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The Shamrock



The official newsletter of the SA Irish Regiment

Remembrance Day



The Poppy.

I am a badge of honour,
I am not a racist smear,
I am not a fashion statement,
To be worn but once a year,
I am not a glorification
Of conflict or of war.
I am not a paper ornament
A token,
I am more.
I am a loving memory,
Of a father or a son,
A permanent reminder
Of each and every one.
I am old or shining new,
I am a way of saying thank you,
To every one of you.
I am a simple poppy
A reminder to you all,
That courage, faith and honour,
Will stand where heroes fall.

oOo

With kind permission of the 1st Shankhill Somme Association

From the Editor

From: The Editor



Thank you once again to all our loyal readers for contributions and making this newsletter a success over the past year.

To our troops in the field... Faugh a Ballagh! Keep the Irish flag flying high.

The end of each year is usually a time when we reflect on the year that has passed by, our successes and our failures. It is also a time of hope, with new challenges waiting in the New Year.

On behalf of the Officer Commanding SA Irish Regiment and the editorial staff, I wish everyone a very blessed Christmas and a very prosperous 2016.
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From the OC's Desk

By: Lt Col. M.A. Bennett

As we approach the end of the year I want to thank all Officers, Warrant Officers, NCOs, men and women of the Regiment for all their hard work during this year.

It is with pride that I look upon the successes of the Regiment during the past year. Indeed we have a lot to be proud of especially if you consider what we have done under budgetary constraints.

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 peaceful and blessed Christmas time. Enjoy your well-deserved rest during the festive season, to prepare for the challenges of 2016.

In time we particular think of those members deployed far away from home, our thoughts are with you.

Keep our flag flying high and come home safely. Your successes in the field are in inspiration to us all.

Faugh a Ballagh!
Lt Col. M.A. Bennett
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News from the Regiment – The annual Sidi Rezegh Parade.

Written by the Editor

It was a cool sunny morning, on 22 November 2015, when the Soldiers, veterans and friends of the South African Irish Regiment gathered to commemorate the 74th anniversary of the battle of Sidi Rezegh.

The Regiment annually holds its Sidi Rezegh parade on the Sunday closest to the 23rd of November to commemorate the battle in 1941 where, together with other units of the South African 5th Brigade was virtually annihilated by armoured formations of Rommel's Afrika Korps.

During this fierce battle Infantrymen of the SA Irish also helped to man the guns of the Transvaal Horse artillery, to engage German tanks at point blank range. Although their position was overrun, they inflicted so many casualties on the Germans that the Germans referred to the battle at "Tottensontag" (Sunday of the dead).

The parade was somewhat smaller than other years due to the fact that a large part of the Regiment is deployed on border protection duties as well as detached duties at other units. The smaller size of the parade in no way diminished the pride and respect shown by members on parade and dignitaries in attendance.

The Regiment was proud to host several military dignitaries from the office of the Chief of Defence Reserves and Infantry Formation and for the first time the Regiment hosted the Ambassador from the Republic of Ireland, Mr. Liam

MacGabhan, as the personal guest of our Honorary Colonel.

The Regimental Honorary Colonel, Colonel Brian Molefe (New CEO of Eskom), in his address to the Regiment on parade aptly mentioned all sacrifices made by all soldiers... The tenacity in defence at Sidi Rezegh, the bravery on board the SS Mendi and the sacrifices of absence from families by our soldiers currently on border protection duties.

The march off from the parade ground marked the end of Remembrance Month for the Regiment as we plan and prepare for new duties in the new year.
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Regimental Events

By: The Editor

All dates for **2016** are still subject to change. Please contact your company commander for more details on Regimental events.

12 November - Freedom Regiments Parade

13 November - JHB Remembrance Parade – JHB Cenotaph

20 November - Sidi Rezegh Commemoration Parade
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Did you know?

By: The editor

Remembrance Day in the United Kingdom (UK) and in most commonwealth countries, honours the heroic efforts, achievements and sacrifices that were made by soldiers in past wars. The main observance is on the second Sunday in November, but 2 minutes of silence is also made on November 11.

Even today, people stop work to observe a moment of silence at 11am on November 11, which is the time and date when hostilities formally ended after more than four years of battle during World War I. Poppies are worn as a symbol of respect and tribute on Remembrance Sunday and/or November 11. The red poppy is worn as a symbol of wartime remembrance.

The day is also marked by events such as memorial services, church services and parades. In the UK, a national commemoration takes place at Whitehall, a road in the City of Westminster in central London.

Remembrance Day is an observance and not a public holiday in the UK and most commonwealth countries. Many businesses may temporarily pause activity at 11am for 2 minutes of silence on November 11.

Also referred to as Poppy Day or Armistice Day, Remembrance Day is observed in Commonwealth countries, including South Africa, Australia and Canada. Other countries such as the U.S. have similar observances like Veterans Day. November 11 is the anniversary of the signing of the armistice, which ended World War I hostilities between Allied nations and Germany in 1918.

In many countries there have been unsuccessful attempts by veterans' organisations to have 11 November declared as an official public holiday.

Significance of the poppy:

The area of Flanders consists of almost the whole Western part of Belgium. It saw some of the heaviest and bloodiest battles of the terrible First World War, between 1914 and 1918. There was complete devastation as whole towns, roads, farms and all natural life simply disappeared into a sea of mud and became a huge and muddy graveyard.

The only living thing that survived this sea of mud was the poppy. Poppies only germinate and flower in disturbed soil, and the colourful flowering of the poppies with the advent of the warm spring weather would bring some small joy to those still alive among the carnage. The poem - "In Flanders Fields" originates from this.

Flanders is also the only area on earth where red poppies grow. All other poppies in the rest of the world are white. According to legend it is the blood of all the soldiers that coloured the poppies red in this specific area. As such the red poppy has become the symbol of fallen soldiers.

“At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them”

oOo

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 blessed Christmas and a very prosperous new year.

We want to wish our soldiers deployed on the border all the best for the festive season. All veterans know that it is not easy being on deployment over the festive season.

The year 2015 was indeed a very busy and 2016 will most likely be just as busy. The calendar of events for 2016 has not been completed yet, so we will update everyone when our full list of events becomes available.

Faugh a Ballagh!

oOo

News from the SANDF – SANDF to embed journalists on a regular basis.

Written by Guy Martin

The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) says it will regularly embed journalists in the military, including on operational deployments, as it seeks to educate the public about what it does.

South African Army Chief Vusi Masondo recently said that “for us it’s something we really want to do,” in light of the firefight in the Central African Republic two years ago when 13 South African soldiers were killed. He said that an independent voice reporting on enemy casualties would have made a difference.

“When we speak there are doubting voices,” Masondo said when explaining the need to embed journalists in the SANDF. Masondo added that journalists embedded during combat

operations would be adequately protected.

During last month’s (August 2015) Exercise Young Eagle, Journalists from ENCA, The Times and African Defence Review were embedded with South African troops.

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News from the SANDF – SANDF needs to get involved in peacekeeping in Africa – SA Army.

Written by Guy Martin

The importance the South African military places on peacekeeping in Africa and having a stable and prosperous continent can be seen in its hosting of Exercise Amani Africa II later this year and its involvement in the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises (ACIRC) force.

South African Army chief, General Vusi Masondo, said that some people have questioned whether South Africa should be committing itself to operations on the continent when there are burning issues at home such as border security, but that development of the continent would not happen in an environment of carnage and instability.

Masondo said instability in neighbouring countries affects South Africa and that if the country ignores African problems “we may witness another genocide...as a peace-loving African Union and United Nations member state we are obliged to contribute to peace and stability on the continent.” As a result the South African Army and South African National Defence Force (SANDF) are preparing combat ready forces to operate anywhere on the continent together with their African brothers and sisters, he said.

Masondo made the comments at the conclusion of Exercise Young Eagle at the Lohatla Combat Training Centre (CTC) in the Northern Cape on 20 August, which was designed to prepare, assess and exercise the South African National Defence Force’s airborne capability and assess the crisis response

capability of the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises, of which the SANDF is a key part.

Young Eagle has in recent times been a specialist air assault exercise with 6 SA Infantry Battalion, based at Grahamstown, the lead unit. It has regularly been staged at De Brug as a precursor to the SA Army's major force preparation exercise – Seboka – at CTC.

This year there will be no Seboka, with the SANDF's major training area handed to the African Union (AU) for its African Standby Force (ASF) preparation exercise Amani Africa II. Indications from Addis Ababa are that in the region of 5 000 troops will descend on Lohathla for the exercise which starts on October 19 and ends on November 7.

The South African Army said that all AU members from East and West Africa will take part in the exercise while all countries with the exception of the Central African Republic will take part from Central Africa. Members from North Africa will only send staff officers.

Masondo said the ASF should be established by the beginning of next year, resulting in no further need for the stopgap ACIRC, which was set up due to delays with the ASF.

Masondo noted that the African Union will decide where the ASF/ACIRC deploys, but pointed out several African countries experiencing instability, including, the Central African Republic, Burundi, South Sudan, Somalia and Sudan.

Between June and December South Africa will be leading whatever contingent is required to deploy as part of the ACIRC.

Masondo earlier this year said that the final strength of the ACIRC contribution from South Africa will be 1 800 personnel when they finally deploy. This will include personnel from all four arms of service. However, the final number will vary according to the tasks they are given.

The SANDF's pledged force will reach an interim operational capacity by 30 September 2015, with full operational capacity by 30 November this year.

The South African contribution includes a battalion comprised of mostly 9 South African Infantry Battalion in Cape Town and including four rifle companies, a supply company and anti-aircraft defence, armour, mechanised, logistics and engineering elements.

ACIRC was launched at the 21st African Union Summit in 2013 as a force to be assembled by volunteer states that would enable the AU to deal rapidly with crises, avoiding reliance on foreign powers to intervene in conflicts such as in the Central African Republic and Mali where the French are heavily involved.

Defence analyst Helmoed Romer Heitman stated that the ACIRC was established because the ASF was not going anywhere and had the key problem that it assumed a regional brigade would deal with regional issues, which does not take into account that some of the countries of a region might actually be a part of the problem. "The West African standby force (the previous ECOMOG Brigade) stood by while Mali unravelled. The Central African standby force (FOMAC in this particular guise) stood aside when Seleka attacked - except for one major contingent that joined forces with Seleka and also attacked our contingent there. The East African standby force exists, but almost all of those countries have so many troops in Somalia that it is difficult to see where they would find the warm bodies to maintain any sort of deployment over and above that. The North African states never bothered. The SADC Brigade exists, but needs SA to take the lead and we seem to remain unwilling to be a leader.

"It is past time that we all grew up and began to understand that all countries have interests and that sometimes they coincide with ours and sometimes they do not. Pick the times when they coincide and cooperate for the common good."

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News from the SANDF – New Officer Commanding for SAS Umhloti.

Written by defenceWeb

Lieutenant Commander Zimasa Petronella Mabela this week took command of the SA Navy mine counter-measures vessel SAS Umhloti becoming the first African woman to command at sea.

She took over command of the vessel during a parade at the Armscor Dockyard in Simon's town from Commander Brian Short in what the maritime arm of the SA National Defence Force said in a statement was another indication of progress in transformation.

Mabela is originally from Lady Frere in Eastern Cape and joined the Navy in 1999 as a rating. She completed military training for ratings part one at SAS Saldanha and went on to finish telecommunications radio part one before being staffed on the SAS Drakensberg.

In 2004 she finished military training for officers part one at Gordon's Bay before moving on to combat officer qualifying at the Maritime Warfare Training Centre in December the same year. She joined the ship's company of the Valour class frigate SAS Isandlwana in 2005 and was appointed assistant operations officer, where she obtained Officer of the Day qualification. In 2006 Mabela obtained her Bridge Watchkeeping Certificate and was subsequently appointed as Assistant Weapons Officer.

Her appointment comes at the end of Women's Month which will be marked at two different functions before month-end by Defence and Military Veterans Minister, Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula.

The Minister will be the main functionary at a parade in Thaba Tshwane tomorrow where about 500 women in uniform are expected to be on parade.

On Saturday she will be part of a gathering in Port Elizabeth to honour military veterans, particularly women, from across the Nelson Mandela metro.
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News from the SANDF – Minister recommit SANDF to rural development.

Written by Kim Helfrich

SANDF and rural developmentDefence and Military Veterans Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula this week put the military’s contribution to rural development back on the map when she signed an MOU with the North West provincial government in Mafikeng.

Speaking at the signing she said it heralded a function that redefined the role of the South African military and its “inherent potential to support development through peacetime activities”.

The SA National Defence Force’s involvement in rural development goes back at least three years to when a pilot project was started in and around Potchefstroom in North West with a view to providing certain goods and services to the sizable military contingent there. This included fresh vegetables for use in military base kitchens and assistance in skilling local people as mechanics to assist with maintenance of military vehicles, including cars and trucks.

The pilot was put on hold as a result of national and provincial elections in 2014.

The memorandum of understanding signed by North West premier Supra Mahomapelo and Mapisa-Nqakula effectively restarts the SANDF/rural development initiative launched during previous Defence Minister Lindiwe Sisulu’s tenure.

She told those present the launch (of the pilot rural development project) “marks the culmination of a process of engagement” between the provincial government and the Department of Defence to “forge a partnership to

advance the national strategic imperative of rural development”.

The MOU commits the SANDF to a multi-faceted programme to develop rural areas in the province and will also see the involvement of the North West University and the North West Co-operative.

Mapisa-Nqakula did not elaborate on specifics of the initiative but pointed out that rural development included agriculture, livestock, infrastructural development, health, sanitation, energy and education.

A multi-disciplinary approach would be followed to develop rural areas and raise living standards, “by no means a small task,” according to her, which will need collaboration in a coherent and structured manner.

“I have approved a concept whereby the defence force will use the presence of its units throughout the country; its ownership of land and the assets and resources at its disposal to stimulate local economic activity. There is a conscious intent to focus on rural areas where the need is greatest,” she said, adding a five point decision brief had been signed by SANDF Chief General Solly Shoke in this regard.

The brief makes provision for rural development not to be restricted to the agricultural sector but also to include the industrial and service sectors with an emphasis on youth, military veterans and women; it should be linked to government’s infrastructure development programme; the initiative will be led by a project director; the SA Army will be the lead service in implementation in North West with a subsequent roll-out to other provinces.

The Minister sees the presence of military units in rural communities as “potentially beneficial” in, among others, generating job opportunities, increasing business activity, a source of labour for development projects and provision of training and skills.

From a military point of view local communities can provide Reserve Force members and see use of “under-utilised

SANDF land to support specific projects”.

She also warned the MOU should not “gather dust” in offices.

“It should be a living document that drives our work and commits us to concrete results that create material conditions for the upliftment of people in rural areas,” she said.

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News from the SANDF – Peacekeepers turn to technology.

Written by Africa Defense Forum - ADF

With unmanned aircraft changing the dynamics of warfare, it should come as no surprise that the technology is changing peacekeeping as well.

Since the end of 2013, the United Nations has used unmanned aerial vehicles, also known as UAVs and drones, to fly over the volatile eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The 5-meter-long Selex ES Falco drones monitor remote regions that U.N. peacekeeping troops can’t reach. The drones, equipped with cameras, heat-signature equipment and night-vision technology, can conduct surveillance in the dark and detect movement below a thick tree canopy — a new frontier in intelligence-gathering.

The drones patrol the eastern border at a low altitude, monitoring rebels and militia, and also track illegal mining in the region.

The DRC mission known by the acronym MONUSCO is the first time the U.N. has used drones for peacekeeping. Although the sophisticated UAVs aren’t cheap, they are becoming more affordable. The initial cost of the two-drone mission was estimated at \$15 million per year, or about 1 percent of the mission’s annual budget. The mission has since added three more drones, although one of them crashed in October 2014.

“They provide a very good bang for the buck,” a U.N. official told FoxNews.com. “When you are thinly

spread in the region, these UAVs provide an extra set of eyes for our peacekeepers in the DRC.”

Drone use in the military is here to stay. As of early 2012, at least 10 African countries had established some type of drone program.

MODERN TECHNOLOGY IN THE FIELD

The U.N.’s use of drones for peacekeeping represents a change in philosophy where, increasingly, technology is being taken out of the office and into the field. Critics have charged in recent years that although the U.N. uses technology at its headquarters, it has been slow to adopt it for field missions.

A 2000 U.N. report called for more intensive use of global positioning equipment and other geographic information systems in peacekeeping. A similar report in 2009 called for “better use of technology to support lighter, more agile deployment.” Despite the need for more technology in peacekeeping, the Center on International Cooperation said that “many missions still lack technology that may be necessary to implement their mandates.”

Walter Dorn, who teaches at the Canadian Forces College and the Royal Military College of Canada, is one of five people appointed to a United Nations panel examining the use of technology in peacekeeping. He has written a book on the subject, *Keeping Watch: Monitoring, Technology and Innovation in UN Peace Operations*, published in 2011.

Dorn thinks the U.N. has some catching up to do. “Peacekeeping is no longer about the blue berets sitting between two sides, but rather a much more complex, multidimensional challenge that involves the U.N. in counterinsurgency, policing, intelligence gathering and nation building, for which new military technology is essential,” Dorn wrote.

Dorn told African Defence Forum (ADF) that although expensive, high-tech equipment plays a critical role in

peacekeeping, cheaper, off-the-shelf technologies such as smartphones offer the most value in missions.

“Inexpensive products such as high-zoom digital cameras, Web cameras and camcorders have become common household items,” Dorn wrote in his book. “Closed-circuit television and digital video networks are making shops and streets safer in cities around the world. But the concept of video monitoring of strategic locations in war-torn cities is a novelty in peacekeeping. Motion detectors are in widespread use in home alarm systems and in driveways, for instance in night illumination systems to alert householders to visitors and potential intruders, but they are not yet the tools of peacekeepers in the world’s hottest conflict zones.”

MINING INFORMATION

Technology is more than just gadgets — it’s also the sophisticated use of data. In a 2013 report on peacekeeping technology, researchers Anne Kahl and Helena Puig Larrauri said, “Key features of technology, both new and older, promise to make efforts in peacekeeping more effective.” In particular, they wrote, data processing could be a key component of any peacekeeping program.

Data processing involves collecting, organizing and analyzing information, which can include anything from photographs taken by drones to building databases using crowdsourcing information from emails and text messages.

“The most evident application of these tools is to help collect better data for conflict early warning systems,” the report said. The researchers specifically cited Voix des Kivus, a crowdsourcing program used in the DRC since 2009. Peter van der Windt, a New York-based researcher and teacher, was involved in the program from the start.

“Atrocities in hard-to-reach areas — for example many areas in Eastern Congo — often go unnoticed because of the lack of accessibility, both due to poor infrastructure and to the simple fact that fighting makes it too dangerous to get

close,” van der Windt wrote for Ushahidi.com. “The inability of international organizations and humanitarian NGOs to collect information under these conditions hampers the provision of assistance in a timely and effective manner.

“It works like this,” van der Windt said. “In each village participating in Voix des Kivus, there are three cell phone holders: one representing the traditional leadership, one representing women’s groups, and one elected by the community. Holders are trained extensively on how to send messages to the system. They are provided with a phone, monthly credit, and a code sheet that lists possible events that can take place in the village. Sending messages to the system is free but it is also voluntary — although users do not have to pay for each message, they do not get any financial rewards for sending content to the system.

“For participating communities Voix des Kivus provides a system for creating histories, archiving testimonies, and communicating with the rest of the world about events that affect their daily lives. For researchers and practitioners working in the region, the information gathered forms an important resource to learn more about the situation on the ground in hard-to-access areas.”

NIGHT VISION CHANGES EVERYTHING

The importance of the revolution in night surveillance cannot be overstated. As Dorn has noted, with the exception of night guards, traditional peacekeeping has been a “daytime job.” And because little can be seen in the dark with the naked eye, the night gives violent parties about 10 hours of free rein.

Night-vision equipment, along with other surveillance technology, is changing the rules of night warfare. Night-vision technology is so effective, many Soldiers now refuse to go into the field without it.

Infrared radiation detectors that detect heat are the most effective tools for night vision, but they generally cost

more than \$5,000 per unit — an impractical price for most U.N. or African Union missions. Instead, peacekeepers are using a simple form of night vision, called image intensification. These devices detect and amplify visible light by as much as 25,000 times or more. They depend on reflected light from the night sky or from other sources.

Under excellent conditions, such as a cloudless night sky with a full moon, a sentry using a modern light intensifier can see people moving 1,500 meters away. Image intensifiers can sell for as little as \$300 per unit.

THE ULTIMATE PEACEKEEPING TOOL

The most versatile tool in the peacekeeping arsenal is the cellphone, and more recently, the smartphone. Mobile use in Africa has grown faster than in any other region on Earth. There were 54 million cellphone subscribers in Africa in 2003; by the end of 2014, there were about 635 million. Africa is expected to have 930 million cellphone subscribers by 2019.

At its most basic, a cellphone can be used to alert military and police officers and coordinate aid. A modern smartphone, costing as little as \$100, also can be used as a surveillance camera, an evidence-gathering device and for crowdsourcing. It is only now being developed as a translation device for peacekeepers who do not speak a common language.

Consider the sheer number of languages spoken in Africa. There are 14 major “families” of languages on the continent, with a staggering number of variations within those families. Nigeria alone has more than 500 languages. There may be more than 3,000 languages in use throughout the continent.

Language barriers have long been an obstacle for African peacekeeping missions. Training missions and peacekeeping operations have been handcuffed by differences in languages among peacekeepers and with civilians they are assigned to protect. Dorn said cellphones will change that.

“Using cellphones or the Internet, peacekeepers in the field could obtain translations from a central translation service instead of relying entirely on a translator traveling with them,” Dorn said. “Alternatively, they could check on the quality of the translations provided by persons who accompany them, especially to detect any translator bias, which is sometimes a grave problem in peace operations in divided societies.”

However, smartphone translation apps still are developing. Many require access to the Internet so the phones can tap into online dictionaries. And speech-recognition features can make errors.

“If you are a tourist on a street needing to know where the train station is, these tools are pretty good,” said Elizabeth Bernhardt, director of Stanford University’s Language Center. However, she told the San Jose Mercury News, “If I were in a business context and I had some serious negotiations going on, I would not rely on machine translation.” The same would be true of a peacekeeping mission.

For now, peacekeepers continue to rely on traditional tools for monitoring trouble areas. A standard pair of binoculars remains the critical piece of surveillance equipment. But aggressors are beginning to use modern technology, and peacekeepers will have no choice but to keep up.

Modern Peacekeeping Technology

Drone aircraft, or unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), have largely been used as weapons in Africa and are just now coming into their own as surveillance tools. UAVs can be as small as a bird or as large as a conventional airplane. Much less vulnerable than balloons, a UAV in the hands of an experienced ground pilot can be a surveillance tool without peer. Depending on the propulsion system, some UAVs are nearly silent.

Smartphones are the most versatile modern technology and can be used in dozens of applications on field missions. A smartphone is a phone, a

camera, a video camera, an audio recorder, a walkie-talkie, a GPS, a language translator, an Internet device, a calculator and a flashlight. New applications are constantly under development. Its usefulness as a military device is unrivaled.

Digital still and video cameras can be used by peacekeepers to make images or clips for reports and databases. Rugged video cameras can cost as little as \$130.

Remote video cameras can monitor hot spots even when peacekeepers are not present. They can monitor conflicts to protect civilians. Cameras can be installed to help prevent trespassing and the illegal trafficking of arms, natural resources and people. Remote cameras can transmit video in real time or images can be downloaded by passing patrols.

Helmet cameras have become standard equipment for many militaries. The view seen by a Soldier can be recorded and transmitted in real time to other Soldiers and commanding officers.

Night-vision goggles are so useful that some Soldiers insist on them for all night patrols. The view seen by a Soldier wearing such goggles can be recorded on a pocket device or transmitted in real time. Night goggles are used where night violence is a concern. Night devices can include cameras with low-light image intensifiers and cameras for infrared detection.

Motion-detector triggers for cameras can alert Soldiers about invaders and troop movements. They also can be used with lights at night to show trespassers that an area is being monitored. Such devices often are powered by solar batteries.

Computer software aggregates emails, texts and photographs to show trends, troop movements and problem areas. Such software has revolutionized crowdsourcing in Africa.

Remote microphones, triggered by unusual sounds, can be used with cameras as monitoring devices, or as standalone equipment.

Global Positioning Systems (GPS) have almost limitless military applications, from precisely pinpointing the position of aggressors, to accurately mapping directions for troops. GPS devices can be used in the dark and in unfamiliar places. They can track ground and air targets. Downed pilots and airplanes can be found quickly when equipped with GPS.

Laser range-finders can detect trespassing across borders or into restricted zones. Some finders are combined with GPS to determine the exact position of distant objects.

True geographic information systems (GIS) can replace maps. A useful GIS allows data entry and can be accessed from anywhere in real time.

Acoustic/seismic sensors can detect the movement of personnel or weapons. These sensors can trigger cameras and alert patrols. They can be used for security and to verify peace agreements.

Thermal imaging cameras, or forward-looking infrared cameras, detect infrared radiation, typically from a heat source. Generically known as FLIR technology, these cameras have distinct advantages over other imaging technologies. The cameras see radiation in the infrared spectrum, which is difficult to camouflage. They can see through smoke, fog, snow and other atmospheric conditions. And the cameras are nearly impossible for the enemy to detect because they receive information, unlike radar and sonar, which emit it. In addition to detection, FLIR technology also can be used for navigation.

Tethered balloons, also called Aerostats, equipped with day or night video cameras provide high and wide views of surveillance areas. However, such balloons can be vulnerable and are frequently used as target practice by enemy forces.

Biometric technology identifies people using tools more advanced than fingerprinting. Cameras and other image-gathering equipment can identify people based on facial features, hand geometry, retina and iris patterns, and

behaviors, including type of speech or manner of walking. The European Union used iris scans to pay Congolese Soldiers, guaranteeing that no Soldier would collect pay more than once per pay period.

Surveillance Drones ‘a Move in the Right Direction’

A United Nations panel member says modern technology is revolutionizing peacekeeping missions

Technology in peacekeeping is constantly changing and impacting new aspects of missions. And although the cost of surveillance and communications technology has dropped considerably, it remains beyond the means of some countries and organizations.

In June 2014, the United Nations announced the appointment of a five-member expert panel to advise the organization on how best to use new technologies to benefit peacekeeping missions.

The panel is led by American Jane Holl Lute, an expert on peace and security. The other four members are retired Lt. Gen. Abhijit Guha of India, retired Maj. Gen. Michael Fryer of South Africa, retired Maj. Gen. Ib Johannes Bager of Denmark and Dr. Walter Dorn of Canada.

The initiative is part of an effort to realize efficiency gains and cost savings from the use of new and emerging technologies and innovations.

Fryer, a former police commissioner for the U.N.-AU Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), told ADF that, ideally, peacekeeping technology can be shared among the military, civilians and police. He said there is “no need for each component to have its own technology available.”

“There are nonexpensive technologies available in the market that can make a huge difference in peacekeeping operations [PKOs],” Fryer said. His list includes mobile GPS units, lighter-than-air tethered aircraft with ground radar, closed-circuit television surveillance, forward-looking infrared cameras,

mobile UHF radios, VHF repeaters, security lighting and gunshot detectors.

“Smartphones and iPads, with their endless array of apps, will definitely help a lot,” Fryer said. “They will give you real-time info, video and pictures for quick decision-making. Tracking of personnel movement will be available that will improve personnel security. The only negative aspect could be coverage in some remote areas of a PKO.”

Fryer said the use of surveillance drones, also known as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), is “definitely a move in the right direction.” But he noted that the highly trained personnel needed to operate and navigate drones come at considerable expense.

Other recent studies have shown that the total cost of support personnel for drones can bring the full cost to that of manned aircraft. State-of-the-art drones should not be considered as cost-cutting alternatives to “live” aircraft.

Fryer does, however, advocate the use of drones as information-gathering tools for “integrated mission decision-making.”

“They can act as an early warning system, which enables the mission to be proactive rather than reactive,” he said. “Multitasking by mission components to specific information needs will make sure that the UAV is a mission asset.”

Fryer also thinks that smaller, more-affordable drones available commercially have a place in the future of PKOs. Such drones can be used by almost anyone with minimal training, he said. The drones could be programmed for long flying patterns over trouble areas and refugee camps to detect crime patterns and hot-spot analyses.

“During patrol in these well-known hot-spot areas, these drones could act as an early warning system for possible ambushes or other volatile situations,” he said. Such drones, he said, can fly at an altitude of 150 feet for 45 minutes. Equipped with thermal imaging, these drones have “immense value” in protecting peacekeeping forces.

Fryer regards the use of translation technology as more of the future than of the present. He added that language translation is a real problem, pointing out that South Africa alone has 11 official languages. For now, he said, "Interpreters are the only way to overcome the issue." He said that translation software technology will be helpful for "lecture development for capacity-building efforts."

Fryer said that, like all military equipment, peacekeeping technology must be chosen carefully.

"We do have a wide range of products that can be useful in PKOs," he said. "But we do have to take into consideration financial implications, political implications and the 'nice to have' versus real needs."

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News from the SANDF – SAS Amatola to be back in service early next year.

Written by Guy Martin

The South African Navy's frigate SAS Amatola will be ready to deploy operationally in the first quarter of 2016 after being refitted with her weapons. She recently underwent an extensive refurbishment at Southern African Shipyards in Durban and is currently undergoing the weapons refit in



Simon's Town.

The 121 metre long, 3 700 ton vessel was handed back to the Navy at Salisbury Island Naval Station on 31 July and sailed for Simon's Town on 1 August after the R400 million overhaul, which took place between March 2014 and July 2015.

Prasheen Maharaj, CEO of Southern African Shipyards, said the refit involved the replacement of both main propulsion units, the refurbishment of the gas turbines, the complete blast and re-coating of the ship and the refurbishment of accommodation, bridge, engine control room, galley, mess, helicopter deck and hangar and the heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems.

Charles Maher, SAS General Manager: Marketing told defenceWeb that the refit had gone smoothly, with the only issue being the rudders, which had to be sent to ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems (TKMS) in Germany for repair.

He said the Navy was extremely satisfied with the work that has been carried out look forward to similar work on future vessels being carried out in the same manner.

Commander Rachel Dulamo of the South African Navy told defenceWeb that the SAS Amatola's refit was planned in two stages: a platform refit in Durban and a weapon system refit in

Simon's Town. The major components of the weapons system were removed before the ship left Simon's Town for Durban and were sent for deep maintenance and refurbishment.

The ship is now in the Dock in Simon's Town and is being fitted with installation and alignment of major weapon system components, Dulamo said. She added that the ship should be ready to deploy operationally in the first quarter of 2016 after it has gone through its safety and readiness checks.

"The Navy is happy with the work conducted by SA Shipyards," Dulamo said.

Although the SAS Isandlwana is earmarked to be number two in line for a mid-life refit, she currently undergoing maintenance to extend her operational capability as no funding has yet been made available for refit. Maher said SAS was trying to revive the Isandlwana refit tender.

Maher said that the work done on Amatola has proved that SAS can carry out naval maintenance on an African scale and this opens the door to other African markets where naval fleets are not in the best state. He added that the Durban-based company is looking at South Africa's neighbours and their naval forces.

Maharaj said Southern African Shipyards was now eyeing the replacement of the fleet replenishment vessel, SAS Drakensberg, but no official requirement had been issued by Armscor.

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News from the SANDF – Defence minister names DMV turnaround team.

Written by defenceWeb

DMV turnaround team in place Defence and Military Veterans Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula has named her "formidable team" to lead a turnaround at the Department of Military Veterans (DMV).

She appears to be taking a similar approach to that used by her predecessor, Lindiwe Sisulu, when she named the Defence Review Committee.

The DMV turnaround comprises a steering committee, under convenor and programme management co-ordinator Siphso Majombozi, with a separate ten-member resource panel.

Majombozi’s steering committee has six members. They are Billy Masetlha, Sue Rabkin, Dr Thandi Ndlovu, retired lieutenant general Justice Nkonyane, Siphwe Sokhela and Simphiwe Hamilton.

Majombozi is termed “an ANC activist cum businessman” by the SANDF publication, SA Soldier. According to Who’s Who South Africa he is owner/director of firms and a military practitioner.

Masetlha is a former director-general of the SA National Intelligence Agency and also served as a presidential advisor from 2002 to 2006 and Rabkin is a long-time advisor in the Defence Ministry. Ndlovu is a former MK member and founder of Motheo Construction while Justice Nkonyane is a former SANDF Chief of Logistics and Sokhela was chief financial officer at the Department of Correctional Services. Hamilton is the executive director of the South African Aerospace Maritime and Defence Industries Association (AMD).

Resource panel members are Sebinah Hlapolosa, Keith Mokoapa (retired major general), Uriel Abrahamse, Donovan Adison, Thami Ntenteni, Dr Snuki Zikalala, Nomsa Mkhwanazi, Thabo Kubu, Lucky Magingxa and retired brigadier general Mbulelo Fihla.

Mapisa-Nqakula said in a statement the turnaround team will be “dispatched to support the DMV for a period of six months. The turnaround programme will focus, among others, on addressing the programmatic, structural and policy matters affecting the department’s ability to fulfil its mandate”.

She first made public her intentions to improve all operational aspects of the DMV during her budget vote address in

the National Assembly in May and again late in July when she addressed a military veterans indaba at Ekurhuleni.

The steering committee, resource panel and a programme management office have, according to the statement, been operational since September 1.

Mapisa-Nqakula has named four critical areas for the turnaround team’s priority. These are policy considerations to inform “a new and aligned vision and design of the department”; a legislative mandate; financial accounting and an operational rescue place. This must stabilise current operations and ensure “quick wins” in the areas of education support, healthcare, housing, burial support, heritage and memorials.

The turnaround team will submit monthly progress reports to both Mapisa-Nqakula and her deputy, Kebby Maphatsoe. Additional reports will be tabled at the Council of Defence meeting every two months.

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News from the SANDF – Exercise Oxide ticked all the right boxes.

Written by Kim Helfrich

The recently completed Exercise Oxide, that ended on 2 October, off South Africa’s east coast in the Richards Bay area saw in excess of 230 activities successfully executed in what has been called a “unique” exercise for the SA Navy (SAN).

“Exercise Oxide was unique in that it was the first time an exercise of this magnitude was conducted away from a SAN home support base,” Corporate Communications Officer Commander Cara Pratten said.

“The crux of the exercise was to plan for and have sufficient logistic support to sustain a deployment of 638 people from different units and countries for a month. This proved to be the backbone of the exercise and several lessons were learnt,” she said, adding they would be added to the maritime arm of service’s knowledge base for future use.

The 2015 iteration of Exercise Oxide had as its overall objective exercising inter-operability between national and international rescue organisations as well as naval entities.

“This was accomplished with resounding success,” Pratten said.

The co-ordinated search and rescue component of Oxide was conducted in collaboration with Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Committees based in Cape Town and La Reunion.

The second objective was to exercise specific sea serials. These included advanced interdiction and boarding, Special Forces activities, establishment of a beach head and beach landings done by the Navy’s Maritime Reaction Squadron and sea manoeuvres such as light line transfers, personnel transfers, vertical replenishment and gunnery firing.

Two highlights for the French contingent as seen through the eyes of the Officer Commanding FNS Floreal, Commander Francois-Xavier Waroux, were a towex (towing exercise) with SAS Protea and the professionalism of the SA Navy shown by its sea riders aboard the French light surveillance frigate.

The towex was conducted in wind conditions exceeding 20 knots and Waroux said that presentations were all not perfect because of the wind but this did not stop it from being a good exercise.

Waroux said the SAN midshipmen tasked with manning the Chaka communications system aboard the French frigates handled themselves professionally at all times.

“The quality of South African midshipmen bodes well for the future of the SA Navy,” he said after the exercise.

In total 307 activities were planned for oxide 2015 and 238 were executed in accordance with the serialised programme. Cancellations were mostly due to weather.

The execution of serials was measured according to an “after-action review”

reporting format for each activity. The lessons learned were discussed in detail at the technical debrief held on October 5.

“One of the most important aspects of any exercise is analysing the application of current military doctrine and reassessing it for future utilisation and Oxide provided the conditions to do precisely this. In future, all relevant guidelines, policies and after-action reports will be clearly visible so as to improve performance,” Pratten said.

La Reunion is set to host Exercise Oxide 2017.

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News from the SANDF – SANDF gearing up for 2016 Armed Forces Day.

Written by defenceWeb

The SA National Defence Force is going all out when Armed Forces Day 2016 is held in Port Elizabeth next year.

Speaking at this year’s Armed Forces Day in Potchefstroom he said the day “was not for our soldiers, but for the whole nation and it must become an important day in the calendar of government and the country”.

To make it an important day for South Africans, the military will have warships, aircraft and equipment including the G6, Olifant main battle tank and Rooikat as well as a flypast by the SA Air Force and various elements of the SA Military Health Service taking part in a parade in the Friendly City on February 21.

The date coincides with the sinking of the SS Mendi during World War One, still South Africa’s biggest naval and military tragedy. Six hundred and forty-seven soldiers died when the Mendi was rammed by the SS Darro, sinking in 20 minutes. Six hundred and sixteen of those who died were South Africans.

Initial planning for the event next year will see no less than six warships of all the class types operated by the SA Navy in Algoa Bay, according to Brigadier General Xolani Mabanga, SANDF Directorate: Corporate

Communications. There will probably be one Valour class frigate; one Heroine class submarine; the supply and replenishment vessel, SAS Drakensberg; the hydrographic vessel, SAS Protea and one each of the mine countermeasures and offshore patrol vessels (OPVs).

No details have yet been made available as to which aircraft types the SAAF will put in the air for the flypast.

Mabanga said all four arms of service would be represented in a parade and marchpast with the salute to be taken by Zuma, who will also present medals to “deserving members of the SANDF”.

After the parade a mechanised column will move through the city’s streets before going into townships around Port Elizabeth to, in Mabanga’s words, “interact with the local population”.

Ships will be berthed in Port Elizabeth harbour and will be open to the public on February 13 and 14.

A night gunnery shoot is planned for February 18 at the King’s Beach parking area with flares and blank ammunition – “the SANDF’s answer to fireworks” – and is expected to draw a large crowd.

A career exhibition, across of four arms of service, is an integral part of Armed Forces Day as the SANDF attempts to attract new recruits.

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News from the SANDF – More AUV testing in Simon’s town.

Written by defenceWeb

Another chapter has been written in the joint SA Navy/ Institute for Maritime Technology (IMT) experiment on the use and implementation of autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs).

Following the data collection experiment early in October, a decision was taken to demonstrate AUV deployment from a Navy mine countermeasures (MCM) vessel. The IMT’s AUV was fitted into its container and securely strapped to an MCM vessel sea

boat which was then lowered into the water using the onboard crane Navy News reports.

“The crew embarked with the sea boat and deployed the AUV for a short survey mission. The AUV was again recovered and although the mission was executed with the MCM vessel alongside it showed deployments of this nature are feasible.”

In a second part to the experiment the AUV was deployed from the harbour wall of the east dockyard basin. The AUV was driven, on the surface, to the centre of the basin via Wi-Fi remote control before being commanded to dive and start the survey.

“On completion of this short survey the AUV was controlled on the surface back to the launch position and recovered. This type of deployment is suitable for surveys close to a launch position such as within port confines or immediately outside a port entrance,” Navy News said.

The experiments with the AUV are part of building capacity in the MCM sphere and follow what has been termed “a steady decline in both skilled personnel and equipment over the last few years”.

The side scan radar fitted to the AUV allows for an image of the seabed to be created in such detail that identification of mine-like objects can be performed. Once identified further counter mine measures can be employed to ensure safety of vessels.

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News from the SANDF – Four more Badgers coming the Army’s way.

Written by defenceWeb

The SA Army will ultimately have a fleet of 242 Badger infantry combat vehicles in nine variants as opposed to the original five combat variants according to the 2014/15 Armscor annual report.

The slight increase in the number of vehicles is “a quid pro quo for

The Shamrock

increasing the advance payment made to industry on the production contract”.

Earlier this year the National Conventional Arms Control committee (NCACC) reported the import of a single armoured personnel carrier (APC) from Finland as part of the Denel Land Systems/Patria Land and Armament partnership to produce the new generation of combat vehicles for the landward arm of the SA National Defence Force. Two APC hulls were also imported.

According to the Armscor public document 21 vehicle platforms will be sourced from the Finnish company with the remaining 221 to be “completely manufactured in South Africa”.

The report continues: “Significant progress was made during the past year with the final phases of the vehicle development programme and a number of major technical challenges were successfully mitigated. It is expected that development will be completed by the end of the 2016/17 financial year and that industrialisation and production can commence without significant delay.”

The 2014/15 financial year saw completion of most of the design, test and evaluation trials of the Badger with the preliminary operational test and evaluation completed in February.

“The locally developed 30mm Camgun performed well during trials and all performance life goals were achieved.

“Development of the mortar and missile variants of the vehicle are planned to lag behind the section variant, and design and test and evaluation trials for these variants are planned to be completed during the 2015/16 financial year. Development of both these variants will be completed by the end of 2016. The concept designs of the signal and ambulance variants were completed in March 2015, while that of the artillery variant will be completed during the 2015/16 financial year,” according to the report.

The year under review also saw three vehicle platform pre-production models

manufactured by Patria in Finland with two delivered to South Africa.

Denel Land systems will deliver the new infantry combat vehicles to the SA Army over a 10 year period from the signing of the production contract in November 2013 with final delivery expected at the end of 2022.

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Battlefields of South Africa – The Battle of \Ulundi - The Zulu War

Written by Ian Knight

Ulundi: the final battle of the Zulu War

at which the army of Cetshwayo was destroyed.

War: Zulu War

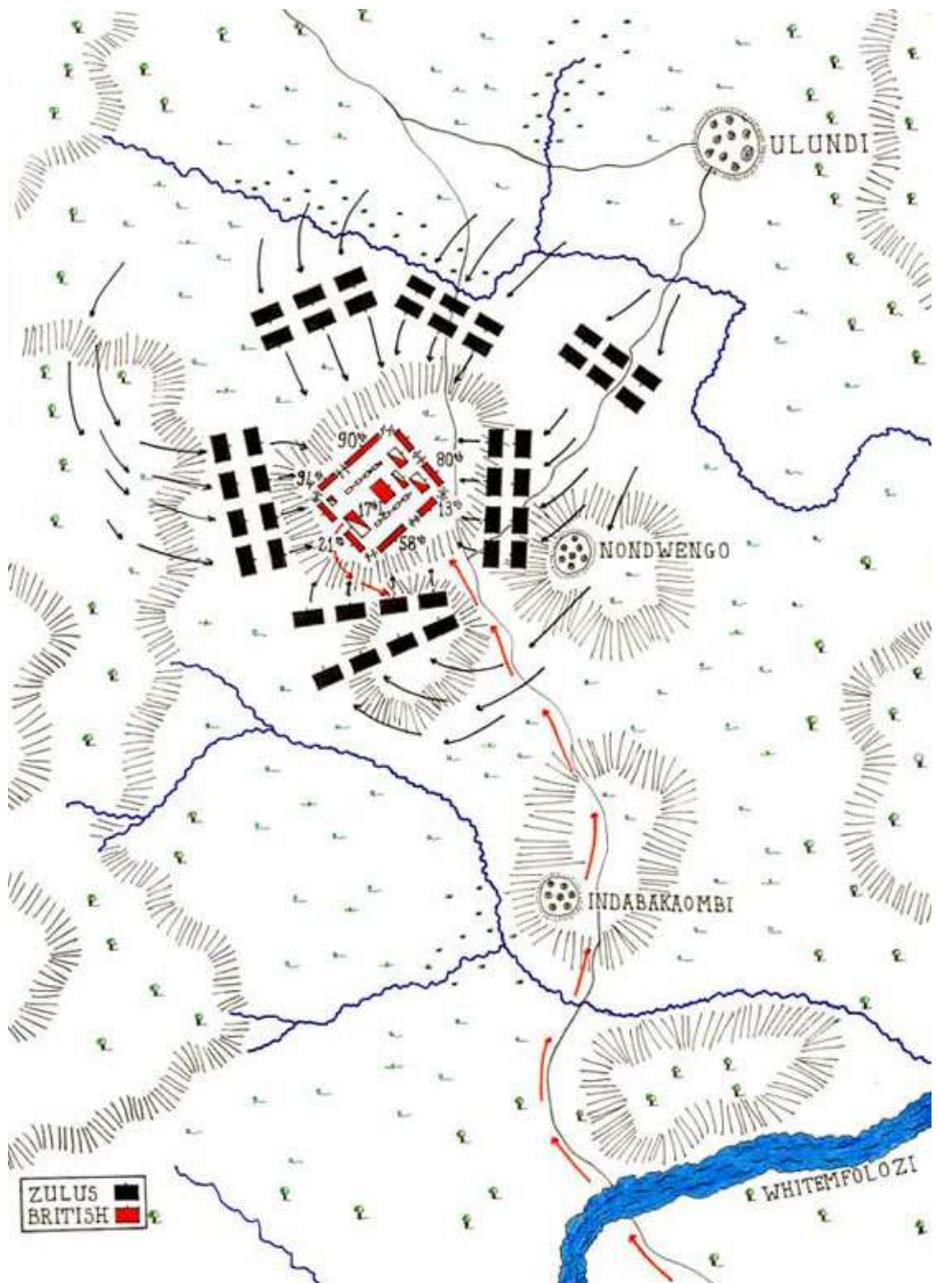
Date: 4th July 1879

Place: Central Zululand in South Africa

Combatants: British against the Zulus

Generals: Lieutenant General Lord Chelmsford against King Cetshwayo, the Zulu King.

Size of the armies: 17,000 British and native troops against some 24,000



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:

Royal Artillery

17th Lancers: now the Queen’s Royal Lancers.

1st Battalion, 13th Light Infantry: later the Somerset Light Infantry and now the Light Infantry.

2nd Battalion, 21st Royal Scots Fusiliers, now the Royal Highland Fusiliers.

58th Regiment: from 1882 the Northamptonshire Regiment, now the Royal Anglian Regiment.

80th Regiment: from 1882 the South Staffordshire Regiment, now the Staffordshire Regiment.

90th (Perthshire) Regiment: from 1882 the Scottish Rifles (Cameronians), disbanded in 1966.

94th Regiment: from 1882 the North Staffordshire Regiment, now the Staffordshire Regiment.

Account:

Following the battle at Gingindlovu on 2nd April 1879, Lord Chelmsford’s force advanced to the fortified camp at Eshowe and relieved Colonel Pearson’s

command, entrenched there since the end of January 1879. Pearson’s men had put all their effort into building the camp in the expectation that it would be used as the advanced base for the final assault on the Zulu King, Cetshwayo’s Royal kraal at Ulundi. To the disappointment of Pearson’s men, Chelmsford ordered a retreat to the Tugela, intending to establish a base nearer to the border river.

Superficially the Zulus appeared to have thrown the British back to their starting point. But the battles of Khambula and Gingindlovu inflicted heavy casualties on the Zulus that could not be replaced. Reacting to the horror of Isandlwana the British government sent out more reinforcements than could effectively be used. Natal was awash with British major generals. Sir Garnet Wolseley and the Ashantee Ring were on their way to displace Lord Chelmsford in command.

Chelmsford by the middle of April 1879 prepared to invade Zululand again with 2 cavalry regiments (the King’s Dragoon Guards and the 17th Lancers), 5 batteries of artillery and 12 infantry battalions: 1,000 regular cavalry, 9,000 regular infantry and a further 7,000 men with 24 guns, including the first Gatling battery to take the field for the British army. The Zulus could maintain 24,000 dispirited warriors.

Chelmsford re-organised his army. Evelyn Wood’s force in the West was renamed the Flying Column. The newly arrived Major General Henry Crealock, who had served with the 90th Perthshire Regiment in the Crimea, took over Pearson’s old command, now entitled the 1st Division, in the lower Tugela by the coast and a new command entitled the 2nd Division under Major General Newdigate but accompanied by Chelmsford himself prepared to invade Zululand in the central area and join up with Wood.

The British were still nervous of the Zulus, heavily influenced by the terrible events at Isandlwana. For his part Cetshwayo had lost faith in his ability to repel the British invasion. Wood began to march south from Khambula while Chelmsford prepared to cross the Tugela. There was one outstanding duty

to fulfill before the army could turn its attention to defeating Cetshwayo.

On 21st May 1879 Major General Marshall with his cavalry brigade of the 2 regular regiments moved forward to Isandlwana and undertook the task of burying the British casualties from the battle on 22nd January.

The advance of Chelmsford’s 2nd Division finally began on 1st June 1879. But the war had not finished its stock of horrors for the British. As Chelmsford sat in his tent writing dispatches a staff officer burst in to tell him of the death at the hands of the Zulus of the French Prince Imperial. In 1871 the Emperor Napoleon III of France had abdicated and retired to England where he had died.

His widow, the Empress Eugenie became a great friend of Queen Victoria. Napoleon’s son Louis, the Prince Imperial, attended the Royal Military College at Woolwich. On the intercession of the Queen the Prince Imperial was permitted to accompany the army to Natal and join Chelmsford’s column. While with an advanced patrol and dismounted he was caught and killed by the Zulus. The Prince’s death caused an outcry in France. Lieutenant Carey of the 98th Regiment, nominally in charge of the patrol was tried by court martial but acquitted.

As the war continued the Flying Column and the 2nd Division met and marched towards Ulundi in parallel.

On 5th June 1879 Buller’s irregular horsemen encountered a strong force of Zulu skirmishers. After exchanges of fire it became clear that the Zulus would not give ground and Buller withdrew.

The 17th Lancers came up and, keen to establish themselves, rode down the valley looking for the Zulus. The Lancers came under fire and their adjutant was shot and killed. The whole mounted force returned to camp where the unfortunate death of the officer adversely affected the whole column.

On 6th June 1879 a piquet caused a false alarm and the whole column rushed to take position in the entrenched area of the camp. Fire was

given and some 1,200 rounds discharged before the troops could be brought under control. It was symptomatic of the nervousness these inexperienced troops felt about the Zulus.

Wolseley arrived in Cape Town on 28th June 1879 and cabled Chelmsford who replied that his two columns were within 17 miles of the Royal Kraal of Ulundi.

Cetshwayo attempted to negotiate with the British while his warriors gathered at Ulundi for the great last fight. The terms Chelmsford demanded were rejected with indignation by the Royal Council.

On 30th June the Flying Column and the 2nd Division advanced into the valley of the White Mfonzi towards Ulundi. Camp was established by the river. On 3rd July 1879 Colonel Buller took his mounted men across the river to reconnoitre the Zulu position. The Zulus were waiting in ambush for Buller and his force only just escaped annihilation.

During the night the British troops were forced to listen to the Zulu war songs. For some it was an interesting experience, for others unnerving.

With reveille the next day Chelmsford took the majority of his force with only ammunition and water and crossed the river advancing towards the Zulu kraal, moving in the cumbersome hollow square, the mounted troops covering each side and the rear.

Just before 9am the Zulus attacked the hollow square on all sides.

The fire from the packed British regiments, the artillery and the Gatling guns was overwhelming. It was the largest concentration of British military might in South Africa to that date. Prisoners stated after the battle that they were overwhelmed by the noise of the firing, let alone the impact of the bullets, and stunned by the size of the British force. It took only half an hour before the Zulus began to falter.

At this point the 17th Lancers passed out of the back of the square and

charged. The impact of the charge broke up what was left of the Zulu formations and the Zulu army dissolved in flight, pursued by the Lancers and the mounted irregular units of Chelmsford's columns. The massacre of fleeing Zulus seen at Khambula and Gingindlovu was repeated and multiplied several times. It was the end of the Zulu army and the war, although fighting continued on a small scale for some weeks. As soon as the battle was over Chelmsford ordered his troops to burn the Royal Kraal of Ulundi.

Casualties: The British casualties were 3 officers and 79 men. Zulu casualties were said to be 1,500.

Follow-up: Following the battle the British burnt the military kraals in the area around Ulundi. The Zulu chiefs began to surrender across Zululand to the British forces. Cetshwayo, the Zulu king, was captured on 28th August 1879 and taken into exile in Cape Colony. The British established a regime in Zululand considered to be sympathetic to Britain and withdrew.

Regimental anecdotes and traditions: The Zulu War was one of the last campaigns fought by the old numbered infantry regiments of the British Army. In 1882 the Cardwell Reforms brought in the system of two battalion regiments, by combining the single battalion regiments in pairs and assigning formal regional titles. The regiments up to the 25th Foot already had two battalions and simply took the new titles. The 24th Foot, which had both its battalions in the Zulu War, fighting at Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift, from being the South Warwickshire Regiment became the South Wales Borderers; the shift in focus from the English West Midlands to Wales being a nod to the Welsh origins of the soldiers of B Company of the 2nd Battalion who had held Rorke's Drift.

Other arrangements were less happy. The 90th Perthshire Light Infantry, memorably raised by Sir Thomas Graham in 1794, and one of Britain's most consistently successful regiments in the Peninsular, Crimean and many smaller colonial wars, to its horror became the 2nd Battalion of the 26th

Foot, the Cameronians. The new regiment was given the formal title of the Scottish Rifles. The 2nd Battalion continued to call itself the 90th Light Infantry into the First World War and beyond. It never permitted itself to be referred to as the "Cameronians", a reference to the raising of the 26th Foot from the extreme Protestant supporters of Richard Cameron in 1689.

The 99th, a Scottish regiment from Edinburgh known as the "Moonrakers", to its surprise found itself the 2nd Battalion of the Wiltshire Regiment, a southern English county regiment. Fortunately few of the new links were as bizarre as this. In the 1960s, when the Royal Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiments were amalgamated, the new regiment was called the "Duke of Edinburgh's", a title of the old 99th.

While the Cardwell Reforms created regiments more suited to colonial policing duties, one battalion of a regiment being in Britain, while the other was posted to a colony, the flexibility of the old system, in which officers moved from regiment to regiment depending on the availability of posts, was lost. The British Army still struggles to overcome the disadvantages of the 1882 arrangements.

References:

Zulu War by Ian Knight (Pan Grand Strategy).

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From the Chaplain

Read Philippians 3:13,14

Regret nothing. Not even the sins and failures when you have repented and when God has forgiven them. When a man views earth's wonders from some mountain height he does not spend his time in dwelling on the stones and stumbles, the faints and failures, that marked his upward path.

So with you. Breathe in the rich blessings of each new day - forget all that lies behind you.

"This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind ...

I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 3:13,14

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Guide on the older medals of the SANDF

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

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

The Honoris Crux series:

In April 1952 a series of military decorations and medals was instituted by the South African Defence Force, consisting of substitutes for many of the

British and Commonwealth awards which had earlier been used. More decorations and medals, as well as an emblem for being mentioned in dispatches, were added between 1953 and 1970.

In July 1975 the military decorations and medals of the Republic were revised. Some decorations and medals were carried over from the earlier series of 1952-1975 and new awards were instituted, followed by more between 1987 and 1991. Finally, all but one of these earlier awards were discontinued in respect of services performed on or after 27 April 2003, when a new set of nine decorations and medals was instituted to replace them.

The Honoris Crux Decoration was instituted in 1952 and was awarded for gallantry in action against the enemy in the field. A Bar could be awarded for a further similar deed of bravery. Only

five awards were made, the first in 1973 and the others in 1974 and 1975, all to helicopter pilots and flight engineers of the South African Air Force. The first decoration was awarded to Captain A.P. (Aap) Möller. No bar to the decoration was ever awarded.

The Honoris Crux of 1952 was discontinued when the decoration was expanded into a series of 4 medals.

The Honoris Crux of 1975 (post-nominal letters HC) was awarded for bravery in dangerous circumstances. It was the junior of the four classes of the Honoris Crux decorations.

The more senior in the series were the Honoris Crux Diamond, Honoris Crux Gold, and the Honoris Crux Silver

that together with the Honoris Crux replaced the discontinued Honoris Crux of 1952.

Altogether 201 Honoris Crux, 27 Silver and 6 Gold decorations were awarded between 1976 and 2004. Most of the awards were won in action, but some were awarded for bravery in non-combat situations. After the institution of the Army Cross, Air Force Cross, Navy Cross and Medical Service Cross in 1987, the award criteria were amended in 1993 to restrict the awarding of the Honoris Crux to deeds of bravery in action while in mortal danger facing the enemy.

The South African military units that were awarded the most Honoris Crux decorations are the Special Forces of the South African Reconnaissance Commandos, whose operators were awarded a total of forty-six Honoris Crux Decorations in three of the four classes for the Decoration.

The conferment of the decoration series was discontinued in respect of services performed on or after 27 April 2003, when the Honoris Crux series was replaced by the new Nkwe series of medals.

Awards:

Honoris Crux Diamond: No Awards
 Honoris Crux Gold: 6 Awards
 Honoris Crux Silver: 27 Awards
 Honoris Crux: 201 Awards

Source list:

Wikipedia
 SA Medal Site
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HONORIS CRUX DIAMANT
 HONORIS CRUX DIAMOND



HONORIS CRUX GOUD
 HONORIS CRUX GOLD



HONORIS CRUX SILWER
 HONORIS CRUX SILVER



HONORIS CRUX
 HONORIS CRUX

Regimental Photos

Sidi Rezegh 2015



The SA Irish Pipes and Drums on the march.

Invited dignitaries arriving, led by the Ambassador from the republic of Ireland (Mr. Liam MacGabhan)



Our Honorary Colonel and OC taking the Salute



Our troops on parade

Medals awarded by our Honorary Colonel



Our Honorary Colonel addressing the parade.