

The Shamrock
SA Irish Regiment
Private Bag X2
Bertham, 2013
Website: www.sairish.webs.com
eMail: irish.regiment@gmail.com
Fax: 086 652 7643

January 2015
Volume 14

In This Issue.

- 1) *Happy New Year.*
- 2) *Deployment 2015.*
- 3) *From the Editor.*
- 4) *From the OC's Desk.*
- 5) *From the Honorary Colonel.*
- 6) *Regimental Events.*
- 7) *Did you know?*
- 8) *From the Pipes and Drums.*
- 9) *News from the SANDF: First Mandela Medals awarded.*
- 10) *News from the SANDF: Senior SANDF promotions*
- 11) *News from the SANDF: Defence Review 2014 – The Defence Industry*
- 12) *News from the SANDF: R145 million for military veterans' education support.*
- 13) *News from the SANDF: The 2014 Defence Reserves Symposium.*
- 14) *News from the SANDF: Air Defence Artillery history publication in the pipeline.*
- 15) *News from the SANDF: First Solaris aviation biofuel crop ready for harvest.*
- 16) *News from the SANDF: New IPV's for the Navy.*
- 17) *International News: UN Arms Trade Treaty now in force.*
- 18) *Battlefields of South Africa: Isandlwana*
- 19) *From the Chaplain.*
- 20) *Regimental photos.*
- 21) *2015 Calendar.*



The Shamrock



The official newsletter of the SA Irish Regiment

Happy New Year



Happy 2015





the south african IRISH REGIMENT



DO YOU WANT TO SERVE IN A PREMIER TRADITIONAL INFANTRY RESERVE UNIT? WILL YOU BE PROUD TO WEAR THE UNIFORM AND GREEN HACKLE OF THE SA IRISH? **WHO CAN APPLY? ANYBODY WHO:**

1. COMPLETED PREVIOUS MILITARY SERVICE IN THE SA INFANTRY CORP.
2. EX-MSDS.
3. CURRENT OR FORMER RESERVE FORCE MEMBERS.
4. RESERVE FORCE INFANTEER CURRENTLY SERVING IN ANOTHER CORPS.

REQUIREMENTS (NO EXCEPTIONS):

1. MUST BE INFANTRY QUALIFIED.
2. MUST TRANSFER TO SA IRISH - NO DETACHED DUTY!
3. MUST LIVE IN GAUTENG!
4. MUST BE G1K1 GREEN!

All applicants will be interviewed and good conduct certificates & letters of recommendation from previous Unit will be advantageous for selection. IMPORTANT! RESERVE SERVICE IS NOT A FULL TIME JOB!

The Regiment reserves the right to decide on who to accept and utilise.

Contact Details:

Tel: 011 417 6101 - Office Hours
Fax: 011 417 6122 - Office Hours
Address: 128 Langerman drive,
Kensington,
Johannesburg

Or write to:

The Recruitment Officer
South African Irish
Regiment
Private Bag X2
Bertham
2013

This poster is Approved by the Officer Commanding - SA Irish

The SA Irish Regiment is scheduled for an internal deployment towards the end of 2015. Anyone who is qualified and wish to deploy with the unit can join us. Remember if you are not already with the SA Irish, you must transfer to us, no detached duty.

Please contact the personnel and recruitment officers for more details. Members of the SA Irish can contact their Company Commander or CSM for more details.

From the Editor

From: The Editor

Firstly a very happy new year to everyone. This looks to be another hectic year for deployments and training.

Contributions towards "The Shamrock" can also be emailed to **irish.regiment@gmail.com**

Remember: Newsletters can be downloaded from the internet. Go to **www.sairish.webs.com** to download Regimental newsletters and copies of the latest SA Soldier magazines in PDF format. You can also listen to the Regimental march on our website.

Our website is now cell phone friendly and you can now visit our website via your cellular phone.

o0o

From the OC's Desk

By: Lt Col. M.A. Bennett

The beginning of another year is upon us. With the hard work and dedication that I expect from every single member of this Regiment, we will set out to go above and beyond the call of duty to accomplish all tasks given to us by The SA Army and Infantry formation.

I also want to remind everyone of the sacrifices involved in being a soldier. This year will not be easy, but with hard work we will accomplish great things.

Although we can be very proud of all of our achievements last year, we must not be complacent.

On behalf of myself as Officer Commanding and my command staff, I want to wish all the members of the Regiment and their families a very prosperous 2015.

- Faugh a Ballagh!
Lt Col. M.A. Bennett
o0o

From the Honorary Colonel

By Col. B. Molefe (Colonel of the Regiment)

Firstly I want to wish every single member of the regiment and their families a very prosperous 2015.

As always I have every confidence that we will not disappoint and we will proudly complete any task given to us in this New Year.

It has in the past warmed my heart to see my regiment fulfilling its deployment tasks in the Sudan with the honour and commitment that I expect from them.

With the internal deployments of 2015 around the corner I expect the same dedication to duty as we have displayed in the Sudan.

I wish all of the best to every single member of the unit in the completion of their tasks.

- Faugh a Ballagh!
Col. B. Molefe

o0o

Regimental Events

By: The Editor

7 November - Freedom Regiments Parade

8 November - JHB Remembrance Parade – JHB Cenotaph

22 November - Sidi Rezegh Commemoration Parade

A detailed regimental calendar is still being compiled. Updates will follow shortly.

o0o

Did you know?

By: The editor

There are several regiments with Irish traditions left around the world.

Below are internet links to different Irish Regiments around the world (including links to our sites)

South African Irish Regiment
<http://www.sairish.webs.com/>

South African Irish Regiment Pipes and Drums

<http://www.sairish.co.za/>

2nd Battalion, Irish Regiment of Canada

<http://www.army-armee.forces.gc.ca/en/2-irish-regiment-canada/index.page>

Royal Irish Regiment

<http://www.army.mod.uk/infantry/regiments/24000.aspx>

Irish Guards Regiment

<http://www.army.mod.uk/infantry/regiments/23990.aspx>

Irish Guards Band

<http://www.army.mod.uk/music/23947.aspx>

The 69th New York 'Fighting Irish' National Guard Regiment.

<http://www.sixtyninth.net/regiment.html>

o0o

From the Pipes and Drums.

By: The Pipe Major

S A Irish Regiment Pipes & Drums 2015 Calendar of Events:

On behalf of the pipes and drums I want to wish everyone a very prosperous new year.

The calendar of events for 2015 has not been completed yet, so we will update everyone when our full list of events becomes available.

Faugh a Ballagh!

o0o

News from the SANDF – First Mandela medals presented

Written by Defenceweb

The first of a series of medal parades to honour military and civilian personnel involved in the care of and funeral arrangements for Nelson Mandela saw 84 specially designed and minted medals awarded by President Jacob

Zuma at AFB Waterkloof on Sunday, 7 December 2014.

Among the recipients were 76 serving and 14 retired members of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) the majority of them SA Military Health Service members, and 30 private medical doctors.

Zuma told those on parade at the Centurion air force base they were there to honour “those men and women in uniform who took care of our gallant leader when he was ill”.

“The awards are also bestowed to soldiers who participated in the burial preparations, the laying in state at the Union Buildings and those who ensured our beloved leader was accorded a befitting State funeral,” the SANDF Commander-in-Chief said.

Marking the first anniversary of Mandela’s death Zuma paid tribute to him saying he ensured the SANDF became a single entity reflective of South African society as it is today.

“He built the national defence for from seven disparate forces to what it is today. He inspired a calibre of soldiers who are committed to defending our Constitutional democracy.

“Men and women who were sworn enemies in the battles that shaped our route to democracy now stand side by side before us here as patriots in a free and democratic South Africa.

“Today the SANDF is a beacon of hope and a torch-bearer of peace and stability in the African continent.

“Our soldiers are highly regarded with regards to peacekeeping and post-conflict reconciliation missions under the auspices of the UN, the AU and the SADC.

“We have made an indelible mark in the field of peace support operations and have become a key role player,” Zuma said adding South African soldiers “played a meaningful role in bringing peace and democracy in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Indeed, the SANDF must take credit for the work done in Burundi to bring peace and stability.”

This was part of the Madiba legacy that will live on “because the people of

Burundi are today living in a peaceful and secure environment because of his foresight”.

SANDF Chief, General Solly Shoke, received the first gold Nelson Mandela medal an honour also accorded his arms of service chiefs (Lieutenant General Vusi Masondo, Lieutenant General Zakes Msimang, Rear Admiral Mosuwa Hlongwane and Lieutenant General Aubrey Sedibe) and Joint Operations Chief, Lieutenant General Derrick Mgwebi. SANDF Chief of Corporate Staff Lieutenant General Vejay Ramlakan was also a gold class recipient as was Chaplain General, Brigadier General Monwabisi Jamangile.

President Zuma also thanked members of the SA Police Service who worked diligently and professionally to look after Mandela until the end.

Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, said she was happy all those who took care of Mandela and worked during the period of his death were recognised for the work they did.

“This is something I have been looking forward to from the beginning of the year. I really wanted these people to be given the awards they deserve. They worked extremely hard, we will forever be indebted to them,” she said.

More Mandela medal parades will be held between January and June 2015.



Editorial Note:

Our Honorary Colonel, Col. Brian Molefe, in his capacity as the CEO of Transnet was involved with the

transport arrangements of the funeral of our beloved Madiba.

He has been awarded the Mandela Medal in Gold for this participation in the funeral arrangements.
– Faugh a Ballagh.

o0o

News from the SANDF – Senior SANDF promotions

Written by Kim Helfrich

New additions to the upper command levels in the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) see the landward force getting a new deputy chief and a new deputy Surgeon General while various other senior promotions have been revealed.

According to a Department of Defence Bulletin, Brigadier General Lawrence Smith has substantively been promoted to the rank of major general as SA Army Deputy Chief. He takes over as number two of the largest component of the SANDF from Major General Les Rudman, who retired at the end of last year.

An Army source said a change of command parade would be held in the not too distant future to welcome Lieutenant General Vusi Masondo’s new second in command and say a “fitting military farewell” to Rudman. No date has yet been set.

Smith has been in uniform for 37 years after completing National Service in 1976. His operational experience includes tours on the then South West Africa border as well as commanding Sector 5 in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in 2003 and 2004.

He has also been the designated SADC Standby Force Military Component Commander and was in charge of it during Exercise Golfinho in 2009. He was also Head of the African Union Standby Force during its final Combat Readiness Exercise (Amani Africa) in November 2010. More recently he was involved in the preparation of the ACIRC (African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises) Force

within the SANDF as well as at African Union level as the Deputy Exercise Director of Exercise Utulivu Africa 2014.

Prior to being named SA Army second in command, Smith was General Officer Commanding 43 SA Brigade headquarters.

The previous Officer Commanding the SA Air Force VVIP Unit at AFB Waterkloof, Brigadier General Mbulelo Mcetywa, has been promoted to major general and will be Chief Director: Policy and Planning at SA Air Force headquarters.

Other promotions announced in the Bulletin by SANDF Chief, General Solly Shoke, are Major General NS Sigudu as Chief Director: Processing; Brigadier General R Moroane to major general and Chief Director: Collection (both at Defence Intelligence); Brigadier General Jabu Mbuli to Major General and Chief Director: Acquisition Materiel; Major General AL de Wit to General Officer Commanding, Training Command; Brigadier General M Sitshongaye to Major General and Chief Director: Strategic Direction, Policy and Planning and Brigadier General F Meyer to Major General and Deputy Surgeon General.

o0o

News from the SANDF – Defence Review 2014 – The Defence Industry

Written by Helmoed Heitman

An important element of the Defence Review is its consideration of the defence industry which is needed to define the capability actually required and how best to support that capability, to provide a policy as the basis for a defence industry strategy that can guide both the Defence Force’s acquisition planning, and planning by companies in the defence sector.

The purpose of the defence industry is to provide a practicable degree of strategic independence, to develop capabilities considered to be of ‘sovereign’ importance (eg the algorithms for secure communications), to develop optimised equipment where

that is of real operational benefit, and to support equipment in service. Beyond that, a vibrant defence industry is also able to support foreign policy by helping equip the forces of allies, is able to support wider industrial development policies, establish new technologies and capabilities in South Africa, and generates foreign currency earnings and reduces outflows.

The Review makes it clear that there is no intention to regain the breadth and depth of capabilities developed during the arms embargo years. That is not necessary, would not be cost-effective, and would divorce the industry from international technology developments. Instead the focus is on retaining, rebuilding or, where necessary, creating the capabilities to:

- Support equipment and systems in service.
- Manufacture critical munitions, batteries and spares of which the availability cannot be guaranteed.
- Integrate equipment and systems, to allow optimised combinations of local and foreign equipment and systems, and to facilitate modernisation and upgrades during the typically thirty years or more of a major system’s service life.
- Develop, manufacture and support items of ‘sovereign’ importance.
- Develop, manufacture and support optimised equipment and/or to optimise foreign-sourced items to meet specific requirements of the Defence Force, where there is real operational benefit to be realised by doing so.
- Develop, manufacture and support equipment and systems in which South Africa has a demonstrable technological lead or niche capability.
- Manufacture any equipment that is required in large numbers or where similarities of manufacturing processes allow parallel or sequential manufacturing.

The Review then goes on to identify key technology domains and focus areas, for instance command and control systems and night-fighting equipment, and areas in which the industry has an edge or potential edge, for instance long-range artillery and low-cost but very effective guided weapons.

It further makes the point that a viable defence industry depends on long-term acquisition planning by the Defence Force, which must be visible to the industry to enable it to develop its own long-term plans, expand or modernise plants, establish new technologies, refocus training of new engineers, etc. That same long-term equipment planning will also enable the Defence Force to avoid the block obsolescence such as it currently faces (eg Ratel, Casspir, Samil) by adopting a system of phased or half generation change-over. With an eye to efficiency, the Review also argues for multi-year contracts, which have been demonstrated to quite dramatically reduce costs by allowing the manufacturers to plan and operate more efficiently: Nothing is as costly or damaging to long-term capability, military and industrial, than on/off acquisition programmes.

Another point in the Review is the importance of synchronised acquisition to enable the Defence Force to field coherent force elements: for instance, it makes little sense to give a mechanised infantry battalion a set of brand new and vastly more capable infantry combat vehicles, if neither the field engineers nor its own logistic elements can keep up with those vehicles. Acquisition must take place in coherent ‘packages’ and phased accordingly.

This will take time to achieve, and the Review proposes four partially overlapping phases, plus a fifth that will overlap the others for much of the time:

- Ensuring the retention of selected existing capabilities, primarily by placing sufficient manufacturing, development or research orders to enable the organisation to remain active for now.
- Ensuring the sustainment of those capabilities, primarily by placing longer-term orders or supporting export efforts.
- Supporting the turn-around of the industry, primarily by developing and setting out a long-term plan for Defence Force equipment and system acquisition, upgrading and support, and for defence R&D.
- Supporting further development of the industry by working with it to identify

future needs and also by supporting future export efforts.

- Recovery, recreation or development of sovereign capabilities, which will overlap with all the above phases.

Looking to the longer-term development of the industry and support to the Defence Force, the Review has also recommended the appointment of a Chief Defence Scientist with a small staff to monitor technology development and plan, focus and control defence-related research and development. It also refers to the National Defence Industry Council already established by the previous Minister of Defence, as a critical body to facilitate close coordination among the Defence Force, companies in the defence industry and any research bodies conducting research in defence-related technologies.

The other major aspect of the defence industry chapter of the Defence Review is identification of what is meant by local or foreign companies, an issue that has brought some complications in the past. To this end the Review identifies five types of company, in the order in which they will enjoy certain preferences in bidding for defence contracts:

- South African owned companies (51%) can bid for any contracts and will enjoy absolute preference in respect of 'sovereign' and 'strategic' items.
- Partly South African owned companies (26%) can bid for any contracts but will stand behind fully-owned companies in respect of 'sovereign' items.
- South African based companies (factory in South Africa), which can bid for most contracts but stand behind the wholly and partly owned companies in respect of strategic items, will only be able to bid for 'sovereign' items given special security measures.
- Foreign-controlled companies in South Africa (other factories or assets in South Africa), which can demonstrate commitment to South Africa's development, will be able to bid for all general contracts and for some strategic contracts with the proviso that local manufacture and the establishment of local support capability will be

mandatory in some cases (e.g. for a strategic item).

- Foreign companies with no presence in South Africa, which will be allowed to bid for general items and will be allowed to bid for strategic items where there is no local alternative, but in for which they will have to establish at least a fully localised support capability.

In each case the level of ownership must also be matched by the degree of South African management and actual control of the operations of the company in respect of the equipment or system to be acquired.

A final aspect of the defence industry policy is that it must be aligned insofar as practicably possible with wider national industrial and related policies. That said, the phrase "insofar as practicably possible" is key in that a strategic imperative must override other policy considerations.

o0o

News from the SANDF – R145 million for military veterans' education support

Written by SANEWS

Department of Military Veterans (DMV) has set aside R145 million to assist military veterans and dependents in their studies.

Since the enactment of the Military Veterans Act in 2011, which stipulates the benefits which ought to be provided to military veterans in the 2012/13 financial year, the DMV has provided education support at both basic and higher education levels to 200 military veterans and their dependents.

Speaking on behalf of Deputy Defence and Military Veterans Minister Kebby Maphatsoe at a two-day workshop on education beneficiary support for military veterans, the department's Director-General Tsepe Motumi said education was a powerful weapon for individuals to unleash their full potential.

Motumi said the number of military veterans who are receiving education support from the department has tripled in 2013/14 financial year to 645.

The department has spent R15 million assisting military veterans and their dependents.

For the 2015/16 financial year, the department has received a total of 1 700 applications, with 1 000 for higher education and 700 for basic education.

"We are excited to note there is an increasing realisation that the issue of resolving the socio-economic and educational needs of all military veterans is everybody's business," Motumi said.

Pitso Hlasa, former commander of the Azanla Forces, whose daughter is benefiting from the Education Support programme, said he was pleased with the programme. "What the department is doing is good."

Hlasa left the country in 1986 and was in exile in various countries. He returned to SA in 1994. His daughter Tumelo started benefitting from the programme this year and she is Grade 10.

Earlier this year, the Department of Military Veterans gazetted the Military Veterans Benefits Regulations (MVBR) in Section 5 of the Military Veterans Act, stipulating clear guidelines for the roll-out of benefits as prescribed in the regulations gazette.

Military veterans now have access to benefits such as housing, health, education, burial support and pensions. Other benefits include job creation and placements as well as business support.

The department has to date distributed more than 5 000 medical healthcare cards and provided burial support to almost 500 military veterans who died destitute.

The department has also reached an agreement with the Department of Social Development to utilise the capacity and capability of South African Social Security Agency to accelerate delivery of pensions to military veterans.

The roll out of military veterans' pensions will start in January 2015.

o0o

News from the SANDF – The 2014 Defence Reserves Symposium

Written by Ms Thuli Ntuli, intern at SA Soldier Magazine

Many Defence Reserves members are unemployed, and to create jobs for them they need to be presented with alternative job opportunities. This topic was discussed at the 4th 2014 Reserve Force Symposium at the University of South Africa in Midrand.

The theme of the symposium: “Employer Support: Indispensable for Voluntary Reserve Force Service,” led to discussions on ways to create alternative employment for Reserve Force members.

Discussions were held by members of the SANDF under the guidance of Chief of Defence Reserves. Major General Roy Andersen pointed out the effects of transformation on the reserves: “There has been a decline in the white component from one hundred per cent pre-1994 to an increased number of Africans after 1994”. He added that the business core of the SANDF reserves has proved to be a cost-effective mechanism for the Chief of the SANDF.

He said: “The reserve service is a voluntary system and should therefore not be seen as an employment opportunity in the SANDF.” The symposium also addressed the need to revitalise the reserves by recruiting the youth as well as presenting meaningful ways to appeal to employers to support reserves. One way was for employers to be willing to release reserves for deployment once they are called up. Maj Gen Andersen indicated that there were approximately 21 500 active reserves, 15 000 of whom are called up for about six months.

Some international guests participated in the symposium. From the United States came Lieutenant Colonel Bruce Fein of the New York National Guard who gave a presentation on the function of the reserves from a legal point of view. He referred to the legislation in America that constitutionally supports

the employer-reserve relationship.

Lt Col Fein mentioned that the USA was more patriotic about joining their defence force. He said many people joined in order to defend their country as a result of the 9/11 attacks. For this reason they had drafted legislation to oblige employers to release reserves for deployment and reinstate them when they returned.

Lt Col Fein said: “We have an ombudsman that supports soldiers and their rights. It encourages reserves to be familiar with their rights.” He added that employers were patriotic about hiring reserves and in turn reserves were encouraged to be appreciative of their employers. Even schools and universities permit learners to take up soldiering. He admitted that when reserves leave for deployment it does hurt businesses. So to boost this effort the US defence force rewards employers for their efforts. Other international guests included reserve force delegates from the United Kingdom, Norway, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. The following day presentations were made by state owned enterprises such as Transnet and SAMSA (South African Maritime Safety Authority). Overall the presentations tried to bridge the gap between businesses and the defence force reserves. They were also aimed at enhancing civil-military relations between the Department of Defence and private institutions.

A viable solution was presented through a project that will create job opportunities for Reserves through the Department of Agriculture.

One successful project in particular was the National Youth Service (NYS). This initiative provides the youth with skills training to curb the high rate of youth unemployment.

During the conference the SANDF admitted to having adopted the NYS programme based on the Tanzanian model. Brigadier General Gerhard Kamffer, Director SA Army Reserves, engaged the members at the Reserve symposium on the strategies in place to increase co-operation between the defence force and farmers in

Limpopo. He commended the success of the NYS, and suggested ways to improve the programme.

He said: “Ordinary citizens would first be recruited into the NYS and the Young Lions programme and later be automatically injected into a two-year MSDS programme.” He added that once the trainees had become Reserves they could be reskilled and utilised in the North West province. He suggested that, after the symposium they should sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Premier of North West.

Other suggestions were made by Norway, for example to recruit qualified and specialist reserves, as this would make reserves attractive to businesses even after deployment. The symposium participants admitted that the problem of high unemployment among reserves was exacerbated by the lack of specialist reserves. This meant that reserves rarely returned home after deployment but preferred to be in units waiting to be deployed as a means of earning extra money.

o0o

News from the SANDF – Air Defence Artillery history publication in the pipeline

Written by defenceWeb

The SA Army Reserve along with the Air Defence Artillery Formation has acknowledged and is marking 75 years of air by putting together a publication chronicling the history of air defence in the South African military.

This because air defence artillery this year marked its 75th year of existence going back to 1939 when the first anti-aircraft unit (First Anti-aircraft Battery) was established as part of the Coast Artillery Brigade.

The first anti-aircraft training took place at Brooklyn airfield and at Klaasjagersberg near Cape Point in 1939. The First Anti-Aircraft Battery departed for active service in East Africa in 1940 and during the Second

World War gunners of Anti-Aircraft units won the respect of both friend and foe with their courageous actions according to the Air Defence Artillery Formation.

The Formation, in the person of its General Officer Commanding, Brigadier General Jabu Mbuli, is one of a seven member strong history steering group that will ensure the publication becomes reality.

Retired colonel Lionel Crook will author the publication which is envisaged as a three-year project. The focus will be proper research and addressing air defence history since 1994, with special attention to be given to the MK/Apla side of things. The evolution of air defence equipment in South Africa and the projects environment around it will also be part of the publication.

Documentation, photographs or other material that can contribute to the publication can be sent to ADA Formation Chief of Staff, Colonel Jacques Baird at jacques_baird@yahoo.com or on 012 355 2429.

o0o

News from the SANDF – First Solaris aviation biofuel crop ready for harvest

Written by defenceWeb

South African farmers in Marble Hall in Limpopo province will soon harvest a first crop of energy-rich Solaris plants to be used as sustainable aviation fuel.

The beginning of December saw Boeing and national carrier South African Airways (SAA) launch Project Solaris with partners SkyNRG and Sunchem SA in Limpopo. The project is a collaborative effort to develop an aviation biofuel supply chain with the Solaris plant, a nicotine-free variant of the tobacco plant. Over 300 varieties of the tobacco plant were crossed to create the Solaris variety, which is GMO free.

Oil from the plant’s seeds may be converted into bio-jet fuel as early as

next year, with a test flight by SAA as soon as practicable.

“SAA continues to work towards becoming the most environmentally sustainable airline in the world and is committed to a better way of conducting business. The impact the biofuel programme will have on South Africans is astounding: thousands of jobs mostly in rural areas, new skills and technology, energy security and stability, macro-economic benefits to the country and a reduction in the amount of carbon dioxide emissions,” said Ian Cruickshank, Environmental Affairs Specialist, SAA Group.

“It is exciting to see early progress in South Africa toward developing sustainable aviation biofuel from energy-producing tobacco plants. Boeing believes our aviation biofuel collaboration with SAA will benefit the environment and public health while providing new economic opportunities for South Africa’s small farmers. This project also positions our valued airline customer to gain a long-term, viable domestic fuel supply and improve South Africa’s national balance of payments,” said J. Miguel Santos, managing director for Africa, Boeing International.

The official launch of Project Solaris this week followed the August announcement that Boeing, SAA and SkyNRG were collaborating to make aviation biofuel from the Solaris plant, developed and patented by Sunchem Holding. If test farming in Limpopo is successful the project will be expanded in South Africa and potentially to other countries. In coming years, emerging technologies are expected to increase aviation biofuel production from the plant’s leaves and stems.

The launch crop in Limpopo comprises fifty hectares of Solaris with its first harvest planned for later in December. Seeds can be harvested three times a year. Seed oils are then processed into jet fuel, with each hectare producing around three tons of oil and over six tons of oil and protein rick cake, which can be used as animal feed.

Maarten van Dijk, Chief Technology Officer of SkyNRG said: “The official launch of Project Solaris is an important

milestone for SkyNRG as it marks the start of our first operational feedstock project. Commitment of all partners in the supply chain is crucial to realize our joint ambition and make this project a success, and that’s why we’re proud to work together with Sunchem SA, Boeing and SAA. We also want to thank the Dutch government for their strong support in this project, and for the development in sustainable jet fuel in general.” The Dutch government contributed 450 000 euros to the Solaris project.

Joost van Lier, Managing Director of Sunchem SA, stated: “After two years of proving Solaris’ potential in the small scale trials, we’re very excited to see all parts falling into place and start with the next phase of the project. We strongly believe that by joining forces with our project partners SkyNRG, Boeing & SAA, we will be able to turn this project into a great opportunity for both the commercial and community farmers.”

Sustainable aviation biofuel made from Solaris plants can reduce lifecycle carbon emissions by 50 to 75%, ensuring it meets the sustainability threshold set by the Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials (RSB). Airlines have conducted more than 1,600 passenger flights using aviation biofuel since the fuel was approved for commercial use in 2011.

As an industry leader in global efforts to develop and commercialise sustainable aviation biofuel Boeing has a number of active biofuel development projects internationally. In addition to its collaboration in South Africa, Boeing is involved with projects in the United States, Middle East, Europe, China, Japan, Southeast Asia, Brazil and Australia, researching things like used cooking oil and soy.

Although any vegetable oil can be used to make bio jet fuel or diesel (such as sunflower and canola), Solaris was chosen specifically because it does not take food oils away from food consumers.

In aircraft, Solaris and other biofuels are blended in a maximum 50:50 ratio with conventional jet fuel, resulting in no changes to engines, infrastructure

etc., although biofuels often perform better than conventional fossil fuels.

By 2020 Project Solaris hopes to have at least 50 000 hectares of Solaris under cultivation in South Africa. This would also create 50 000 direct and indirect jobs (350 at present). Increasing the area under cultivation would also lower the price of Solaris biofuel, which is presently more than twice as expensive as fossil jet fuel. However, as SAA is committed to using several hundred million litres of biofuel a year by 2023, demand is sufficient to drive the process and bring costs down. It will take three to four years to create a complete biofuel supply chain in South Africa, while a refinery will cost several billion rand.

o0o

News from the SANDF – New IPV’s for the Navy.

Written by Kim Helfrich

Soon after taking over as SA Navy Chief, Vice Admiral Mosuwa Hlongwane told defenceWeb the capital acquisition programme of the maritime service was “on track”. Further proof of this comes with two Armscor tenders for the supply of six multi-mission inshore patrol vessels.

The vessels will be acquired for the Navy in two batches of three each and represent another milestone in Project Biro, originally the vehicle for the acquisition of both inshore and offshore patrol vessels that first saw the light of day some 10 years ago.

According to the Armscor Tender Bulletin the requirements, in both, are for the supply of three multi-mission inshore patrol vessels and associated integrated logistic support for the SA Navy. The tenders were issued on December 3 and the specified closing date is June 30 next year.

This will be followed by a period of evaluation before any announcement is made on the successful tenderer or tenderers.

A Navy insider said the tender issues were “extremely good. This should

have happened years ago. As one example take the money the Navy would have saved if inshore or even offshore, specialist, patrol vessels had been deployed on Operation Copper (the SADC counter-piracy operation in the Mozambique Channel) instead of the Valour Class Frigates or refurbished strikecraft, now in the offshore patrol type”.

The Navy is currently deploying only OPVs to the Mozambique Channel and, with aerial support coming from SA Air Force elements based at Pemba, it seems the modified strikecraft will retain this role until the new platforms are taken into service. This should be in around three to four years.

New tugs are currently being built for the maritime arm of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) and Armscor has also hosted a bidder’s conference as regards a replacement hydrographic vessel.

o0o

International News – UN Arms Trade Treaty now in force.

Written by defenceWeb

Eve marked the coming into force of the UN backed Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) which has been signed or ratified by more than half the world’s countries.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said the speed with which the ATT came into force, less than two years since its adoption by the UN General Assembly, was testimony to the commitment of States, international organisations and civil society to stop irresponsible arms transfers.

“Ultimately, it attests to our collective determination to reduce human suffering by preventing the transfer or diversion of weapons to areas afflicted by armed conflict and violence and to warlords, human rights abusers, terrorists and criminal organisations.”

According to the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), 130 states had signed the ATT by December 24 and 61 have ratified it. Calling it a landmark treaty, UNODA said it regulates the international trade in conventional arms, from small arms to

battle tanks, combat aircraft and warships.

Ki-moon said promotion of continued universal participation in the ATT was critical.

“This must be done by encouraging all states, particularly major arms exporters and importers, to join the Treaty.”

His thoughts have been echoed by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which said in a statement that states that have ratified or signed the ATT have shown commitment to ICRC’s humanitarian goal of reducing human suffering through strict controls on the international trade in conventional arms.

“If faithfully and consistently applied, the ATT will ensure weapons do not end up in the hands of those who would use them to commit war crimes of serious violations of human rights law,” the ICRC said.

Briefing the 139-member UN General Assembly earlier this week, Moon said he saw 2015 as a chance for major advances across the three inter-connected pillars of the world body’s work. These are: development, peace and human rights.

He welcomed the entry into force of the ATT, adding that peace and security was not achievable in a world where nuclear weapons were available, urging states to fulfil their responsibilities in terms of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

He also spotlighted the impacts of war in Syria, Ukraine, the Central African Republic (CAR), northern Mali and elsewhere pointing out there were other countries at the risk of conflict because of their domestic situations.

“In several countries, electoral processes and constitutional amendments seem designed to prolong incumbencies instead of strengthening democracy,” he said, calling for negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians and urging responses to “brutality and extremism” not limited to military action but which included efforts to address the underlying conditions giving rise to extremism.

o0o

Battlefields of South Africa – Isandlwana, the battle that rocked Victorian Britain.

Written by Ian Knight

Isandlwana, the battle that rocked Victorian Britain; at which the Zulus wiped out a substantial British force including the 1st Battalion, 24th Foot.

Date: 22nd January 1879

Place: 10 miles east of the Tugela River in Zululand, South Africa.

Combatants: Zulu army against a force of British troops, Natal units and African levies.

Generals: The British Army; Lt. Gen. Lord Chelmsford in Overall Command, Lieutenant Colonel Pulleine of the 24th Foot and Lieutenant Colonel Durnford

commanded the British force at the battle. The Zulu Army was commanded by Chiefs Ntshingwayo kaMahole and Mavumengwana kaMdlela Ntuli.

Uniforms, arms and equipment: The Zulu warriors were formed in regiments by age, their standard equipment the shield and the stabbing spear. The formation for the attack, described as the “horns of the beast”, was said to have been devised by Shaka, the Zulu King who established Zulu hegemony in Southern Africa. The main body of the army delivered a frontal assault, called the “loins”, while the “horns” spread out behind each of the enemy’s flanks and delivered the secondary and often fatal attack in the enemy’s rear. Cetshwayo, the Zulu King, fearing British aggression took pains to purchase firearms wherever they could be bought. By the outbreak of war the Zulus had tens of thousands of muskets and rifles, but of a poor standard, and

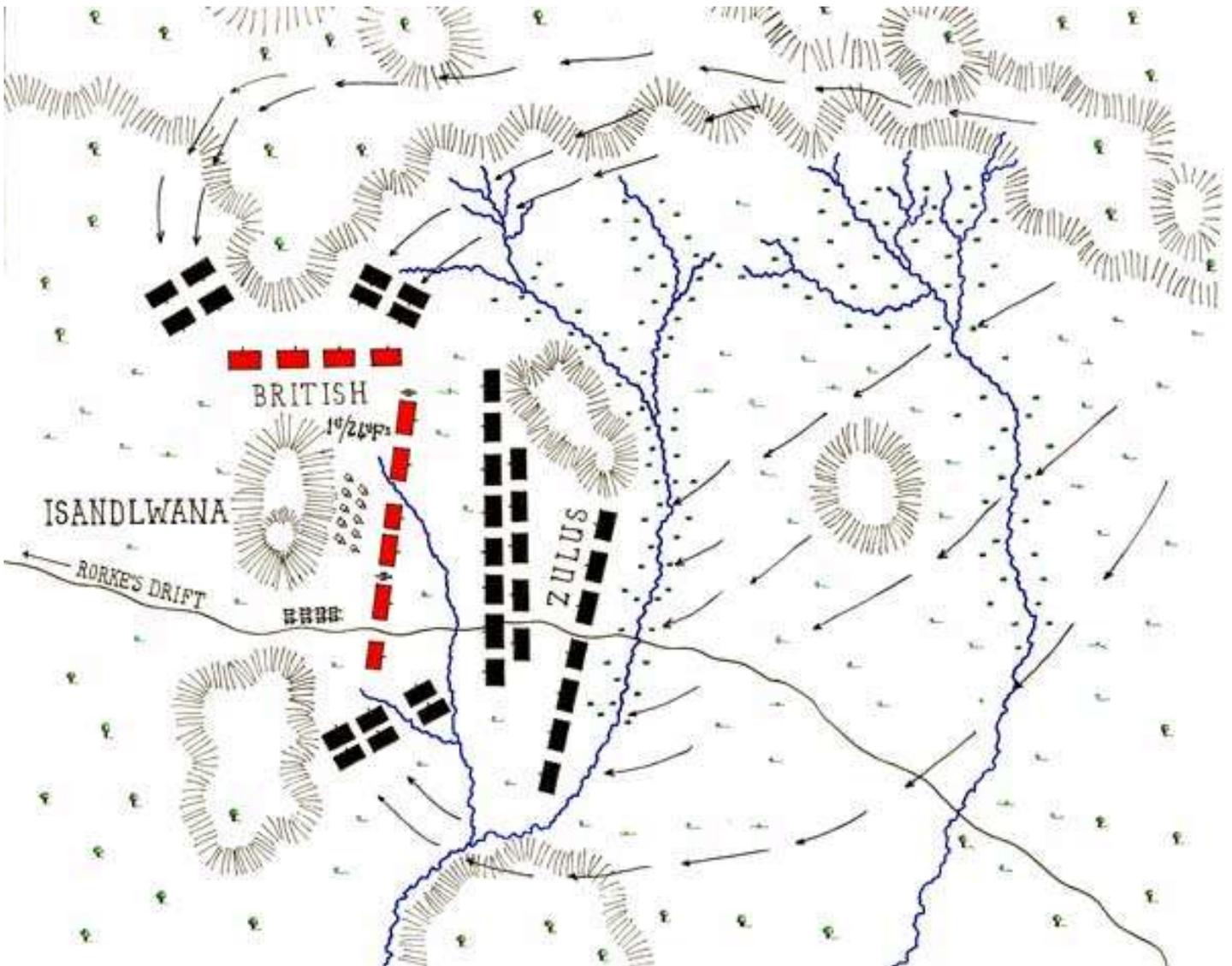
the Zulus were ill-trained in their use.

The regular British infantry were equipped with the breach loading single shot Martini-Henry rifle and bayonet. The British infantry wore red tunics, white solar topee helmets and dark blue trousers with red piping down the side. The irregular mounted units wore blue tunics and slouch hats.

Winner: The British force was wiped out by the Zulu Army.

British Regiments:

- 2 guns and 70 men of N Battery, 5th Brigade, Royal Artillery (equipped with 2 seven pounder guns).
- 5 companies of 1st Battalion, the 24th Foot
- 1 company of 2nd Battalion, the 24th Foot
- Mounted volunteers and Natal Police
- 2 companies of the Natal Native Infantry



Account:

The battle at Isandlwana stunned the world. It was unthinkable that a “native” army armed substantially with stabbing weapons could defeat the troops of a western power armed with modern rifles and artillery, let alone wipe it out.

Until news of the disaster reached Britain the Zulu War was just another colonial brushfire war of the sort that simmered constantly in many parts of the worldwide British Empire. The complete loss of a battalion of troops, news of which was sent by telegraph to Britain, transformed the nation’s attitude to the war.

The Zulu War began in early January 1879 as a simple campaign of expansion. British colonial officials and the commander-in-chief in South Africa, Lord Chelmsford, considered the independent Zulu Kingdom ruled by Cetshwayo a threat to the British colony of Natal with which it shared a long border along the Tugela River.

In December 1878 the British authorities delivered an ultimatum to Cetshwayo requiring him to give up a group of Zulus accused of murdering a party of British subjects. In the absence of a satisfactory response Chelmsford attacked Zululand on 11th January 1879.

Chelmsford’s previous wars in South Africa did not prepare him for the highly aggressive form of warfare practised by the Zulus.

Chelmsford divided his force into three columns. Colonel Evelyn Wood VC (won in the Indian Mutiny) of the 90th Light Infantry commanded the column that crossed the Tugela into the North of Zululand. Colonel Pearson of the 3rd Foot (the Buffs) commanded in the south, by the Indian Ocean coast. Colonel Glynn of the 24th Foot commanded the Centre Column, comprising both battalions of the 24th Foot, units of the Natal Native Infantry, Natal irregular horse and Royal Artillery.

Chelmsford accompanied the Centre Column into Zululand on 11th January 1879, crossing the Tugela River at

Rorke’s Drift. The column was to make for Ulundi, Cetshwayo’s principal kraal, joining Pearson’s southern column for the final assault. A company of the 2nd Battalion, 24th Foot, remained at Rorke’s Drift, the advanced base for the column.

The Centre Column carried all its supplies in ox carts, each pulled by a team of up to 20 oxen, walking at a slow deliberate pace. A considerable part of the day was devoted to feeding and caring for the oxen. The country was hilly scrubland without roads and progress was painfully slow. Hilltops had to be picketed and the country scouted carefully for Zulus in ambush. Movement was further hampered by heavy rain causing the rivers and streams to swell and deepen.

Chelmsford’s original plan had envisaged 5 columns crossing the Tugela. Shortage of troops forced him to reorganise his force into the 3 columns. Chelmsford required the original Number 2 Column under Colonel Durnford, a Royal Engineers officer with considerable experience in commanding irregular South African troops, to act in conjunction with Glynn’s Centre Column.

Chelmsford resolved to head for Isandlwana Hill. Isandlwana can be seen from Rorke’s Drift, a distinctive shape some 10 miles into Zulu country that the British troops likened to a Sphinx or a crouching lion. The proximity of this strange feature adds substantially to the macabre aura that hangs over the battle.

In the face of the invasion Cetshwayo mobilised the Zulu armies on a scale not seen before, possibly some 24,000 warriors. The Zulu force divided into two, one section heading for the Southern Column and the remainder making for Chelmsford’s Centre Column.

The Centre Column reached Isandlwana on 20th January 1879 and encamped on its lower slopes.

On 21st January 1879 Major Dartnell led a mounted reconnaissance in the direction of the advance. He encountered the Zulus in strength. Dartnell’s command was unable to

disengage from the Zulus until the early hours of 22nd January 1879.

Receiving Dartnell’s intelligence Chelmsford resolved to advance against the Zulus with a sufficient force to bring them to battle and defeat them. 2nd Battalion, 24th Foot, the Mounted Infantry and 4 guns were to march out as soon as it was light.

Colonel Pulleine was left in camp with the 1st Battalion of the 24th Foot. Orders were sent to Colonel Durnford to bring his column up to reinforce the camp.

Early on the morning of 22nd January 1879 Chelmsford advanced with his force and joined Dartnell. The Zulus however had disappeared. Chelmsford’s troops began a search of the hills.

The Zulus had bypassed Chelmsford and moved on Isandlwana. The first indication in the camp that there was likely to be a Zulu threat came when parties of Zulus were seen on the hills to the north east and then to the east.

Colonel Pulleine, the officer in command in the camp, ordered his command to form to the east, the direction in which the Zulus had appeared. Pulleine dispatched a message to Chelmsford warning him that the Zulus were threatening the camp.

At about 10am Colonel Durnford arrived at Isandlwana with a party of mounted men and a rocket troop.

Durnford promptly left the camp to follow up the reports of the imminence of the Zulus and Pulleine agreed to support him if he found himself in difficulties. Captain Cavaye’s company of the 1st/24th was placed in picquet on a hill to the North. The remainder of the troops in camp stood down.

On the heights, Durnford’s mounted troops spread out and searched for the Zulus. One troop of mounted volunteers pursued a party of Zulus as they retired until suddenly out of a fold in the ground the whole Zulu army appeared.

The Zulus were forced to act by the sudden appearance of the mounted

The Shamrock

volunteers and advanced in some confusion, shaking out as best they could into the traditional form of assault: the left horn, the central chest of the attack and the right horn.

One of Durnford's officers rode back to Isandlwana to warn the camp that it was about to be attacked.

Pulleine had just received a message from Chelmsford ordering him to break camp and move up to join the rest of the column. On receipt of Durnford's message Pulleine deployed his men to meet the crisis.

It is thought that neither Pulleine nor any of his officers appreciated the scope of the threat from the Zulus or the size of the force that was descending on them. Pulleine acted as if the only need was to support Durnford. He sent a second company under Captain Mostyn to join Captain Cavaye's on the hill and 2 guns were moved to the left of the camp with companies of foot to support them.

As the Zulus advanced Durnford's rocket troop was overwhelmed and the equipment taken, the Royal Artillery crews managing to escape.

The main Zulu frontal assault now appeared over the ridge and Mostyn's and Cavaye's companies hastily withdrew to the camp, pausing to fire as they went.

Pulleine's battalion, drawn up in front of the camp at the base of the ridge, opened fire on the advancing Zulus of the "chest", who found themselves impeded by the many dongas, or gullies, in their path and eventually went to ground.

The danger to the British line was presented by the Zulu "horns" which raced to find the end of the British flank and envelope it.

On the British right the companies of the 24th and the NNI were unable to prevent this envelopment. In addition the Zulus were able to infiltrate between the companies of British foot and the irregulars commanded by Durnford.

It is said that a major problem for the British was lack of ammunition and failings in the system of re-supply. It seems that this was not so for the 24th. However Durnford's men on the extreme right flank did run out of ammunition and were forced to mount up and ride back into the camp, thereby leaving the British flank open.

The Zulu chiefs took this opportunity to encourage the warriors of the "chest", until now pinned down by the 24th's fire, to renew their attack. This they did causing the British troops to fall back on the encampment.

A Zulu regiment rushed between the withdrawing British centre and the camp and the "horns" broke in on each flank. The British line quickly collapsed.

As the line broke up, groups formed and fought the Zulus until their ammunition gave out and they were overwhelmed. A section of Natal Carbineers commanded by Durnford is identified as giving a heavy fire until their ammunition was spent. They fought on with pistols and knives until they were all struck down.

The "horns" of the Zulu attack did not quite close around the British camp, some soldiers managing to make their way towards Rorke's Drift. But the Zulus cut the road and the escaping soldiers from the 24th were forced into the hills where they were hunted down and killed. Only mounted men managed to make it to the river by the more direct route to the south west.

A group of some 60 soldiers of the 24th Foot under Lieutenant Anstey, were cornered on the banks of a tributary of the Tugela and wiped out.

The last survivor in the main battle, a soldier of the 24th, escaped to a cave on the hillside where he continued fighting until his ammunition gave out and he was shot down.

The final act of the drama was played out along the banks of the Tugela River. Numbers of men were caught there by the Zulus. It is thought that natives living in Natal came down to the river and on the urgings of the Zulus killed British soldiers attempting to escape.

The most memorable episode of this stage of the battle concerns Lieutenants Melville and Coghill. Melville was the adjutant of the 1st Battalion, the 24th Foot. He is thought to have collected the Queen's Colour from the guard tent towards the end of the battle and ridden out of camp heading for the Tugela River. Melville arrived at the river, in flood from the rains, with and plunged in. Half way across Melville came off his horse, still clutching the cased colour. Coghill, also of the 24th Foot, crossed the river soon after and went to Melville's assistance. The Zulus were by this time lining the bank and opened a heavy fire on the two officers. Coghill's horse was killed and the colour swept away. Both officers struggled to the Natal bank where it seems likely that they were killed by Natal natives.

Melville and Coghill probably died at around 3.30pm. At 2.29pm there was a total eclipse of the sun briefly plunging the terrible battle into an eerie darkness.

Casualties:

52 British officers and 806 non-commissioned ranks were killed. Around 60 Europeans survived the battle. 471 Africans died fighting for the British. Zulu casualties have to be estimated and are set at around 2,000 dead either on the field or from wounds. The Zulus captured 1,000 rifles with the whole of the column's reserve ammunition supply.

Follow-up:

Chelmsford's force was unaware of the disaster that had overwhelmed Pulleine's troops until the news filtered through that the camp had been taken. Chelmsford was staggered. He said "But I left 1,000 men to guard the camp."

Chelmsford's column returned to the scene of horror at Isandlwana and camped near the battlefield.

Chelmsford's nightmare was that the Zulus would invade Natal. In the distance the British could see Rorke's Drift mission station burning. From that Chelmsford knew that the Zulus had crossed the Tugela.

In the longer term the British Government determined to avenge the defeat and overwhelming reinforcements were dispatched to Natal. General Sir Garnet Wolseley was sent to replace Lord Chelmsford, arriving after the final battle of the war. Cetshwayo's overwhelming success at Isandlwana secured his ultimate downfall.

Regimental anecdotes and traditions:

- Private Samuel Wassall was awarded the Victoria Cross for his conduct at the battle. Attached to the Mounted Infantry, Wassall escaped on his horse from the battle and crossed the Tugela. He then saw a comrade from the Mounted Infantry struggling in the water. Wassall recrossed the river, tethered his horse, swam over to the soldier and dragged him ashore on the Zulu side. The two men plunged back into the Tugela and swam to safety on Wassall's horse as the Zulus came up.
- The Queen's colour of the 1st Battalion, 24th Foot, was recovered from the Tugela. The colour was presented to Queen Victoria who placed a wreath of silver immortelles on the tip of the staff. Lieutenants Melville and Coghill were awarded posthumous Victoria Crosses.

References:

Zulu War by Ian Knight (Pan Grand Strategy)

oOo

From the Chaplain

Psalms 17 - A prayer of David.

1 Hear me, Lord, my plea is just; listen to my cry. hear my prayer— it does not rise from deceitful lips.

2 Let my vindication come from you; may your eyes see what is right.

3 Though you probe my heart, though you examine me at night and test me, you will find that I have planned no evil; my mouth has not transgressed.

4 Though people tried to bribe me, I have kept myself from the ways of the violent, through what your lips have commanded.

5 My steps have held to your paths; my feet have not stumbled.

6 I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer.

7 Show me the wonders of your great love, you who save by your right hand those who take refuge in you from their foes.

8 Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings

9 from the wicked who are out to destroy me, from my mortal enemies who surround me.

10 They close up their callous hearts, and their mouths speak with arrogance.

11 They have tracked me down, they now surround me, with eyes alert, to throw me to the ground.

12 They are like a lion hungry for prey, like a fierce lion crouching in cover.

13 Rise up, Lord, confront them, bring them down; with your sword rescue me from the wicked.

14 By your hand save me from such people, Lord, from those of this world whose reward is in this life. May what you have stored up for the wicked fill their bellies; may their children gorge themselves on it, and may there be leftovers for their little ones.

15 As for me, I will be vindicated and will see your face; when I awake, I will be satisfied with seeing your likeness.

oOo

Regimental Photos

Photos from Sidi Rezegh 2014



South African Irish Regiment

Tel: 011 417 6101 - Office Hours
 Fax: 011 417 6122 - Office Hours

Postal:
 South African Irish Regiment
 Private Bag X2
 Bertham
 2013



URL: www.sairish.webs.com

2015

JANUARY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

FEBRUARY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

MARCH						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

APRIL						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

MAY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JUNE						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

JULY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

AUGUST						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

SEPTEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

OCTOBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

NOVEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

DECEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		