

Springbok

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Attendees at the Battle of Square Hill Commemoration Service in Kimberley are from left to right: Lgr R Bode (Vice Chairman), Mrs Ros Erasmus (Secretary), Pte W P van Wyk (oldest surviving SACCRA member from WW II - 100 years old), Lgr C Marnitz (Chairman).

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



The past two months have certainly been fascinating, but also very sad. On the sporting front both our cricket and rugby teams have had good times and less good times. The rugby team lost to Ireland in their group games and then narrowly beat the French in the semi-final. On Saturday 28 October, they squared up against the old foe, the All Blacks, and with a single point they were victorious. The first rugby team to have one the William Webb Ellis Trophy four times. My experience was that it was last in 1995 that the country was gripped with excitement en support for the Springboks. Everywhere you went you saw people wearing green and gold. Well done Springboks.

On the other side, the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) lost a number of personnel. On Wednesday 20 September 2023, the South African Navy lost three Submariners during an exercise in rough seas off Kommetjie. On the same day, four soldiers died when the Samil 50 Troop Carrier overturned while being towed by another Samil 50. Then on Friday 6 October, six soldiers lost their lives in a runaway bush fire at the South African Army's Combat Training Centre near Lohathla. Let us think of the families and friends of those who lost their lives.

While the ongoing war in Ukraine has become something that we have gotten used to we were surprised by the attack on Israel on Saturday 7 October. Thousands of people, largely innocent, have already lost their lives in this conflict. Let us all pray for peace in the region.

Shortly we will all be preparing for Remembrance Day services and events associated with remembrance. Can I respectfully request that stories and photos of these events be sent to me for posting on the various Legion Facebook pages and inclusion in the December edition of the Springbok?

Once again my sincere thanks and appreciation to the branches and members who regularly submit stories and photos. Without your support, this publication, which is more 100 years old, will not survive.

On behalf of the readers of Springbok, we congratulate and welcome Lgr Mark Louw, the recently elected Vice President of the South African Legion.

NEWS FROM NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

The National Headquarters recently experienced an increase in activity in addition to our monthly RCEL, National War Fund, and Legion administrative work. Orders from branches were streaming in for the Remembrance Day poppy collections which takes place during November each year. Countless hours were spent processing orders for collection tins, Haig poppies, poppy pins, and wreaths which are typically in high demand this time of the year, however, as our motto holds, "NOT FOR OURSELVES, BUT FOR OTHERS". While NHQ does not sell stock directly to members or the public any longer, numerous calls and emails for poppies, pins, wreaths, and requests for various Legion items were referred to the nearest SA Legion Branch for assistance.



National Secretary Mrs. Izelle Potgieter hard at work with the processing & wrapping of orders.

We continually receive enquiries for medals, DMV registration, and the newly legislated Military Pensions Benefit. However, members and interested parties are referred directly to the Department of Military Veterans for assistance as applications for services and benefits offered by the Department can no longer be processed via 3rd-party organisations such as the Legion who previously offered our Members assistance with completion of application forms, submissions, follow-up enquiries and providing updates thereto.

For interested readers, the following details are made available courtesy of the Council Of Military Veterans Organisations and the DMV:

- For medals, please contact the CMVO via email medal.administration@cmvo.org.za
- To register on the Department of Military

Veterans Database documents, application forms and benefit detain their website www.dmv.gov.za

- Military Pension enquiries should be directed to Milvet.enquiries@gpaa.gov.za or they can be contacted on 080 7723 646. Interested veterans may submit their application forms to Milvet.applications@gpaa.gov.za and not the DMV. The Department have issued revised regulations for Military Pensions which are available in the South African Government Gazette dated **2023-10-06** number **49442**.

Fortunately, we are still able to provide assistance in the form of relevant information and guidance regarding various services and processes available and important to Military Veterans. Lgr Enrique Forbes continues to manage the RCEL Grant Administrative process and can relay that we were fortunate to secure medical assistance for several RCEL beneficiaries that range from corrective eye procedures, dental surgery, Frail care, cancer treatment, and various other ailments.

In terms of Legion administration, we welcome Lgr Mark Louw who was elected as National Vice President and joins the National Headquarters as an experienced administrator and Legionnaire who

has served in many Legion executive positions ranging from Branch Member, Chairperson, Regional Chairperson and National Executive Committee member. He brings an abundance of experience and insight which will strengthen the organisation while securing its future.

We trust the remainder of 2023 with all its challenges, will bring good tidings for you all. While the Legion has undergone many changes over the years, we believe that fostering solidarity amongst our members and Branches remains key in overcoming challenges faced by many of us.

SA Legion NHQ Greetings

Izelle Potgieter
SA Legion National Secretary



Newly elected National Vice President Lgr Mark Louw.

BRANCH NEWS

BLOEMFONTEIN

Bloemfontein Familie Trekker Fees. The annual “Bloem Familie Trekker Fees” took place at the Ferreira Museum, Quaggafontein, Bloemfontein on Friday and Saturday 6 & 7 October 2023 in aid of the “Central Free State Veteran Klub”. It included vintage tractors and ploughing as well as various other vintage farming implements. Members and Friends of the Legion Bloemfontein branch had a stall on Saturday where food was sold to the public.

Bloemfontein Morning Tea. The “Friend of the Legion” funded a morning tea for SA Legion members or widows of members over 70 years old. The tea was held on 20 October 2023 in the Lapa at Springbokpark.

CAPE TOWN

Spring Day. Traditionally, on the first day of spring, learners from Forres Preparatory School in Rondebosch visit Rosedale and hand out posies of flowers to mark the occasion. So it was once again on Friday the 1st of September.

Play Reading – Rosedale. Longtime resident Ralph Kelly formed a play-reading group comprised of Rosedale residents who perform regularly. So it was that these thespians put on another concert on Thursday, September 28 – and to a packed audience as well. First, there were poems and readings introduced by five of the cast; *Package Deal*, a short ‘black comedy’, was followed by *Double Exposure*, a drama in one Act, both of which were written and directed by Ralph. The appreciative audience



*Scenes from the Bloemfontein Familie
Trekker Fees.*





Scenes from the Bloemfontein Branch morning tea.

Photo right: Learners from the Forres Preparatory School during their visit to Rosedale on Spring Day.



In the photos left and below are scenes from the play reading at Rosedale.



enjoyed refreshments afterward, with the honesty jar generating a sizable amount, the proceeds of which are used for the printing of programs, posters, etc.

Carpet Bowls. The carpet bowls team from Rosedale engaged in a regular grudge match with the residents of Pinelands Place on Monday, October 2 and on this occasion, it was played away. Rosedale fielded 6 players, and played 2 games, winning 1 each. Said captain Danny Primo, 'Considering it was her first time, Daphne Castell, played exceedingly well and I was very impressed'. Refreshments were served courtesy of the host team. Danny is looking to extend their area of competition to include other retirement centres in the area.

Chaplain(Rev)Ralph R. Thornley SAN (retired). Chaplain (Rev) Ralph R Thornley SAN (Rtd) has been the Legion's honorary spiritual guide for several years. His is a long and illuminating life story, with the emphasis being on his naval career which spanned 20 years – from basic training at SAS *Saldanha* in 1963 to the shores of such exotic places as Bangladesh, South America, Antarctica and the Mediterranean. During this time he reached the rank of WO2.

At the end of 1976, the ministry called and, after being ordained in 1981 – of which 5 years was at the head of the Methodist Church on Durban's South Coast - he took up an appointment at SAS *Saldanha* where he was based until 1991. A man of varied talents, Ralph obtained a Diploma in Drama. He's been in many performances, including an extra in a film, and even had to play the part of a priest! His last show was in 'Annie' at the Artscape.

Ralph married Beryl, a farmer's daughter, in February 1976. They have just celebrated 47 years of marriage. They have two sons and five grandchildren. 'To everything I have done it is all by the Grace of God and His direction', says Ralph.

Rosedale Poppy Day Get-together. Rosedale resident John Gandy has started something! Last year he walked from Simon's Town to Rosebank and raised the princely sum of R17 000,00 through pledges. That has spurred others to repeat the exercise and so, on Saturday 11 November 2023, a group of some 19 walkers will cover the distance of 31km, hoping to raise a kingly sum. The intrepid walkers met at the Rosedale Club on Wednesday 11 October, where they had the chance to interact with other compatriots, and giving them the chance to ask questions ('Will water be available?' / 'Is there First Aid assistance if we need it?').

Launch of the Book by Lgr Claudio Christé. Claudio Christé holds the portfolio of Ceremonies and Discipline on the Cape Town branch of exco and his commitment to the Legion and all it stands for shines through in every sphere not only in the way he conducts business but in his personal life as well. *Rise of the Warrior Leader* is written in a format that will appeal to the academic and layperson alike and give insight into how to conduct oneself in a rudderless society and how to lead during crisis times. Acknowledgments penned include that from Vice-Admiral (ret'd) RC Simpson-Anderson, Chief of the South African Navy (1992-200), and CEO of The Principal Academy Trust, Keith Richardson.

Claudio's own achievements are many: he is a director of the Centre for Leadership; his academic prowess includes a Master of Science from Bayes Business School and a Bachelor in Military Science majoring in 'pure' Mathematics and Nautical Science from the South African Military Academy,



Photo left: Participants in the Carpet Bowls at the Pinelands Place.

Photo right: Chaplain(Rev)Ralph R. Thornley SAN (retired) with his family.



Photo left: Intrepid walkers listening to the briefing on the Poppy Day walk.

Photo right: Some of the intrepid walkers enjoying refreshments following the briefing on the Poppy Day walk.



Photo above: Branch manager David Holmes (left) highlighted the importance of Poppy Day in the Legion's calendar, wished the walkers well, and handed over to John Gandy to take them through their paces (no pun intended!). During the Poppy Day get-together.



Photo above. Here, Claudio (left) and John (right) proudly hold the book up at the launch of his book on Saturday 21 October.

Stellenbosch University. This varied background experience stood Claudio in good stead to write a book of this nature, one that every leader should be reading in an endeavor to subscribe to his mantra that, *'This leader takes people where they want to go. The Steward-Warrior Leader takes people where they don't necessarily want to go, but ought to.'*

Educated at Rondebosch Boys' High then the University of Cape Town, a former captain (armed forces) at South African National Defence Force (1970-2016), now resident at Rosedale, John Dorrington works with screenwriters, novelists, business professionals, students, and anyone else that needs a top-class editing service. This includes writing, story analysis, proofreading, copy editing, revision, and research. Claudio's choice of John as the editor of this book was an obvious one.

Rise of the Warrior Leader has already achieved fame by winning four international awards (Runner-up Finalist) at the Book Festivals in London, New York, Paris, and Hollywood

The launch took place on Saturday 21 October in the convivial surroundings of iKhaya Lodge, the Injongo Choir entertained the guests.

Rosedale Snoek Braai. On Saturday 28 October 2023, in a run-up to the Rugby World Cup final between the Springboks and the All Blacks residents of Rosedale held a snoek braai in the gardens. The event was well attended.

DURBAN

Annual General Meeting. The Annual General Meeting of the Durban Branch took place at the Winston Churchill Shell hole on Saturday 14 October 2023. We were pleased to see 23 Legionnaires and 2 visitors join us, we were pleased and look forward to more participants next year.

Amashova Cycle Race 2023. The South African Legion Durban Branch Legion took to Camperdown to man a water point for the Cyclists of the Amashova, our role was to provide beverages and support to the passing cyclists. Although an incredibly wet and windy day our team of volunteers were in high spirits and were able to maintain our waterpoint with great enthusiasm. We were proud to see 2 of our members join the race this year Lgr Colin Fisher and Kassie Nel who finished the race and were awarded medals for their times.

PORT ELIZABETH

The Rehabilitation Of The Walmer Cenotaph. Of all Walmer's war memorials, the Cenotaph set into the boundary wall of the Town Hall is probably the best known. It was designed by W J McWilliams, made by R Pennacchini of local stone, and the bronze tablet was cast by James Gardner. It was officially unveiled by the Earl of Athlone on the 24th of March 1925. Early in 2023, 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 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



Scenes from the Rosedale Snoek braai.





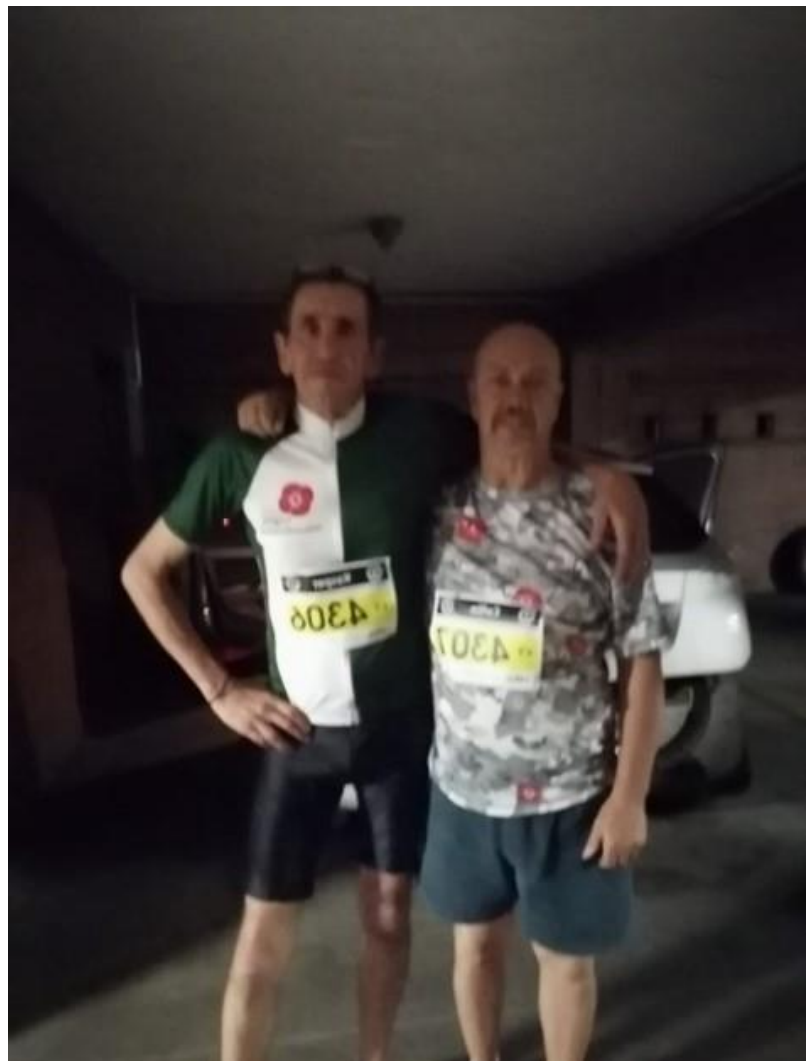
Scenes from the Annual General Meeting of the Durban Branch.





Photo left: Members from the Durban Branch that manned the water point at Camperdown during the Amashova race.

Photo right: Two members from the Durban Branch who participated in the Amashova race this year Lgr Colin Fisher and Kassie Nel who finished the race and were awarded medals for their times.



in all Wars. We have liaised with the Department of Fine Art at NMMU with regard to 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 to some financial assistance.

Then these villains started to dismantle the Main Cenotaph on Rink Street. As a result, a group of architects removed all the remaining bronze tablet bronze plaques and placed them in storage. If these people cannot even look after their own memorials how can we expect them to look after the Older Memorial?

Drugs and Vagrants. The Prince Alfred’s Guard Comrades’ Association secretary and SA Legion Port Elizabeth chair, Terry Pattison, holds up a syringe used by vagrants to feed their drug habits at the War Memorial in Walmer. Vagrants are complicit in the vandalism of the War Memorial in Eighth Avenue, Walmer, and adding to its woes is the drug paraphernalia flooding the empty tomb honouring the dead from World War 1.

Pattison recently found himself ankle-deep in syringes at the site. He said squatters used discarded needles to shoot up nyaope (street drugs). Nyaope, or whoonga, is a popular cheap drug made by mixing low-grade heroin, antiretroviral drugs, and other bulking agents.

"I can't prove it. but I'm confident the vagrants know who's [stealing] because they're there all the time. They're complicit. if not committing the crime themselves,- Pattison said". He said the presence of vagrants was of enormous concern.

"Often, they stash bits of plastic, old blankets, and other stuff around the War Memorial desecrating it."

The memorial had all its metal pieces stolen. including a venerated springbok head, in March. Pattison said it was problematic getting rid of vagrants to preserve what little sanctity was left. "We can't seem to keep them out".- he said. Initially, I tried to get an electrician to put the vagrants off by floodlighting the place at night. But the electrical points were vandalised till there was nothing left, not even switches. Vandals destroyed everything, including the street lights."

Donations. An appeal for donations to assist with the rehabilitation project was launched. Donations have been received from: (as of 1/10/2023):

- South African Legion Port Elizabeth Branch (SAL);
- Aloe White Ensign Shell Hole (MOTH);
- Dogs of War Motor Cycle Club;
- Evans & Sons Stone Masons;
- Makanakop Shell Hole Grahamstown (MOTH);
- Naval Officers Association of South Africa (NOASA) PE Branch;
- Port Elizabeth Historical Society;



Scenes from the Walmer Cenotaph repairs.



- South African Defence Force Association (SADFA);
- South African Military History Society Eastern Cape (SAMHSEC);
- South African Sea Cadet Corps, TS Laherne;
- The Walmer Renewal Project;

With grateful thanks.

Security lights working; vagrants moved on; gardening sorted out; new flags and cordage; MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

PRETORIA

102nd Birthday Brunch. The South African Legion Branch celebrated its 102nd birthday and hosted a “birthday party” for members and their families. Members from the SA Legion Johannesburg - Witwatersrand Branch and friends from other Veteran organisations joined in the bunch and celebrated this memorable occasion.

COMMEMORATIONS

SAP COIN MEMORIAL SERVICE

On Saturday 26 August 2023, the Annual South African Police Counter Insurgency (SAP COIN) Memorial service took place at the SAP COIN memorial in Pretoria. The service was attended by members from both the Bloemfontein and Pretoria branches. Wreaths were laid by both branches.

OPERATION SAVANNAH MEMORIAL SERVICE - PRETORIA

The Annual Operation Savannah Memorial Service took place at the Operation Savannah memorial at the Voortrekker Monument on Sunday 3 September 2023. The service was well attended and wreaths were laid by various veteran organisations. Lgr Debra De Bilott, Communication and Liaison, laid a wreath on behalf of the South African Legion.

ANNUAL GUNNERS MEMORIAL SERVICE - DURBAN

The Annual Gunners Memorial Service took place at the Cenotaph in Durban on Sunday 10 September 2023. The service was well attended and wreaths were laid by various organisations including the Durban Branch of the South African Legion.

BATTLE OF SQUARE HILL MEMORIAL SERVICE – JOHANNESBURG

The Annual Battle of Square Hill Memorial Service took place at the Ditsong Museum of Military History in Johannesburg on Sunday 24 September 2023. The event was organised by the Witwatersrand – Johannesburg Branch of the Legion. The service was very well attended and wreaths were laid by various veteran organisations.

BATTLE OF SQUARE HILL COMMEMORATION SERVICE – KIMBERLEY

The Annual Battle of Square Hill Commemoration Service took place at the Gun at the Cenotaph in Kimberley on Sunday 24 September 2023. It was a very small Ceremony, with MOTHS representations



Scenes from the Pretoria Branch's 102nd birthday brunch.





Scenes from the Annual South African Police Counter Insurgency Unit (SAP COIN) Veterans Memorial Service.





Scenes from the Annual Operation Savannah Memorial Service.





Scenes from the Annual Gunners Memorial Service in Durban.





Some of the attendees at the Annual Battle of Square Hill Memorial Service at the Ditsong Museum of Military History, Johannesburg.



Pte W P Van Wyk reading The Laurence Binyon Prayer, assisted by Capt. D Janse Van Vuuren. (Kim R) at the Annual Battle of Square Hill Memorial Service in Kimberley.

always present, SAAF Association, and assisted by the Kimberley Regiment. During the service, Pte W P Van Wyk read The Laurence Binyon Prayer, assisted by Capt. D Janse Van Vuuren. (Kim R).

SOUTH AFRICAN INDIAN LEGION COMMEMORATION SERVICE – JOHANNESBURG

On Sunday 24 September 2023 the South African Indian Legion (SAIL) held its Annual Memorial Service at the Ditsong Museum for Military History. The South African Legion was represented by members from the Johannesburg – Witwatersrand and Pretoria branches.

TECHNICAL SERVICES VETERANS ASSOCIATION MEMORIAL SERVICE

The SA Legion Pretoria Branch attended the Technical Services Veterans Association Memorial Service (TSVA) at the SA Defence Force Wall of Remembrance on Sunday 1 October 2023 to honour and pay tribute to the members who paid the highest price during the wars and during and after active duty.

BATTLE OF EL ALAMEIN MEMORIAL SERVICE – CAPE TOWN

The Annual El Alamein Parade was held at the Castle of Good Hope on Sunday 22 September 2023. The parade remembered those who lost their lives during the Battle of El Alamein. It was a very hot summer's day. While the attendance was lower than previous years. Thanks to those who did attend. Lgr Claudio Chistè laid a wreath on behalf of the Legion.

OTHER STORIES

ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE CHURCH SERVICE

In terms of the Charter of the United Nations, it is responsible for the fostering of World peace. On 30 November 1981, the General Assembly adopted Resolution 36/67 saying that henceforth the third Tuesday of September would annually be commemorated as the International Day of Peace. On 28 September 2001, the General Assembly adopted Resolution 55/282 by which International Day of Peace would henceforth be commemorated on 21 September.

The main aim of the day is to observe a day of global ceasefire and non-violence, an invitation to all nations and people to honour a cessation of hostilities for the duration of the day. All Member States, organisations of the United Nations system, regional and non-governmental organisations, and individuals to commemorate, in a suitable manner the International Day of Peace, including through education and public awareness, and to cooperate with the United Nations in the establishment of the global ceasefire.

In 2015 the Pretoria Branch of the South African Legion in cooperation with the late former Chaplain-General, Marius Cornelissen, decided to commemorate the day with a church service in the NG Kerk, Raslouw in Centurion. With the support of the Council of Military Veterans Organisations of South Africa and the Pretoria Memorial Services Council the church service became an annual event since then. Only in 2020 did the service not take place.



Scenes from the Annual South African Indian Legion Memorial Service in Johannesburg.





Scenes from the Technical Services Veterans Memorial Service.





Scenes from the Annual Battle of El Alamein Memorial Service held at the Castle of Good Hope in Cape Town.





Scenes from the Annual International Day of Peace Church Service held at the NG Kerk Raslow in Centurion.



This year the service took place at the NG Kerk Raslouw on Sunday 17 September 2023. The service was conducted by Colonel (Chaplain) Ronnie Stanton (SA Army Retired) and was attended by many military and police veterans in the attire of their veteran organisation. Several organisations displayed their standards in front of the church.

RAMCAT FISHING COMPETITION – CENTURION

On Heritage Day, 24 September 2023, the annual Ramcat Fishing competition for handicapped anglers in Gauteng took place at the dam at the Irene Country Lodge. It was the eleventh year that the event was organised by Legionnaire Gerard Smal, a member of the Pretoria Branch of the South African Legion. As in the past eleven years the day was a great success with the anglers catching many fish, mainly Catfish and Carp. The Catfish caught were placed in a separate dam from where they were later transferred to other facilities. This was done to reduce the number of Catfish in the dam at the Irene Country Lodge. The largest fish caught on the day was a Carp of 4.2 kilograms.

Once again the event was supported by various organisations. These included the Centurion Chef Academy which was assisted by Learners from the Zwartkop High School hospitality department who ensured breakfast and other refreshments. Redbull Farming provided the 'boerewors' which was 'braaied' by members of Round Table Pretoria. Lunch was provided to all in attendance by the Irene Country Lodge.

As always members from the Pretoria Branch were responsible for recording all the fish that was caught on the day. The branch also provided financial support for the event.

REDEDICATING AND REINVIGORATING 'SAILOR' MALAN by Lgr Peter Dickens

There are occasions when I do something I will always treasure, an honouring Sailor Malan is one of them. On the 60th anniversary of his death due to rapid onset Parkinson's Disease, caused in all likelihood by combat stress, this 'freedom fighter' was not only a Battle of Britain and D Day hero and fighter ace – he also led South Africa's first anti Apartheid mass protest movement. A patriot and military hero in every way. A short report to the SA Legion on it:

On the 16th and 17th September 2023, Peter Dickens from the South African Legion was invited to attend the 60th anniversary of Sailor Malan's passing in Kimberley by the Malan family. Two events were held, a memorial lecture by Dr Yvonne Malan (a distant relative of Sailor's) at Sol Plaatjie University (SPU) was held on the 16th September and was hosted by the McGregor Museum and Sol Plaatjie University.

All present at the memorial speech were welcomed by the SPU Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Prof Andrew Crouch who stated "Sailor truly feared no man in the cause of justice. His legacy endures, and still, it inspires us. We should thank God that such men lived. Our lives are their legacy, and their lives are our duty." (SPU release).

Dr Yvonne Malan's lecture called 'I Fear No Man' shed light on Sailor Malan's personal life, his journey to adulthood as a naval cadet and officer cadet and his World War 2 wartime experiences and sheer



Scenes from the Ramcat Fishing Competition that took place at the Irene Country Club in Centurion.



acts of bravery as the Squadron Leader of 74 Squadron during the Battle of Britain and as a RAF Group Captain during D-Day. Her speech also focussed on Sailor Malan's moral and political convictions and his anti-Apartheid stance as the President of the Torch Commando after the war. Dr Yvonne Malan concluded the insights on Sailor Malan with a reflection of bravery, sacrifice and moral conviction that only a very few demonstrate when circumstances compel them to do so.

In her speech, Dr Malan explained that the words 'I Fear No Man' are not only words, but were the motto that Sailor Malan conquered the war by. "I fear no man is not a declaration, it is a call to courage that requires us to be brave. A call to be better, a reminder that the act of courage is upon all of us, but yet we don't act on it."

Joining Dr Yvonne Malan on a discussion panel after her lecture were Lgr Peter Dickens, essentially to discuss Sailor Malan's political and anti-Apartheid stance, Captain Tony Nicholas of the SATS 'General Botha' Old Boys Association to discuss Sailor's time as cadet and Ms Sunet Swanepoel, the CEO of the McGregor Museum.

The US Ambassador to South Africa, Reuben E Brigety II was the esteemed invited speaker, he highlighted Sailor Malan's American connections as a merchantman, the involvement of the USA in the war and the presence American uniformed representation at Sailor Malan's funeral in defiance of the Apartheid government wishes. He outlined the importance of Sailor Malan's politics at a time when both the South African nation and the United States of America were crippled by legalised segregation and racial bigotry.

Dr Kobus Rademeyer, the acting Head of Humanities SPU concluded the lecture with thanks.

The following day, 17th September 2023, a de-dedication was held at Sailor Malan's gravesite in commemoration of the 60th year of his funeral. A wreath was laid the day before by the US Ambassador Reuben E Brigety II on behalf of the Embassy of United States of America. The American Military Attache' to South Africa Captain M Lowe was present in his place on the 17th. Wreaths were laid in memory of A.G. 'Sailor' Malan, The Spitfire Society and Hornchuch Aerodrome Historical Trust and the National Spitfire Memorial by Dr Yvonne Malan, Mr R. Malan laid a wreath on behalf of the Malan family.

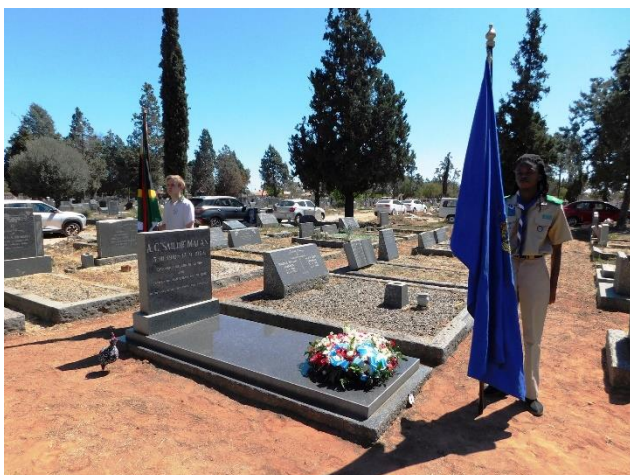
Also of importance was a wreath laid by Lt. Col C. du Toit (retired) of The South African Air Force Association, in acknowledgement of Sailor but also to correct a past wrong, the South African Air Force's was specifically forbidden from laying a wreath at Sailor Malan's funeral in 1963 by a vindictive Nationalist government.

Wreaths were laid by the MOTH R Harding on behalf of the MOTH Northern Cape District Dugout, the MOTH Siege Shellhole also laid a wreath. The wreath on behalf of the South African Legion was laid by Lgr. Peter Dickens. Wreaths were also laid by for RAF 72 Squadron, the RAF Officers Association and the Scouts.

The Scout movement acted as honour guard and flag bearers, the last post and reveille, the Dean of St Cyprian's Cathedral in Kimberley, Reginald Leeuw, led the service.



Scenes from the rededicating and reinvigorating of Sailor' Malan.



- Welcome
- Scripture and prayer
- Wreath laying
1. Dr Y. Malan In memory of A.C. 'Sailor' Malan and on behalf of The Spiffire Society, Aerodrome Historical Trust and the National Spiffire Museum
 2. Mr. R. Malan On behalf of the Malan family
 3. Capt. A. Nicholas On behalf of SA TS General Baska Old Boys' Association
 4. Scott M. J. Maarmar On behalf of 24 Squadron, Royal Air Force
 5. Mr. S. Swanepoel On behalf of the McGregor Museum
 6. Lt Col (Ret) C. du Toit On behalf of South African Air Force Association
 7. MOTH B. Harding On behalf of Northern Cape District Outpost (MOTH)
 8. Wing Cmdr E. Harrison On behalf of Royal Air Forces Officers Club of South Africa
 9. Capt. (Ret) P. Dickson On behalf of South African Legion
 10. Mr. S. Oppenheimer
 11. Dr D. Morris
 12. Lt Delta Coaker Shellbelle
 13. Regional Commissioner On behalf of Scouts South Africa, Mr N. van der Merwe
 14. Stijn Shellbelle
 15. Scott Mc K. Williams On behalf of Spiffire Restoration Project
- Private wreaths are welcome to be laid following the laying of the main wreath.
- * Ambassador P. Breyer, United States of America Embassy and Captain M. Lewis, Military Attaché, paid their respects 18th September 2023.
- LAST POST
SILENCE
REVEILLE
- Our thanks and appreciation to Scouts South Africa Northern Cape Region and Northern Cape District Outpost.

Quick summary on why Sailor Malan is important to us as provided by Sol Plaatje University:

The life and legacy of Sailor Malan

“A born leader and natural pilot, Adolph Gysbert “Sailor” Malan is one of the most highly regarded fighter pilots of the Second World War and one of the best fighter pilots South Africa has ever produced. During his exceptional career, he was awarded the and Distinguished Flying Cross and received the Distinguished Service Order.

He returned to South Africa after the war and became the personal and political assistant to Harry Oppenheimer, Head of the De Beers and the Anglo-American Corporation, who facilitated Sailor Malan’s move to farming on the Benfontein farm outside Kimberley where he worked at the Oppenheimer racehorse stud farm Mauritzfontein. It was the leasing of Benfontein to Sailor Malan that saw dramatic improvement in the quality of life for those who lived there. Electricity was installed at the farm from Kimberley, and major renovations and rebuilding of places of the Homestead were made with costs covered by the De Beers Company.

A political fighter, anti-apartheid campaigner and champion for racial equality, Sailor Malan became president of the Torch Commando: a protest group of ex-servicemen in the early 1950s. This was a liberal anti-authoritarian organisation that opposed the introduction of the apartheid system and the National Party’s plans to remove Cape Coloured voters from the common voter’s roll.

The Torch Commando at its zenith had 250 000 members, and in landmark protests across South Africa it brought of tens of thousands of protestors carrying torches of light and freedom into physical defiance of the Nationalist government. The Torch Rally in Cape Town attracted 50 000 and in Johannesburg nearly 75 000 people protested the National Party governments and its apartheid ideologies.

At age 52, Sailor Malan succumbed to Parkinson’s Disease on 17 September 1963. Due to his prominent role in opposing apartheid, the then South African government sought to sideline the event of his passing to further erase any legacy of the Torch Commando. The Apartheid government banned members of the South African military from attending in uniform, censored newspaper obituaries and eventually wrote him out of the country’s history over the decades. The South African Air Force was also instructed not to give any tribute to his passing. The United States Air Force, Britain’s Royal Air Force and the Royal Rhodesian Air Force – decided to send representatives in uniform to Sailor’s funeral to honour his service and to protest the Apartheid regime’s prohibition on giving Sailor the military honours he deserved.

Apart from his aerial combat skills, Sailor Malan can also be counted as one of the very first anti-apartheid struggle heroes. Although he has received little recognition for his work as leader of the Torch Commando, he continues to remain an activist and front-runner for equality in the history books.” (SPU release – Persome Oliphant).



SADF Shoulder Flashes

This month we're looking at shoulder flashes of the old South African Defence Force (SADF). These were worn on the shoulder of the step-out jacket. Later they brought out a 'Tuperware' version of the flashes that were worn with browns. How many of these do you remember? Answers on page 92.



ANSWERS TO SADF SHOULDER FLASHES.

1. 1 Maintenance Unit.
2. Infantry School.
3. 1 Signals Regiment.
4. 3. SAI.
5. 1 SSB.
6. 1 SAI.
7. Army Gymnasium.
8. 6 SAI.
9. 1 Parachute Regiment.
10. Chaplain General.
11. WP Command Signals Unit.
12. 4 Field Artillery Regiment.
13. 7 Medical Battalion.
14. 2 Field Engineer Regiment.
15. Technical Services School.

With acknowledgement to Military Despatches, Volume 76, October 2023.

OBITUARIES

DURBAN

Lgr Hilton Naish.

PORT ALFRED

Lgr Walter Rennie Probart.

VIRTUAL BRANCH

Lgr Giovanna Mariano.

SOUTH AFRICAN LEGION



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