



SOUTH AFRICAN LEGION OF MILITARY VETERANS

(CAPE TOWN BRANCH)

PBO 93000796

Cape Town Branch News June 2018

Welcome

We welcome the following new members who have joined since the last newsletter and look forward to their contribution towards the branch :
David Brookes, Ivan Finkelstein, Kenneth Newton, Timothy Reilly.

May Social

Unfortunately the May breakfast was cancelled due to the poor response. Was it the winter weather or some other reason?

Social events are there to give members the chance to get together and we'd love to hear your ideas and suggestions as to the type of social that will bring our members out in their numbers.

Accommodation

Is your name on the waiting list for accommodation at Rosedale? If not application forms are available from the website www.salegion.co.za or David Holmes at david.sal@mweb.co.za . Rosedale offers one bedroom and bachelor flats on a rental basis and one and two bedroom cottages on life right purchase.

We currently have bachelor flats available so if you know of a veteran looking for accommodation contact David.

Rosedale Service Centre

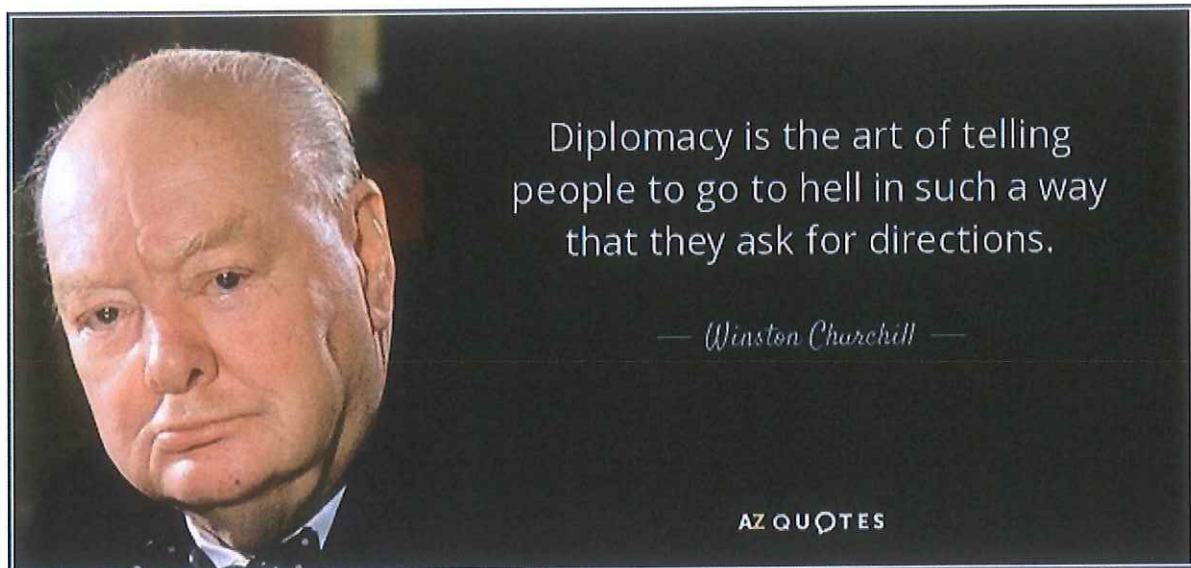
If you aren't already a member, why not join the Rosedale Service Centre? The service centre offers something for everyone with a variety of activities and entertainment including meals at a reasonable price.

Where else can you get a three course Sunday roast for R42.00 and bring your own liquid refreshments?

Memberships costs R48.00 a year.

What Churchill Had To Say

A selection of Churchill quotes some familiar and others less well known.



- Fear is a reaction. Courage is a decision
- Success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm
- A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty
- I'd rather argue against a hundred idiots than have one agree with me
- Life is fraught with opportunities to keep your mouth shut.
- A good speech should be like a woman's skirt; long enough to cover the subject but short enough to create interest.

International rugby players who were awarded the Victoria Cross.

Only four Rugby international players have been awarded the Victoria Cross and of these two had a South African connection.

Three of the four recipients played for Ireland and strangely enough all played for the same club namely Wanderers.

Thomas Crean trained as a doctor at the Royal College of Surgeons and toured South Africa with a combined Ireland/ England team in 1896. The tourists won the series 3 – 1 so perhaps our current rugby challenges go back further than we think! Crean stayed on in South Africa after the tour setting up a medical practice in Johannesburg and joined the Imperial Light Horse in 1898. Surgeon Captain Crean was awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions at Tygerkloof Spruit on 18 December 1901 where although wounded himself, he continued to tend to the wounded while under fire and only stopped when he was hit a second time. He went on to serve on the Western Front in the First World War where he was awarded the DSO and died in 1923 age 50.

Robert Johnson who played with Crean at Wanderers was also on the 1896 tour to South Africa and like Crean stayed on in South Africa and captained Transvaal. He joined the Imperial Light Horse and was awarded his Victoria Cross for his actions at Elandsplaagte on 21 October 1899. With their advance checked by severe fire at close range Captain Johnston and Captain Charles Mullins rushed forward and rallied the men enabling a flanking movement to be carried out. Johnston was badly wounded and nursed back to health by Crean. He returned to Ireland and died in 1950.

Captain Mullins was also awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions at Elandsplaagte.

The third Wanderers player and Irish international to be awarded a VC was Lieutenant Fredrick Harvey. He received his VC for his actions at Guyencourt, northern France on 27 March 1917.

The fourth recipient was the England international Arthur Harrison. He was killed in action at Zeebrugge, Belgium on 23 March 1918 and was awarded the VC for his courageous leadership during this raid.

A sailor's prayer

Now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray the Lord my soul to keep.
Grant no other sailor take,
My shoes and socks before I wake.

Lord guard me in my slumber,
And keep my hammock on its number.
May no clews nor lashings break,
And let me down before I wake.

Keep me safely in thy sight,
And grant no fire drills tonight.
And in the morning let me wake,
Breathing scents of sirloin steak.

God protect me in my dreams,
And make this better than it seems.
Grant the time may swiftly fly,
When myself shall rest on high,
In a snowy feather bed,
Where I long to rest my head.

Far away from all these scenes,
From the smell of half-baked beans.
Take me back into the land,
Where they don't scrub down with sand.

Where no Demon Typhoon blows,
Where the women wash the clothes.

God thou knowest all my woes,
Feed me in my dying throes.
Take me back I'll promise then,
Never to leave home again.

Four years later

Our Father who are in Washington (Heaven)
Please, dear Father, let me stay,
Do not drive me now away.
Wipe away my scalding tears
and let me stay my thirty years.
Please forgive me all my past
And things that happened at the mast
Do not my request refuse,
Let me stay another cruise
AMEN