

## GUNNERS' 65<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE



The 65<sup>th</sup> annual national Gunners' Memorial Service was held on 23 April 2017 in Potchefstroom at the Gunners' Memorial site. The weather was very accommodating to those attending with a pleasant overcast day. The atmosphere was filled with both excitement as well as sadness. The memorial site was well maintained as expected of the high standard that Gunners are so well known for. Launchers from 4 Artillery



Regiment, 10 Air Defense Artillery Regiment were displayed around the memorial site. The gun salute troop from and Transvaal Horse Artillery was deployed for Gun Salvos.



The Chief Dignitary on parade was Maj Gen R.C. Andersen, Chief Defence Reserve and other dignitaries included Maj Gen Mbuli (General of the Gunners) and the executive Mayor of Tlokwe, Cllr K. Khumalo. The High Commission of Japan and USA was represented. All the Gunners association's branches were present.

The parade was executed by 43 Battery of 4 Artillery Regiment. The Parade Commander was Capt I.O. Leshomo and the Parade Warrant Officer was WO2 T.S. Sam. Chaplain (Rev) F.V.

Mnyanda blessed us with scripture reading and prayer. The Chaplain read from John 15:13. The SA Army Band Kroonstaad played music that was relevant and appropriate to the occasion. The SANDF UNITY HYMN which is adapted for the Gunners' National Memorial Service was sung. Lt Gen (Ret) P. du Preez, National President of the Gunners' Association, addressed everyone on parade. Lt Gen P. du Preez in his speech also spoke of the SS Mendi centenary and



the soldiers that lost their lives during this sad event in our war history. The first Gun Salvo was fired, followed by



two minutes of silence and the second Gun Salvo followed. Wreaths were respectively laid by all the

appointed wreath layers.

Sadly we honored Gnr K.A. Rantjangane of Apex Military Base in Brakpan (Reserve) who passed away on the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2017 in a vehicle accident while on deployment in OP CORONA in the Ndumo area. His father laid a wreath for him and paid last respects where his son's name was recorded on the wall of remembrance. Sadness filled the atmosphere.

The Chief Dignitary and other Dignitaries departed from the parade and were shortly followed by the members on parade. The rest of the members departed with pride and joy filling the atmosphere. The parade was a huge success and we can now look forward to the 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Service next year.



The 4 Arty Regt prepared lunch for all the members present at the memorial service. The day was a great success and it was great for all the Gunners to socialize and know each other better and or re-establish relationships but above all, the day was to maintain the tradition of honoring all our fallen

heroes.

**“NO WAR WITHOUT GUNS - NO PEACE  
WITHOUT GUNNERS !”**

Capt N.N. Matsipa

4 Artillery Regiment Communication's Officer





