

Springbok

Journal of the South African Legion
Tydskrif van die Suid-Afrikaanse Legioen



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**MEMBERS OF THE DURBAN BRANCH THAT ATTENDED THE ANNUAL CIVIC REMEMBRANCE SERVICE
PARADE AND DELVILLE WOOD COMMEMORATION IN DURBAN.**

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Here is another bumper edition of our newsletter, Springbok, for your reading pleasure. It is the third bumper edition for the year. My sincere appreciation to the branches that have contributed in making this a bumper edition. The next edition will be published at the end of September 2024. Let us make it another bumper edition. Motivate your branch to submit its report and photos. This proves that the South African Legion is active across the World. Let us keep it up.

I have received confirmation from the National Secretary that the National Congress will take place in Cape Town over the period 12 to 15 September 2024. Delegates will arrive on Thursday 12 September and attend a welcome function at Rosedale. The Congress will take place on Friday and Saturday, 13 and 14 September. Congress will conclude with a church service on Sunday morning, 15 September. While every Congress is important, delegates at this Congress will have to make some difficult decisions. Let us pray for a successful Congress. On behalf of all our readers, we wish delegates a successful Congress.

To date, the year 2024 has been very interesting. Not just concerning the ongoing conflicts around the World, but also the influence of the weather. In our own country, the Western Cape has certainly received its fair share of stormy weather this winter. Various countries have also experienced severe weather. It is claimed that this is all as a result of climate change.

Well, until the next time 'keep your eyes on the horizon'. Stay safe and look after yourself and live up to our motto 'Not for Ourselves, But for Others'.

Yours Aye.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

SOUTH AFRICAN LEGION TIES

The SA Legion Cape Town Branch is looking at ordering the green SA Legion Springbok tie with stripes as per image below. They have requested that we get an estimate from the branches of how many they should order.

Please confirm how many ties your branch will be interested in to purchase; the supplier price will depend on the total quantity of the order by the Cape Town Branch.

They are roughly looking at an estimate price of R175-00 per tie, this excludes delivery charges.

Please take note: In future: that all orders through Cape Town will require advance payments for items and delivery before they order stock from the suppliers.

No bulk stock will be ordered from suppliers and kept by the Cape Town Branch in case someone needs an item.

Branches will have to plan and do research on the quantities they will require in future.



BRANCH NEWS

ALEXANDRIA

The Alexandria Branch held its annual Golf Day at the Royal Port Alfred Golf Club on 28th June 2024. This golf competition was started many years ago at the Alexandria Golf Club by Legionnaire Keeton Fick to raise funds for our branch of the South African Legion and it has been held annually ever since. The organisation of this fundraising event was done as usual by Legionnaires Basil Dukas and Ian Smith, ably assisted by other branch legionnaires who were responsible for the collection of the hole sponsorships, competition prizes and for selling raffle tickets. Our thanks go to our many generous sponsors as well as to all the legionnaires and players who supported the raffle. After two postponements due to rain, the weather eventually played ball and a total of 68 players took part. As usual, the competition for the prestigious Keeton Fick Trophy was very keen and a great day was had by all. The prize-giving ceremony was held afterwards at the 19th hole and thanks to our sponsors we were able to hand out many generous prizes to the players as well as to our raffle winners.

BRAKPAN

Annual General Meeting. The 77th AGM of the Brakpan Branch was held at the Cozy Corner MOTH Cottages on Saturday the 20th of July 2024. The meeting was attended by guests from the Central Wits (Johannesburg) branch and Benoni Branch. It was a great pleasure for the Brakpan Branch to host members of these branches, which hadn't happened for a few years. Benoni Branch kindly offered to assist Brakpan Branch with Poppy Day fundraising because all the shopping centres in Brakpan have inexplicably refused permission for the Legion to stand and collect on Poppy Day for the last 3 years.

CAPE TOWN

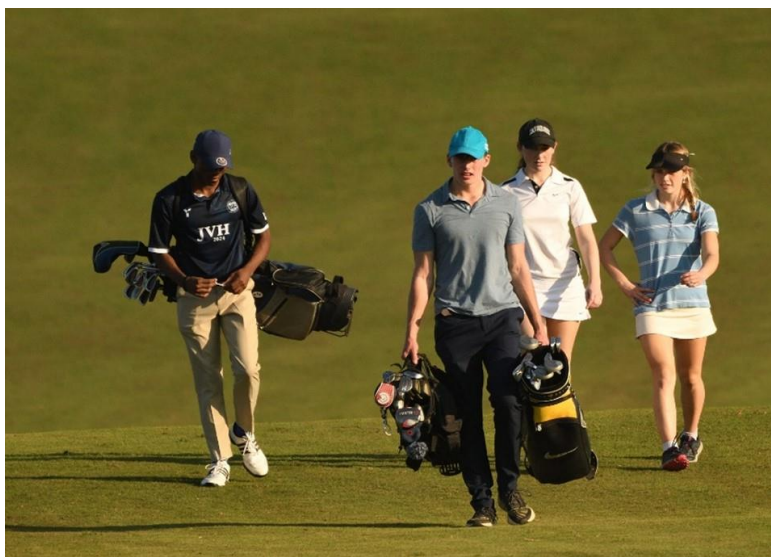
Rosedale Gratitude Function. Every year the committee that brings us fun and entertainment acknowledges the work done by the volunteers who drive these initiatives at Rosedale. So it was that on Friday 14 June these willing workers gathered in the Rosedale Club where their efforts were rewarded with an array of snacks over drinks from the bar. Chairperson Del Davies reminded guests of the selfishness of these volunteers who gave so willingly in 2023 to make the lives of the residents happy and fulfilled.

General Meeting Social Club – Rosedale. The inaugural General Meeting of the new social club (name change still to be ratified) at Rosedale took place on Wednesday 17 July. Over 60 members were there to learn about what will be dished up by way of entertainment for them in the months ahead.

Rosedale – Mandela Day. Since 2016, initiated by resident Lucille Byrnes and, a group of volunteers at Rosedale, did their bit in recognising Mandela Day on July 18th. Then came Covid and they altered course by linking with the Ladles of Love project; each month they'll gather and spread jam and peanut butter on sandwiches which is then distributed through this initiative to soup kitchens around the Peninsula.



Scenes from the Alexandria Branch annual golf day.





From left to right:- Fernando Alves and Eddie Wilkin (Jhb.) Rina Esterhuizen Brakpan. secretary, Rees Davies Brakpan Chairman, Maurice Paoli Regional Chairman (Gauteng) front Dorothy Sherriff Brakpan Branch president, back Mark Louw National Vice President Jennifer Elbourne Brakpan Vice Chairperson. John Lindeque Benoni Chairman Jenny Grieff Benoni Secretary, Colin Rumble and Harry Kriek (Brakpan)



Scenes from the Rosedale gratitude function (1).





Scenes from the Rosedale gratitude function (2).





Scenes from the inaugural General Meeting of the new social club (name change still to be ratified) at Rosedale.





Scenes from the Annual Mandela Day activities at Rosedale.



Rosedale Nonresident Legionnaires Dinner. The Cape Town Branch hosted a dinner for non-resident legionnaires on Friday, July 26 and, after pre-prandial drinks in the Rosedale Club, the dining room soon reached its capacity as guests selected their seats in anticipation of a great evening's entertainment. During the dinner Lgr Ray Nessel acknowledged the splendid contribution Pamela Poole has made as convenor of the Poppy Day Fund. Later in the dinner, Lgr Ray Nessel presented the events coordinator and outgoing chairperson of the Rosedale Activities and Fundraising Centre Del Davies with a Certificate of Merit for Services Rendered

DURBAN

Comrades' Marathon 2024 – "The Ultimate Human Race". The SA Legion proudly staffed an elite water station in Pinetown at the 49th up run of the Comrades Marathon on Sunday, 9 June. Our team of ten dedicated volunteers took on the responsibility of setting up and overseeing 24 tables, providing refreshments for the elite runners. The atmosphere was vibrant, with enthusiastic cheering from both our volunteers and the surrounding supporters along the route.

The SA Legion proudly has links to the founding of the Comrades Marathon through veteran Vic Clapham, who famously ran the first marathon from Pietermaritzburg to Durban. He ran the marathon in memory of comrades who had Fallen in World War 1 and so the race became known as the Comrades Marathon. (The history of Comrades is published below.)

The Durban Branch of the SA Legion has two magnificent floating trophies, presented at the Comrades Champions Prizegiving Breakfast, which takes place every year at the Elangeni Hotel on Durban's Golden Mile, the morning after the running of the race, this year on Monday, 10 June 2024. The first trophy is a silver cup, the SA Legion Veterans' Trophy, awarded to the first men's veteran to complete the race. This year's winner was Joseph Manyedi in a time of 05:28:32. ^[11 SEP] The second trophy is a splendid shield, the SA Legion Veterans' Shield, awarded to the first lady veteran to complete the race. This year the winner was Caitriona Jennings in a time of 06:12:59.

Presentation to Highway Shellhole. Lgr Bryan Doré (Durban Branch Chairman), Lgr Brad Fourie and Lgr Kassie Nel attended the Highway Shellhole 75th Anniversary Parade where their Old Bill, Dave Millar was presented with a Commendation of Exception Achievement certificate in recognition and appreciation of 75 years of fellowship and support to the Upper Highway and Hillcrest Veterans' community by Lgr Doré.

Round Table 189 Potjie Competition. The SA Legion, Durban participated in the Westville Round Table 189 annual potjie competition, hosted at the Westville Bowling Club. Representing our team were Lgr Brad Fourie, Lgr Kassie Nel, Lgr Louallen Nympe, and Brad Pillay, competing alongside 13 other teams. ^[11 SEP] The Legion team prepared a delicious oxtail and bacon potjie with rice, maintaining a military theme throughout. All funds raised by the teams and the Westville 189 Round Table were donated to the non-profit organisation, Street Wise for Children.

Accommodation at B.E.S.L. Court. Please note that we have limited vacancies in our one- and two-bedroomed subsidised flats in Umbilo. Please contact Lgr Brad Fourie on admin@salegion.durban for further details.

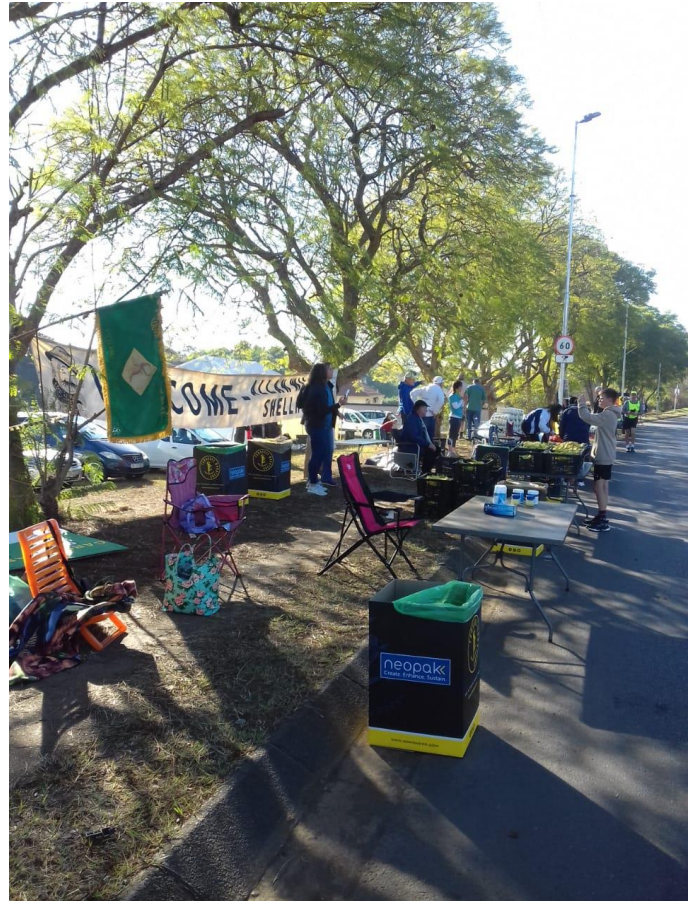


Scenes from the Nonresident Legionnaires Dinner at Rosedale.





Scenes from the Annual Comrades Marathon.





Scenes from the Comrades Marathon prize giving.



Right: Lgr Bryan Doré (Durban Branch Chairman), Lgr Brad Fourie and Lgr Kassie Nel attended the Highway Shellhole 75th Anniversary Parade.



Left and below: Scenes from the Round Table 189 Potjie Competition



New Shirts on Order. We're planning to order new semi-formal open neck short-sleeved shirts soon. We're not sure of the cost (depends on the size of the order), but around R250 each. We hope to get a ladies' version, too. If you would be keen on acquiring one (or more) of these, please let us know the size and quantity needed. Many thanks.

NORTH COAST

Sugar Mac Festival Mtunzini Zululand 26/27 June 2024. The Mtunzini Sugar Mac Festival is held every two years and is to all intents and purposes the Zululand Agricultural Show. In 2022 Lgr Kevin Hartley who lives in Mtunzini arranged that the SAL North Coast Branch assist in manning the bar along with Moth Zululand and Mtunzini Round Table. The three organisations would share a percentage of the profit and gain exposure through their presence, it was a great success and a substantial amount was raised to assist the coffers of the North Coast Branch.

Again this year we were invited back to assist, this time to partner with the newly formed SAL Zululand Branch. This time round we were not only going to run the bar but also the food tent adjacent to the bar. 9 members from North Coast travelled up to Mtunzini early on the morning of 26th June and spent an enjoyable, albeit hard work, two days.

The camaraderie between the two Branches was excellent and has cemented a solid foundation of both North Coast and Zululand into the future.

LOWER SOUTH COAST

Branch Meeting. During a meeting of the South Coast Branch at the Douglas Mitchell Sportsgrounds the author Kevin Woods shared his story of his imprisonment in a Zimbabwe jail from 18 December 1988. Thanks to the South Coast Herald for the story and photos. *(See the picture on page 19 – Ed).*

PORT ELIZABETH

Annual General Meeting. The 103rd Annual General Meeting of the Port Elizabeth Branch of the South African Legion was held on Sunday 5th May 2024, at the Maritime Club, at 11h30. There were 16 members present and several apologies. A new member, Marlon Hensberg, was inducted into the order as a Legionnaire. The existing EXCO plus Lgr O Osbourne and the Padre, Lgr Rev Mark Barth, were elected to look after the Branch for another year. Annual Poppy "Tin Shake", the Chairman reiterated the principle of more boots on the ground = more money in the tins. The SASCC and Rotary have agreed to assist us with collections ongoing. The chairman encouraged more Legionnaires and their wives or partners to try and attend the Branch General Meetings and functions. The Chairman closed the meeting at 12:00 after which a finger lunch and harmony were enjoyed.

Events during July. July saw the Port Elizabeth Branch attending 2 events as well as our ongoing commitment to the maintenance of Walmer War Memorial (Severe storm damage) and welfare activity for Military Veterans and their families in general. Members attended a general meeting which started at the grave of James Craig VC in St. Marys Cemetery where Lgr Chris Papenfus gave us a short lecture on Craig VC's life and times as well as the circumstances when he earned his Victoria

Scenes from the Sugar Mac Festival Mtunzini Zululand with the North Coast and Zululand Branches.



July 5, 2024

News < South Coast Herald 11

Author recalls 20 years in Zim jail

Shona Aylward

Imagine spending 20 years, some 7 140 days, in a Zimbabwean jail.

This is the true story of author Kevin Woods, whose prison story captivated the audience at the SA Legion's Lower South Coast branch meeting held at Douglas Mitchell Sports Ground recently.

Woods was sentenced to death in Zimbabwe on December 18, 1988.

He endured 20 years of living hell in former

president Robert Mugabe's prisons, the first of five people on death row.

To put it into perspective, he was imprisoned at the age of 35 and was lucky enough to make it out at 55.

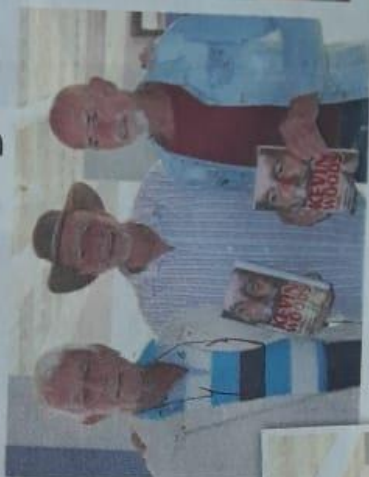
He last saw his daughter, aged four, and reunited with her at 21.

After his release, he wrote the book:

Story: In the Shadow of Mugabe's Gallows.

Today, Woods lives in Durban and has made a career of public and motivational speaking, and his story is both moving and poignant.

"If I don't make you shed a tear during



Author Kevin Woods (middle) with Eldred Krebsner (left) and Bruce Duncan. INSET: Kevin Wood signs his book.

my talk, I haven't done my job," said Woods.

Woods worked as a double agent. He had been a senior security officer in Mugabe's Central Intelligence Organisation, where he was well placed and had access to Zimbabwe's ultra secrets, as well as an agent for the South African Apartheid government.

"I don't recommend being a spy as a career," joked Woods. During his incarceration, he spent his time in solitary confinement, shaved and

stripped naked.

He was put in a tiny single prison cell where he spent five years alone without a radio, TV, books or any interaction with the outside world.

It was his lone fight to maintain his humanity, self-dignity and sanity in a prison



Enjoying the afternoon together (from left) Bev Nathras, Karl Slipcich, Wilhelm Boshoff and Wilfred Nathras of the SA Legion's Lower South Coast branch, with Old Bill from Rough but Ready MOTH Shellhole Lew Lloyd-Evans (second from right).

system that belonged to the Middle Ages. "I was fed a boiled potato, which was rolled on the ground to me by a watchful guard. I refused to eat it without a plate," he said.

Woods's story took his captive audience on an emotional rollercoaster, from quiet

laughter to, as he warned... tears.

* The next SA Legion's Lower South Coast branch meeting will be held at Douglas Mitchell Sports Ground on July 27 at 10:00. Contact Wilfred Nathras on 072 639 5534.

Lower South Coast Branch.

Cross. The branch has undertaken the upgrading and renovating of this grave as an ongoing project which we hope to complete during the coming months. This was followed by harmony and a light lunch at the Maritime Club.

COMMEMORATIONS

BATTLE OF DELVILLE WOOD MEMORIAL SERVICE – PIETERMARITZBURG

The Annual Battle of Delville Wood Memorial Service was held at the MOTH Allan Wilson Shellhole on Saturday 13 July 2024. The service was very well attended. Legionnaires, Trevor Bamforth and Quinton Gibson laid a wreath on behalf of the South African Legion.

BATTLE OF DELVILLE WOOD MEMORIAL SERVICE – UNITED KINGDOM

Members of the SA Legion UK & EU and a few guests gathered at the East Sheen Cemetery Chapel for a small service and wreath laying at our own Cenotaph for those who gave it all at Delville Wood ... We then proceeded to the shooting range taking some "aggro" against some paper targets, firing 22 Ruger and 38 Winchester ...

We also had a bit of a boerie braai , and had pap en sous as well as a few rolls chunked into the mix ... Thank you, Morné van Dalen, for giving us this great opportunity and making this a fun and interesting afternoon at the range.

Attending the parade were Russel Mattushek and his wife Dee Kennedy, our Padre Craig Esterhuizen and his lovely wife Gail Esterhuizen, and also not forgetting the other signaller, Stuart Robinson who was at the service including Brian Parry, and his wife Karen Parry and their daughter ...And also including Justin Bosanquet (RBL SA Branch) , Bobby Crick - our Bugler, Miguel Dias (my "ouman" in the army). We greatly appreciate the effort ...

BATTLE OF DELVILLE WOOD MEMORIAL SERVICE – PRETORIA

The Annual Battle of Delville Wood Memorial Service occurred at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission plot in the Thaba Tshwane New Military Cemetery on Sunday 14 July 2024. The Pretoria Branch of the South African Legion was supported by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, the South African National Defence Force, the Council of Military Veteran Organisations South Africa, the Delville Wood Trust (who sponsored the programs) and the Pretoria Memorial Services Council.

Chaplain Ben Van Der Walt conducted the religious service. This was followed by the Call to Remembrance, sounding of the Last Post, two minutes silence and the Reveille. At the beginning of the wreath laying a tribute to writer Ian Uys was read whereafter Legionnaire Charles Ross laid a wreath on behalf of the Uys family. Wreaths were laid by the Deputy Executive Mayor of the City of Tshwane, Military Attaches and many veteran organisations. Legionnaire Andre Le Grange laid a wreath on behalf of the South African Legion.



Scenes from the Battle of Delville Wood Memorial Service held in Pietermaritzburg.



Scenes from the Annual Battle of Delville Wood Memorial Service East Sheen Cemetery, United Kingdom.





Scenes from the Annual Battle of Delville Wood Memorial Service held in Pretoria (1)





Scenes from the Battle of Delville Wood Memorial Service held in Pretoria (2).



The Commonwealth War Graves Commission South Africa had a small stand where they handed out information regarding work being done by them. Several 'goodie bags' were presented to some attendees.

ANNUAL CIVIC REMEMBRANCE SERVICE PARADE AND DELVILLE WOOD COMMEMORATION – DURBAN

Durban, South Africa - eThekweni Municipality Mayor, Councillor Cyril Xaba, attended the Annual Civic Remembrance Service Parade and Delville Wood Commemoration in Durban today. Convened by the SA Legion Durban Branch, this significant event honors the memory of all fallen South African soldiers.

Mayor Xaba's presence at the ceremony underscored the importance of remembering the sacrifices made by those who fought for their country. The event included an emotional wreath-laying ceremony, in which the mayor actively participated, paying his respects to the fallen heroes.

The Delville Wood Commemoration specifically remembers the Battle of Delville Wood, a fierce and costly engagement during the Somme Offensive in 1916. South African troops played a crucial role in this battle, and the commemoration ensures their bravery and sacrifice are not forgotten.

The ceremony was attended by veterans, military personnel, and members of the public, all coming together to pay tribute to the nation's heroes. The Annual Civic Remembrance Service Parade and Delville Wood Commemoration serve as a poignant reminder of the past and a call to preserve the memory of those who gave their lives for future generations.

BATTLE OF DELVILLE WOOD MEMORIAL SERVICE – CAPE TOWN

The Annual Battle of Delville Wood Memorial Service was held in the Gardens in Cape Town on Sunday 21 July 2024. The service was well attended and Lgr Peter Muirhead laid a wreath on behalf of the South African Legion.

BATTLE OF DELVILLE WOOD MEMORIAL SERVICE – PORT ELIZABETH

Sunday the 21st July was the occasion of the annual remembrance parade and wreath laying service for the battle of Delville Wood. Members attended and a wreath was laid by Lgr. J Smit on behalf of the SA Legion. Banners were paraded and the necessary protocols observed. Harmony and Comradeship with our fellow Veteran organisations followed what was an enjoyable day.

OTHER STORIES

RED SOCKS FRIDAY PART TWO

[John McNroy's Red Sock Friday Initiative.](#)

By Justin Nurse via IOL.

John McNroy was born in Cape Town, but grew up in the UK. After one too many summer holidays in South Africa visiting family, the pull of Africa became too great and John enrolled as a border at



Scenes from the Annual Battle of Delville Wood Memorial Service held in Durban.





Lgr Peter Muirhead laying a wreath on behalf of the South African Legion at the Annual Battle of Delville Wood Memorial Service in the Gardens, Cape Town.



Standards on parade at the Annual Battle of Delville Wood Memorial Service held in Port Elizabeth.

Bishops for his final two years of school. Thereafter, while studying at UCT, he made his debut as a Springbok hockey player and ended up playing hockey for South Africa until 2006. He then played club hockey while working in Ireland in 2007.

“It was in Dublin where the Red Sock thing emerged. A good friend of mine, Ian Symons (“Symmo”), was also working in Dublin at the time, and we spent an amazing year together. By the end of the year he was due to return to SA to get married; we didn’t know when next our paths would cross again, and we wanted something to remember each other by. Something to share on a regular basis.

“Symmo shared a story from his school days in Grey High, Port Elizabeth, regarding its memorial day for people who died in the wars. Symmo would sit in the front row of the chapel, watching an old fellow, Sydney Feinsen, who, year after year, would lay a commemorative wreath while wearing red socks. The red socks became a talking point; something he and his mates had to get to the bottom of

From <<http://leadsa.co.za/?p=7310>>

NATAL CARBINEERS ATHLETICS CLUB

2011 APRIL NEWS BRIEF

John McInroy addressed the meeting and told us all about RedSockFriday and the 2011 unogwaja challenge. In a nutshell.....

Redsockfriday started when one of two close friends who had been living together overseas decided to return home. The two friends wanted to find something that could represent their friendship and remind each other of the energy and passion that they shared no matter where their paths may take them.

But why red socks?

One of the friends recalled his experience at an annual Remembrance Ceremony at his school...

“Very somber occasions indeed – wreaths (of flowers) are laid by the veterans, lone bugler playing ‘the last post’ from an upstairs window, a bomber flies over the school during the moments of silence. And although the connection to those world events gets dimmer and dimmer as the years pass, the vets who arrived each year were the same and the faces became weirdly familiar.

One in particular was the oldest of them all _ he must have been 90 years plus, hobbling up to the epitaph, laying his wreath _ every year (no doubt years before and years after...) The reason he was remembered was that he wore red socks. Every single year.

His story is something remarkable, when we eventually found it out. This is it.

He and two of his best friends were preparing to be sent north to fight in WWI. They made a pact with each other, that whoever made it through the conflicts _ alive _ a sign should always be visible to

remember his lost friends. They chose red socks. And the pact was _ for every day thereafter, they'd wear red socks.

This man celebrated all that he held dear every day of his life. It's impossible to quantify – brotherhood/ friendship/ human connection, but this man had it in abundance.

Redsockfriday means all of that. It takes a leaf out of that gentleman's book, it means remembering your family, your friends, the life that you are afforded to live and the energy you carry with you knowing that others are remembering those same qualities in you!"

The two friends knew straight away that red socks was what they were looking for and promised every Friday moving forward they would wear red socks remembering each other, their friendship, their passion for life and to follow their dreams.

From <<http://natalcarbineers.wordpress.com/2011/04/19/redsock-friday/>>

MY STORY – ANNEMARIE GERBER

Good evening all! My apologies for hijacking this email! *(It was an e-mail sent to remind members of the Pretoria Branch of the Annual Battle of Delville Wood Memorial Service – Ed.)* A relative of mine was a POW during WW2 and died while fighting with the Italian partisans. This past June I went on a journey to find his grave in Genoa, Italy. Found it! I don't think that are many people that will share the feeling, but thought you would. Never forgotten... It was such an awesome experience and I thought it would be nice to share! Below is a photo of my relative (WJ Myburgh) and details. The Afrikaans words below are also engraved on his gravestone. The Staglieno cemetery is old and a bit neglected but the war graves section is immaculate and fantastically maintained. Willem's military records indicated that he qualified for an Italy Star medal, should his family enquire. I could not find any of his medals, so I bought an Italy Star medal online and "presented it to him at his grave" with a proper military salute! It now lies with him. I wrote Willem's story (in Afrikaans), using facts and a bit of fiction. I thought I will attach it for you if you are interested. Else, delete! *(Editor: unfortunately Willem's story is too long to be included in the Springbok. I have sent it to Rosedale to post it on their computer in the library).*

OBITUARY - IAN STEPHANUS UYS: 11 September 1942 - 28 June 2024

Ian Uys passed away peacefully in his sleep at his home in Knysna on Friday 28th of June 2024. He lost his wife Barbara 6 years ago and continued to live for her. Ian is survived by his three children Cheryl living in Cape Town, Jack in Atlanta, USA, and Louise on the Gold Coast, Australia, as well as his grandchildren Tareq, Aliyaah, Kyra, Angelina, Kai and Bodhi.

Having spent a lifetime researching, recording and documenting SA military history from the Boer War to WW1 and the SA border wars. His first book was For Valour which he wrote in 1973, since then he has written 32 more books, among these Delville Wood, Longueval, Honoros Crux, Bushman Soldiers, Survivors of Africa's Oceans, Oceanus, the Knysna Castaways, Knysna & Plett – a journey through time, SA Military Who's Who (1452-1992) and many more. His expertise in his field is globally acknowledged.



My Story by Annemarie Gerber.



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Memories of a "D" Day Planner "HOW IT ALL BEGAN"

by Major General D. H. V. Buckle C.B., C.B.E.

IN JULY, 1942, on my fortieth birthday, I proudly donned a red hat for the first time and stepped into Norfolk House, St. James's Square as Brigadier Logistic Plans for the "Second Front".

Our boss, General Sir Frederick Morgan (affectionately known as "General Freddy") was designated "Chief of Staff to a Supreme Allied Commander designate", abbreviated to "COSSAC". A more daunting task than planning the biggest amphibious operation ever contemplated for an unknown Commander is hard to imagine.

The planning staff was Anglo-American, inter-service and completely integrated. It was surprisingly small and astonishingly happy.

My American Deputy and British staff were highly competent. My American planners were Reserve Colonels. Totally untrained for this work, they were too old for service in field formations. So, for a time, the British carried the ball.

The area for the landings was selected. Then our problem was how the assault forces could be supplied over open beaches until adequate ports could be captured. Many claimed the invention of the famous floating harbours known as "Mulberries", but the germ of the idea probably came from Winston's astonishing "ideas factory".

WINSTON'S "PRAYERS"

Soon we became accustomed to finding a copy of one of Winston's "prayers" on our desks. One of these I vividly remember.

We had planned to evacuate assault casualties in tank landing craft, fitted with emergency medical facilities, on their return crossings to Britain.

One of Winston's wandering liaison aides had sat in on this phase of our planning. The resultant "prayer" read approximately as follows:—

"It has recently come to my notice that our gallant wounded soldiers are to be evacuated from the beaches in iron hulks. Pray tell me why they should be subjected to such hardships and that within 24 hours. Why, pray, can they not be embarked in our finest liners and carried in comfort round the Western coast for hospitalisation?"

THE ANSWER

Although the answer seemed obvious to us, that plan had to be justified in great detail before the magnificent old man would be satisfied and this practice cost us many sleepless nights. But it was well worthwhile because, for one "prayer" of this non-productive type, three at least hit the bulls-eye and they kept us continually self-critical.

Security was a constant headache. Lunching in a London Club, I heard two contractors talking loudly about the purpose, construction and movement of the "Mulberries" which alone allowed us to land in the Cherbourg Area. Yet, despite many such potential leaks, our positive deception was so effective that the Germans were misled about the area of the assault.

The exiled European Governments and their military staffs were irreverently and inexcusably known as "The Black

Troops". They naturally wanted to be in on preparations, but for security reasons had to be tactfully held at arm's length — a deception plan in its own right.

REHEARSALS

Apart from planning we organised and supervised staff exercises, practical trials and rehearsals. I remember my horror when our prototype cement petrol barges sank at their moorings. We also staffed a logistic planning school for staff officers.

We expected General Marshall to be Supreme Allied Commander. He and General Morgan were in constant touch as the outline plan progressed. When Eisenhower was appointed, Morgan was relegated to a subordinate position. Tedder became Deputy and hordes of Americans invaded Norfolk House.

The Supreme Commander rightly insisted on moving out of London. He was told by the War Office that a hatted camp in Bushey Park for his vastly swollen headquarters could not be built in less than so many months. Eisenhower ordered his American logistic staff to erect it in a like number of weeks.

Complete American Contractors' organisations arrived, disguised as Engineer Regiments, and Eisenhower's target date was met.

MONTY

When Monty was appointed to command the assault forces, his staff descended on our plan. Eisenhower's authority and Monty's prestige screwed more landing craft out of other theatres, enabling the plan to be materially improved but not basically altered. I look back on those two years at the centre of momentous events as a satisfying creative team effort in splendid company.



MAJOR GENERAL BUCKLE

In another appointment I was later to see something of the launching of this historic enterprise and to watch the "Mulberries" functioning after they had been towed across the Channel and assembled off the Normandy beaches.

FOUR YEARS LATER, IN SINGAPORE, I WAS PRESENTED BY THE AMERICAN CONSUL-GENERAL WITH A LEGION OF MERIT FOR MY SMALL PART IN "OPERATION OVERLORD".

DANKBETUIGING

MEV SUSAN KRAMER en familie het versoek dat ons 'n publikasie deur middel van SPRINGBOK plaas om sodoende hulle innige dank uit te spreek teenoor die Nasionale President, Nasionale Hoofkwartier, personeel, voorsitter, sekretarisse en alle lede van die Suid-Afrikaanse Legioen, Vrouehulpdiens vir die simpatie en meegevoel deur hulle ontvang in die vorm van briewe, telegramme, ruikers, kranse en donasies vir die verspreiding van Bybels en bowe alles vir die persoonlik kontak en liefde aan hulle bewys gedurende die afsterwe van haar oorlede man en eggenoot en vader van haar twee kinders, Maj. Jack Kramer.

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Major General Buckle certainly played an important role in establishing Rosedale and the Service Centre. Submitted by Marriane Gertenbach.

He was the chairman of the Red Cross children's home, chairman of the South African Military History Society. Uys joined Rotary International in 1975 and was a member for over 48 years. This was a big part of his life where he and his late wife Barbara made lifelong friends. Recently he was honoured with Paul Harris Fellow Award for service.

Ian also served on the Knysna Town Council representing the ACDP from 2018 to 2020 working on the integrated human Settlements planning and development and municipal public accounts committee he tried to do what he could for his constituency

He was part of SA Airforce Society, Moths, Probus, the Yacht Club in Knysna and enjoyed these pursuits.

Throughout his life he invested into many business opportunities and lived by strong principles of integrity and professionalism being a chartered accountant and auditor for over 50 years.

His most beloved activities, besides writing and reading, were flying light aircraft, scuba and sky diving and ultra-marathon running, completing 13 Comrades and over 200 Knysna park runs in his later years.

Many know him for his outwardly serious and stoic personality but those close to him enjoyed his clever wit, haphazard poetic and song repertoires and riveting storytelling of heroes past. He faced his mortality with courage and grace.

We thank his friends and family for the past months of comfort and support.

At the Battle of Delville Wood Memorial Service in Pretoria, Lgr Charles Ross, laid a wreath on behalf of the Uys family.

CAPE TOWN LABOUR CORPS MEMORIAL

Work continues on the new Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) Cape Town Labour Corps Memorial to commemorate Black South African servicemen who perished in the First World War. The memorial should be completed by November 2024.

OBITUARIES

BRAKPAN

Lgr Trevor Thomas.

LOWER SOUTH COAST

Lgr (Prof) Peter Munns.

PORT ELIZABETH

Lgr Henry Wildvogel.



Lgr Trevor Thomas.



Lgr Henry Windvogel.

SOUTH AFRICAN LEGION



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SOUTH AFRICAN LEGION,

PO Box 1936, Houghton, 2041

Tel: 010 595 4222

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