



SOUTH AFRICAN LEGION

(CAPE TOWN BRANCH)
PBO 93000796

Cape Town Branch News

Commemoration of the 80th anniversary of victory in Europe

Thursday 8 May marked the eightieth anniversary of the end of World War 2 in Europe. Those of you who watch TV will have seen the many events that took place around the world.

In Cape Town, the Legion acknowledged the occasion by arranging an exhibition at the Castle of Good Hope and a very well attended Commemorative Service on Saturday 10th May where Alderman Ian Nielsen delivered the address and the band of Christel House School provided the music. In attendance was 98-year-old Joe Wilkinson, who served in the Royal Navy having signed up when he was 16, the minimum age being 17.



Attendees at the Commemorative Service salute during the sounding of the last post by trumpeters from SACS High School

Address: Lower Nursery Road, Rosebank **Postal Address:** PO Box 368, Rondebosch, 7701
www.salegion.co.za **Telephone No:** 27 21 689 9771 **Fax No:** 27 21 685 6254



The exhibition included interviews conducted by volunteer convener Marina Hall with WW2 veterans who are still with us, including branch member 98-year-old Ian Campbell, and material on the many unacknowledged contributors to the South African war effort such as the Native Corp, the Coloured servicemen and SAMWAS. Many interesting WW2 artefacts were displayed, and the exhibition was visited by both local and overseas visitors to the Castle.

What happens to the funds raised by the Poppy Day Collection?

The Poppy Day Collection is the Branch's major fundraising effort towards veterans in need. These veterans are generally living on the streets or in shelters or perhaps in subsidized accommodation. The collection funds the following welfare activities:

- **Monthly comfort parcels**
These parcels are provided to some 70 veterans and include necessities such as soap, toilet paper and deodorant and some nice to haves which might be a chocolate bar, a packet of chips and a cooldrink. Veterans at the following establishments receive support: The Salvation Army (Beth Rogelim), Sunnyside Lodge, Sunshine Club at Valkenberg and Happy Valley Shelter in Simonstown.
- **Casual relief**
Veterans in need are allowed to call at Rosedale once a year and receive a gift card currently valued at R200,00. During 2024 those assisted totalled 136.
- **Other**
From time-to-time requests for once-off assistance such as repairs to hearing aids are received or contributions towards assistive devices.

In the financial year ended 31 March 2025 a total of R109223 was spent on welfare activities. Without the support of legionnaires, members of the MOTH and the public, we would not be able to provide the welfare assistance that we do. Thank you to everyone who contributes.

Welcome to new members

We welcome the following new members to the Legion and look forward to them contributing to our efforts Pieter de Wet, Bianca Durham, Jeremy Faria, Rosemarie Faria, Francois Fehrson, Frikkie Kriel, Janet Minnie, Connie Sebastiano, Raymond Speelman and Johann van Rooyen.



Many of the new members were formally inducted at a ceremony on 24 April where chairman Kevin Ashton officiated.



Pamela Poole assists Kevin in handing Chris Bradley his Induction package, while Connie Sebastian looks on.

On a lighter note

When is the only time that trench warfare should be used?

As a last-ditch effort

What do you call a soldier who likes to socialise?

A company commander

Why does the Norwegian Navy put barcodes on its ships?

So when they return to port, they can Scandinavian