Memorial at The View, Johannesburg, on Sunday 27 November 2022. It was very well attended and included representatives from the City of Johannesburg, and several Veteran organisations and Military Attaches. Lgrs Jaco Lötter, Ray Cumming and Hendrik Roux attended on behalf of the Pretoria Branch of the South African Legion. Lgr Jaco Lötter laid a wreath on behalf of the South African Legion.



Attendees at the Remembrance Sunday held at the Taiwan POW Memorial Park.

Standard Bearers at the Sidi Rezegh Drumhead Service in Johannesburg.



Lgrs of the Pretoria Branch that attended the Sidi Rezegh Drumhead Service in Johannesburg were from left to right Hendrik Roux, Ray Cumming and Jaco Lötter.

OTHER INTERESTING STORIES

NEW FLAGPOLE PRESENTED TO SA EMBASSY IN THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS

THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS - On Wednesday, December 7, 2022, members of the South African Legion (Europe Branch) raised a brand new South African flag to inaugurate a new seven-metre flagpole, presented to the South African Embassy in The Hague, the Netherlands. The new flagpole was accepted by H.E. SA Ambassador Vusi Madonsela, at a moving ceremony also attended by Counsellor Political Olitha Lebelo, and Embassy and Consular staff.

The inauguration is the culmination of a project that was hatched in 2020, when several South Africans in the Netherlands pointed out that the existing flagpole at the SA Embassy in The Hague had 'seen better days'. The Ambassador acknowledged at the time that the flagpole was beyond its 'best before' date, but that considering all kinds of priorities within SA, budgets for foreign missions are understandably tight.

So the veterans of the SA Legion put their heads together – soldiers don't deal in problems, we deal in solutions. After all, the SA Embassy is our primary 'flag station' in the Netherlands, at an Embassy that plays an important role in international relations, due to the prominence of The Hague in relation to e.g. international relations, justice, and trade.

After some delays due to the Covid lockdowns, and a few Plan-Bs and Plan-Cs, the Legionnaires soon raised sufficient funds to have a new flagpole professionally installed, complete with a 'boiler plate' for posterity.

On the morning of December 7, the small gathering was welcomed by Third Secretary Jaymion Hendricks, who served as the key liaison with the SA Legion on the project. He began by quoting Nelson Mandela: *"Where people of goodwill get together and transcend their differences for the common good, peaceful and just solutions can be found even for those problems which seem most intractable."* After a minute's reflection, Lgr. Henry van Vuuren ceremoniously raised a brand-new SA flag to the top of a mast that is sure to stand tall for many years to come.

SA Legion Europe Chair, Lgr Andrew Bergman, officially presented the flagpole to H.E. Ambassador Vusi Madonsela, as well as a presentation case for two marine-grade heavy-duty flags (standard and storm size), proudly made in South Africa. He also presented the Ambassador with a Certificate of Appreciation "in grateful recognition of many years of cordial cooperation and support, especially with regard to commemorating the South African Fallen who lie buried or commemorated in the Netherlands".

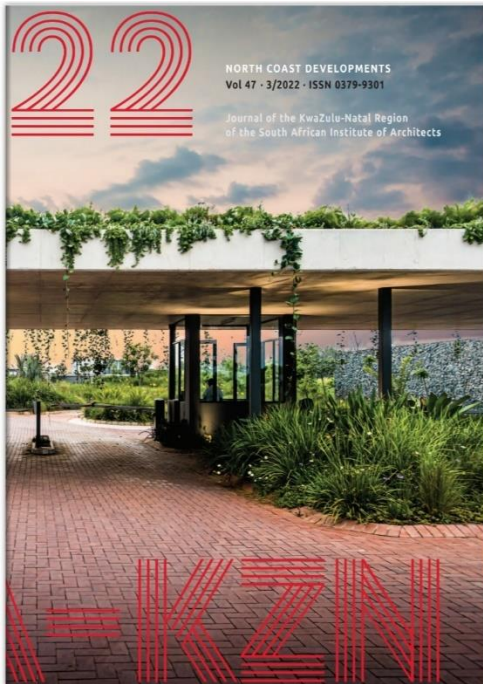
Accepting the new flagpole, Ambassador Madonsela pointed out the international significance of the elegant Embassy in The Hague, which has been witness to so many changes in South African history. He also welcomed the gesture by the SA Legion as a symbol of engagement by the ex-pat community [est. 31,000 ed], and that it signifies the first step in a programme of renovations and renewal planned for the Embassy over the coming years.



Scenes from the handing over of the new flagpole at the South African Embassy in The Hague, The Netherlands.



NEW MEMORIAL – CAPE TOWN



The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) are proud to announce that Durban-based Dean Jay Architects' successful design has won the CWGC architecture competition for the proposed new Cape Town Memorial. The memorial will honour black South African logistics troops who gave their lives during World War One. These men made a huge contribution to the war effort by supplying frontline soldiers with vital food and supplies. The announcement was made by CWGC's Creative Advisor, internationally renowned architect and Chair of the Adjudication Panel, Sir David Adjaye, following a competition that attracted more than fifty entries from across South Africa.

For more details and a virtual tour of the new memorial visit [COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION MEMORIAL \(cwgcmemorialcompetition.co.za\)](http://COMMONWEALTH_WAR_GRAVES_COMMISSION_MEMORIAL(cwgcmemorialcompetition.co.za))

OBITUARIES

BLOEMFONTEIN

Lgr Jurie Van Der Merwe.

CAPE TOWN

Lgr Piere Fourie.

DURBAN

Lgr Colin Patrick Hebrard.

SOUTH AFRICAN LEGION



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- Lgr Quentin Gibson.

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