

Corbadus

Issue 1 Vol XXVIII

2015

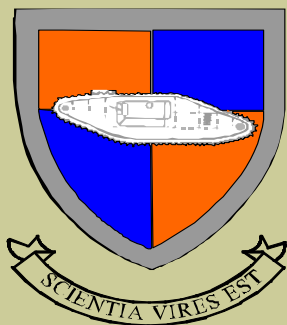


Sergeant Majors visit Southern Namibia

Stars of Sandstone 2015

The History of the Jerry Can

Journal of the School of Armour



Vision

The School of Armour is a Centre of Training Excellence.

Mission

To educate, train and develop competent personnel for the South African Armoured Corps.

Values

Everyone at the School of Armour acknowledge the supremacy of our country's Constitution, the Defence Act, the Department of Defence Code of Conduct and the South African Army Strategy. We value:

Honesty

We strive to live up to the highest ethical standards as honest and decisive soldiers.

Professionalism

We are professional and lead by example.

Respect

We respect and support each other and our clients/customers.

Loyalty

Our loyalty is reflected through our total commitment and dedication.

Communication

We are committed to communicate timeously and transparently.

Development

We are committed to creating and sustaining an enjoyable and productive growth environment in which everyone's personal development is important to us.

Customer Satisfaction

We are committed to meeting our customers' requirements.

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Journal of the School of Armour

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From the Commander's Hatch.....

Sitting behind the desk as Acting Officer Commanding of the Centre of Excellence, brain storming, how I should start this article and what exactly should be coming from the Commanders Hatch for this issue Corbadus 2015.

The first thing that really strikes my mind was how fast things can change. In February this year, I was appointed as the Second in Command of the unit. Eight months later, I was appointed Acting Officer Commanding due to the deployment of Col Nondala, the OC of the School, to the Democratic Republic of the Congo on 28 September 2015.

I just started getting things under control in the office of the Second-in-Command, now I have to command the unit. Is it something to complain about, most definitely not, I rather call it a blessing and privilege to command one of the most prestigious units in the SA Army! Furthermore, I believe that School of Armour has some of the best soldiers in the Defence force.

Now that I have absorbed the shock and excitement of been appointed as Acting OC, I am looking forward to an exciting time that lies ahead, with the 50th Birthday of the unit to be celebrated in a few months time.

To start, Jimmy Swaggart sings, "Roll back the curtains of memories now and then." I belief it

is indeed worthwhile to take stock of the last few months.

After the Beginning of Training parade, the unit

started with a BANG! 2015 was once again an outstanding year for the Centre of Excellence. The unit presented 27 courses and managed to qualify 330 learners by the end of October 2015.

Vince Lombardi once said, "Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection, we can catch excellence".

The School of Armour is also blessed with talented individuals that are committed and dedicated, who represented the unit on the sport, shooting and fitness levels, with the following results:

A second place during the BMSC Summer Sports day; achieved a second place with members from 1 SSB and 1 SA Tank Regt in the 2015 SA Army WO/NCO Competition; a sixth place in the SA Army Fittest Soldier Competition and crowned the Best Shooting unit for 2015 in the SA Army. Congratulation to all the individual performance, you guys did us proud, keep it up!

I can truly say, without doubt, as a team you should be very proud of what we have achieved.

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You have done your duty with willingness and enthusiasm.

The unit is a firm believer of upholding and maintaining military customs and traditions. Therefore beliefs that the purpose of military customs and traditions is to develop pride in the military service and to establish strong bonds of professional and personal friendship are patterns of conduct that enhances the military way of life. Throughout history, military ceremonies represent the pride, discipline and teamwork of the armed forces. Ceremonies help preserve tradition and builds esprit de corps.

These customs and traditions provide an anchor to the past. They are constant reminders of where we have been and how we have arrived here. They are the very elements of the military profession that separates us and convey the richness of our military fabric, embroidered with the history and experience of us as Armed Forces. This connection with the past will lend us a sense of meaning and purpose as we journey into the future.

As our unit transforms to face the future, it will better inform and inspire future generations of soldiers and leaders about our heritage even as we seek to create new paths of our own.

The unit managed this year to give much more attention to this in presenting different events where these customs and tradition were practise and installed into the newcomers. The observance thereof is an essential

part of unit and the preservation will continue greatly to the maintenance of Esprit de Corps.

An unknown author once SAID, "Success isn't about making your life better, no. Success is when you realised it's about impacting the lives of those around you in a positive way."

Ecclesiastes 3 verse 1 says, "To everything is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven." The unit has lost Lt Col JCC Kruger, who resigned earlier this year and will say goodbye to some of the members that are transferred, who served the unit with dignity and pride. I wish all these members well in their new endeavours, may God Almighty bless and keep you. Goodbye, Mooi Loop, Hamba Kahle.

The buzzword in the SA Army is; "Arresting the decline." If one does our calculations correct, we can truly say "Amen" that we as a unit have managed to live up to the expectations of Chief Army and the GOC SA Army Armour Formation. The favourite words from the GOC are, "Fix and Clean!" I want to add by saying; "Let's continue doing the right things, the first time right."

Jimmy Dean once said; **"I cannot change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination."** Therefore, if we as a team can be harnessed together and pointed in the right direction, anything and everything through Christ Jesus is possible.

I want to conclude with my motto in life, **"STRIVE TO BE THE BEST GOD INTENDED YOU TO BE."**

The Productivity Principle of Generosity

John E. Schrock

"If you give to the poor, your needs will be supplied! But a curse upon those who close their eyes to poverty." Proverbs 28:27

Underline the key concepts found in this principle.

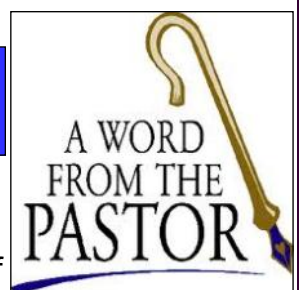
Generous, Webster says, "it's of noble cause, gracious, willing, and unselfish." Generosity is really a spirit or attitude, which is usually a part of one's character. It is a part of the law of sowing. We are usually known for being generous or stingy. Generosity is similar to being liberal, but in a more controlled manner. It is giving and forgiving; it is considering others, as you would want others to consider you. It is going the second mile. Generous

people have an attitude of giving - not only money, but also time, talent and of themselves. They are always looking for opportunities to sow into fertile ground (prepared people) where change can take place. They usually root for the underdog and the unfortunate because they see what a person can be, rather than what they presently are.

God cannot bless two things:

1. Stinginess. This will keep you from

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sowing into the future.

2. Laziness. This will keep you from maintaining what you have.

One of the things that has separated America from many other countries in the world is its "large" and prosperous middle class. Any nation that has the poor as a majority has not been teaching or practicing the principle of generosity as a foundation or cornerstone for prosperity. Generosity among us will cause us to bless and develop the poor.

A generous person will not just feed them a fish for a day, but will also teach them how to fish. He is concerned with their future not just their present. If we only feed the poor, their numbers will increase, and finally, we will go broke trying to do good. There is a law in life: anything that is fed will keep on growing. Our welfare system has exemplified that. A generous person or nation will not just feed the poor, but will also have a program of teaching and training that will change their attitude and perception of life, giving them vision and hope so they can help themselves and overcome their situation. Jesus said, "The Spirit is upon me and has anointed me to heal the broken-hearted and to bring good news to

the poor," which means that there are answers and solutions to poverty. Moreover, it all starts with people who are generous and take the time to develop the poor and hopeless. "If you give to the poor, your needs will be supplied." How? By developing the poor, we increase the middle class. This will create jobs. They will have an income, which they will spend. This creates buyers, and if this is duplicated, it will make a nation prosperous, which in turn will supply our needs. It all adds up to more producers, more products, more buyers, more consumers, more jobs, and less poor. Although we will always have some poor, they should never be an unmanageable portion of our society.

So, do not just give money or food to the needy. Be a generous-spirited person but also give them dreams and hope that will help them overcome poverty. Teach them management, leadership, and skills so they can help themselves. Those who are stingy will only think of them as future competitors rather than consumers. They keep their dreams to themselves for their own personal gain. Closing our eyes to the poor becomes our own curse. So be generous, help the poor and receive blessing yourself. God's ways work.

Chief Logistics Addresses Driver Training

Lt Col Dirk Engelbrecht

A workshop to address policy and procedures concerning training, testing and issuing of military licenses to drivers in the Department of Defence (DoD) was held at the School of Armour over the period 23 – 26 June 2015. The School of Armour is provided with the mandate to present driver training, driver instructor training as well as examiners learning programmes in the DoD. The unit also provides a central venue for all attendees from different environments in the DoD and the excellent facilities contributed to the success of the workshop. The School of Armour will also celebrate 50 years of excellence in training in 2016 and this provided an opportunity for the unit to contribute on a higher level to organisational goals that must be reached.

Various role-players with expertise from C Log and all parties involved in driver training and issuing of licenses from the entire DoD attended the workshop. Col William Nondala,

the Officer Commanding School of Armour, welcomed the participants and Col Wally van Wyk on behalf of Brig Gen Kotze (C Log DSSS) officially opened the workshop.

Lt Col Dirk Engelbrecht, the Driving and Maintenance Centre Commander at School of Armour and Lt Col Freddy Botha from C Log (DLRM) facilitated the four day workshop where the main purpose was to update the current policy on driver training and issuing of licenses. Various issues and concerns were listed, discussed and all of these were then used for the drafting of a new updated policy on driver training. This is an on-going process and on the last day, all participants were provided with a draft policy and were requested to work on this document and provide feedback before the next session that will be held at the end of July 2015.

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Col Wally van Wyk closed the workshop on Friday and indicated that through commitment and perseverance, this policy will be finalised and it is foreseen that the new policy will be implemented by the end of March 2016. All attendees agreed that this workshop was long overdue and this was a step in the correct direction in order to ensure that an updated poli-

cy will be available that guides all aspects of driver training in the DoD. New friendships were formed and communication channels were established that would contribute to the success of the implementation of this policy and the overall effectiveness of driver training, testing of drivers and issuing of licenses in the DoD.

Visit by the Military Attachés



Military attaches from several countries visited the School of Armour. They were given an overview of the training given at the School, paid a visit to the Armour Museum and attend-

ed a demonstration at the Mobility Range. The group also paid a visit to the Museum of the Boer Republics, the Women's Memorial and statue of Nelson Mandela on Naval Hill.



Being told you are appreciated is one of the simplest, yet most incredible things you can ever hear.

Sergeant Majors visit Southern Namibia

WO 1 Johan de Bruin, Andre Cloete, Conrad de Ridder, WO 2 Manie van Rhyn, WO 2 Frans Lethoko, WO 2 Hannes Etsebeth, Willem Wilke and 'Boer' Maartens visited the southern part of Namibia during June 2015.

They departed from Bloemfontein on 12 June for Upington and stayed at 8 SAI that evening.

Namibia was entered at the Ariamsvlei border post the next day and they drove to a viewpoint at the Fish River Canyon. The Fish River Canyon is the second largest canyon in the world (the Grand Canyon in the USA being number one!) After all the sight-seeing it was off to Ai-Ais, a resort built around a hot natural mineral water spring, the water bubbling up out of the earth at approximately 60 degrees Celsius.

Ai-Ais, means "burning water" in the Nama language and refers to the sulphurous hot springs, which are found in this area. The springs were discovered in 1850 by a Nama herder searching for his lost sheep. The water is supposed to have natural curative ingredients and is especially therapeutic for rheumatism sufferers.

The resort lies at the southern end of the Fish River Conservation Area and offers a welcome respite to visitors, especially hikers at the end of their walk through the Fish River Canyon.

From Ai-Ais, the group went to Oranjemund (German for mouth of the Orange) where the Orange River flows into the Atlantic

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Sergeant Major Boer Maartens was the official photographer. In this picture you will see him behind the camera.



Some Gemsbuck (Oryx) enjoying the lawns and flower beds in Oranjemund



Sergeant Majors de Ridder and Wilke angling on the Orange River at Oranjemund



Who will be the winner? Sergeant Major Frans Lethoko or the eisbein!

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Ocean. On the southern side of the river is Alexander Bay. The group spent the next two days fishing and sightseeing in the Oranjemund area. Of interest was the many gemsbuck wandering through the town. The fish were unfortunately not cooperative and only one fish was caught.

Next on the programme was the romantic seaside town of Lüderitz. The group visited the beautiful waterfront, Agate Beach and went sightseeing on the Lüderitz Peninsula, much of which lies outside the Sperrgebiet prohibited area, makes an interesting half-day excursion from town. The picturesque and relatively calm bay, Sturmvoegelbucht, has a lovely beach and is viable for swimming, but the water temperature would only be amenable to a seal or a penguin. A Norwegian whaling station was sited there in 1914, but is now a rusty ruin.

At Diaz Point, 22 km south of Lüderitz, is a lovely, classic lighthouse and replica of a cross erected in July 1488 by Portuguese navigator Bartholomew Dias on his return voyage from the Cape of Good Hope. The point is frequented by sea lions and from the nearby car park, you can observe the jackass penguin colony on Halifax Island. You can also observe cormorants, wading birds and even the occasional school of dolphins.

Grosse Bucht (Big Bay) at the southern end of the peninsula is another wild and scenic beach. This normally cold, windy spot is favoured by flocks of flamingos that feed in the tidal pools. It's also the site of a small but picturesque shipwreck on the beach. Just a few kilometres north lay the small seaside rock



Felsenkirche (English: Rock Church) on Diamond Hill, a church in vertical gothic style consecrated in 1912. After the diamond rush of 1908 and the completion of the railway line to Keetmanshoop, Lüderitz became permanently home to a significant population. Felsenkirche, is one of the oldest Lutheran churches in Namibia and was declared a national monument in 1978.

arch known as Klein Bogenfels.

The birthday of Sergeant Major Johan de Bruin was celebrated on 17 June in Lüderitz with a lovely crayfish dinner. Further attempted fishing/angling managed to produce only a small shark caught by Sergeant Major Lethoko.

The next stop before the long way back to Bloemfontein was the unique historical town of Kollmanskuppe (Afrikaans - *Kolmanskop*; English - *Coleman's Hill*). Kollmanskuppe is a ghost town in the Namib desert 10 kilometres inland from Lüderitz. It was named after a

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One of the abandoned houses at Kolmanskop



"GUNNER, APFSDS, SNIPER" is not an appropriate use of ammunition

(RTR from page 7)

transport driver named Johnny Coleman who, during a sand storm, abandoned his ox wagon on a small incline opposite the settlement. Once a small but very rich mining village, it is now a popular tourist destination run by the joint firm NamDeb (Namibia-De Beers).

In 1908, the worker Zacharias Lewala found a diamond while working in this area and showed it to his supervisor, the German railway inspector August Stauch. Realising the area was rich in diamonds, German miners began a settlement and soon after the German government declared a large area as a "Sperrgebiet" and started to exploit the diamond field.



Master Chef Manie van Rhyn preparing breakfast on the beach at Oranjemund. The mouth of the Orange River is in the distance behind the hungry group

Celebrating Women's month

Lt S.M. Blignault

This year the women of the unit had only one activity planned and on Friday 21 August 2015, all the women visited Thessa New Beginnings. It is a centre that offers women who have been abused or raped or who are homeless, a second chance in life. Esme Meyer and her husband run the centre; both are social workers and depend on donations from outside to keep the centre open.

Women attend workshops to teach them new skills e.g. making clothes.

We donated medicine and toiletries that were very much needed and listened to their



stories on how they ended up at the centre. They were very happy with our visit and could not thank us enough for the day that we spent with them.



Be a reflection of what you'd like to see in others.

If you want love, give love.

If you want honesty, give honesty.

If you want respect, give respect.

You get in return, what you give.

Infantry Company Commanders Course

Capt Jessica Pieterse

The School of Armour welcomed the Company Commanders course from the Infantry School on Tuesday 6 October 2015. These members are busy with their course in Oudtshoorn but are currently doing the mechanised phase at 1 SAI here in Tempe. WO 1 Sig Marais first greeted the course members and he introduced the Museum and told the group about the history of the School of Armour.

The group then moved to Lesakeng where Lt Col Shaun Carroll gave them a descriptive overview on Operational Concepts and the part the Infantry plays together with the Armour.



The Company Commanders and Lt Col Shaun "Montgomery" Carroll at Lesakeng.



Driving and Maintenance Instructors Course (2015/01)

It is an honour to bargain ourselves as part of Driving and Maintenance Instructors' Branch, though it was for merely 10 weeks. The 10 weeks that we spent at the branch imparted to us many things that we cannot even begin to describe.

Upon our arrival, we received such a warm welcome by the branch members; it is not in our nature to be welcomed with a gift. What we are really used to, is that sweets are for kids, it is not inscribed anywhere as a rule, the fact is that simple sweets can certainly make one feel so welcomed. That in short is to appreciate the warm welcome from all the branch members.

As usual, the end is better than its commencement; we refer back to the first two weeks of the course where a lot of us wished to withdraw from the course because it was hectic. Based on the support we received from the instructors and amongst each other, we coped to conquer the mountain in front us. One could swear the workload was a method of a punishment but as times go by, we realised all the importance of the workload that it was not done to us but for us. We pressed on towards the goal, which is the finish line as we associate this course with a race to be won.

Just to hear the word driving we anticipated the worst, only to find that it is indeed driving that is needed for us to actually understand how to teach another person to drive. Being an instructor of driving is not just an easy task that you can dream about at night and you wake up in the morning and do it, it needs your concentration and your commitment. In saying that, we respect the instructors for such

an experience that they imparted to us as learners, we believe it was not easy for them to teach other people to teach driving.

The trips we took as part of practical exercises were so amazing, all the obstacles from Wepener to Gerotek was such a great adventure as well as an eye opener to all of us, some of us were driving those obstacles for the very first time. Seemed scary and impossible to drive such obstacles but we applied all the techniques given to us by our amazing instructors and unbelievably it worked. That showed the trust we have for our instructors and at the end what seemed difficult was made easy. Although few of us had doubts in ourselves we managed to go against our doubts, and wow, we all made it.

It didn't make sense when we had to be tested on more than 3 vehicles; it was like "how on earth is that viable?" but after all said and done we realised the imperative of it all; how can you teach a person to drive a vehicle that you yourself is not qualified to drive?

We consider ourselves to be so much privileged based on experienced instructors we had. There is nothing that beats being taught something by people who know their story. We are implying that we received the best training and we are definitely sure to take with us the knowledge we gained to our home units. To the instructors "keep up the good work" and above all may the Lord bless you and may He carry you through even to the next course, continue to be professional in all the courses....

Tank Transporters to Durban

To drive a Tank Transporter, members need to be trained how to be drive an abnormal vehicle. During an 8-week course, students were given lectures and practical training to master this skill. How to drive, general maintenance as well as numerous practical aspects were included and presented by specialist instructors. The highlight was an excursion with the heavy tank transporters to Durban. The reason being the opportunity to gain experience driving through the

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mountainous areas of the eastern Free State and Kwazulu-Natal. The group managed to drive safely there and back. This was especially appreciated in the light of accidents that occurred last year (Maj Jonker however still utilised a number of cigarettes to sustain his emotional well-being as commander of this grouping).



Fortunately, it was not only work. The students and instructors enjoyed the festive Durban atmosphere, the weather, sunshine and the sea. Our gratitude to Driving and Maintenance Wing for all the courses presented.



2015 Joint Warrant Officers Programme

Capt Jessica Pieterse

The 2015 Joint Warrant Officers Programme visited the School of Armour on Monday 21 September 2015. They started the day with presentations from the three the Armour Units, Lt Col David Speak did a presentation on the School of Armour, Maj David Olivier on 1 SSB and Lt Col Pheladi Motsima on 1 SA Tank Regt.



The group then moved to the Simulator Centre where WO 1 Dennis Green gave a delightful presentation and they got the opportunity to drive the tank simulators. Then they moved to the Mobility Range where the Rooikat MK1D, T-55, T-72 and Ratel ZT3 gave a brilliant performance.



Never push a loyal person to the point where they walk away and no longer give a damn



Tjokkies Enjoy the Armour Environment

The Universitas Primary school or Tjokkies (chocolate, because the school uniform is brown) visited the School of Armour on Saturday 9 May 2015. The Leaders council of the school had to organise a fun day for the school and it was decided to have a fun ride with bicycles. The School of Armour is ideally suited in this regard, as traffic did not pose any problems.

There were different distances and races to ride, according to age, which included participation by parents as well. Bicycles of all shapes, sizes and colours (applicable to the parents as well) lined up. Excitement was in the air. There was also a mile fun walk. When all the riding and races were completed, prizes were given as part of a lucky draw.



Other activities included a golf chip, visiting of the museum, as well as a demonstration at the mobility range of a Rooikat Armoured Car and Olifant Tank. After inhaling and eating some dust during the demonstration, the children then had the opportunity to go for a ride on the tank. This was indeed a highlight for many. The youngsters also had the opportunity



to explore the 'oldies' in Lesakeng. They climbed on, played, imitated and simply enjoyed this experience while some fathers recalled their own stories when they were in the Army. Everybody enjoyed their picnic refreshments on the grass in front of the Officer's tea-room.

Our sincere appreciation to Lt Col's Johan Veldman and Raymond Hohls, who have children in Tjokkies, for assisting with all the arrangements. It proved to be very successful. A wonderful positive image of the Armour was portrayed.



Wapadrand Voortrekkers Visit

Capt J Pieterse

The School of Armour welcomed the Wapadrand Voortrekkers from Pretoria on Monday 5 October 2015 in the unit lines. The young people (some as young as 6 years old) and their leaders started the day at the Armour Museum where WO 1 Sieg Marais entertained them and talked about the Boer War and Bloemfontein and specifically the area where the School of Armour is situated.



They then went to Hull Down and Le-sakeng where they got the opportunity to have



a ride on the Rookat MK1D and the Ratel ZT3 they enjoyed these rides tremendously.



After all the excitement, Lt Col Raymond Hohls braaied some boerewors and they enjoyed a nice boere-dogs and a cold drink.

Too much dust in the diesel?



Other Visiting Groups 2015

Lt S.M. Blignault

The School of Armour received a number of visitors groups during the year - some high profile, other from other SANDF units and from schools.

The Chief of the Defence Force of Equatorial Guinea with his staff with Col MW Nondala.



The visit by the Ombudsman, Brig Gen (Ret) Mtanzima (4th from the right) and his staff seen here with Maj. Erasmus of 1 SA Tank Regiment, Lt Col Speak of the School of Armour and Maj Olivier of 1 SSB.



The SA Army Junior Command and Staff Duties course paid a visit and are seen at the tank demonstration given by 1 SA Tank Regiment.



Mr Helmoed Römer-Heitman receiving gifts from Lt Col Phalade Motsima, 1 SA Tank Regiment, and Maj Madolo, 1 SSB, to thank him for his presentation.



Our days are happier when we give people a bit of our heart rather than a piece of our mind.

Students from the SAMHS Command and Staff Duties course also paid a visit to the unit.



The students from the SANDF War College (Senior Command and Staff Duties) made their annual visit to the School of Armour



Learners from the Castle bridge School in Bloemfontein visited the unit.

Castle bridge School is celebrating its 21st birthday in 2015.



Learners from the Universitas Primary School during the bicycle fun day at the School of Armour

Reserve Force Training

Lt J.N. Mosibi



It was almost the end of January when the External Training Wing of the School of Armour started with their training programme for the year 2015 for the Reserve Force Regiments of the SA Army Armour Formation.

The 2015 training year began with members of ETW presenting safety training for Regiment President Steyn (RPS) from 7 to 24 January 2015 here in Bloemfontein. Next on the list was Regiment Oranjerivier (ROR) and ETW travelled to Cape Town for the training from 15 to 27 February 2015. Then the road north was taken for safety training at Pretoria Regiment (PR) and the Light Horse Regiment (LHR), this took place from 27 February until 2 March 2015. A group from RTW also travelled to Upington for safety training for members of ROR stationed there, this took place on 26 and 27 March 2015.

After some time back at home in Bloemfontein, ETW set off to Potchefstroom to present safety training to Regiment Mooirivier (RMR) from 7 to 10 April 2015. Then it was off to Kwazulu-Natal and the training for the Natal Mounted Rifles and the Umvoti Mounted Rifles.

Safety is very important and therefore is necessary for every soldier to be assessed and found competent before he/she can operate any kind of a weapon. The Reserve Force members displayed a lot of interest to learn

during their attendance of the training. There was maximum participation and learners made sure that they do their level best, while the hard working instructors of the Wing made sure that training and assessments of was of a high standard.

The aim/mission of the External Training Wing is to ensure education, training and development of competent personnel for the SAAC Reserve Force component of the SANDF. We will continue the rest of the year by making sure that our mission is achieved by utilising our training resources and personnel with efficiency.

The training that we provide is executed on request of the different Reserve Force units. Currently the Wing is still busy providing training on courses such as the Squadron Commanders, the Squadron Second in Command, the Squadron Sergeant Major and Squadron Quarter Master Sergeants.

We hope that this year will be filled with success and excellence as we work towards achieving the vision of School of Armour, which is to become a centre of training excellence.

The Flame of the Armour burns forever!



The Visit by the Military Academy

Capt Jessica Pieterse

The Unit welcomed the visitors from the Military Academy at Saldanha on Monday 14 September 2015. Lt Col David Speak welcomed the students and their instructors to the School of Armour. Col Letitia Olivier from ??????? presented a briefing. Lt Col David Speak gave a presentation on the School of Armour, while Maj Madolo and Maj Erasmus gave presentations on 1 SSB and 1 SA Tank Regiment respectively.

After the 'theory' session, it was time for lunch, served in the Garrison Hall and hosted by Lt Col Raymond Hohls. Everybody had a very nice meal.



After lunch, Capt Charl Ihlenfeldt welcomed them at the Simulator Centre where they had a nice time trying to drive and shoot on the Rooikat and Olifant simulators.



Then it was time to see the real vehicles in action at the Mobility range presented by the Armour Training Wing. The students got the opportunity to get on and into the vehicles and drive around the range.

After a lot of diesel and dust and the excitement, the students went back to the Garrison Hall for an Armour Shot Action. The students

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were introduced to the traditional drink of Diesel and Dust and the customs of the Armour. They had a chance to get on the wooden horses, but yes, it was again proven that not all men and women are horsemen!



The fuel truck will run out of fuel just before he gets to your armoured car. You will run out of fuel before he returns.



Music and Military Ranks

"The Emperor Waltz or Kaiserwalzer" by Johan Strauss, jnr

"King Cotton" by John Philip Sousa

Kaiser Bill was Wilhelm II, the German Emperor - "I Was Kaiser Bill's Batman" by Whistling Jack Smith.

The King or Emperor is usually the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces

"The Prince of Denmark March" also known as Trumpet Voluntary by Jeremiah Clarke

"The Radetzky March" in honour of Field Marshal Joseph Radetzky von Radetz by Johan Strauss, Snr

"I Am the Very Model of a Modern Major-General" from Gilbert and Sullivan's 1879 'The Pirates of Penzance.'

The "Colonel Bogey March" by Lieutenant F. J. Ricketts.

"Colonel Hathi's March (The Elephant Song)" from 'The Jungle Book.'

"Major Tom (I'm Coming Home)" by Peter Schilling

"Captain Jack" by Billy Joel

"Captain Sunshine" by Neil Diamond

"El Capitan" by John Philip Sousa. The march "El Capitan" became a standard work for brass bands.

"Mouldy Old Dough" by Lieutenant Pigeon.

"Kiss Me Goodnight, Sergeant Major" and "Good Morning Sergeant Major" are World War II soldiers songs

Staff Sergeant Barry Sadler "Ballad of the Green Berets."

"Sergeant Fury" by The Sensational Alex Harvey Band

"Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" by The Beatles

"Regimental Sergeant Zippo" by Elton John

"Corporal Clegg" by Pink Floyd

"Pvt Ledbetter" by Tesla

"Riding With Private Malone" by David Ball



Armistice Day Parade

WO 1 Dennis Green

At approximately 05:00 on Monday, 11th November 1918, 97 years ago today, the Armistice was signed in a railway carriage of Marshall Foch's special train located in the forest at Rethondes in France on the western front. At 11:00 on this Monday the 11th November 1918, the roar of guns ceased and peace and silence finally descended on the western front, ending the First World War. It is estimated that close to 9,5 million soldiers, sailors and airmen of all sides died in the Great War.

With these words, the 2015 Armistice Day parade at the SA Armour Museum started. It has been the custom for many years that the Armour community commemorate Armistice Day with a wreath laying ceremony at the SA Armour Museum.



The Guard of Honour was provided by 1 SA Tank Regiment, with Maj Heinrich Terblance as the Guard Commander and SSgt Reitz Bruwer as the Guard Sergeant Major. The Guard of Honour formed into a hollow square around the 2 SSB Memorial with four



sentries at the Memorial.

Following the arrival of Lt Col David Speak, the functionary, Chaplain Pieter Bezuidenhout conducted the scripture reading and devotions. Revelation 12 verse 11 was the basis for his sermon.



Hereafter, the chaplain conducted the Act of Homage and the Lament or Flower of the Forest was played. The parade came to attention and the Last Post was sounded followed by the Two Minutes of Silence - the first minute is



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a time of thanksgiving for those who have survived. The second minute is to remember the fallen. After the ringing of the bell, the Reveille is played.

The Wreath Laying Ceremony followed with 23 wreaths being laid.

Lt Col Jan Alexander on behalf of the SA Army Armour Formation HQ

Col JJ Ludidi on behalf of the Army Support Base Bloemfontein

Lt Col David Speak on behalf of the School Of Armour

Lt Col Fanus Buys on behalf of 1 Special Service Battalion

Lt Col Phaladi Motsima on behalf of 1 South African Tank Regiment

Lt Col Dirk Engelbrecht on behalf of the senior officers

Capt Helena Delpont on behalf of the junior officers

WO 1 Rolf van Wyk on behalf of the warrant officers

Staff Sergeant Sucille Pieters on behalf of the non-commissioned officers and the troopers

Moth Alwyn Hattingh on behalf of the Memorable Order of Tin Hats

WO 1 G Lavis on behalf of the South African Air Force Association

WO 1 Pieter Stapelberg on behalf of 2 Special Service Battalion

WO 1 Johan de Bruin in memory of fallen comrades of D Sqn, 2 SAI Battalion Group, Walvis Bay

Then families laid wreaths in memory of their loved ones with WO 1 Sieg Marias laying the last wreath in memory of the Unknown Soldier.



SSgt Renier Els rings the bell 11 times to signify the end of the Two Minutes Silence



Lt Col Alexander



Lt Col Speak



Capt Delpont



Lt Col Buys

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WO 1 van Wyk



MOTH Hattingh



WO 1 Lavis



The family of SSgt SC Nel

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The wreath laying was followed by the singing of the Tanker's Prayer and the address by Lt Col David Speak.



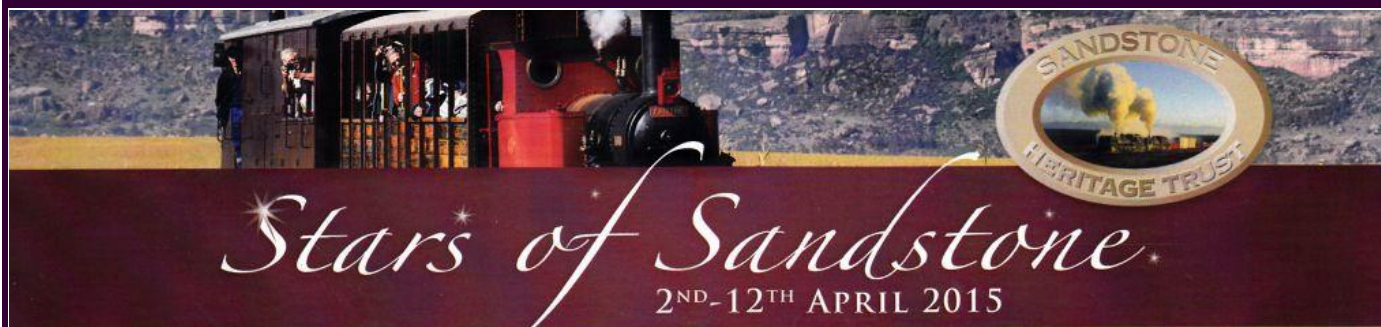
WO 1 Marais

The parade ended with the playing of the National Anthem and then the marching off of the Guard of Honour. Tea and refreshments was provided for the invited guest, wing commanders and wing sergeant majors.



They shall grow not old. That we are left grow old
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them





Stars 2015 will be the third event in the Stars of Sandstone trilogy. A large and diverse collection of interesting working Heritage items from 2 foot Narrow Gauge locomotives, steam traction engines, vintage agricultural machinery, old cars, buses, aircraft and a magnificent collection of Military vehicles relevant to South Africa are all brought to life during the show.

The Sandstone philosophy is to provide a genuine, realistic, historical experience, which will provide an opportunity for many adults to see things that only their parents and grandparents may have experienced. For children it is an even more magical experience as they

experience the sights and sounds of the machines that represented the heartbeat of the industrial revolution.

All the above is set against the background of the magnificent 200 million year old Eastern Free State landscape. It is impossible to take a photograph at Sandstone without there being a mountain in the background. Stars of Sandstone 2015 is not only for Railway enthusiasts, it is not only for car or for tractor buffs it is for everyone. Naturally, the purists will delight in the beautifully restored locomotives and other items but if you want a truly genuine historical experience where all your senses will be put to work, do join us.

Stars of Sandstone means steam locomotives, steam tractors, vintage vehicles, aircraft and military vehicles. And photographers with huge cameras and even bigger lenses!

The SA Armour Museum was once again part of Stars of Sandstone and played a major role in the success of the event. At the end of February 2015, a small team from the Armour Museum went through to the Sandstone Estate, about 14 km north of Ficksburg in the eastern Free State. The team did maintenance on the military vehicles in the Sandstone collection and planning for the Stars event was finalised with Wilfred Mole and his team.



Back in Bloemfontein, the planning continued and the vehicles to be taken with were checked, re-checked and painted. A Rooikat 76, an Olifant MK1A, the T-34/85, the T-55 and the T-72 tanks would be at the event. Sandstone has a Sherman tank in its collection, also Eland armoured cars, Ferret scout cars, Saracen armoured personnel carriers and a number of B vehicles.

The Artillery Formation was also represented at Sandstone by a Quad gun tractor with its limber and 25 pounder gun. It is believed that this is the only Quad in the world still in a run-

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WO 2 Arno Blume from the School of Artillery and the Quad

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ning order. It is also based on the Canadian Military Pattern vehicles such as 'Frikkie' and 'Timone' at the Armour museum.

The convoy left from Bloemfontein, thanks to the men from the Tank Transporter Squadron at 1 SA Tank Regiment, on Tuesday 31 March. The vehicles were safely delivered at Sandstone. The Armour Museum team had driven through to Sandstone on Monday 30 March and set up the military "base" in one of the hangers provided by Sandstone. A mobility range was also build and fenced off with grass bales. The military vehicles at Stars were the Olifant Mk 1A; T-34; T-55; T-72; Sherman 105; Rooikat 76; Ratel 90; Eland 60; Eland 90; Ferret Mk 1; three Saracen APCs; Samil 100 gun tractor; Samil 50 gun tractor; Samil 20 Office; Samil 20 Cargo; Blesbok; Oshkosh; Caspir; Stalin Organ; Bedford round nose; Ford – Canada; Hotchkiss Jeep; Buffel; Moffel; Canadian Chev Quad Gun Tractor from the School of Artillery; 750 man mobile kitchen; 88 mm Anti-Aircraft gun and two 25 pounder guns.

A special printed programme was produced by Sandstone Estates giving details of each days programme. This included walking tours, ox wagon rides, modern farm tours, birding tours and the Sandstone shop. After dinner each evening there was either a lecture on a military subject (presented by Maj. JP Scherman) or in a railway subject. There was also a Stargazer Express. This train would depart from Hoekfontein after dinner for the short trip to Grootdraai on the Lesotho border. Depending on the weather, passengers could see a magnificent night sky unhindered by the lights of civilisation.



The Armour Museum had a convoy each morning starting at 10:00 on one of three routes around the estate. Then from 14:00, the Museum presented "the Sounds of Thunder" display. The first part was a display by members of the museum driving the various vehicles after which the public were allowed to climb on and enjoy a ride on the vehicles. Capt Bennie Botes became the Lewis Hamilton of Sandstone with his Ferret!



Each afternoon the public could ride on the Mountain Wanderer. This train was headed by two Class NGG16 Garratts for the 27 kilometre round trip on the Sandstone 2 foot (60 cm) narrow gauge railway. These massive and powerful locomotives were the mainstay of power on the now defunct South African Railways 2 foot system in KwaZulu Natal. The train departed from Hoekfontein Station to Grootdraai where passengers could enjoy the magnificent scenery of the Maluti Mountains before returning back to Hoekfontein for a 10 minute refreshment stop and then onwards to Mooihoek and Pandora, climbing the fierce gradient to Vailima Siding where there was a short water stop. From there the train climbed up to Vailima Halt in the shadow of the Sandstone Mountain before descending back towards Pandora and the return to Hoekfontein.

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Every second morning, just before dawn, the photographers would have coffee and rusks before going off to photograph steam locomotives as the sun comes up - steam, smoke and that morning sun light! What a combination.



The Harvard picture above as well as two Chipmunks were stationed at Sandstone International Airport to take members of the public on a trip around the area. On Friday 3 April, an ex French Army Gazelle helicopter arrived at Sandstone.



On Saturday 11 April, an Open day was held at Stars of Sandstone. This was the first open day to be held. The attendance was very good. The Museum did the Sounds of Thunder display in the morning. During the afternoon, there would be a military parade at Grootdraai involving all the military vehicles and the 1914 German Feldbahn Steam locomotive, which saw service behind the lines in WW1. Brig Gen André Retief, GOC of the SA Army Armour Formation would take the salute.

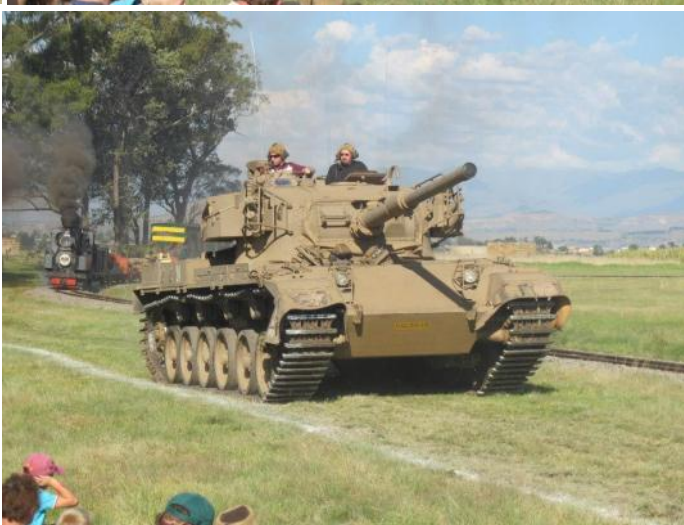
A big word of thanks to Lt. Col Raymond



Brig Gen André Retief, Honorary Colonel Colin Steyn of 1 SSB, Wilfred and Lindie Mole and their son.



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Hohls and his team for the major effort put in to make Stars of Sandstone such a success.

There will not be a Stars event in 2016, but mark your calendar for the 2017 Stars of Sandstone from 30 March to 9 April 2017.

See you there!



The Junior Offices visit the Western Cape

During the year, the junior officers ran a number of fund raising projects to help finance their visit to the Western Cape. They visited the SA Navy, the SA Air Force and also went to see what happens in the Parliament.

The editor was not informed what the group did when they were not in the photographs on this page!



When someone does something wrong, don't forget about all the things they did right!

The Traditional Dinner

Lt S.M. Blignault

On Friday 17 July 2015, the unit held its annually Traditional Dinner, presented by the Junior Officers. It is a tradition of the Armour Corps to have a Traditional Dinner during the year to promote cohesion between the different rank groups and to make Armour soldiers proud to be part of the Armour Corps.

The Mess President, Capt Charl Ihlenfeldt followed the sequence as tradition stipulates and hosted the evening with huge success. Lt Laurence Mabena, was the Vice Pres-

ident or was that the president of vice?

Everybody enjoyed themselves and was not disappointed with the meal and the company. At the end of the dinner, the members went back to the bar for cheese, biscuits, liqueurs and Coffee, with the Vice President reading out the 'fines' that were given during the evening. After paying the fines, the members slowly closed the evening with that 'absolute last drink!'



Feesh and Cheeps

Lt S.M. Blignault

On Friday 19 June, the External Training Team (ETT) hosted a very successful family evening with the theme of Hobo's. Husbands, wives, children, partners and friends came to enjoy the evening dressed up as hobo's (thank goodness nobody was on methylated spirits!) Some unit members really dressed up and it took a while to see it is.

It was somewhat chilly in Lesakeng, but the Old Brown Sherry and the warm fires helped to warm everybody. ETT provided dinner the 'streetwise' way, everybody got feesh and cheeps wrapped in newspaper and you



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had to use your fingers to eat! Lekker man lekker.

The children were entertained with jumping castles, while the parents relaxed chatting to colleagues and friends.



I think the Chaplain is telling a fishing story and Lt Col Carroll does not believe how big the fish was! Neither does the Chaplains wife!

The only times you will throw a track are - at night, in the rain, during the movement back to base or one hour after you installed the new track.

Night vision devices will only fail at night. They will function perfectly once the sun rises.

Our appreciation to the ETT who organised a very pleasant evening. We are all looking forward to another creative and enjoyable family evening to share with our families and colleagues.



The remarkable history of the jerry can

Nigel Mason

In the early nineteen-thirties, the German army reasoned that if they were going to fight a mechanised war they would need a far better fuel container than any of the current types. Most contemporary fuel cans were made of thin tinplate, frequently merely soldered together. This made them fragile and easily damaged by rough handling. They also often had screw-on caps that could get lost and needed a special spanner to loosen. The cans were often an odd shape that made them hard to stack and awkward to carry, would not pour without sloshing and gurgling, which meant that you usually needed a large funnel or at least a separate spout and last but not least, if they were filled right up and left in the hot sun the petrol would expand and burst the can.

The Germans came up with a design that was made entirely of steel plate and was essentially pressed in two halves. The halves were welded together and the weld was inside a sunken gutter that protected the weld from damage. The flat sides of the can were stamped with a deep large X shape to stop the sides from bulging. The bottom corners were well rounded to minimise damage, the can was narrow so that it did not bump the legs when being carried, was tall enough to not require excessive stooping to pick it up and was rectangular in plain view to make them stack side by side efficiently. The cans were designed to hold twenty litres of petrol and to weigh twenty kilograms when full. This made life easier for the loadmasters

Originally, the insides of the cans were coated with a plastic compound developed for beer containers. The idea was that the cans could be rinsed out and used for water, but this did not prove a success and instead cans for water had a large white cross painted on each side.

The can has a spout that is designed to allow pouring without the need for a funnel. The cap is fixed on a hinge so that it cannot get lost. The hinge is designed to allow the cap to stay open without being held, thus freeing up both hands to hold the can while pouring. The cap is opened and closed by means of a lever device that can be quickly operated with one



hand. The lever enables the cap to be tightly closed.

There are three handles on the top, which at first glance, looks to be two too many. The can is normally carried with the centre handle while the outer handles allow a can to be carried between two people. If two empty cans are placed side by side they can be picked up with one hand by grasping the two adjacent handles. So one man can easily carry four empty cans, two in each hand. If he was a burly type, he could carry four full cans! However, the main use of the outer handles is that they make it very easy to pass the cans from hand to hand. Therefore, a line of men can set up a 'bucket brigade' and quickly move hundreds of litres of fuel. The handles also make convenient tie down points.

The handles are made from the same steel as the main body of the can and they are rolled to make a handle of comfortable diameter. Anyone who has carried one of the old four-gallon kerosene tins with the handle seemingly made from coat hanger wire will appreciate that particular design detail!

Behind the handle, the top of the can rises to a distinct hump. This creates an air pocket that ensures that the can cannot be filled completely up. Inside the spout is a breather tube that leads into the air space and prevents gurgling when pouring. The air pocket makes a chamber to allow the petrol to expand if left in the hot sun and stops the can from bursting in

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the heat. The air space also means that when the can is full of petrol and falls into water, it will float!

The Germans mass produced the can in secrecy by the thousands and stored them in a guarded hangar at Templehof airport.

In WW2 the British first came across the can in the Norwegian campaign, quickly saw that it was much superior to their own and collected up all they could find for their own use. British soldiers usually called the Germans 'the jerrys', so the German can quickly became the jerry can. The British quickly began to mass-produce the jerry can, essentially identical to the original German design. After a couple of false starts, the Americans also started to make it, again to the original designs. In preparation for the invasion of Normandy, the British made literally millions of jerrycans.

Just after D-Day President Roosevelt went before Congress and said, "They were among the first supplies landed on the beaches of France. When the US 1st & 3rd Armies broke



out of Normandy, it was in these jerricans that the petrol our tanks and lorries needed to keep going was sent forward. Without these cans, it would have been impossible for our armies to cut their way across France at a lightning pace, which exceeded the German blitz of 1940. Cargo planes and even combat planes were loaded with them & carried them forward to airfields. Lorries of every size, jeeps, armoured cars - everything that rolled on wheels - loaded up with jerricans & rushed them to the front lines. They were tough enough to be dropped off lorries in motion without bursting open. They could even be dropped from the air into rivers and streams, or they could be dumped over side from ships, because they have air pockets at the top which make them float even when filled."

At the end of WW2, it was estimated that about twenty-one million jerry cans were scattered around Europe.

Today the jerry can is made world-wide (my own was made in Croatia!) and is the standard issue for NATO countries, the Israeli military, many African countries and many of the former Warsaw Pact countries. It is still made essentially to the original design, eighty years later.

So next time you are down at Super-Cheap and you see jerry cans on display and you do not already own one, buy one, even if you do not need it. You can put it in your garage and tell yourself that you own an iconic piece of history. A classic piece of twentieth-century industrial design.

The jerry can has stuck to its original design

The Flag Hoisting Parade

Staff reporter

It is Wednesday morning and it is the quarterly Flag Hoisting parade. The unit is formed up on the parade ground, SSgt Natalie Jonck is busy preparing the flag and flag ropes at the flagpole. Then the RSM finds out there is no music for the parade, the CD player in the Sakaboela is broken and nobody has a laptop computer with the music nearby.

The RSM calls all the WO 1s together, explains the problem and demands answers. As we know the sergeant majors of the unit, no

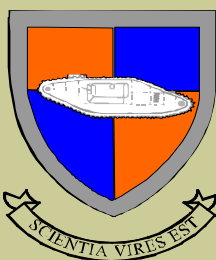
problem is too big and arrangements were made. Before you could say "Jack Robinson," everything was ready.

There we had WOs Sieg Marais with bagpipes (with a slow puncture), Willem Vos with an accordion, Conrad de Ridder with a Jewish harp, a tree saw and a bow, Manie van Rhyn with a 44 gallon drum and two soup ladles, Andy Mafata with a bicycle bell, Johan de Bruin with a fishing rod and Hannes Etsebeth with

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A Centre of Training Excellence

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a harmonica. The Chaplain says he can play the spoons and Essie Esterhuizen stands closer with his bow and arrow.

Captains Helena Delpont and Carina Graaf together with SSgt Nerine Geldenhuys and Sgt Elmarie Brand say they will provide background vocals! Lt Col Raymond Hohls says he can imitate the call of pigeons.

Somewhere, someone had grabbed SSgt Eddie van Coller and brought him with. Eddie complained about a sore throat (after last night's gig @ The Office) – Lt Col Shaun Carroll was into his angling box and gave Eddie something he mixed-up there (we think it was devils dung, red fluorescence, strawberry and a few floaties with a dash of garlic) but it worked, Eddie looked like a meerkat on a skateboard!

WO 2 Chanel van Zyl said that in her standard 8 year, between getting rid of one boyfriend and appointing a new one, she took piano lessons for a week, be-

tween the drum majorette practices and thus she is qualified to act as conductor!

Following the scripture reading and devotions, the Chaplain joined the "band" with two spoons he got in the secretary's office and Lt Col 'Baas Piet' Mangana joined in with his vuvuzela.

Lt Col Johan Veldman gave the command "National Salute" and the band started playing. Col Veldman had tears in his eyes – after the parade he said it was due to dust in his eyes!

The RSM got such a fright, I think he changed blood groups! I do not understand why? I thought Staff Eddie's rendition of "She'll be coming around the mountain" on the tune of "Bobbejaan klim die berg" while the band was playing "Groete aan Mannetjies Roux" was very good. The fact that Staff Jonck was so moved by the music that she did not know if she should hoist or lower the flag may have been the cause of the RSM's grumpiness after the parade.



Just after you report 'Battle Ready' for your qualification run, you will realise that you desperately need to take a leak.

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you'll go." Dr. Seuss



SA Armour Museum

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

SA Armour Museum on FaceBook

<https://www.facebook.com/saarmourmuseum>

Writing for Corbadus

Please submit your article in MS Word or OpenOffice Writer, font Arial 12 and language English South Africa. Indicate in the document where the photographs and sketches should be, but supply the photographs and sketches separately. CSW rules do not apply!

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