

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

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The Shamrock



The official newsletter of the SA Irish Regiment

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR UNIFORMED MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCE

I pledge to serve and defend my country and its people in accordance with the Constitution and the law and with honour, dignity, courage and integrity.
I serve in the SANDF with loyalty and pride, as a citizen and a volunteer.
I respect the democratic political process and civil control of the SANDF.
I will not advance or harm the interests of any political party or organisation.
I accept personal responsibility for my actions.
I will obey all lawful commands and respect all superiors.
I will refuse to obey an obviously illegal order.
I will carry out my mission with courage and assist my comrades-in-arms, even at the risk of my own life.
I will treat all people fairly and respect their rights and dignity at all times, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, culture, language or sexual orientation.
I will respect and support subordinates and treat them fairly.
I will not abuse my authority, position or public funds for personal gain, political motive or any other reason.
I will report criminal activity, corruption and misconduct to the appropriate authority.
I will strive to improve the capabilities of the SANDF by maintaining discipline, safeguarding property, developing skills and knowledge, and performing my duties diligently and professionally.

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RULES OF WAR

In situations of armed conflict I will abide by the rules of international humanitarian law as contained in the Geneva Conventions:
I will fight only enemy combatants and attack only military objectives.
I will employ methods of attack to achieve the military objective with the least amount of harm to civilian life and property.
I will not attack or harm enemy personnel who surrender. I will disarm them and treat them as prisoners of war.
I will not kill, torture or abuse prisoners of war.
I will not alter weapons or ammunition for the deliberate purpose of increasing suffering.
I will collect and care for the wounded, shipwrecked and sick, whether friend or foe.
I will treat all civilians humanely.
I will not tolerate or engage in rape or looting.
I will respect all cultural objects and places of worship.
I will respect all persons and objects bearing the Red Cross, Red Crescent and other recognised symbols of humanitarian agencies.
I understand that disobeying these rules is a crime. It dishonours military personnel and their country, and makes them liable to punishment as war criminals. I will therefore report any violation of the rules to my superiors

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From the Editor

From: The Editor

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.

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From the OC’s Desk

By: Lt Col. M.A. Bennett

As the South African Irish Regiment prepares for confirmed deployment later this year, I have no doubt that those involved will continue to serve with distinction.

We must never lose sight that our calling as soldiers is dangerous. The recent engagements involving SA Irish troops in the Sudan is proof that situations can turn nasty at any given moment.

You must focus on your training so that if that happens and you have to engage an armed and aggressive foe, your actions will be both honourable and professional in the face of possible overwhelming odds.

I have the utmost confidence that my Regiment’s die hard spirit and the fighting spirit of Sidi Rezegh (and now of the Sudan) will ensure that you will be properly prepared for any dangers that we might face on deployment.

Remember to contact your company commander or the personnel office if you wish to be part of this deployment to the border areas of our country later this year. It is not too late to join up for this deployment, so add your name to the list if you think you have what it takes to be part of this deployment.

This is our calling as soldiers to protect our country and to protect those who cannot protect themselves.

Always remember your training and the fighting spirit of the “Fighting Irish”.

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

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Did you know?

By: The editor

Job Masego MM was a South African soldier during World War II, serving in the Native Military Corps (NMC).

Masego worked as a delivery man in the South African town of Springs before volunteering for service in the Native Military Corps. After completing his basic training, he was sent to North Africa with the South African 2nd Infantry Division.

He became a prisoner of war on 21 June 1942 when Major-General Hendrik Balthazar Klopper, surrendered to Field Marshal Erwin Rommel at Tobruk with 32,000 men, including 10,722 South Africans of the 2nd Division (of which 1,200 were Native Military Corps members).

While a prisoner, he constructed a bomb, using a milk tin, cordite and a fuse and, with the help of fellow prisoners Andrew Mohudi, Sam Police and Koos Williams, managed to hide the device on a German cargo boat at the docks of Tobruk. The boat was destroyed in the explosion later that afternoon. He was later presented with the Military Medal (MM) by Major-General F H Theron. He attained the rank of lance corporal during his service.

L/Cpl. Masego died in 1952 in a train accident. The Warrior Class Strike Craft

SAS JobMasego is named in his honour.

We salute his courage and ingenuity.
Faugh a Ballagh!

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From the Pipes and Drums.

By: The Pipe Major

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

- 28/02/2015 : Knysna Celtic Festival
- 07/03/2015 : Sandy Mallen Memorial Solo Piping Contest (SPSW)
- 28/03/2015 : 100 Guineas (SPSW)
- 18/04/2015 : Lyttelton Manor Highland Gathering (Regional)
- 02/05/2015 : South Coast Highland Gathering (Championship)
- 16/05/2015 : Jeppe Gathering (Regional)
- 30/05/2015 : De La Salle Highland Gathering (Regional)
- 13/06/2015 : Pretoria Boys Highland Gathering (Championship)
- 20/06/2015 : Cornwall Hill College Highland Gathering (Regional)
- 11/07/2015 : St Benedict’s College Highland Gathering (Regional Final)
- 25/07/2015 : Benoni Highland Gathering (Championship Final and South African Championships)
- 08/08/2015 : Vaal Highland Festival
- 26/09/2015 : South African Solo Drumming Championships
- 03/10/2015 : George Ackroyd Challenge Solo Piping Contest (SPSW)
- 07/11/2015 : Freedom regiments parade
- 08/11/2015 : Remembrance day parade
- 22/11.2015 : Sidi Rezegh Parade

Faugh a Ballagh!

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From the Honorary Colonel – Our heroes in the Sudan.

Written by Col. B. Molefe (Colonel of the Regiment)

A company of the South African Irish regiment is currently serving with 4 SAI on deployment in the Sudan (designated as Delta Company – 4 SAI).

Members of the SA Irish were involved in an ambush by Rebels forces dressed up as government forces.

The ambush by Rebels forces took place at approximately 12:35 (CAT) on Wednesday, 29 October, when a section of the SA Irish, who had to fetch water for their base camp, from a nearby waterhole in Kutum, came under fire from a suspected rebel group.

"Had it not been for the swift reaction, high standard of alertness and vigilance of the SANDF members, it could have been a different story," said the battalion commander, Lieutenant Colonel Andries Matlaila.

Four SA Irish soldiers were wounded. Two critical and two with minor wounds.

The two soldiers from the SA Irish who were critically injured during the attack were Rfn. S.C. Plaatjies and Rfn. T.J. Mathabe who, by all accounts, were the heroes of the day by thwarting the rebel attack with the massive return fire they provided from their LMG (in true fighting Irish spirit), which forced the rebels to abandon their attack.

By all accounts Rfn. Plaatjies continued to provide support fire with his LMG even though he was severely wounded. He continued to fight on bravely even after his left hand was severed by heavy calibre enemy machine gun fire, by continuing to fire with only one hand. He was only stopped in continuing the fight by being severely wounded in his other hand as well.

We as a Regiment salute all our heroes in the Sudan.

Faugh a Ballagh!
oOo



Rfn. Plaatjies in hospital during a visit from our Honorary Colonel Brian Molefe (CEO of Transnet) and our Officer Commanding, Lt Col. Marius Bennett.

International News – Zimbabwe gets record \$380 million defence budget for 2015

Written by Oscar Nkala

The Zimbabwe finance ministry has defended the record US\$380 million budget it allocated to the ministry of defence this year saying the money is required to fund the recruitment and training of more soldiers and acquisition of essential military equipment including new aircraft for the air force.

Responding to opposition calls for a downward review of the budget, which is the highest ever allocated to a single ministry in the history of the country, Finance minister Patrick Chinamasa said the defence forces need to recruit and train thousands of new soldiers to ensure that the army is strong enough to deter internal and external security threats.

Chinamasa said in addition to recruitment, training, salaries and troop welfare expenditure, the defence force needs to be well-equipped in order to guarantee the safety of the country as it progresses towards economic revival.

"In the past few years, we have not provided for fresh (troop) recruitments in the budget which is bad. We also have not provided for training. An army which does not train will not be good for the country when needed most.

"The first line of defence in any country is a performing economy. Let us not take the peace and tranquillity that we enjoy in Zimbabwe for granted. It is there because we have a well-trained army."

Chinamasa said the 2015 budget will also provide for a massive recruitment exercise which seeks to inject new and younger blood into the ranks of the national defence force.

"An army which does not recruit fresh blood becomes an old dead army. Even in the absence of war we need an army which keeps recruiting, training and upgrading its equipment. What you have to understand about the defence ministry is that their major costs are not

salaries, but equipment because the cost of one helicopter alone is exorbitant.

"All the activities taking place in agriculture, mining, and tourism need peace and stability and it is the security forces that deter trouble makers," Chinamasa said.

The Opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) said the budget should be revised downwards and all extra funds should be re-allocated to the health ministry instead.

"Zimbabwe is not at war. This country is enjoying peace and tranquillity, why should we allocate more resources to the ministry of defence instead of departments such as education, health and industry?"

"We are embarrassing our president because this is the only country in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) which failed to meet the Abuja declaration when it comes to health," Chikwinya said.

However, defence minister Sidney Sekeramayi says the \$380 million budget cannot be reduced because it is far too meagre and dismally failed to reflect the overall needs of the defence forces.

"Budget allocations should respond fully to the requirements of the defence forces. These are some of the issues we will continue to debate with our colleagues in the government. If we are able to get the resources then we will be able to improve the conditions of service in the defence forces. These are matters of defence and national security and as such, they cannot be discussed with anyone who might be interested," Sekeramayi said.

The minister said the call for increased defence expenditure is also reflected in the Zimbabwe Defence Policy which requires the Zimbabwe Defence Force (ZDF) to be pro-actively involved in contributing to peace and stability in the SADC region.

Last year, President Robert Mugabe and Air Force of Zimbabwe commander Air Marshall Perence Shiri said the force is suffering from lack of essential

equipment which the country cannot access directly because of a Western arms embargo imposed in 2002.

Shiri said due to the sanctions, the air force has not been able to buy new equipment and spare parts for equipment such as radar and aerial defence systems.

"The Western imposed sanctions have not spared the AFZ from the harsh economic environment, especially the acquisition of new equipment and back-up spares. The economic sanctions affected the acquisition of new aircraft, spare parts and support equipment. The financial demands for the above have become exorbitant as most purchases have to be done using sanctions busting measures the country has established so far," Shiri said.

Addressing a graduation ceremony of military pilots late last year, President Mugabe said the Air Force of Zimbabwe faces a severe shortage of aircraft spares. He said his government is fully aware of the need to upgrade the AFZ's training and operational equipment.

He said efforts are under way to provide adequate financial resources for the upgrading and acquisition of new aircraft and equipment. Last year, Zimbabwe's defence budget was pegged at US\$356 million, up from US\$318 million in 2012.

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News from the SANDF – SANDF still part of MONUSCO FIB

Written by defenceWeb

SANDF still part of FIB in DRCSouth Africa as a troop contributing country to MONUSCO's Force Intervention Brigade (FIB) in the DRC has re-affirmed its commitment to neutralising "negative forces" in particularly the eastern part of the country.

This assurance comes from Department of International Relations and Co-operation (DIRCO) in the wake of a United Nations statement that a military option is now inevitable against the

Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) following the rebel group's failure to surrender by January 2.

"We re-affirm our commitment to the objectives for which the FIB was established, including the neutralisation of negative forces in the eastern DRC as demonstrated by the participation of our troops in various MONUSCO operations including the latest of January 5 against the rebel group Forces for National Liberation (FNL)," DIRCO's Clayson Monyela said.

Only 151 FDLR combatants had surrendered and handed in 67 weapons when the January 2 deadline passed. This prompted a UN statement saying the six month grace period for the full and unconditional surrender of FDLR has expired and all necessary measures must be taken to disarm the rebels.

The South African military contribution to the FIB has been both ground- and air-based since its formation in 2013. 5 SA Infantry Battalion is currently the land-based unit while 16 Squadron and its home-grown Rooivalk combat support helicopter has been part of the brigade's aerial spearhead. 5 SAI is the second infantry unit to be deployed in eastern DRC following Grahamstown-based 6 SAI.

The FIB is credited with the withdrawal of the M23 rebel group from eastern DRC.

While the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) has not made any public statements about its involvement in the FIB it is widely accepted the South Africans were first to be on the receiving end of rebel attention when attacked by a group of Mai-Mai in July 2013.

The FIB has been involved in any number of skirmishes and encounters with rebel groups including at Triple Towers, Govender's Ridge, Kitchanga, Nyiabondo/Lukweti and Beni.

The tri-nation FIB, with soldiers from Malawi and Tanzania joining their SADC colleagues in its ranks, had its first 12 month mandate extended by a

year. The second mandate expires on March 31 this year and to date no indication has come from the UN Security Council on a further extension.

It is the first UN peacekeeping force ever to be given an offensive mandate to neutralise armed rebel groups threatening civilian security.

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News from the SANDF – SAS Amatola undocked ahead of schedule

Written by defenceWeb

Last year South Africa's shipbuilding and ship repair industry was named as a strategic sector of economic activity and Durban-based Southern African Shipyards (SAS) is a major player in this burgeoning sphere in line with the Presidential call to boost South Africa's ocean economy.

The 60% black-owned shipyard with a Level Two BBEEE rating is currently busy with the refit and double propulsion engine change of a major warship, SAS Amatola, the first Valour Class frigate acquired as part of the Strategic Defence Procurement Packages in 1998. This is a first for the shipyard and the refit, excluding armament, is expected to be completed in the second quarter of this year.

The project is on schedule and the docking period was completed ahead of schedule with Amatola undocking on December 5 last year. The frigate is now back as the SAS yard where continuation of the refit is taking place. The Navy has expressed its pleasure with progress on the project and with concerned stakeholders as regards execution of the project, according to Charles Maher, SAS General Manager: Marketing.

SAS won the tender for the refit via a public tender process (Government Tender Bulletin Volume 576, June 21, 2013, No 2779, page 18). This work follows the complex propulsion engine change-out on the frigate SAS Isandlwana and the refit of three Warrior Class strike craft now being used as offshore patrol vessels (OPVs).

The value of the SAS Amatola tender bid submitted by SAS was originally set at R335 million and based on the SA Navy standard planned maintenance scope of work. During a refit the standard planned maintenance scope of work is adjusted as detailed surveys of equipment, hull, machinery, propulsion, mechanical and electrical systems are undertaken. This is due to the opening and inspection of ship systems which require the ship to be out of the water, have no fuel aboard and have systems such as ventilation, water, sewerage, emergency pumps etc. switched off. These survey activities are not possible while the ship is operational with crew aboard.

The refit and double engine change-out is progressing well and Maher does not anticipate the contract value increasing by more than five percent. This is his response to allegations by David Maynier, opposition Democratic Alliance (DA) party shadow defence and military veterans minister, for the Auditor-General to investigate the SAS Amatola refit contract which he said "may have been inflated by as much as R100 million". Maynier also maintains the refit contract may not have been put out to open tender. This is incorrect as it was published in Government Tender Bulletin 2779.

In response to various allegations around the contract, Maher said those behind them were "mischievous". He was also adamant the R335 million tender bid submitted by SAS was not over-priced and of fair value given the extent of maintenance and repair work required as well as the double propulsion engine replacement. It was also by far the most competitive tender bid received for the refit work, Maher said.

The Amatola refit programme has proved to be a maritime industry and employment multiplier for the economy of Durban, according to SAS, with hundreds of jobs created and many local suppliers and sub-contractors used. The local economy benefitted even further with components previously imported now sourced locally and manufactured in South Africa. In addition there is the permanent presence of SA Navy

personnel during the refit as part of the skills and technology transfer effort.

Amatola in Durban graving dockThe Port of Durban serves as a critical container, petroleum and general trade hub for South Africa that requires a strong and supported naval security and patrol presence to protect this important trade route to the Indian Ocean, SAS noted.

“Given SAS’s long term commitment to the South African maritime industry for economic and apprentice development and to the Navy for maritime security, we believe the Navy is receiving fair tender value for the scope and complexity of the frigate refit and propulsion engine work,” Maher said.

SAS offers a complete in-house marine solution, from shipbuilding through to ship repair and naval maintenance with mechanical and fabrication as well as oil and gas departments.

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News from the SANDF – Intelligence IG appointment will go by the book

Written by defenceWeb

A number of applications have been received for the position of Inspector General of Intelligence, to date, but no decision has as yet been taken on whether the selection process will be an open one.

Cornelia September, chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Intelligence, said the committee will meet “shortly” to consider the applications and will also determine “whether and to what extent the proceedings will be open to the public”.

“It is unfortunate a number of people appear to have already assumed, and prematurely so, that the Committee has already resolved the process will be a closed one. It is also unfortunate a number of other people who are not members of the Committee have contributed to misleading the public on this matter,” she said in a statement issued by Parliamentary Communication Services and, while not

mentioning him by name, in obvious reference to a statement issued earlier in the week by DA MP David Maynier.

His call for the appointment process to find an Intelligence Inspector General who is impartial and independent and will perform his or her functions without fear or favour appears to have struck a chord with September who issued her statement 24 hours later. Maynier maintains the appointment process must be public or suspicions will be raised once it is confirmed.

“The Committee will have due regard to the constitutional and legislative framework, the nature of the matter, the roles and functions of the Inspector General of Intelligence as well as all other relevant factors in its consideration of whether or not to open the proceedings, or any portion thereof, and any applicable parameters for doing so.

“The Committee will also take into account the appointments of previous Inspectors General of Intelligence have included processes that were open to the public and the media,” September’s statement reads.

She assures South Africans the appointment process will be conducted “within the ambit of applicable legislation as well as the Rules of Parliament and the Committee, which will continue to have a high regard for promoting the best interests of the country and protecting the rights of its citizens”.

Maynier has for more than five years been at loggerheads with the Department of Defence as regards the possible acquisition of a synthetic radar “spy” satellite by Defence Intelligence.

He maintains the Intelligence Inspector General’s ability to “literally go through the bottom drawers of Crime Intelligence, Defence Intelligence and the State Security Agency” will help shed light on allegedly nefarious acquisitions and operations.

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News from the SANDF – SANDF provided flood relief to Mozambique

Written by defenceWeb – Feb 2015

Mozambique mercy missions delivers tons of aidThe SA National Defence Force’s (SANDF) mercy mission to neighbouring Mozambique under Operation Loapi has to date delivered more than 17 tons of aid in various forms.

This includes medical supplies, tents and food, a Joint Operations source said after the first week of the deployment, which has seen about 80 airmen, medics and navy swimmers on the ground in that country’s Zambezia province.

The South Africans hit the ground in northern Mozambique on 16 January 2015 following an airborne reconnaissance the day before. This saw the number of helicopters deployed increased by one with an Agusta A-109 LUH from 17 Squadron at AFB Zwartkop added to the pair of Oryx medium transport helicopters from 19 Squadron at AFB Hoedspruit. The Agusta is tasked as an airborne command and control post for the Oryx.

To date (Feb 2015) the South African helicopter crews, assisted by operational medics have evacuated two pregnant women, both with complications, to Macoba and have also recovered a stranded Mozambican emergency services worker at Namarroi.

At the time of publication the airborne component of Operation Loapi had logged just on 10 flying hours. At least six sorties are planned to be flown in the next 24 hours assisting with movement of relief aid.

Indications are the deployment will return to South Africa end of January, meeting the original 14 day timeline set for it.

Tens of thousands of people have been displaced because of torrential rains in Mozambique. Four people have died in Mocuba, one of two districts badly affected by flooding, while an estimated 5 000 have sought refuge in government shelters. According to reports, the

waters have risen to double the flooding threshold.

No SANDF members have been deployed in Malawi, which is also hit by floods. The South African humanitarian group, Gift of the Givers, has distributed numerous relief parcels to families in that country, who were displaced by floods.

The parcels - worth R500 each - contain staple food, blankets, eating utensils, water purification tablets and plastic sheets, the organisation's founder Imtiaz Sooliman said on Saturday.

The eight-member team reached areas more than 100 km away from Blantyre, according to Sooliman, and distribution will also be carried out in Chikwana, Nsanje, Mangochi, Machinga, Balaka, Zomba, Phalombe and Mulanje regions, reports SANews.

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News from the SANDF – Job well done for the SANDF in Mozambique

Written by Kim Helfrich

When a 28 Squadron C-130BZ touched down at AFB Waterkloof at 12h00 on Saturday (31 January) it was job over and well done for the 80-strong SA National Defence Force (SANDF) deployment to assist a flood ravaged

northern Mozambique under the task name Operation Loapi.

“Fourteen days were allocated for the mission and the team wrapped it up on target and on time,” said Lieutenant Colonel Piet Paxton of Joint Operations.

While the floods were not as devastating as those which struck South Africa’s eastern neighbour in 2000 the lessons learnt from that experience have been taken to heart, he said, pointing out the organisation of Mozambican government disaster management along with numerous non-government organisations as well as the South Africa military contingent “did what had to be done and did it well”.

In the 14 days South African airmen, medics and soldiers were billeted in civilian accommodation in Quelimane, about 120 flying hours were logged. Agusta and Oryx helicopters flew the bulk of these hours delivering food, medical and shelter aid to Mozambicans left stranded by floodwaters.

“All told 74 tons of equipment was flown from Quelimane to villages and places identified as being the most in need by the disaster management organisation on the ground in the Zambezia province town,” Paxton said, adding 10 medevac missions were also flown by the helicopters of 17 and 19 squadrons.

“Eight of these were pregnancy related,” he said adding “happily” not one involved assisting in giving birth for a woman stuck in a tree as happened just over 14 years ago.

An indication of the difficulties faced by those involved in the humanitarian operation comes with the distances involved. Paxton said by far the majority of equipment needed was flown in from Maputo, just over a thousand kilometres south of Quelimane, by Mozambican Air Force helicopters.

“Then, following meetings and joint decision making by all involved, food, medical and shelter equipment was loaded and flown from Quelimane to identified landing zones,” he said, adding Beira was 300 km away. About 800 km away from Quelimane is Pemba, where there is a South African military presence supporting the anti-piracy deployment, Operation Copper.

“While the South African military deployment was part of a far bigger humanitarian operation we can stand tall knowing our men and women in uniform did what was expected of them and more,” Paxton said.

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News from the SANDF – Exercise Good Hope

Written by defenceWeb

The German Navy commitment to the 2015 edition of Exercise Good Hope is not confined to three frigates and a fleet auxiliary vessel. Its Chief, Vice Admiral Andreas Krause, will also be in Simon’s Town for part of the bi-national exercise.

On March 1 the frigates Hessen (flagship), Karlsruhe and Brandenburg accompanied by the Type 702 supply ship, Berlin, will enter South African territorial waters. The ships form part of the European’s country annual training cruise – EAV 2015 – and left Wilhelmshaven on Tuesday this week.

They are scheduled to enter Simon’s Town on March 2 and will do harbour



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training with elements of the SA Navy until March 12. This has been set aside for a harbour visit to Cape Town with March 13 and 14 earmarked as open days.

All four German maritime platforms, the frigates each carrying a Sea Lynx helicopter, will participate in tasks ranging from search and rescue through to boarding and gunnery with a South African Valour Class frigate and one of the Heroine Class Type 209 submarines.

Details of exact taskings to be practised during the exercise have not yet been released.

The Germans will take a welcome break from maritime action from March 20 to 22 when they will participate in the Navy Festival, a highlight of the Navy calendar before the end of the exercise and departure from Simon’s Town on March 23.

In addition to a Valour Class frigate and Type 209 submarine, the South African Navy is also expected to contribute one of the revamped strikecraft now serving as offshore patrol vessels (OPVs) as well as a Maritime Reaction Squadron (MRS) team for the exercise.

The airborne arm of the SANDF has committed a 35 Squadron C-47TP maritime surveillance aircraft, an embarked Super Lynx (22 Squadron), a pair of Oryx medium transport helicopters (also from 22 Squadron) and “two fighter jets” for the exercise.

A Special Forces team will support the Navy MRS team while the SA Military Health Service (SAMHS) will provide medical task teams in addition to medical personnel aboard the various Navy platforms.

The aim of Good Hope is to strengthen military, particularly maritime, co-operation between the two countries via the sharing of maritime expertise.

The last exercise staged in 2012 saw the SA Navy put two of its Valour Class frigates – SAS Amatola and SAS Isandlwana – to sea along with the submarine SAS Queen Modjadji.

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News from the Defence Industry – Denel testing A-Darter missile

Written by defenceWeb

Denel’s A-Darter air-to-air missile passed critical in-flight guided tests in recent weeks and production of this fifth-generation missile system is expected to start before the end of 2015.

A-Darter – a collaborative product between the South African and Brazilian defence industries – will be on display at the International Defence Exhibition and Conference (IDEX 2015) in Abu Dhabi later this month.

Riaz Saloojee, Denel Group chief executive, is confident the A-Darter will be a global leader in its class when it comes into service within the next 18 months.

The A-Darter is designed to meet the challenges of future air combat against next-generation fighters in a hostile electronic counter-measure (ECM) environment.

The A-Darter is the flagship project of Denel Dynamics, the division in the group responsible for advanced systems

technology in the missile and UAV environments.

Denel’s participation at IDEX from February 22 to 26 again demonstrated the quality and range of its precision-guided weapon systems to a global audience, especially in the important Middle East and North Africa regions, the company said.

Components for the missile are manufactured in both South Africa and Brazil and Denel Dynamics is the Original Equipment Manufacturer. Brazil has invested 300 million Reals (R1.3 billion) in the project, half of which has gone to Brazilian companies such as Mectron, Avibras and Optoelectronics, which have been working with Denel Dynamics on the project since 2006. One of Brazil’s main reasons for becoming involved in the project is technology transfer and Brazilian engineers have been working closely with those in South Africa.

Testing and integration of the A-Darter on the JAS 39 Gripen used by the SA Air Force have already been done and it will, in future, also be integrated onto the Gripen NG, which will be delivered to the Brazilian Air Force in 2018.

The A-Darter is aimed to be fitted to both Gripen and Hawk aircraft of the South African Air Force. There is also

talk of integrating the infrared guided weapon onto Brazil’s AMX aircraft. Brazil will initially buy a hundred missiles for its Gripens, as part of an initial production run of around 250 missiles.

Apart from domestic use by the Brazilian and South African air forces, the A-Darter will also be offered for export, with these sales being shared, according to Brazilian Air Force Colonel Julius Caesar Cardoso Tavares, the A-Darter project manager in Brazil.

The wingless missile design promotes a low-risk integration process on both the latest and older generation aircraft platforms. Denel Dynamics can be contracted for prime missile integration on the client’s platform of choice, making the A-Darter a cost-effective solution.

The missile’s agility will enable it to handle close combat situations with ease and it also features lock-on after launch and memory tracking capabilities. Among its features are advanced digital processing capabilities to ensure improved performance in terms of image detection, false target rejection, electronic counter-counter-measures, guidance and control.

The Brazilian Air Force said the A-Darter is ten times more manoeuvrable

than a fighter aircraft, able to perform manoeuvres that generate up to 100 g, whereas most modern fighter jets can only withstand around 9 g. Measuring 2.98 meters in length and weighing 90 kg, the new missile is notable because of the absence of the small forward wings used for control – instead the A-Darter is able to direct the thrust of its rocket engine. Maximum range is 12 kilometres, according to the Brazilian Air Force.

“Heat-seeking, the A-Darter has a guidance system so sensitive that just after firing it can make a sharp turn and hit targets that are chasing the launcher plane. Today, fourth generation missiles can hit targets that are, at best, next to the launcher plane. The guidance sensor can also ‘see’ more of the infrared frequency band, and thereby avoid being fooled by flares - incandescent bait thrown to confuse missiles,” Tavares said.

After the successful A-Darter project, Brazil and South Africa plan to further cooperate in missile development, notably on the 100 km range Marlin radar-guided air-to-air weapon, which will be developed into an all-weather surface-to-air missile (SAM) that can be used by the South African and Brazilian Navies.

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News from the SANDF – Soldiers on border protection continue good work arresting more than 3 000 this year.

Written by Kim Helfrich

While the issue of the signal disruption in Parliament ahead of the State of the Nation Address (SONA) dominated this week’s Justice, Peace and Security cluster briefing, progress was reported in border safeguarding and the military health service.

Defence and Military Veterans Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, who chaired the briefing in Cape Town, said Operation Corona, the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) border safeguarding tasking, had in the first seven weeks of the year apprehended 3 200 undocumented foreigners, recovered 35 stolen vehicles, confiscated dagga with a street value of R9 million and arrested 55 suspected criminals.

“There are 13 sub-units (companies) deployed to execute border safeguarding in Limpopo, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal, Free State, Eastern Cape, Northern Cape and North West,” she said, adding soldiers continued to support other government departments “such as the SA Police Service (SAPS) to execute their work in various areas”.

The border protection function was previously a police tasking but was given back to the defence force.

Mapisa-Nqakula told the briefing government has made “substantial progress” with the establishment of a single entity to manage the entire border environment and all ports of entry.

“This has seen personnel from the SA Revenue Service’s Collaborative Border Management Unit transferred to the BMA (Border Management Agency) project management office under the Department of Home Affairs. This office was set up to promote government’s vision to achieve a new, integrated border



management through the BMA. The BMA Bill will be submitted to Cabinet by mid-2015,” she said.

The Defence Minister also used the briefing to provide an update on the findings of the Ministerial Medical Task Team she appointed to, among others, look at employment conditions of healthcare practitioners in the SA Military Health Service (SAMHS).

“Some of its recommendations have been implemented and others are in the process of implementation.

“To date, outstanding medical overtime has been paid and is up to date. The occupational special dispensation (OSD) has been corrected to the benefit of all those who had been affected and the improvement of employment conditions has stopped the outflow of health practitioners from the SANDF.

“The Ministerial Medical Task Team also made recommendations that resulted in the conclusion of a memorandum of understanding between the Department of Public Works and the Department of Defence. This will see the Defence Works Formation take over the refurbishment of defence force facilities such as 1 Military Hospital in a phased approach.”

The minister told the briefing that implementation of the Defence Review would “begin in earnest” after Parliamentary processes are complete. The Joint Standing Committee on Defence and Military Veterans is due to have a seven hour meeting in Cape Town today with only one item – the Defence Review – on the agenda.

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News from the SANDF – January MSD intake totals 2 043

Written by Kim Helfrich

In January the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) increased personnel numbers by just over 2 000 in what Defence Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula called “part of the rejuvenation of the force”.

The exact numbers of the January intake, each year part of the military skills development system (MSDS), show the SA Army, the largest component of the defence force, getting the largest number – 1 574 – of volunteers.

They will, after completion of basic military training, find themselves deployed to one of the nine formations that make up the landward force. They are air defence artillery, armour, artillery, engineer, infantry, intelligence, signal, support and training.

The maritime arm of the SANDF was next highest gaining 214 new recruits and Navy Chief, Vice Admiral Mosuwa Hlongwane and his command council will be keen to keep as many as possible of these naval newcomers in uniform on a permanent basis. This is because the Navy knows it will, within the next few years, take ownership of at least seven new vessels which have to be crewed.

Tenders will be called for this year for three inshore and three offshore patrol vessels as well as a new hydrographic ship to replace the SAS Protea.

The patrol vessels are seen as contributing to last year’s announcement by President Jacob Zuma of Operation Phakisa on boosting the ocean economy.

South Africa has long been a leading and valued member of the international hydrographic community, producing detailed charts of the earth’s southern oceans as well as South Africa’s own exclusive economic zone (EEZ). In terms of the Benguela Convention South Africa will contribute hydrographic expertise to mapping resources on the west coast up to and including Angola.

The SA Military Health Service (SAHMS) has 175 newcomers to its ranks and the SA Air Force, which this year marks its 95th anniversary, boosts personnel numbers by 80. They will spend the formative part of their MSDS years at the Air Force Gymnasium near AFB Hoedspruit before being posted to various squadrons and units.

Annually thousands of applications are received from volunteers wanting to be part of the SANDF’s military skills development programme but cost constraints mean only around 2 000 can be accepted.

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News from the SANDF – SANDF Works Formation getting into gear.

Written by Kim Helfrich

That the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) is at last going it alone when it comes to infrastructure and facilities was made evident in last month’s national budget.

Finance Minister Nhlanhla Nene told the National Assembly that R951.8 million of the more than R44 billion allocated to the Department of Defence and Military Veterans would go to operationalising staff for the Defence Works Formation. This, sadly, is not an additional allocation but a transfer of funds from the office accommodation sub-section of the administration programme to the Department of Defence (DoD) general support programme.

Priorities are listed as being the refurbishment of military bases at Bethlehem, Bloemspruit, Eerste Rivier and Grahamstown as well as refurbishment of air force and army headquarters in Pretoria.

Also on the to-do list for the works formation is demolishing unserviceable infrastructure in Thaba Tshwane, at a projected cost of R18.3 million, and at the Military Academy in Saldanha.

The unhappy relationship between the Department of Defence and the government’s landlord, the Department of Public Works, goes back more than five years and was first made public by then Public works Minister, Gwen Mahlangu-Nkabinde in December 2010. After a visit to the Doornkop and Wonderboom military bases she said the DoD was “an important, but unhappy, client” and indicated steps would be taken to rectify the poor condition of these two bases and others.

Just over a year ago, members of the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Defence and Military Veterans called on the bases, one south of Johannesburg and one north of Pretoria. They found buildings still in a state of disrepair as well as squatters in some of the neglected facilities.

One who has long been unhappy about the way military facilities and infrastructure is being neglected by Public Works, currently under the stewardship of Minister Thulas Nxesi, is SANDF Chief, General Solly Shoke. He reinstated the Army's Works Regiment while he was chief of the landward arm of the SANDF. He saw the regiment stepping in to do the work that Public Works apparently couldn't get round to. In the first two years of its re-establishment the regiment built a military hospice at Lenasia, south of Johannesburg, and finished extensive refurbishing of a military mess in Thaba Tshwane.

It was at Shoke's insistence that the regiment was upgraded to a Works Formation in the 2012/13 financial year to serve the entire SANDF and this year's budget is the first indication of it being an asset rather than just a name in the Army's formation lists.

While he did not mention numbers, the Finance Minister indicated the DoD, and hence the SANDF, would see a growth in personnel numbers to 81 108 in 2017/18. This would come from growth in the capability of the Defence Works Formation and from military skills development volunteers taken in by the full-time component of the SANDF.

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News from the SANDF – President Zuma commends SANDF during Armed Forces Day celebrations

Written by Guy Martin

President Jacob Zuma handed out Mandela medals to South African National Defence Force (SANDF) members and celebrated the role of the military during the third annual Armed Force Day celebrations in

Potchefstroom on Saturday 21 February.

As Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF, Zuma presented specially designed and minted medals to a further 34 SANDF members involved in the care of and funeral arrangements for Nelson Mandela, adding to the 84 such medals presented last year.

“The success of our Defence Force means safety and security for our people as the South African National Defence Force exists to protect our people and our borders,” Zuma said in his address. “In only 20 years, our defence force has become a force for peace and a force of great pride in the country and the continent because of the hard work, dedication and commitment of our soldiers.

“At home, our men and women in uniform continue to inspire our nation through providing much needed assistance and support in communities that are faced by natural disasters... Early this year the SANDF was also involved in the operation to assist the people of Mozambique in disaster relief after the floods that threatened the survival and lives of the people of Mozambique.

“We also recognise the contribution of our soldiers in the fight against crime in support of the police. We commend the members of the South African National Defence Force who have worked with the police to develop the Rural Safety Strategy which is being implemented at 117 police stations countrywide, to promote safety and security in rural areas and in particular farming areas.”

Zuma highlighted the success of the border safeguarding Operation Corona, whose “success is visible through the illegal weapons seized and the recovery of stolen vehicles and livestock.” In the first seven weeks of this year, SANDF troops on the border apprehended 3 200 undocumented foreigners, recovered 35 stolen vehicles, confiscated dagga with a street value of R9 million and arrested 55 suspected criminals.

Based on the roll-out plan, the SANDF deployed thirteen sub-units to execute Operation Corona in Limpopo,

Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal, Free State, Eastern Cape, Northern Cape and North West Provinces.

“We are also happy that our soldiers are always ready to respond to calls to promote and support peace and stability on the African continent,” Zuma said. “The South African National Defence Force has continued to participate in the United Nations Peace Support Operations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the United Nations/African Union Hybrid mission in Sudan. Our soldiers also continue to provide Military Training Assistance to other Armed Forces in the continent.

“Recently the SANDF became part of the newly established African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crisis, which is an interim mechanism to assist in peace and security in the continent until such time that the African Standby Force is ready. South Africa has pledged a Battalion which is being prepared and almost ready and can be deployed if so required by the African Union. The standby force is a very important initiative by the continent because it enables us to provide African solutions to African problems.”

Zuma also recognised the importance of the South African Police Service (SAPS), which has also participated in peacekeeping missions on the continent. These include the African Union/United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan and the African Union Mission in Somalia. The SAPS also supports the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security and has been involved in various Election Observer Missions on the continent.

Regarding skills and training, Zuma noted that the SANDF is investing in youth development through promoting recruitment and careers in the defence force. “That is why every year, the Department of Defence recruits matriculants into the force, as part of the two-year Military Skills Development System. More than thirty six thousand young people have gone through the programme since its inception in 2013.

“We are also using our Defence Force to teach our youth discipline. The

The Shamrock

Defence Force has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform under the programme called National Rural Youth Service Corps run by Rural Development and Land Reform. Candidates are brought to the Defence Force for six weeks with the intention to develop a South African youth that is conscious of the requirements of a responsible citizen imbued with the values that the nation holds dear,” Zuma said.

Zuma briefly touched on the Defence Review, saying it has outlined what needs to be done to further enhance the capability of the defence force. “The implementation of the Review will give our defence force the resources to fulfil the mandate domestically and beyond our shores.” However, he did not give an indication of when the Review would be implemented.

After presenting the medals and delivering his speech, Zuma and assembled guests witnessed 1 200 troops from different units march past Potchefstroom’s Tlokwe Municipality buildings, followed by a flypast of 25 aircraft and a parade of more than 80 vehicles. A significant portion of the South African Air Force took part in the display, including the President’s Boeing Business Jet (accompanied by Gripen fighters), a white painted Rooivalk and Oryx used on behalf of the United Nations, Hawk Lead-In Fighter-Trainers, A109 and Oryx transport helicopters, Pilatus PC-12, Cessna Caravan and Lockheed C-130 transports and the Silver Falcons aerobatic team.

Almost every type of vehicle in the SANDF inventory drove through the streets of Potchefstroom before heading out to the surrounding townships, from Ratel missile carriers and Olifant main battle tanks to bulldozers and Gecko 8x8 tactical vehicles.

21 February was chosen as Armed Forces Day as it is the anniversary of the fateful sinking of the SS Mendi in 1917, which killed more than 600 black soldiers who had enlisted as a labour corps in the First World War.

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President Zuma awarding medals during the Armed Forces day parade in Potchefstroom in 21 February



Battlefields of South Africa – The battle of Rorke’s Drift

Written by Ian Knight

Rorke’s Drift: the iconic defence of the mission station by a small force of British and colonial troops; which saw a record award of Victoria Crosses (11) to restore the faith of Victorian Britain in the Army.

War: Zulu War

Date: 22nd January 1879

Place: Tugela River in Natal Province, South Africa

Combatants: British infantry with Natal irregulars against Zulu warriors.

Commanders: The British garrison was commanded by Lieutenant John Chard, Royal Engineers, and Lieutenant Gonville Bromhead of the 24th Foot. The Zulus were commanded by Prince Dabulamanzi kaMapande.

Size of the armies: 139 British troops against about 4,500 Zulus.

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 Zulus captured some 1,000 Martini Henry breech loading rifles and a large amount of ammunition. Some of these rifles were used at Rorke’s Drift. All the British

casualties, few though they were, were shot rather than stabbed.

Winner: The British.

British Regiments:

B company, 2nd Battalion, 24th Foot: later the South Wales Borderers and now the Royal Regiment of Wales.

Men of the Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers, Army Service Corps, Commissariat and Medical Corps.

Account:

Rorke’s Drift is an iconic battle for Britain like Isandlwana, but for the reverse reason. After the disastrous and apparently inexplicable slaughter of the 1st Battalion, the 24th Foot, Bromhead’s B Company, 2nd Battalion of the same regiment with their colleagues restored the prestige of British arms by their successful defence of the mission station.

Just as it was incomprehensible to the public in Britain that 1,000 British infantry armed with modern breach loading rifles could be overwhelmed by native troops armed principally with stabbing spears, it was astounding that a handful of the same troops could withstand the overwhelming attack delivered against the mission station later the same day.

On 11th January 1879, Lord Chelmsford led the Centre Column of his invading army into Zululand, crossing the Tugela River at Rorke’s Drift. On 22nd January 1879, the Zulu Army sidestepped Chelmsford’s advancing force and wiped out the troops he had left at his advanced camp by the hill of Isandlwana, principally the 1st Battalion, 24th Foot under Colonel Pulleine.

Cetshwayo, the Zulu King, when he dispatched his army to fight Chelmsford’s invading columns, issued orders that his warriors were not to enter the British colony of Natal. He still hoped to negotiate a peaceful settlement of the war and did not wish to be labeled an aggressor.

As the battle at Isandlwana drew to a close several Zulu regiments under Cetshwayo’s younger brother, Prince

Dabulamanzi kaMapande, reached the Tugela River, cutting off the few escaping British. These regiments had not been involved in the battle and looked for a way to join in the success. Dabulamanzi, an aggressive leader, resolved to lead these Zulu regiments to the further triumph of capturing the British base at the Rorke’s Drift crossing on the Tugela.

A single company of infantry garrisoned the mission station at Rorke’s Drift, B Company, 2nd Battalion, 24th Foot. Although the 24th was designated the South Warwickshire Regiment, this company was manned largely by Welshmen. The company colour sergeant was Frank Bourne; the sole officer, Lieutenant Gonville Bromhead.

The mission belonged to the Reverend Otto Witt, a Swede. Mr Witt’s church had been turned into a store by the British Army; his house a military hospital under Surgeon James Reynolds.

Lieutenant John Chard, Royal Engineers, arrived at Rorke’s Drift on 19th January 1879 with a party of sappers. Chard had cause to journey up to Isandlwana immediately before the battle and on his return saw groups of Zulus.

On 21st January 1879 the garrison heard firing from the distant battle and a group of officers climbed the nearby hill. They saw what they eventually realised to be parties of Zulus advancing towards the mission station. News of the disaster at Isandlwana was confirmed by the arrival of Lieutenant Ardendorff from the camp.

The British garrison set to fortifying the mission station. Tents were struck and stored and the buildings loopholed for defence. The store (church) and building (Witt’s house) were linked by walls of mealie bags.

A party of Durnford’s unit arrived and was posted forward to hold the Zulu advance as long as possible.

At 4.20pm firing was heard from the hill and the men of Durnford’s unit returned to the mission station and then

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left for Helpmakaar, the nearest Natal town. The company of Natal Native Infantry also left, leaving the regular British troops and some Natal irregulars.

The garrison hurriedly built a shorter perimeter line of biscuit boxes to accommodate the greatly reduced numbers of soldiers.

500 Zulus appeared around the hill to the South, running towards the mission station. They were met by a heavy fire from the garrison and at some 50 yards from the wall veered around the hospital to attack from the North West. They were driven back by the fire from the garrison and went to ground in the undergrowth, uncleared due the shortage of time.

The main body of Zulus came up and opened a heavy fire on the British from cover around the West and North West of the mission station.

The hospital at the western end of the fortifications became the focus for the fighting. Set on fire and stormed by the Zulus, it became untenable. As many men were extracted as possible, the remaining patients perishing in the flames. Privates John Williams, Henry Hook, William Jones, Frederick Hitch and Corporal William Allen all received the Victoria Cross for their defence of the hospital building, fighting with bayonets once their ammunition was expended, as they contested every room with the attacking warriors.

The fighting now concentrated on the wall of biscuit barrels linking the mission house with the mealie wall. As night fell the British withdrew to the centre of the station where a final bastion had been hastily assembled. The light from the burning hospital assisted the British in their fire. The savage Zulu attacks were resisted until around midnight when unexpectedly the ferocity of the assault fell away. Firing continued until around 4am when the Zulus withdrew. By then the British held only the area around the storehouse.

At 7am a body of Zulus appeared on the hill, but no attack followed. According to legend, the British were amazed when the Zulu warriors sang a song in

honour of the bravery of the defenders, before they withdrew.

It became apparent that the Zulus could see Chelmsford's column approaching from the direction of Isandlwana. The Zulus turned and left.

Soon afterwards the column arrived at the drift and crossed the Tugela, marching up to the mission station. Chelmsford's delight at finding the garrison alive and still resisting was heavily tempered by his despair at finding that no survivors from Isandlwana had escaped to Rorke's Drift.

Casualties: Zulu casualties are thought to have been around 500. The garrison of the mission station comprised 8 officers and 131 non-commissioned ranks. Of these 17 were killed and 10 wounded.

Follow-up:

The defeat at Isandlwana brought Lord Chelmsford's Centre Column back to the Tugela. Chelmsford had then to ensure that the Zulu Armies did not invade Natal. He called for substantial reinforcements and got them. In March 1879 Colonel Evelyn Wood's Northern Column inflicted a heavy defeat on the Zulus at Khambula. In April 1879 Chelmsford relieved Colonel Pearson's Southern Column, entrenched for some months at Eshowe, and later renewed the advance from the Tugela.

On 4th July 1879 Cetshwayo's Zulu Army was utterly defeated at the Battle of Ulundi. Fighting continued in a desultory form until Cetshwayo's capture on 28th August 1879 and the end of the war.

Regimental anecdotes and traditions:

- Lieutenants Chard and Bromhead were each awarded the Victoria Cross for the defence of the Rorke's Drift mission station and promoted major.
- In addition to the soldiers of the 24th who distinguished themselves in the defence of the hospital, Victoria Crosses were awarded to Surgeon Reynolds, Commissary Dalton and Corporal Schiess of the NNC. Colour Sergeant Bourne and Private William Roy of the 24th Foot, Gunner Cantwell of the Royal Artillery and Corporal

Attwood of the Army Service Corps were awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

- Sir Garnet Wolseley, taking over as Commander-in-Chief from Lord Chelmsford, was unimpressed with the awards made to the defenders of Rorke's Drift, saying "it is monstrous making heroes of those who shut up in buildings at Rorke's Drift, could not bolt, and fought like rats for their lives which they could not otherwise save."

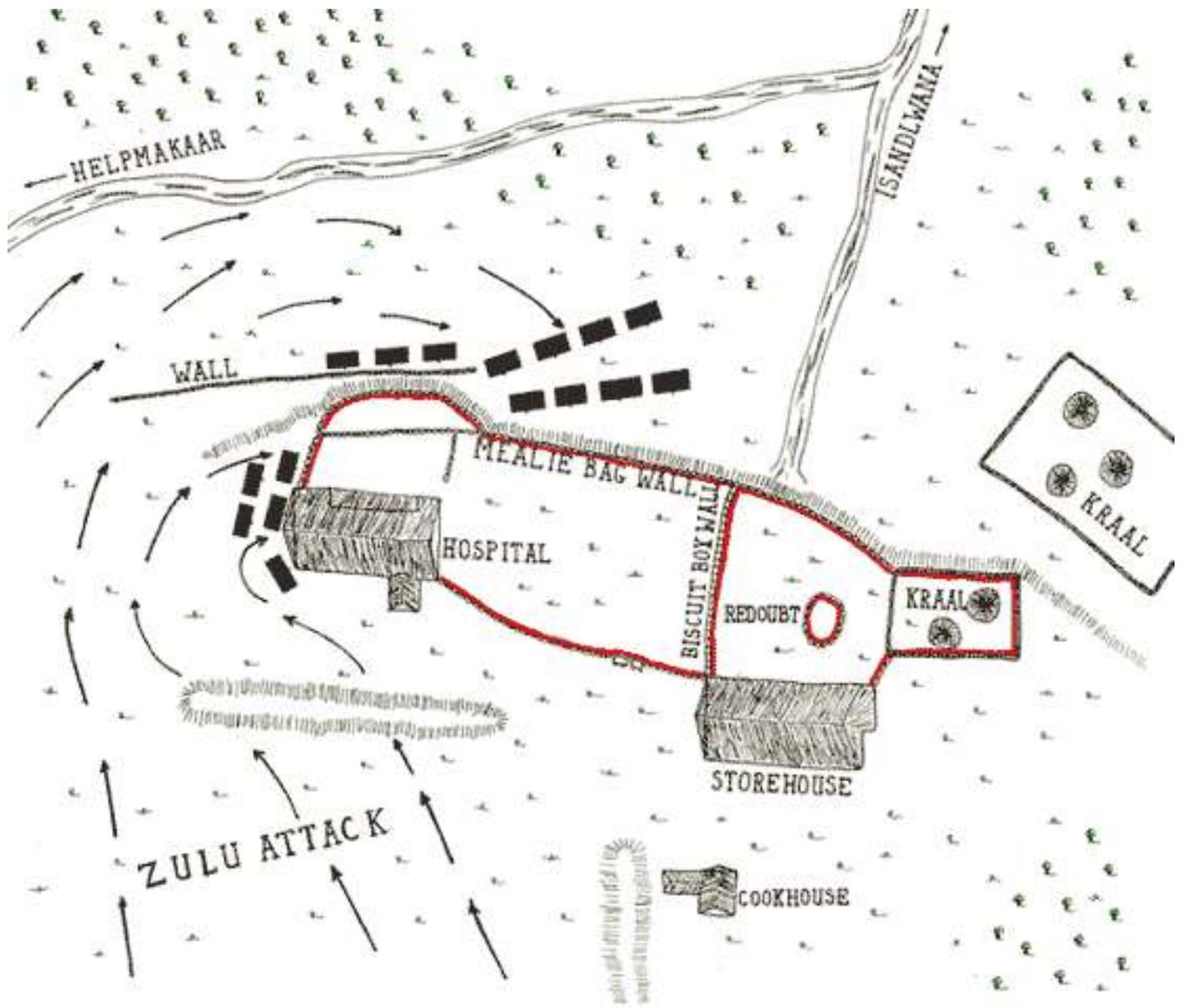
The medical consequences of the battle:

It seems likely that a number of the defenders of Rorke's Drift subsequently suffered from what is now classified as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder: Corporal Schiess fell "on hard times" and died in 1884 aged 28 years; Pte John Fielding's hair is said to have turned white shortly after the battle; William Jones in old age suffered from nightmares that the Zulus were about to attack; Robert Jones shot himself in 1896.

References:

Washing of the Spears by D. Morris
Zulu War by Ian Knight (Pan Grand Strategy).

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From the Chaplain

Psalm 64 - A psalm of David. (NIV)

- 1 Hear me, my God, as I voice my complaint; protect my life from the threat of the enemy.
- 2 Hide me from the conspiracy of the wicked, from the plots of evildoers.
- 3 They sharpen their tongues like swords and aim cruel words like deadly arrows.
- 4 They shoot from ambush at the innocent; they shoot suddenly, without fear.
- 5 They encourage each other in evil plans, they talk about hiding their snares; they say, "Who will see it?"
- 6 They plot injustice and say, "We have devised a perfect plan!" Surely the human mind and heart are cunning.
- 7 But God will shoot them with his arrows; they will suddenly be struck down.
- 8 He will turn their own tongues against them and bring them to ruin; all who see them will shake their heads in scorn.
- 9 All people will fear; they will proclaim the works of God and ponder what he has done.
- 10 The righteous will rejoice in the Lord and take refuge in him; all the upright in heart will glory in him!oOo

Fight Depression

Fight fear as you would fight a plague. Fight it in My Name. . . . Fear, even the smallest fear, is the hacking at the cords of Love that bind you to Me.

However small the impression, in time those cords will wear thin, and then one disappointment, or shock, and they snap. But for the little fears the cords of Love would have held.

Fight fear.

Depression is a state of fear. Fight that too. Fight. Fight. Depression is the impression left by fear. Fight and

conquer, and oh! for Love of Me, for the sake of My tender, never-failing Love of you, fight and love and win.

"Hear my voice, O God, in my prayer; preserve my life from fear of the enemy." Psalm 64:1

*About 1920 in England, two sisters were called to a ministry of intercession and prophecy. They were led to record their daily journal and publish it, but did not want any accreditation. AJ Russell agreed to act as publisher, simply under the title "God Calling", by The Two Listeners.

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Regimental Photos



The SA Irish Pipes and Drums at the Monte Casino Tatoo in 2009.



The granite badge at the entrance to the SA Irish HQ at the Kensington Garrison.

Our current Officer Commanding Lt-Col. Marius Bennett, at the Sidi Rezegh Parade in 2014.

