



June 2012
Volume 1

Website: www.sairish.webs.com
eMail: irish.regiment@gmail.com
Fax: 086 652 7643

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From the Editor

From: The Editor

Well, it has been a long time coming, but the Shamrock is hopefully here to stay and keep all its' members informed.

Contributions by the members of the SA Irish Regiment to this newsletter is not only welcome, it is vital. Unless contributions are made by all members this newsletter risks becoming the mouthpiece of one or two interested parties.

Remember you won't have your say unless you submit an article or a letter. We will be glad to give any Regimental group their own monthly column where they can notify members of functions, activities or meetings.

The success or failure of this Regimental newsletter will depend on the co-operation of all the unit's members. This co-operation entails the submission of articles regarding the regiment or articles of a military nature, for publication. Please remember to write neatly and legibly.

Newsletter can now be downloaded from the internet. Go to www.sairish.webs.com then proceed to the Newsletters page on the navigation bar to download.

You can also join our Facebook fanpage to keep up to date on latest events.

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From the OC's Desk

By: Lt Col. M.A. Bennett

The Shamrock has been planned for some time and now it is here.

It will serve as a communication tool between myself as the Officer

Commanding, and the various members of the regiment.

Contributions from members of the Regiment regarding events in the Regiment and the SANDF are welcome and vital.

I encourage members of the Regiment to submit articles on a regular basis. Not everything will be suitable for publication, but that should not stop everyone from trying.

We hope that this will be the first issue of many to come and believe that it will grow from strength to strength.

Faugh a Ballagh

Lt Col. M.A. Bennett

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Regimental Events

By: The Editor

Ceremonial events:

- 8 June – Open day at Elspark Primary school in Boksburg (To be confirmed)
- 9 September – Regimental Birthday (No event planned yet)
- 11 November – Remembrance day parades (To be confirmed)
- 23 November – Sidi Rezegh day. (Parade for 24 November to be confirmed)
- 24 November – Sidi Rezegh Parade (to be confirmed)

Did you know?

By: The editor

From 1943 to 1959 the South African Irish Regiment was an Artillery Regiment 22 Field Artillery Regiment (South African Irish) and only changed back to an Infantry unit on 1 January 1960.

The regiment received four battle honours for its service during World War II, but they were not awarded immediately because, at the time of the publication of the honours, the unit was an artillery regiment - artillery regiments in the South African Army do not carry any honours. However, when the regiment was converted back to an infantry unit it became entitled to those honours and they are now incorporated into the colours of the Regiment.

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From the Pipes and Drums.

By: The Pipe Major

A List of events from the Pipes and Drums for the Rest of the year.

- 26/05/2012 : De La Salle Highland Gathering (Regional)
- 16/06/2012 : Pretoria Boys Highland Gathering (Championship)
- 23/06/2012 : Natal Scottish Gathering
- 30/06/2012 : Cornwall Hill Highland Gathering (Regional)
- 14/07/2012 : St Benedict's Highland Gathering (Regional Final)
- 28/07/2012 : Benoni Highland Gathering (Championship Final and S A Champs)
- 06/10/2012 : George Ackroyd Challenge (Solo Piping Competition)

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News from the SANDF.

Main tasks of the SANDF are border protection and peacekeeping – Review Committee

Courtesy of Defence Web

The South African National Defence Force's main duties are currently sea and land border protection and



peacekeeping on the African continent, according to Roelf Meyer, Chair of the 2012 Defence Review Committee.

He said that with regard to peacekeeping duties, at the moment the SANDF's peacekeeping deployments are restricted due to funding issues. The first defence review took a conservative approach to peace missions, with the anticipation that no more than a battalion would be deployed at a time. Experience has proved this anticipation wrong, and this is being addressed in the 2012 Defence Review.

With regard to border protection, Meyer said the SANDF will be involved in that mission indefinitely. "As far as the foreseeable future is concerned we think border security will be in our mandate," he told defenceWeb during an interview today.

Chapter 6 of the Review, which looks at the defence force's mandate, identifies five main goals, including:
- The defence and protection of South Africa, its people and important national interests.

- The safeguarding of South Africa and its people through aspects such as border safeguarding, supporting the police service and fulfilling South Africa's treaty obligations.

- The defence contribution to South Africa's international agenda and the promotion of regional and continental peace and stability.

- Supporting civil authority in times of crisis, need or turmoil, and the Defence contribution to South Africa's developmental priorities.

- The civil control over defence and the accountable utilisation of defence resources.

Although the defence review calls for the SANDF to assist other government departments, such as the police, in special circumstances, Meyer said the defence force is only to be deployed in time of crisis and only if mandated to do so. For instance, the SANDF often provides

essential flood relief and fire-fighting assistance.

The 2012 Defence Review covers several areas, including the constitutional mandate, South Africa's international obligations and work that government expects the defence force to do. The core of the Review gives the scope and assumptions of the defence force up to the next 30 years. Meyer said the purpose of the Review was to establish a set of defence force goals, which will inform its budgetary requirements. The Minister of Defence will then base her budget argument on those needs.

The first defence review of 1998 had a narrow, transformation focus in the wake of the transition to democracy. Meyer highlighted the need for the new Review by pointing to the issue of piracy, which was not an issue five years ago, but is very much an issue today. Other emerging areas that need to be focused on include cyberwarfare and urban terrorism – Meyer would like to see a special forces unit established for counter-terrorism duties.

Meyer said one of the most important aspects of the review was getting consensus with the SANDF in understanding what it is required to do. "We want to put forward a document that has reached consensus with all South Africans," he said."

Consequently, a number of consultation events are being conducted in the period leading up to the Minister's Budget Vote on May 17. The Defence Review Committee is now holding provincial forums and stakeholder engagements until the end of June 2012 throughout South Africa. Two public participation imbizos have been conducted so far: one in KwaZulu-Natal and the other in Potchefstroom.

Public engagement continues to the end of June, followed by the preparation of the final document (July to August) and the formal approval process (August to September).

As far as the local defence industry is concerned, Meyer said the Committee has made recommendations and has met with those concerned, such as Denel, Armscor and the rest of industry and the Committee is continuing the consultation process. "The defence industry can be a significant contributor to GDP," he said, emphasising the contribution local industry has made in the past and its potential to do so.

Having a strong local defence industry leads to job creation, keeps expenditure within South Africa, offers the possibility of foreign exports and allows for the development of optimised equipment. Meyer noted that the domestic defence industry can advance technology and generate positive spinoffs for the civil sector.

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News from the SANDF. —

New Sergeant-Major of the Army

Courtesy of Defence Web

Senior Chief Warrant Officer (SCWO) Charles Alan Laubscher has been appointed as the Sergeant Major of the



SA Army.

Laubscher started his military career in the January 1975 in the infantry and did basic military training at 1 South African Infantry Battalion (1 SAI Bn) in Bloemfontein and was posted to the Infantry School in Oudtshoorn. Upon completion of his leader group training, he was transferred to 11 Commando in Kimberley as an Infantry instructor. He was a founder member of the South African Army Intelligence Corps and the School of Intelligence, when the corps evolved from the then 11 Commando in 1982. SCWO Laubscher is fully qualified in both the SA Army Infantry and Intelligence Corps.

Later he was posted to the SA Army College where he was an instructor for the SA Army Sergeant Major and Senior Non-commissioned Officers' courses, while also being utilised as the Unit Security Officer for an extended period earning him the Chief of the SA Defence Force Commendation.

He was then appointed as the Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM) of Northern Transvaal Command Headquarters Unit, after which he was appointed as the RSM of the SA Military Intelligence College. For his service at the SA Military Intelligence College, he was awarded the Military Merit Medal. At the time of integration into the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) in 1994, he was posted to the SA Army Headquarters, Communication Section and tasked with the establishment and running of a communication team whose task it was

to keep the other ranks informed on the integration process and resulting changes in the SANDF at the time. He earned the Pro Merito Medal for this task.

This was followed by his appointment as Group Sergeant Major of Group 9 Headquarters in Pietermaritzburg and then he was transferred back to Pretoria as the SA Army Intelligence Formation Warrant

Officer. During this time he also completed part-time studies at the University of South Africa (UNISA), passing the Total Quality Management Programme with distinction. SCWO Laubscher was appointed as the SA Army Warrant Officer Dress, a post he held until his appointment as Sergeant Major of the SA Army on 1 February 2012.

During his career, SCWO Laubscher was awarded the Chief of the SADF Commendation Certificate, three Chief of the SA Army Commendation Certificates and various formation and unit commendations. He is the proud holder of two merit medals, four operational medals and three service medals.

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From the Chaplain

Read 1 Corinthians 13: 4 - 7 and replace the word Love with our own name and see how you measure up...

1 Corintians 13: 4... Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ Love does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ Love always protects, love always trusts, love always hopes, love always perseveres.

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A day in the past .

25 April 1915: Anzac Day is a national day of remembrance in Australia and New Zealand, originally commemorated by both countries on 25 April every year to honour the members of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) who fought at Gallipoli in the Ottoman Empire during World War I. It now more broadly commemorates all those who served and died in military operations for their countries

7 May 1945: German Forces sign the unconditional surrender at the Allied headquarters in Rheims. The surrender takes effect on 8 May 1945 (VE Day), effectively ending the war in Europe.

6 June 1944: Operation Overlord (D-Day). Allied forces land in Normandy, France to liberate Europe from Nazi occupation. It was the largest invasion force in history, as well as the largest amphibious operation ever to take place.

16 June 1976: The Soweto uprising, sparked by a government edict that all instruction in black schools would be held in Afrikaans. Today it is celebrated as Youth day.

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Guide on the new medals of the SANDF

On 27 April 2003 a new set of honours was introduced for Bravery, meritorious service and long service in the SANDF.

The aim of this column is to educate the newer members about the SANDF's honour system.

The Honours for bravery

The decorations for bravery are Nkwe ya Gauta, Nkwe ya Selefera and Nkwe ya Boronse (the Golden Leopard, the Silver Leopard and the Bronze Leopard).

Bars may be awarded to represent subsequent additional awards of these decorations. The three decorations differ slightly from one another. The metals are gold, silver and bronze and each has its own surface design to give a three-dimensional effect. The basic colour of the ribbon is light blue to represent the blue crane whose feather was presented by Xhosa kings as a "decoration" to brave warriors. All three decorations have the Coat of Arms of the Republic on the reverse. The post-nominal letters for the three decorations are NG, NS and NB respectively.



The Nkwe ya Gauta is a fivearmed cross of nine-carat gold. The arms of the cross spread outwards from a central medallion forming chevron-like angles. The outer edges are curved. Between the arms are three short rays of gold. In the centre of the obverse on the light-blue enamel medallion is a golden leopard's head cut off at the throat. The central medallion is one half the diameter of the decoration. The ribbon for the Nkwe ya Gauta is light blue, 20 mm wide, with gold edges 6 mm in width.



The Nkwe ya Selefera is a fivearmed

cross of silver of the same shape as Nkwe ya Selefera but with borders along the edges. Between the arms of the cross are three short rays of silver. The leopard's head in the centre of the light blue enamel medallion is silver. The central medallion is one half the diameter of the decoration. The ribbon is light blue, 20 mm wide, with white edges - 6 mm in width.



The Nkwe ya Boronse is also a five-armed cross of bronze, the extremities of the arms curve and their flat surfaces are hollowed or concave. Between the arms of the cross the rays are of bronze. There is a bronze leopard's head in the centre of the light blue enamel medallion. The central medallion is one half the diameter of the decoration. The ribbon is light blue, 20 mm in width, with bronze edges - 6 mm in width. The honours for bravery may be awarded to officers and other ranks of the SANDF, of any auxiliary service of the SANDF and of any armed forces serving with the SANDF, who have distinguished themselves by bravery on a single occasion or over a period of time in the following ways:

To be awarded the Nkwe ya Gauta recipients must have distinguished themselves by performing acts of exceptional bravery during military operations.

To earn the Nkwe ya Selefera recipients must have distinguished themselves by performing acts of conspicuous bravery during military operations and recipients of the Nkwe ya Boronse must have performed acts of bravery during military operations.

The award of the decorations for service in active military operations

shall be indicated by distinguishing Service insignia worn on the ribbon. The insignia is made of the same metal as the particular decoration. The insignia for recipients of the SA Army will be crossed swords, for recipients of the SA Air Force it is an eagle, for recipients of the SA Navy it is an anchor, while recipients of the SAMHS will wear the rod of Aesculapius.

Additional awards of any of the honours for bravery will be indicated by the award of bars of the same metal as the decoration, to be worn on the ribbon. Bars will be indicated on ribbon bars by miniature replica devices.

The Meritorious service medals will feature in the next issue of **The Shamrock**

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Africa Aerospace and defence 2012

The 7th AAD will take place at AFB Waterkloof, Centurion, City of Tshwane, South Africa and will be open to the public from 22 to 23 September 2012, and will once again bring together worldwide industry players to showcase the latest technological innovations.

AAD is a very successful partnership between South Africa's Aerospace, Maritime and Defence Industry Association (AMD), ARMSCOR and the Commercial Aviation Association of Southern Africa (CAASA), with full support from the Department of Defence and has the active support of the Department of Trade & Industry, the Department of Transport and Department of Science & Technology. This event is one not to be missed.



Gates are open to the public on 22 and 23 September from 06h00 until 17h00. Costs are R40 per children under 12 and pensioners and R50 for adults.

Go to aadexpo.co.za for more details

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AIRSHOW & DEFENCE EXHIBITION
22-23 September 2012

**AFB Waterkloof, Centurion
 City of Tshwane, South Africa**

**Gates opens at
 6:00 am – 17:00 pm**

**AFRICA
 AEROSPACE
 & DEFENCE 2012**

Entrance Ticket:
 Adult R50
 Children under 12 and Pensioners R40
 R10 discount for prepaid entrance ticket

www.aadexpo.co.za