



## **SOUTH AFRICAN LEGION**

(CAPE TOWN BRANCH)

PBO 93000796

### **Cape Town Branch News – September 2024**

#### **New members**

A warm welcome to new legionnaires Anthony Askew, Cynthia Bacon, Deon Bock, Tracy Bock, Magda Brough (Bolton), Carine Boshoff, Lucinda Brown, Bill Bussey, Terence Castle, Jean Crawford, Annette Darlew, Johnnie Darlew, Joan de Jager, Mary de Wet, Philip de Wet, Beverley Drury, Jane Durham, Nic Durham, Alison Edwards, Dave Farrell, Hester Farrell, Carol Fitchet, Joyce Gleeson, Adrian Hanna, James Hart, Regina Isaacs, Errol Jacobs, Gary Kannemeyer, Eileen Kannemeyer, Carol Kelly, Jeff Koster, Maureen Koster, Larry Lewis, Marilyn Lewis, Brian Mangion, Joan Mangion, Pamela Martin, Karen McCarthy, Eric Mentor, Charmaine Myburgh, Nardus Nel, Sandi Nettet, Tony Parkerwood, Myrtle Payne, Isabella Petiteaud, Neville Petiteaud, Magda Poilly, Danny Primo, Geraldine Rathbone, Elma Ross, Natalie Smith, Sue Snare, Megan Spencer-Jones, Wilfred Tavares, Anne Taylor, Jacques van der Westhuizen, Pieter van Eeden, Mark van Ryneveld, Veronica Venter, Margie Verity, Barbara Vivier, Nicola Webb and Kevin Williams. We encourage you to get involved and to contribute to the success of the Legion.

#### **Poppy Day 2024**

Pam Poole, our Poppy Day convenor, has been hard at it and arrangements are in place for Saturday 9 November.

That same afternoon at 16h00 the Cape Town Concert Brass will be performing at Rosedale. Last year's recital was outstanding and tickets for this year's concert are available at R50 for Rosedale residents, R100 for non-resident members and guests. The Rosedale Club will be open afterwards and refreshments will be on sale. See the attached poster for booking details.

You will remember the sterling effort that fellow legionnaire John Gandy put into his initiative – walking from Simon's Town to Rosebank – in 2023 and which was repeated last year when 13 members and supporters did the walk, raising nearly R30 000. Well, they're at it again, this time on Saturday 2 November and this year they hoping to raise R40 000. They can only do this with your input so please consider supporting their efforts. You have the choice of an outright donation or by sponsoring one of the walkers. Interested? Keen? Willing? Please contact John Gandy on 071 610 6002 or email [servicecentre@salegion.co.za](mailto:servicecentre@salegion.co.za)

Finally, if you can't make the concert or shake a tin on the day and don't fancy the 31km walk, or are just feeling generous, please consider donating to Poppy Day:

SA Legion  
Capitec Business Bank  
Branch code 450105  
Account number 1050804759

Please include as the reference: PD + SURNAME

## Legion National Congress

A successful Legion national congress was held at Rosedale from 12 to 15 September. More details will follow in the next Springbok magazine, but congratulations to Mark Louw on being elected National President and Cape Town Branch Chairman Ray Nessel on his election to National Vice President.

## Winston Churchill – Little known facts

### 1. British Bulldog?

Churchill, the ‘British Bulldog’ – and symbol of all things British – was in fact half-American. Churchill’s English roots can be traced back, courtesy of his father Lord Randolph Churchill, to the illustrious Dukes of Marlborough (1702). His American heritage is equally impressive. His mother, Jennie Jerome, was the daughter of the American millionaire Leonard Jerome and his paternal grandmother was related to George Washington.

### 2. Churchill the Artist

Churchill was a prolific painter, producing nearly 600 works throughout his lifetime. In December 2006, one piece, ‘View of Tinherir’ from 1951, sold at auction for a record £612,800. It appears that not all his paintings were of a similar high standard.

### 4. Prisoner of War

In 1899, Churchill escaped a prisoner of war camp whilst a correspondent in South Africa, during the Boer War. The bounty on his head was 25 pounds.



Aboard RMS Dunottar Castle, on return from the Boer War, 1900  
(second from right, middle row)

### 5. Churchill the Historian

Churchill was a gifted writer, novelist and historian. In his lifetime, he published volume upon volume of works on the history of England and Europe, including *A History of the English-Speaking Peoples* and, not least, his six-part epic collection, *The Second World War*.

His literary merit was officially recognised when he won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1953 “for his historical and biographical presentations and for the scintillating oratory in which he has stood forth as a defender of human values.” Incidentally, he is still the only British Prime Minister to have won the prize.

## **6. Gorilla Warfare**

According to his nephew, John Spencer Churchill, Winston did a good gorilla impression. In his 1961 book, *Crowded Canvas*, John writes “Few people can say they have seen the ex-First Lord of the Admiralty, crouching in the branches of an oak, baring his teeth and pounding his chest.”

## **7. Man of the Half-Century**

Churchill eclipsed Hitler by being named *Time Magazine*'s ‘Man of the Year’, not once but twice, in 1940 and again in 1949. The title is granted to men (and also women, since Wallis Simpson in 1936) who have significantly influenced the course of history. On his second time receiving the accolade, he was named ‘Man of the Half-Century’.

## **8. Churchill the Statesman**

Churchill served under an impressive six monarchs: Queen Victoria, King Edward VII, King George V, King Edward VIII, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth II. Whilst serving his country, he held at least nine different offices.

## **9. School of Thought**

As a schoolboy, Winston Churchill did not shine academically; he would often find himself in the bottom half of classes and examinations; his rebellious streak ending in numerous beatings. Few would have predicted a successful career in politics, least of all his headmaster at Harrow, who punished the young boy for destroying his beloved straw hat. Realising university was not an option, and recognising Winston's childhood love for toy soldiers, Churchill's father decided to send him to Sandhurst Military Academy. It would, however, take three attempts before Winston passed the entrance examination.

## **10. Pillow Talk**

Churchill was known to enjoy a siesta, a habit he adopted following his time in Cuba with Spanish forces in 1895. In later life, far from simply aiding his recuperation, Churchill's bed often functioned as his preferred location to discuss matters of great state importance.

Senior military advisors Sir Hastings Ismay and General Alan Brooke would invariably be summoned bedside, for a private audience with the Prime Minister. Reports claim a bespoke breakfast table to fit his bed was commissioned especially to accommodate his unusual conferences.

## **On a Lighter Note**

I'm not saying that your perfume is too strong. I'm saying that my canary was alive before you got here.

We began to long for the pitter patter of little feet, so we bought a dog. It's cheaper and you get more feet.

## **Card Facilities**

In case you didn't know, both the RSC office and the Rosedale Club now accept card payments.