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In This Issue.

- 1) *Barberton success.*
- 2) *From the Editor.*
- 3) *From the OC's Desk.*
- 4) *Regimental Events.*
- 5) *Did you know?*
- 6) *From the Pipes and Drums.*
- 7) *News from the Regiment: The Barberton parade.*
- 8) *News from the SANDF: Andersen to stay on as Reserve Force chief.*
- 9) *News from the SANDF: Women military veterans now have their own association.*
- 10) *News from the SANDF: "The Peoples' Navy" is a big hit in Durban*
- 11) *News from the SANDF: Project Achilles to be complete in 2019*
- 12) *News from the SANDF: Chief of Joint Ops passed away.*
- 13) *News from the SANDF: SA Navy completes successful live firing exercise.*
- 14) *News from the SANDF: SAAF jets fly almost 140 hours during air-to-air camp at AFB Overberg.*
- 15) *News from the SANDF: Ex Red Lion embarks on armed humanitarian mission.*
- 16) *News from the SANDF: Army Chief wants an "Africanised" system for the Reserve Force*
- 17) *News from the SANDF: Reserves provide vital extra capacity to the Army.*
- 18) *News from the SANDF: Name changes for Army Reserve Force units finalised.*
- 19) *News from the SANDF: Minister among those paying tribute to Mgwebi.*
- 20) *News from the SANDF: SAAF Museum working on restoration projects and transformation displays.*
- 21) *News from the SANDF: SANDF rooting out fraud and corruption offenders*
- 22) *Guide to the older medals of the SANDF: John Chard Medal.*
- 23) *Battlefields of South Africa: Majuba Hill.*
- 24) *Regimental Photos.*



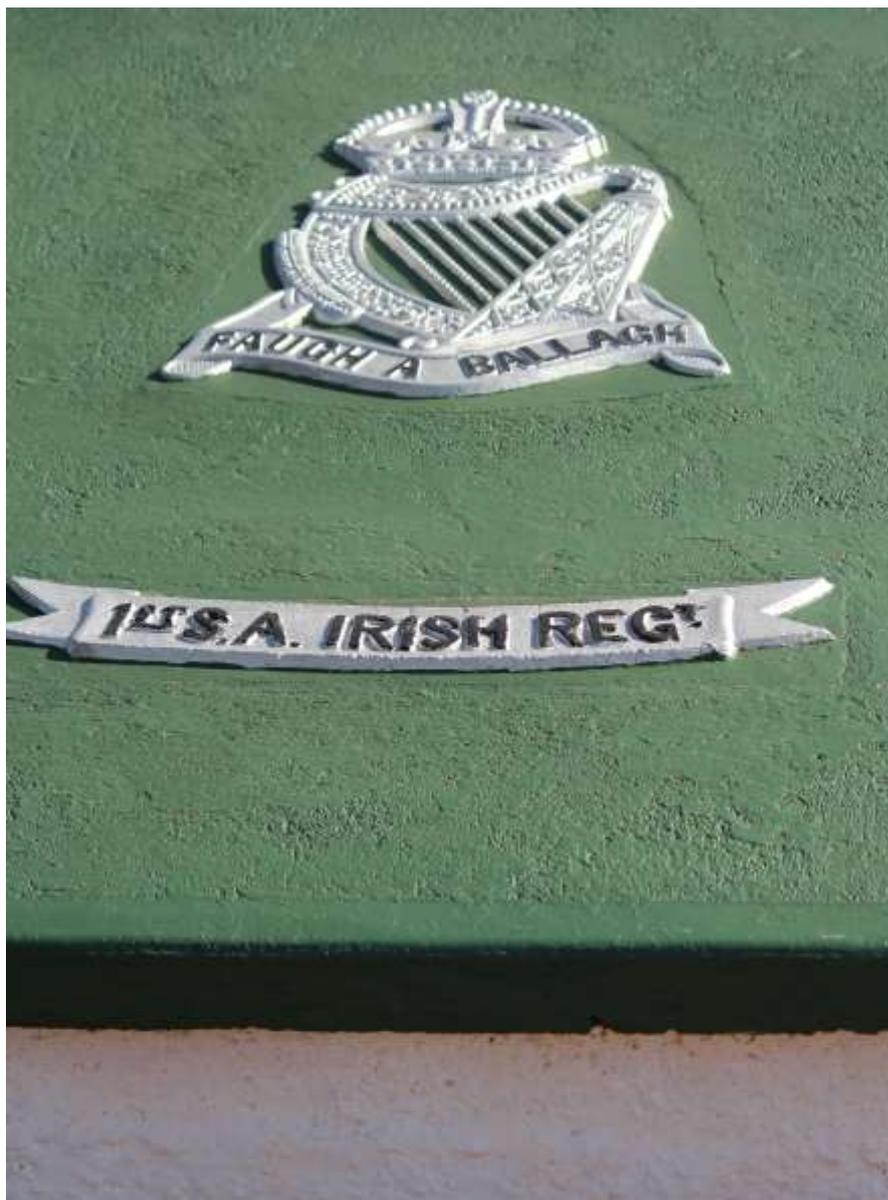
The Shamrock



The official newsletter of the SA Irish Regiment

Barberton success

Our Barberton parade a huge success.



A big Thank You to everyone involved.

From the Editor

From: The Editor

Again we thank everyone for their contributions to this newsletter. Remember: 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.

Faugh a Ballagh!

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From the OC's Desk

By: Lt Col. W.W. Kinghorn, MMM, DWD

The year has indeed flown by. As we approach the final part of the year, I continue to urge all our loyal members to continue with the same dedication that has resulted in success during the first part of the year.

I want to remind everyone that there is still a lot of work to be done in preparation for more deployments next year. Although we are headed for the end of the year, we can not afford to slow the pace not. I expect the same dedication and commitment that everyone showed during the preparation for previous deployments.

I have no doubt that every one of our loyal members will distinguish themselves in this endeavour.

We are also very proud of Sgt. Daniels who was chosen to participate in the international military skills competition in Spain where he did very well. Congratulations, you kept the SA Irish flag flying high.

Faugh a Ballagh!

By: Lt Col. W.W. Kinghorn.

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Regimental Events

By: The Editor

Please contact your company commander for more details on Regimental events.

24 September - Unit shooting exercise.

22 October - Unit shooting exercise.

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: Anothony Mockler (The new mercenaries)

The Battle of Camarón (French: Bataille de Camerone) occurred over ten hours on 30 April 1863 between the French Foreign Legion and the Mexican army, and it is regarded as a defining moment in the history of the French Foreign Legion.

A small infantry patrol, led by Captain Jean Danjou and Lieutenants Clément Maudet and Jean Vilain, numbering just 65 men was attacked and besieged by a force that may have eventually reached 3,000 Mexican infantry and cavalry, and was forced to make a defensive stand at the nearby Hacienda Camarón, in Camarón de Tejada, Veracruz, Mexico.

The conduct of the Legion, who refused to surrender, led to a certain mystique and the battle of Camarón became synonymous with bravery and a fight-to-the-death attitude.

The third company of the first battalion of the legion under the command of Captain Jean Danjou was surrounded at the Hacienda Camarón and resisted all assaults and rejected all summons for surrender since early morning of 30 April 1863. According to legend Captain Danjou had a wooden hand, such is the little details on which myths are built.

When Captain Danjou was killed, Lieutenant Vilain took command and

resisted several more attacks. When Vilain was killed Second Lieutenant Maudet took command.

By dusk only Maudet and five Legionaries were left alive and unwounded. At the last demand for surrender from the Mexican Army, Lieutenant Maudet ordered his men to fix bayonets and charged the Mexican lines in what is known in the Legion as the *Baroud d'honneur*. For by tradition, a Legionnaire does not surrender.

Each year, the French Foreign Legion commemorates and celebrates Camarón in its headquarters in Aubagne and Bastille Day military parade in Paris; featuring the Pionniers leading and opening the way.



The wooden hand of Captain Danjou was rescued by the commander of a relief column which arrived too late. On every Camarón day the wooden hand is carried onto the parade ground and an account of the battle read by the most decorated officer on parade.

IRISH SALUTE!

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From the Pipes and Drums.

By: The Pipe Major and P&D Admin
S A Irish Regiment Pipes & Drums
2016 Calendar of Events:

November 2016

05/11/2016 : (Prov) Dickie Fritz Shell Hole Edenvale

11/11/2016 : Shadow March (evening parade, at the War Museum)

13/11/2016 : Mayors Parade

20/11/2016 : Sidi Rezegh – SAIR Regiment HQ

Faugh a Ballagh!

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News from the Regiment

Written by the Editor

On 27 August 2016 the Regiment, together with The Transvaal Scottish, Witwatersrand Rifles and Regiment Botha exercised their freedom of the city of Barberton.

During World War 2, Barberton was the last training stop for South African troops leaving South Africa to go on to deployment in North Africa and Italy.

Various Regiments built and have since maintained their Regimental badges on the old training ground in Barberton.

Annually the Regimental associations with their Regiments make the “pilgrimage” to the town to maintain the badges and give the various Regiments the opportunity to exercise their right to the freedom of the city. As usual our Regimental Pipes and Drums was the big hit of the day with their flawless performance.

The parade and its functions was a huge success due to the hard work of all involved. On behalf of the Officer Commanding, a huge thank you to all of those involved.

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News from the SANDF – Andersen to stay on as Reserve Force chief.

Written by defenceWeb

Major General Roy Andersen, who should have handed over responsibilities as Chief: SANDF Reserves at the end of May to a successor is, in his own words, “staying on a bit longer”.

This is after being asked – again - by Chief of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF), General Solly Shoke, to keep on contributing as the country’s most senior Reserve Force officer. He has held this position since October 2003 when he was promoted to major general as Reserve Force chief.

He would not give an indication of exactly how long “a bit longer” was going to be.

Andersen last year told defenceWeb he had been asked by Shoke to stay on for another year when his retirement from uniformed service was imminent. Among others the country’s top soldier wanted the Defence Reserves chief to carry on as a trustee of the Education Trust set up by Shoke to assist the dependents of soldiers killed or seriously injured while on duty.

This trust has this year made available 68 bursaries – nine more than planned for – at a value of more than R1.1 million.

As Reserve Force chief, Andersen serves on both the Military Command Council and the Defence Staff Council.

Andersen was born and educated in Johannesburg and was commissioned into the artillery in 1966. He commanded the Transvaal Horse Artillery (THA) from 1976 to 79 and was subsequently appointed Senior Staff Officer Artillery and then Senior Staff Officer Operations of 7 Infantry Division.

He has also served of the General of the Gunners and is honorary colonel of the THA.

On this front he told defenceWeb: “the SA Army unit names review process is reaching an advanced stage following a further opportunity granted to units to consult more widely with serving members and veterans”.

The name change of Army Reserve units was first mooted by Lieutenant General Vusi Masondo, now SANDF Corporates Services chief, when he was SA Army Chief. Over a period of at least four years various consultations, roadshows and discussion sessions have been held around the name changes but not a single unit has yet changed its name to remove colonial or pre-1994 connotations.

He also said “we are looking at rejuvenating the Reserve Force to bring down the average age. The current reserve service system has been adapted

from the old Citizen Force system and doesn’t meet the needs of the current socio-economic conditions in South Africa or the aspirations of the youth of today”.

One of what Andersen termed “many small victories” for the Reserves was the Drums and Pipes of the Cape Town Highlanders representing South Africa at the Queen’s 90th birthday celebrations earlier this year in London.

The Reserves make up an important component of the South African National Defence Force. Earlier this year Defence and Military Veterans Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula stated that “the SANDF Reserves will remain the force to be reckoned with”. The role of the Reserves is “critical” and has been confirmed as such by the Defence Review, she stated.

“This includes responsibility for augmenting the Regulars in ongoing operations, providing the expansion capability of the defence force for major combat operations and crisis response as well as providing specialist and scarce skills for the Department of Defence (DoD).

“In terms of the Defence Review, the Reserves are to provide a cost-effective mechanism for capacitating the defence force for operational surges. In addition the Reserves are suppliers of vital professional supportive expertise and certain skills that do not normally exist in the full-time structure of the SA National Defence Force.”

“Out of 22,500 active Reserves, just over 14,500 are called up on an annual basis for an average period of 183 days and many are deployed on border safeguarding operations,” she said.

More than half (66%) of the soldiers deployed on the border protection tasking Operation Corona are Reserve Force members. At any one time there are about 2 200 soldiers deployed on border protection along all six of South Africa’s landward borders with Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland and Zimbabwe.

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News from the SANDF – Women military veterans now have their own association.

Written by defenceWeb

South Africa’s female military veterans have organised an association to pursue and promote, among others, economic empowerment.

Sally Dlamini of the MK Military Veterans Association) was elected national chair of the fledgling Women Military Veterans Association of SA (WOMVASA) with Kutie Thondlana of Apla Military Veterans Association the first deputy and Joy Frankenburg of the Council of Military Veterans Organisations second deputy.

The Association major initial objective is setting up a suitable constitution for WOMVASA and its expanded leadership structure has undertaken to report back within six months on progress in this regard.

A resolution taken at its inaugural gathering will see WOMVASA “engage the Ministry of Defence and Military Veterans, other government departments, state entities and all stakeholders to provide socio-economic support to women military veterans”.

The Association has also pledged itself to work towards accelerating delivering of benefits as set out in the Military Veterans Act and will develop a short to medium and long term programme to ensure what it calls “the realisation of social and economic rights of women military veterans in society”.

More than a hundred women veterans were present at the founding meeting in North West.

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News from the SANDF – “The Peoples’ Navy” is a big hit in Durban.

Written by defenceWeb

June’s Port Festival in Durban proved a good platform for the SA Navy to once

again fly the flag (or should that be ensign) for the maritime arm of service.

Living up to its appellation of “The Peoples” Navy coined by now retired former Navy Chief, Johannes Mudimu, the three platforms in harbour as part of the international World Hydrographic Day commemoration, attracted thousands of visitors.

At the same time the exhibitions put on by Navy divers and the overall SA National Defence Force (SANDF) careers stand proved popular among visitors to the country’s busiest commercial port.

At the head of affairs, vessel-wise, was SAS Protea, the Navy hydrographic vessel with the supporting acts coming from the OPVs SAS Isaac Dyobha and SAS Galeshewe.

SA Navy media officer, Commander Greyling van den Berg, who had more than his fair share of port festivals under his belt, said Protea attracted “by far the longest queues I have ever seen in all my time of attending port festival and similar events”.

At one stage the queue waiting patiently to board the ageing hydrographic vessel was more than 150 metres long.

“It goes to show that warships are not always the main attraction,” he said adding Protea was “as always, immaculate”.



Estimates are that more than four thousand people took the opportunity to get a hands-on feel for some of the vessels in the Navy fleet.

The Navy also used the World Hydrographic Day/ port festival events to exercise its right of entry into the city of Durban with a parade to the City Hall.

The panoramic photograph was taken by Chief Petty Officer Len Heine from the Reserve Force in Durban and shows the N Shed passenger terminal with the three SA Navy platforms.

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News from the SANDF – Project Achilles to be complete in 2019 .

Written by Guy Martin

Project Achilles, the South African National Defence Force’s project to equip the SA Air Force’s Joint Air Reconnaissance Intelligence Centre (JARIC) with image and video interpretation and exploitation tools, is due to be completed in January 2019.

Project Achilles was launched in 2004 to ensure that JARIC remained up to date with the latest technology. The main roles of JARIC are exploitation of imagery from diverse imagery sources within and outside the military with the specific purpose of producing image intelligence for the South African

National Defence Force (SANDF), supplying tactical geo-spatial information and general intelligence training.

Denel Integrated Systems and Maritime (Denel ISM) is working with contractors like Airbus Defence and Space to

provide components like the latter’s ACTINT (ACTionable INTelligence). ACTINT consist of image interpretation and exploitation software, data management software and workflow management software.

Dr Dawie Roos, Executive Manager Operations of Denel ISM, told defenceWeb that there are three main components of Project Achilles. The Military Image Interpretation Computer System (MIICS), the Tactical Image Exploitation System (TIES) and the Military Image and Exploitation Capability (MIIC) Training facility.

The South African Air Force acquired the Thales Optronics Digital Joint Reconnaissance Pod (DJRP) capability for the Gripen fleet. DJRP ground stations are housed in equipped vehicles as part of the TIES system, to utilize data from the Gripen DJRP for the purpose of image and video interpretation and exploitation by JARIC.

Ismail Dockrat, CEO of Denel ISM, told Defence Web that Achilles has been a very important project for Denel ISM as it is the first new programme executed by the Denel division. He said Achilles has allowed Denel ISM to demonstrate that it can programme manage, system integrate, manage procurement and manage interface. “We have a very happy customer and happy supplier and case study for what we can do in the future,” he said.

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News from the SANDF – Chief Joint Ops passed away.

Written by defenceWeb

Lieutenant General Duma Mduyana, who had been the SANDF’s Joint Operations Chief since February, has died after a short illness.

In a terse statement Department of Defence head of Communications, Sipiwe Dlamini, said the general “fell ill while on duty abroad and was hospitalised on his return to South Africa”.

Mduyana was in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, when he came down ill.

He was born in December 19650 in what was Transkei and matriculated at St John’s college in Umtata. He completed the basic military training course in Angola in 1981 and went to Russia to complete instructors, battalion and brigade commanders’ courses. In 1993 he completed the Senior Command and Staff course at the Defence Services Staff College in India and also earned a Masters in Defence Studies at Madras University.

In South Africa he finished both the junior and senior Command and Control Staff Duties courses between 1996 and 2007 as well as the SA Defence College Joint Command and Staff Duties course.

He served as SSO Operations at Eastern Province Command in 1995 and was Commanding Officer Group 6 from 1996 to 1998. He was promoted to Brigadier General and was appointed as the Director Area Defence at the SA Army Infantry Formation from April 1998 to December 2001, after which he was General Officer Commanding 43 SA Brigade from January 2002.

External Operations, in which he served, were as General Officer Commanding of the South African contingent in Burundi in 2003 and as Deputy Division Commander of the Eastern Division in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in the United Nations Mission from February 2005 to September 2007. He was promoted to the rank of Major General in February 2008 and posted as the Chief Advisor to the DRC, Chief of Defence Staff, until March 2009. From April 2009 until November 2010, he served as the Deputy Force Commander of the United Nations mission, UNAMID, in Sudan.

From December 2010 Mduyana was appointed as General Officer Commanding Joint Operational Headquarters until December the following year when he was appointed as Chief Director Operations at Joint Operations Division.

He took over command as Chief: Joint Operations from Lieutenant General Derrick Mgwebi at the end of January this year.

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News from the SANDF – SA Navy completes successful live firing exercise.

Written by defenceWeb

The live firing section of the SA Navy’s force preparedness exercise Red Lion saw on target hits from a trio of platforms at the weekend.

The Valour Class frigates SAS Amatola and SAS Spioenkop supported by the Heroine Class submarine SAS Manthatisi conducted a co-ordinated torpedo and missile firing against a derelict fishing vessel south-west of Cape Point, in the Pandora training area.

“The objective of the firings was to test the full live firing sequence within the vessels and of the guided weapons and to exercise a co-ordinated and simultaneous attack on a single target by a submarine and frigates.

“All the three guided weapons were launched and detonated successfully on the target,” the Navy’s Captain Zamo Sithole said.

The frigates fired Exocet anti-ship missiles while the submarine fired an Atlas Elektronik SUT 264 torpedo.

Ahead of it being towed to the target site, the Bressay Bank was “properly environmentally cleaned to ensure no pollutants were aboard”. This was to prevent any possible contamination at sea and the necessary clearance certificate was obtained from the Department of Environmental Affairs.

According to Sithole, Exercise Red Lion is held every two years and prepares the SA Navy for combat missions as and when tasked by the Chief of Joint Operations. Ex Red Lion target towing

Red Lion is the first in a troika of exercises that will see the landward and

airborne arms of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) test force readiness. The SA Army will be based at its Combat Training Centre (CTC) in Northern Cape for Exercise Young Eagle with elements based at Vastrap near Upington. The SA Air Force exercise is code-named Winter Solstice and will see it exercise in support of ground-based forces with various platforms.

All the combat arms of service will have full SA Military Health Service support attached to them for the duration of the exercise.

43 SA Brigade, 1 Parachute Battalion and 9 SA Infantry Battalion are the major land-based elements and all told about 2 500 servicemen and women are expected to take part.

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News from the SANDF – SAAF jets fly almost 140 hours during air-to-air camp at AFB Overberg.

Written by defenceWeb

SAAF Gripens and Hawks log flying hours at AFB Overberg. The jets making up the sharp point of the SA Air Force (SAAF) recently stretched their wings, as it were, and at least 11 of them logged over 138 hours during an air-to-air training camp at AFB Overberg.

This is according to the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) publication SA Soldier quoting camp commander, Captain Geoffrey Cooper.

The hours were logged during what is an annual training event for the airborne arm of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF), battling as does the rest of the force under budgetary constraints.

The purpose of the camp was to test the competency of pilots, both recently qualified and experienced, to qualify as air-to-air gunners. In addition to the actual firing, pilots also concentrated on navigation, battle formations and general flying skills during the camp.

Four sorties of either Gripen or Hawk were flown each day of the camp for

about an hour in a flying programme starting at 08h30 and ending at 18h00.

“At least six Gripens and five Hawks were utilised for the duration of the camp. The area between Arniston and Infanta was used as the firing range. Cooper mentioned that out of 70 hours budgeted for 2 Squadron, a total of 69.4 hours were flown by the Gripens, while 69.39 hours were recorded by the Hawks from 85 combat flying School,” the SANDF publication reported.

Cooper is also reported as saying the camp achieved its objectives even though they were “a few challenges”.

Major Unathi Makoba, detached at AFB Overberg as an approach controller for the camp, suggested the air-to-air camps be held twice a year.

“This would not only boost the morale and confidence of pilots, air traffic controllers, mission controllers and technicians but would also require them to work to ensure the necessary flying hours were available for any mission.”

In addition to these musters, ground crew, firefighters, media liaison officers, medical and chaplain services as well as human resource and protection personnel were detached to the southern Cape air force base for the camp, which was held in April.

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News from the SANDF – Ex Red Lion embarks on armed humanitarian mission.

Written by Dean Wingrin

The black smoke from the fires hung thick over the refugee camp as members of the SA Navy marines secured the area against rebels. The day had started with a beach landing at sunrise and the maritime soldiers were now giving protection to fellow Navy members providing first aid and humanitarian assistance to the local population.

The local villagers in Southern Floe had been held captive by a group of belligerent armed Bungu soldiers. With no access to food and water, the basic

infrastructure had collapsed and women were being assaulted and raped by the rebels. Acting under the authority of the African Union, the South African forces were determined to intervene.

The first item after securing the area was to assist the local mayor who had to deal with protesting locals. Thereafter, with no indication of exactly how many were dead or injured, the forces had to help the villagers whilst confronting infiltrating rebels, snipers and accusations of rape from those they were meant to be helping.

This was the scenario played out at the West Yard of Naval Base Simon’s Town and the nearby beach on Monday 18 July, as members of the SA Navy’s Maritime Reaction Squadron (MRS) and SAS Drakensburg partook in the DISTEX humanitarian and disaster relief exercise during Exercise Red Lion.

Although the Valour class frigate SAS Spioenkop (F147) and the mine countermeasures vessels SAS Umhloti (M1212) were anchored in False Bay in close proximity to SAS Drakensberg (A301), the Navy’s sole fleet replenishment ship, it was the latter that acted as lead ship for this evolution.

Coordinated and overseen by the Operational Sea Training (OST) Team, a full DISTEX exercise is not something that the Navy practices very often. Whilst the MRS is well versed in anti-piracy, boat boarding and conventional military sea- and land-based activities, assisting a civilian population in distress is another matter entirely.

Not only had the naval members to assist the local authorities in quelling civil unrest, but they also had to provide first aid, firefighting, electrical distribution and food after overcoming physical obstacles in entering the refugee camp, whilst simultaneously coming under fire from infiltrating rebels. Of course, having the local media constantly demanding information and trying to interview the protestors and captured rebels did not help either!

To add authenticity, the local ‘Mayor’ was taken by boat to the Drakensberg where she was afforded due respect and briefed on the current state of the humanitarian mission by the Officer Commanding, Captain Lotto Mabula.

Exercise Red Lion is the naval component of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) force preparation and combat readiness Exercise Ndlovu. Red Lion has and will still see the Navy rehearse all spectra of maritime conflict, three dimensional warfare, constabulary and benign operations before it wraps up on July 29.

Previously, Captain Michael Boucher, task group commander for Red Lion, had told defenceWeb that he was satisfied with the exercise so far. “At the beginning of Red Lion 2016 we reviewed the previous exercise to learn from mistakes and will take note of this year’s exercise with a view to minimising errors and mistakes the next time around,” he said.

Boucher said Red Lion up to now had seen “a lot of tactical staff work” with officers taking on other roles to gain maximum experience.

Such was the case with the DISTEX, as it was evident that certain actions could have been performed differently. However, the advantages of the exercise will be of tremendous benefit to those involved and experience gained will be put to good use.

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News from the SANDF – Army Chief wants an “Africanised” system for the Reserve Force.

Written by defenceWeb

The man at the head of the SA Army, the largest component of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) and also the largest Reserve Force component, Lieutenant General Lindile Yam, wants to see a new Africanised Reserve Service System in place.

This, he writes in the winter edition of The Reserve Force Volunteer, will

ensure an appropriate and viable Reserve for the future.

“It is clear that a classic western orientated Reserve Service System is not aligned to current socio-economic conditions in South Africa and does not capture the dynamics and aspirations of the youth of today.

“Unfortunately, a reality in the Reserve component is that the vast majority of members are unemployed. This, however, does enable increased levels of utilisation and an ongoing sustainable contribution by the Reserves to protracted operations.

“A clean slate analysis of this situation needs to be undertaken with a view to the development of management criteria and/or adjustment to the Reserve Service System as a whole. This new Reserve Service System must also be aligned with the new military strategy that will flow from the Defence Review 2015 implementation process.”

Yam also tells the country’s part-time soldiers they have “a major and significant role” in the SANDF and specifically the SA Army augmenting the Regulars and ensuring force levels are sustained for ordered operational commitments.

“From my previous experience as the General Officer Commanding of the SA Army Infantry Formation, no one needs to remind me of the continued sustained pressure the Reserves endure during both internal and external operations. That the Reserves have been able to absorb these pressures can be attributed to the high level of commitment shown by the Reserve Officers Commanding and their leader group to remain true to their cause. I am proud of the fact that the Reserves are standing shoulder to shoulder with the Regulars in the defence of our country.”

As an example of the dedication and courage shown by the Reserves, Yam names an SA Irish Regiment rifleman.

“Francis Plaatjie now has serious permanent injuries sustained in a heroic stand he made in a fight against rebel forces with his 7.62 mm light machine gun in Darfur, Sudan. We should

always acknowledge heroes such as him.”

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News from the SANDF – Reserves provide vital extra capacity to the Army.

Written by defenceWeb

The importance of the Reserve Force in the overall One Force concept that the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) currently operates on has again been emphasised, this time by recently appointed SA Army chief, Lieutenant General Lindile Yam.

“Army Reserves have an important role to play and provide a cost effective and efficient means of providing significant capacity to the SANDF,” he writes in the latest Reserve Force Volunteer.

“In the 2014/15 financial year a total of 10 889 SA Army Reserves were utilised and among other assigned tasks also provided more than half of the companies deployed for border safeguarding. This was achieved at a cost of only 7.4% of the total SA Army personnel budget.”

This, Yam maintains, is yet another example of the complementary and essential partnership the Regulars and the Reserves form.

“I agree the imperative remains for a viable Reserve within the One Force concept for the SANDF to fulfil its mandate. The rejuvenation and transformation plan for the Reserves instituted in 2003 has succeeded in the provision of deployable sub-units in the Infantry, resulting in significant contributions to deployments,” but the chief of the SANDF’s largest component is concerned about the Reserves component in other formations.

These include air defence artillery, armour, artillery, engineers, intelligence and signals as well as 43 and 43 SA Brigades.

He sees implementation of the Defence Review providing a framework to

develop military capacity vested in the Reserves.

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News from the SANDF – Name changes for Army Reserve Force units finalised.

Written by defenceWeb

It's now more than four years since the then SA Army Chief indicated name changes for Reserve Force units and regiments to make them more South African would be coming, and the process is reaching finality.

This is the message Lieutenant General Lindile Yam has for Army Reserves. Yam was appointed chief of the largest component of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) earlier this year.

Writing in the Reserve Force Volunteer publication, Yam states: "The SA Army has successfully finalised the name review process for Army Reserve units".

"The aim of the exercise is to acquire a level of synergy among roleplayers with unit names of regiments reflecting cohesiveness and regimental pride among all Reserves."

Yam said the name change process made provision for accommodating South African military history "currently not reflected in the make-up of the Force".

"The process also accommodated regional uniqueness as well as the acknowledgement of military heroes of the past and the contributions they made to the South Africa of today."

Yam maintains South Africa "possesses a rich and diverse military history that spans many centuries".

"This history reflects a variety of themes, cultures, traditions, organisational features, combat experiences as well as personal histories.

"In the spirit of building a common military culture as well as being relevant to the new South Africa there is

enough scope to ensure unit names are, in a balanced way, reflective of the country's rich and diverse military history and heritage."

He does not give any indication of new names that have been suggested or when any name changes will be implemented apart from saying "the results will be released once the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans has approved the new names".

Last year Brigadier General Gerhard Kamffer, who heads up the name review steering committee, said the ethnic composition of the SA Army Reserves in terms of Africans, Coloureds and Asians is 87%.

"To cater for this culture composition, new units will have to be raised and identity changes introduced. The changes have to reflect cultural identities, symbols and accoutrements to which to which members may feel greater affinity," he said adding there were indications "some African members are embracing the history and traditions of their current units even though some symbols reflect only part of South Africa's military history".

The name change process saw a series of roadshows visit Army Reserve Force units across all nine provinces as well as other consultative forums to discuss new names for existing units.

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News from the SANDF – Minister among those paying tribute to Mgwebi.

Written by defenceWeb

He is widely accepted as the soldier who has achieved the most in democratic South Africa and currently heads up the United Nation's single largest peacekeeping operation.

What is not widely known about Lieutenant General Derrick Mgwebi is his commitment to and involvement with the amaXhosa nation.

This took centre stage today (Thursday) at the Mhlahlane Great Palace near Willowvale in Eastern Cape

where Defence and Military Veterans Minister, Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, delivered a message of support in honour of Mgwebi's achievements.

She was one of those present at a gathering at the Great Palace to honour Mgwebi for his contributions to the amaXhosa Kingdom and his achievements as a South African soldier.

"He has close to four decades of national and international military experience. Not only does he have an illustrious military background, he also serves as one of the advisors to the king. His leadership qualities and commitment to the development of traditional affairs has earned him great respect among his peers and the public at large," a Defence Ministry statement said.

"When UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon announced Mgwebi's appointment as Force Commander of the United Nations Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO) in December 2015, the SANDF was honoured, but most importantly, the country. We knew South Africa was giving the world one of its best soldiers," the statement continued, adding: "This was a further confirmation of General Mgwebi's contribution as a role model for the younger generation".

Mapisa-Nqakula commended King Zwelonke Sigcawu for "paying a befitting tribute to this gallant son of Africa".

Prior to his appointment as MONUSCO Commander, Mgwebi was head of the Joint Operations Division of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF). Before that he was SANDF Chief: Human Resources and he also served as General Officer Commanding of the SA Army's Mpumalanga Command and General Officer Commanding of the SA Army Infantry Formation.

Mgwebi has been awarded the Southern Cross Decoration, Southern Cross Medal, Military Meriti Medal, Military Rule Medal, General Service Medal, Medal for Loyal Service with

the 30 year clasp, Good Service Medal, Silver (20 years), Faithful Service medal and the Transkei Defence Force Medal. He has also earned his parachute wings and wears a Special Forces operator badge.

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News from the

SANDF – SAAF Museum working on restoration projects and transformation displays.

Written by Kim Helfrich

As part of its role in preserving South Africa’s military aviation heritage through its museum, the SA Air Force (SAAF) is compiling a history which is inclusive and reflects all factors that have made the SAAF what it is today, according to Major General Wiseman Mbambo, Chief: Air Staff Operations.

This directive has seen the main museum at AFB Zwartkop and the satellite museums at AFB Ysterplaat and AFB Port Elizabeth working to capture and reflect, in detail, the memories of the air components of the Azanian People’s Liberation Army (Apla), the former TBVC defence forces (Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei), Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) and the SAAF.

“This means compiling a history which is inclusive and reflects all factors that have made the SAAF what it is today – an air force that inspires confidence. This means new displays and exhibits reflecting this dynamic history will be unveiled for all to enjoy in the upcoming months,” Mbambo said.

Work on collecting information, changing exhibitors and planning new exhibits in line with this directive started more than a year ago when retired SAAF Major General Lucky Ngema was brought aboard to oversee transformation at particularly the Zwartkop museum.

In this regard Museum Officer Commanding, Lieutenant Colonel Thor Fredericks, reports a complete refurbishment and upgrade is currently underway “to reflect and portray the SAAF from 1920 to the present day”.

“[Given] the size of the task, the process is being executed in phases. The first phase is scheduled for completed by September 14 and Ngema, who is no longer involved, has made a huge contribution in guiding the project since inception.”

Among the changes coming and one which directly involves the then Bophuthatswana Defence Force is the CN235, which is currently one of the aircraft on static display at Zwartkop.

“Because of its history as a former BDF aircraft it features significantly in the Museum’s future plans,” Fredericks said.

The SAAF inherited the CN235 from the BDF Air Wing in 1994. It was first acquired by then then independent homeland’s defence force in 1991 and was given the tail number 8026 when it was taken into service with 44 Squadron at AFB Waterkloof. Making the aircraft of even more value historically is that it was the original prototype built by Casa. It was retired from service late in 2011 ostensibly because of the difficulty inherent in obtaining spares.

The Boeing 707 that was part of 60 Squadron’s inventory, used for air-to-air refuelling, electronic warfare and transport, is also part of the Zwartkop upgrade plan. Fredericks said it was currently in storage pending completion of construction work in the display area.

As far as restoration projects are concerned the Zwartkop Museum is, led by the Friends of the SAAF Museum, currently busy restoring the crashed Spitfire Mk IXe.

“It was agreed the Friends would execute the restoration rather than send the airframe to an internationally recognised foreign restoration company,” he said, adding no date has been set for the project to be finished.

Restoration work is also underway at Zwartkop on a second Cessna 185D that will become airworthy again.

SAAF Chief, Lieutenant General Zakes Msimang, told defenceWeb that history

was an important part of the airborne arm of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) and “every unit and base will in time have a dedicated history room showing, among other information, previous officers commanding since establishment of the unit, squadron or base”.

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News from the

SANDF – SANDF rooting out fraud and corruption offenders.

Written by defenceWeb

Fraud and corruption in the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) appears to be widespread with the SA Army Support Base (ASB) in Limpopo the latest to be uncovered.

No less than 27 members – 19 uniformed and eight civilians – have been placed on leave on instruction from SANDF Chief, General Solly Shoke, it was announced in a statement issued yesterday.

All 27 work at the base, in the provincial capital Polokwane, and them being on leave “will allow for investigation into allegations of fraud and corruption at the base”, Brigadier General Xolani Mabanga said.

Earlier this month the SANDF said three SANDF members, one of them a senior officer at the SA Army Support Base (ASB) in Potchefstroom, North West, were arrested in connection with charges of corruption and fraud. The arrests came after an investigation into allegations of fraud and corruption committed eight years ago when an unnamed company was awarded a tender for security fencing around the base.

These arrests were followed by another, this time only said to be a senior officer with no rank, unit or base given, also in connection with charges of fraud and corruption.

The current round of arrests started with that of a brigadier general in the SA Army Signal Formation, headquartered at Wonderboom, north of Pretoria. He and two senior officers

under his command were arrested after a joint Defence Intelligence/Military Police investigation regarding maintenance for computers, cabling and air conditioning.

All told the information made public by SANDF Corporate Communications indicates 34 arrests of military and civilian members of the SANDF in Gauteng, Limpopo and North West this month.

Eye Witness News reports two men accused of stealing arms and ammunition from Naval Base Simon’s Town will remain behind bars with the third accused released on bail of R3 000.

“The National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) says lawyers for Dillon Sewkumar and Duncan Gouviac, who have been charged with housebreaking, theft and contravention of the Explosives Act, could not convince the court it was in the public interest for them to be released on bail.

“The third accused, Karabo Ramakgopa, who took possession of a firearm, was granted bail on condition he reports to Simon’s Town police station daily.

“All three had requested bail, arguing they needed to support their families and further their education.

“The matter has been postponed to September 7 when it will be transferred to the Wynberg Magistrates Court,” the news agency said.

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From the Chaplain

Written by: Captain M C Pelser (Our honorary Field-Chaplain)

We live in a time and age where there are real needs experienced by people. I have seen needs of many people over the last couple of months. People going hungry. Broken people. We, as Christians and servants in God’s army, are charged to reach out and assist those in need.

Let’s read what the Bible says about this in 2 Corinthians 9. It reads as follows:

The Collection for Christians in Jerusalem

1 I really don’t need to write to you about this ministry of giving for the believers in Jerusalem.

2 For I know how eager you are to help, and I have been boasting to the churches in Macedonia that you in Greece were ready to send an offering a year ago. In fact, it was your enthusiasm that stirred up many of the Macedonian believers to begin giving.

3 But I am sending these brothers to be sure you really are ready, as I have been telling them, and that your money is all collected. I don’t want to be wrong in my boasting about you. 4 We would be embarrassed—not to mention your own embarrassment—if some Macedonian believers came with me and found that you weren’t ready after all I had told them!

5 So I thought I should send these brothers ahead of me to make sure the gift you promised is ready. But I want it to be a willing gift, not one given grudgingly.

6 Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. 7 You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. “For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.”8 And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.

9 As the Scriptures say, “They share freely and give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will be remembered forever.”

10 For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you.

11 Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God.

12 So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God.

13 As a result of your ministry, they will give glory to God. For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ. 14 And they will pray for you with deep affection because of the overflowing grace God has given to you.

15 Thank God for this gift too wonderful for words!

Note the following three things when you study this passage:

- 1) God is the One who makes all grace abound towards you and provides sufficiently in all things.
- 2) We are given sufficiently, even bounty fully so that we might do good works. We are blessed in order to be a blessing to others.
- 3) God, who gave in the first place, is the One who meets your needs in the first place.

God multiplies your seed sown into an abundance you can share with others, and increase your spirituality with love, joy, peace and all the other fruit of the Holy Spirit mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23. Kindness being one of the fruit.

Let’s look at kindness. Kindness is goodness in action. Meaning that it is something that requires you to do something - to take action! It is gentleness in dealing with others. The word describes the ability to act in order to better the welfare of those less fortunate.

You don’t have to give money or material things all the time. Although we have to help our brothers and sisters in physical need as well. If you can not give material things, give your time. Listen to a person, help al elderly

person was dishes or maintain his / her garden. Be of service to a person...

In servicing a need through ministry you are fulfilling the need of the person. But even more than that! You are getting more people to praise God. You are the instrument that is helping people see the love of God in their everyday life! Through this you re leading them to God and making it possible for them to praise God! No that is the real benefit of helping a person in need...

Let us pray: God, help each one of us to become servants. First of all we want to be Your servant. But by becoming a servant of You we realize that we need to serve others. Lord, bless us to be a blessing to others. Help us to identify the needs of those around us and help us to satisfy that need. Not only for our own good woks and deeds, but for them to see and experience Your love, so that they can praise You and get closer to You! God, thank you for the blessings we are about to receive to make this possible for us. In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen!

Go out there and make a difference in someone's life!

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Guide on the older medals of the SANDF

The John Chard Medal was instituted by Queen Elizabeth II on 6 April 1952, to replace the Efficiency Medal and the Air Efficiency Award which had been awarded to members of the Citizen Force between 1939 and 1952. It was



named after John Chard VC, the lieutenant in command of the supply depot at Rorke's Drift during the Anglo-Zulu War, when it was attacked by Zulus Warriors in January 1879.

Award criteria: The medal was awarded to all ranks of the Citizen Force / Reserve Force for twelve years efficient service, not necessarily continuous. After a further eight years a recipient could qualify for the award of the John Chard Decoration (JCD).

From 1 July 1975, when the Good Service Medal, Bronze was instituted as the junior award in a new series of three medals for long service, for award to members of all three elements of the South African Defence Force, qualifying Citizen Force members who had not yet been awarded the John Chard Medal, could elect to receive the Good Service Medal, Bronze instead. Such members would thereafter be restricted to the series chosen.

The choice was therefore between, on the one hand, the new series of three medals, which would together eventually reward thirty years' service and of which all three medals could be worn together, once awarded, and on the other hand the existing Citizen Force series of a medal, a decoration which entitled the recipient to the post-nominal letters JCD and, after thirty years, a clasp to the decoration, of which only the decoration (and clasp) could be worn once awarded. In addition, the choice entailed that a member who qualified for the award of a Good Service Medal, Bronze after ten years service would have to elect to wait another two years for recognition, should the John Chard series of awards be preferred.

To resolve the issue, the period of qualifying service for the John Chard Medal was reduced to ten years in 1986, to bring the John Chard series of Citizen Force long service awards in line with the Good Service Medal series. In addition, recipients of the John Chard Decoration were now allowed to wear both the decoration and the medal. Members who elected to receive the John Chard series would, however, still

be excluded from receiving the Good Service Medal, Gold after completing thirty years of qualifying service

Conferment of the medal was discontinued in respect of services performed on or after 27 April 2003, when the John Chard Medal was replaced by the new Medalje vir Troue Diens.

Source list: Wikipedia
SA Medal Site
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Battlefields of South Africa – The Battle of Majuba

Written by Ian Knight

War: First Boer War

Date: 27th February 1881

Place: In the northern tip of Natal near to the Transvaal Border, in South Africa.

Combatants: British against the Boers of the Transvaal

Generals: Major General Sir George Pomeroy Colley against Commandant General J.P. Joubert.

Size of the armies: Colley's British force comprised only 22 officers and 627 men.

Uniforms, arms and equipment: The British infantry in South Africa at that date wore red jackets, blue trousers with red piping to the side, white pith helmets and pipe clayed equipment. The highlanders wore the kilt. The standard infantry weapon was the Martini Henry single shot breech loading rifle with a long sword bayonet. Gunners of the Royal Artillery wore blue jackets.

The Boers, being essentially a citizen militia, wore what they wished, jacket, trousers and slouch hat with a bandolier, and carried hunting rifles. The Boers were mainly mounted infantry, riding the ponies they used to tend their stock, many with a life times experience of marksmanship. They carried no bayonet leaving them at a substantial



disadvantage in close combat, which they avoided so far as possible.

British Regiments:

- Royal Navy:
- 15th Hussars.
- Royal Artillery
- 58th Regiment: later 2nd Battalion, the Northamptonshire Regiment and now the Royal Anglian Regiment.
- 2nd Battalion, 60th Rifles: now the Royal Green Jackets.
- 92nd Highlanders: later 2nd Battalion Gordon Highlanders and now the Highlanders.

Majuba is not a British Battle Honour.

Winner: The Boers resoundingly.

Account: In early February 1881 Major General Sir George Colley, the British High Commissioner for South East Africa, lay at Newcastle in Natal ready to move up the road towards the Transvaal where the Boers were in revolt against British rule. The Boer demands were for self-rule under the overall suzerainty of Britain.

Substantial reinforcements were on the way to South Africa, but carried the disadvantage for Colley of bringing a senior general, Sir Frederick Roberts, to supersede him. Colley moved with the forces he had and suffered his first defeat at Laing's Nek.

On 7th February 1881 Colley tried again, moving forward to the Ingogo River where he suffered another sharp reverse at the hands of the Boer riflemen. On 12th February 1881 Brigadier General Sir Evelyn Wood VC, a veteran of Britain's colonial wars, arrived at Durban with regiments hurried over from India: the 15th Hussars, 2nd/60th Rifles and the 92nd Highlanders. Coming up with Colley, Wood persuaded him to stay put until the substantial reinforcements from Britain arrived at the front. Wood moved back to the Tugela River to organise the newly arriving troops.

Colley did not intend to comply with the compact he had made with Wood and on the night of 26th February 1881 he marched out, towards the Boer positions, with a small force of infantry: 22 officers and 627 men of the 58th Regiment, 60th Rifles, 92nd Highlanders and the Royal Navy contingent. This small force moved towards the Boer camp which lay on the far side of Mount Majuba.

2 companies of the 2nd/60th were left as a picket at the base of Mount Imguela on the way to Majuba with a dismounted troop of the 15th Hussars and 2 more companies of infantry a little further along the road.

The British force reached the top of Majuba Hill in the early morning and, exhausted, fell to the ground on the plateau that stretched the length of the oblong summit. Little was done to prepare a position.

As dawn broke the Boers, encamped to the North East on lower ground, were in consternation at seeing the British above them. In trepidation they awaited an attack on their camp, but Colley did nothing.

Regaining their confidence the Boers began to work their way up the several sides of Majuba, while older marksmen

covered them, picking off any soldier who appeared on the skyline and pinning down the British force. As the Boers moved up the sides of Majuba, the small size of Colley’s force became apparent.

The British had not occupied the whole summit and the Boers were able to infiltrate to the top, bringing fire on the British troops from higher sections of the plateau. British casualties mounted. There was little coordinated command. Lieutenant (later General) Ian Hamilton urged Colley to charge the Boer line, but the general procrastinated, saying “Wait, wait.”

Finally the British infantry, suffering considerable loss, broke and fled from the top of the mountain, leaving a small group of 92nd Highlanders to be surrounded and captured. At the time of the break, Sir George Colley was shot dead. The troops rushed to the bottom of the hill, falling back on the picket companies which were themselves enveloped by the Boers, now mounted and in pursuit. Only a heavy bombardment from the Royal Artillery guns in the main camp stemmed the Boer advance. The battle was over.

Casualties: Of the small British force 283 became casualties. Boer casualties are not known but are likely to have been trifling.

Follow-up: Assuming overall command, Sir Evelyn Wood, on instructions from London, negotiated terms with the Boers which gave them what they had sought from the start, self-government under the overall suzerainty of the British Crown.

Regimental anecdotes and traditions:

• Although a small battle, Majuba was a major disaster for Britain and the British Army. It highlighted many of the inadequacies of an army steeped in the methods of early 19th Century warfare and failing to grasp the implications and potential of modern long range breech loading firearms. In the two South African Wars the British Army learnt a great deal from the Boer Commandoes on the importance of field craft and individual handling of rifles; lessons put to good use in 1914 against the German Army.

•Colley was a disastrous commander, rash in assuming battle, but timid in the conduct of the battle itself. He should have awaited the reinforcements being sent to Natal. Instead he attempted to win the war against the Boers with the inadequate resources available to him before he might be superseded by the arrival of General Roberts.

•Victorian Britain had a tendency to make martyrs of generals killed in action furthering British colonial interests, particularly if they had a reputation for being religious. Colley was given just such a status.

Illustrations of the stone marking the spot where “Colley fell” were widely published in the British press.

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Regimental Photos

The Barberton parade



On parade



Our colours flying high...



Our OC laying a wreath at the sunset parade.

The Regimental Badge in Barberton



Our Pipes and drums at the badge