



SOUTH AFRICAN LEGION (CAPE TOWN BRANCH)

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Cape Town Branch News – March 2022

One quarter down and three quarters of the year to go. As we come out of the current Covid wave we are faced with the war in Ukraine and the already felt impact on fuel prices and increases in the cost of basic food items. While this will impact life in South Africa and elsewhere in the world, think of the unfortunate civilians who have been caught up in the fighting and forced to leave their homes or stay put and live through regular bombardments, disruption of services and food shortages. As usual, it's the politicians who start the war and the population who suffer the consequences.

Easter message from our Honorary Chaplain Ralph Thornley.

It was simply this – “It is finished.” This was when the rail link between West and East had been completed. Many centuries before that another message was flashed to both heaven and earth – “TETELESTAI! – it is finished” This was the final word uttered by Jesus on the cross. What we remember at this time is not some annual religious tradition, but an historical fact well documented on pages outside the Bible by pagan and Jewish writers who had no truck with Christianity. Here are some examples.

Flavius Josephus- a Roman citizen and Jewish historian. 37AD – 100AD. “And when Pilate, upon the indictment of the leading men among us had condemned him (Jesus) to the cross, those who loved Him at first did not cease.

Babylonian Talmud – Jewish writings. He was executed on the eve of the Passover either by crucifixion or as an alternative tradition states by being stoned and then hung.

Roman Source – Tacitus 58 – 116AD. This a very reliable historian and he is writing about Nero's persecution of Christians. Their name comes from Christus who in the reign of Tiberius as emperor, was condemned to death by the procurator Pontius Pilatus.

1961 The Pilate stone. This was a stone found at the Amphitheatre in Caesarea with Pontius Pilatus' name inscribed on it.

Of course, the cross today is used by many as nothing more than a decoration or a lucky charm with little real meaning. Although the crucifixion of Jesus remains for all time a great milestone in the history of the world, yet far greater is His resurrection from the dead. On the resurrection alone stands or falls the authority of Jesus and the whole of Christianity. It was a man by the name of Josh McDowell author of several books including **Evidence that demands a Verdict**. Here he writes, “After more than 700 hours of studying this subject – the Resurrection of Christ – and thoroughly investigating its foundation, I've come to the conclusion that the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is one of the most wicked, vicarious, heartless hoaxes ever foisted upon the minds of men or it is the most fantastic fact of history. No event in the history of the world has been so thoroughly examined and researched than the resurrection of Jesus. There isn't a religion in the world that can make that claim for its founder. When Jesus came into the world it was full of religions, many no longer exist. The people lived in fear of the demands made by their pagan gods. Marduk, Chemosh, Dagon, Astarte. Some

even demanded human sacrifice. Jesus writes off all these religions with His great statement "I am the way the truth and the life no one comes to the Father but by me." Jesus did rise from the dead and that is a fact. If we accept that then we must hear the other things he said.

"I am the resurrection and the life, he who believes in me though he die yet shall he live and whoever believes in me shall never die.

"Truly, truly I say to you, the hour is coming when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live."

"Because I live you will live also."

We'll allow the great apostle Paul to make the last statement. 1 Corinthians 15:14. **"If Christ has not been raised from death, we have nothing to preach, and you have nothing to believe."**

I wish you all a Christ-filled Easter. Go into the world with confidence knowing that the tomb was empty, and your Redeemer lives.

Every Blessing

Rev Ralph Thornley

Welcome to new members

We welcome Kevin Ashton, Dave Fitchet, Abri Fourie, Errol Poilly, Marianne Gertenbach, Clive Jordaan, Ann Long, Cookie, Mair, Andrew Preston, Murray Scholtz, Gail Thomson, Alan Thornhill, and look forward to their participation in the affairs of the branch.

Induction of new members

It has been a while since we held our last induction, and a bumper induction of new members was held on 4 April. Our chairman Ray Nesset officiated and welcomed 34 new members into the fold.



Rosedale Club

The Club is up and running and while well supported by residents, non-resident members are conspicuous by their absence. Why not pay a visit on Wednesday or Friday evening from 1700 to around 1900 or book for Sunday lunch and pop in for a drink beforehand?

Things were made to last in the good old days

We were recently contacted to provide information on the WW2 South African Gifts and Comforts committee and the work that they did.

Engela Kruger wrote:

“My grandfather Johan David Griesel fought in World War 2 and was stationed in Egypt and Italy. The South African Gifts and Comforts Committee send this Cadbury Bournville chocolate slab as a soldier’s gift from South Africa in 1940. The slab is still in its original packaging and tin.

My grandfather must have saved it and brought it back home after the war. He died in 1971. He was 56. His wife and my grandmother, Ida Griesel, had the chocolate all these years and now it is with me in Cape Town.”

Oupa Johan must have been a strong willed not to have eaten the chocolate while on service and to have kept it for over eighty years.

Photo by Melinda Els



Gunners Memorial Parade

Lgr Claudio Chiste laid a wreath on behalf of the branch at a well-attended Gunners Memorial Parade in the Companies Gardens on Sunday 13 March.

