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The Gunpit

Newsletter of Cape Field Artillery Regiment

July to December 2017



THE 160 YEARS CELEBRATIONS OF CAPE FIELD ARTILLERY

Cape Field Artillery is a Reserve Regiment in the South African National Defence Force, and forms part of the South African Army Artillery Formation. It is currently based at Fort iKapa military Base, in Goodwood. The regiment was formed at the Old Town House, Greenmarket Square, Cape Town on 26 August 1857 as the Cape Town Volunteer Artillery. Major the Chevalier Alfred du Prat, K C C, former Second in Command of the Cape Town Rifle Corps, was its first commanding officer. The regiment enjoys the unique distinction of being the oldest operational volunteer artillery regiment in the British Commonwealth.

The Duke of Edinburgh was so impressed with the bearing of Cape Town's volunteer soldiers that, a few weeks later on 3 October 1867, the name changed to Prince Alfred's Own Cape Town Volunteer Artillery. The words "Cape Town" were later dropped and the title became Prince Alfred's Own Volunteer Artillery. In 1896, the title was changed again, to Prince Alfred's Own Cape Artillery.

Over the 160 years of its history, the Regiment has fought courageously and honourably in many theatres of war.

The gun crew, many of whom come from the Western Cape towns of Robertson, Ashton, Bonnievale and Montagu, are all volunteers who train in their own time during training sessions and weekends at the Cape Field Artillery Head Quarters in iKapa (Goodwood).

Cape Field Artillery members regularly undergo refresher training to ensure that they are well versed in the use of the R4 rifle and that their physical fitness levels are kept high, in view of the strength required to operate their guns. Members also receive training in various aspects of Military Skills.

Members of CFA also attend a variety of courses as well as the Artillery Orientation and GV5 Crew Member courses. At the end of such a course, the students are expected to demonstrate their standard of training and display their newly acquired skills for evaluation.



On Monday 21 August 2017, late the evening and in pouring rain, the members from Potchefstroom arrived with the vehicles to assist CFA with their parade.

The next few days were hectically busy with rehearsals, refuelling, preparing the base and venues for the various functions and completing paper-



160TH BIRTHDAY DINNER

On Friday 25 August, a formal guest evening was held in the CFA Gun Park in Fort iKapa.



The dinner was attended by members from Artillery Formation, RSM's from other units, ex-OC's, Alderman Clive Justus from the City of Cape Town and the guest speaker was Maj Gen K Makina

"The soldier is the Army. No army is better than its soldiers. The Soldier is also a citizen. In fact, the highest obligation and privilege of citizenship is that of bearing arms for one's country"

— [George S. Patton Jr.](#)

FREEDOM OF THE ENTRY TO THE CITY OF CAPE TOWN PARADE

The Streets of Cape Town were closed on Saturday morning of 26 August 2017 when Cape Field Artillery together with the Air Force Base Ysterplaat exercised the freedom of the entry to the City of Cape Town

What made the parade special was that Cape Field Artillery, the oldest active Artillery Regiment in the Commonwealth, is celebrating its 160th birthday.

The Parade Commander was Major G.P. Damon, the Acting Officer Commanding Cape Field Artillery and the Parade Warrant Officer was Warrant Officer Class 1 M.J.

Pretorius of Air Force Base Ysterplaat.

The members on Parade were from Cape Field Artillery, supported by Transvaal Horse Artillery, Vrystaat Artillerie Regiment, Transvaalse Staats Artillerie and 18 Light Artillery Regiment and the Air Force Base Ysterplaat.

The Colours on Parade were the 13 Pounder Colour Gun of Cape Field Artillery and the Colours of 35 Squadron, 22 Squadron and the Air Force Base Ysterplaat.

The Band on Parade was the Army Band Western Cape under the Baton of Captain V.A. Michaels and Bandmaster Warrant Officer Class 1 A.S. van Schalkwyk. The Band Trooping was performed by the Cape Field Artillery Pipes and Drums under Pipe Major, Warrant Officer Class 2 A.J. Imrie.

The mechanized columns were GV5 Guns used by Cape Field Artillery and GV1 88mm Ceremonial 25 Pounder Guns

used by Cape Field Artillery for Ceremonial purposes, 35mm Anti-Aircraft Guns from Cape Garrison Artillery, 2 Mambas from Cape Town Rifles (Dukes) and a Withings recovery vehicle from 30 Field Workshop. The mechanized columns were supported by members from 4 Artillery Regiment Potchefstroom.

The Fly Past by 2 helicopters, was done by 22 Squadron stationed at the Air Force Base Ysterplaat.

The parade has formed up in the Castle of Good Hope and started at 10 am on Saturday morning and the salute was received by Alderman JP Smith on behalf of the Mayor of Cape Town at the City Hall.





160TH CELEBRATIONS MEMORIAL SERVICE

On Sunday 27 August the Church Parade was held in the CFA HQ in Fort iKapa.

At the Church Parade a salvo was fired, 2 min silence and then a 2nd salvo was fired to remember those gunners who lost their lives in the line of duty

The church parade was also attended by 3 ex-OC's of Cape Field Artillery.

(left to right) Lt Col Ian McKinney, Maj Damon (Acting OC of CFA), Col Lionel Crook and Lt Col Kees de Haan.



VETERAN EXPO AT DELVERA WINE ESTATE

CFA was invited to join the Veteran Expo at Delvera Wine Estate outside Stellenbosch where EVERYTHING old could be seen. From old cars to 2nd World War Jeeps etc. were on display. A good opportunity for the public to see the GV1 guns.



Bdr Kula helping a little boy out of the gun tractor



FORT IKAPA HERITAGE DAY

On the 22nd of September, Heritage Day was celebrated by some of the Reserve Force Units in Fort iKapa Military Base. The idea was initialized by Regiment Westlike Provincie when they invited all the units in the base to be part of the day.



The different cultural groups got together and had to cook some traditional food, wear traditional clothes and portray something that is unique to their culture. With a wonderful atmosphere and lots of laughter and questions about other cultures, all the different cultures learned something from each other and at the end of the day everybody walked away with better understanding of the people they work with.

COL CROOK RECEIVED HIS 50 YEAR GOOD SERVICE MEDAL

Congratulations to Col Crook who received his 50 year Good Service Medal at a Parade in Simons Town.

Col Crook was a previous Officer Commanding of Cape Field Artillery and is a military historian, known for his research and writing of books and articles about the Artillery and its history.

Col Crook served in the Cape Field Artillery (CFA) for many years and commanded the regiment from 1973 to 1979.



CAPE FIELD ARTILLERY FIRED A 13 GUN SALUTE AT THE FUNERAL OF MAJOR GENERAL (RET) MXOLISI PETANE MMS, MMB, ST C (ARMY)

At the age of 59, Major General Mxolisi Petane passed away in 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria and was laid to rest at Maitland Cemetery with full military honours.

On Saturday 7 October 2017, relatives, friends and comrades of former Inspector-General Petane paid their respects and tributes during a memorial service held in the NY 49 stadium, Gugulethu.

From Gugulethu his body was taken to his last rest-



ing place in the Maitland Cemetery on the Colour Gun of Cape Field Artillery. It was also there where the Ceremonial Troop of CFA fired the 13 Gun Salute.

After joining the ANC and in 1976, its armed wing, uMkhonto we Sizwe, Maj Gen Petane was one of the first recruits from Cape Town who left the country to exile. He received his basic military training in Nova Katenga Angola and furthers his training in the Soviet Union, specializing in Engineering.

He participated in various MK operations inside the country until his capture in 1986. A dedicated and astute commissar, between 1983 and 1985, he

served as the Political Commissar Botswana and between 1985 and 1986, he served as the Political Commissar Western Cape, South Africa.

Major Gen Petane was arrested in 1986 and sentenced to 17 years on Robben Island (Prisoner 43/9821) in 1987.

Upon his release, he was elected to the Regional Executive Committee of the ANC in the Western Cape and served in this committee from 1991 until 1993. Following the first democratic elections, Maj Gen Petane was integrated into the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) in 1994 where he continues to serve the nation until his retirement.

In the SANDF, he served as Commandant of the South African Army College and Director Planning at the joint support division. Maj Gen Petane played a pivotal role in restoring our diplomatic relations with Angola and spear-headed the formation of SADC Defence Inspectorate Working Group.



SALDANHA MILITARY ACADEMY PASSING OUT PARADE.

Once again Cape Field Artillery was part of the static display at the passing out parade. The Chief of the SANDF was the dignitary for this occasion.





CAPE FIELD ARTILLERY FIRES THE START AND FINISH OF THE 25th OUTSURANCE KFM 94.5 GUN RUN 2017

As for the past 10 years, Cape Field Artillery once again played a very important role at the Gun Run, with the firing of the start as well as the finish gun for one of the biggest races in Cape Town and this year 21 000 runners took part. Again it was an early morning for the gun crew from CFA and at 4am on Sunday 8 October, the gun was in place as the

moon was setting over the sea in Green Point. Soon after that, the streets were closed and one could feel the electric atmosphere of the runners.

For 2017 the organisation which benefited by this race was Ikamva Labantu, a non-profit organisation that helps build communities by connecting with leaders, teachers and guardians



who are already committed

to support and uplift those around them. This is achieved through providing training, teaching and support. Ikamva Labantu works with seniors, orphans and vulnerable children, and in early childhood development and primary healthcare. This company dates back to 1963, and was founded by Helen Lieberman. Their aim is to create sustainable social and economic change to help communities to become self-sufficient.

CAPE FIELD ARTILLERY PIPES AND DRUMS TAKING PART IN THE ASB WC FAMILY FUN DAY

On Saturday 21 October, the ASB WC launched a new initiative of having a Family Fun Day and plan to do this every year and just grow bigger every year. The idea of this was to involve some of the units they supply and at the same time invite members of the public and their clients to spend a day in a more relaxed way.



The ASB WC was founded in 1999 and is one of the nine regional Army Support Bases strategically situated throughout the RSA. The OC of the ASB WC is Lt Col B.M Feni. The program of the day was to the public some of the capabilities of the SANDF and a few local organisations were also invited to take part.

CFA Pipes and Drums were honoured to be invited to



CAPE FIELD ARTILLERY FIRES A 21 GUN SALUTE FOR THE VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT OF SENEGAL.

On Tuesday 24 October 2017 the Ceremonial Troop of Cape Field Artillery left Fort iKapa Military Base before 6am to the Company's Gardens to set up and get into place next to Tuinhuis, where President Zuma met with His Excellency Mr Mackay Sall, the President of Senegal.

Mr Sall was the Mayor of Fatick from 2002 to 2008, President of the National Assembly of Senegal from 2007 to 2008, Prime Minister and then President of Senegal since April 2012.



The visit of President Mackay Sall took place after the successful commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Dakar Talks in June 2017.

Trade between the two countries has been steadily increasing since 2010. South African exports to Senegal consist of fresh produce, manufacturing equipment and household appliances. South African imports from Senegal are mainly household furniture and effects, textile materials and original sculptures.

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EL ALAMEIN PARADE 29 OCTOBER 2017 AT THE CASTLE OF GOOD HOPE

On Sunday 29 October the El Alamein parade was held at the Castle of Good Hope. CFA as part of the South African Artillery was a part of the battles of El Alamein.

The Second Battle of El Alamein (23 October–11 November 1942) was a battle of the Second World War that took place near the Egyptian railway halt of El Alamein.

The Battle of El Alamein is usually divided into five phases, consisting of the break-in (23–24 October), the crumbling (24–25 October), the counter (26–28 October), Operation Supercharge (1–2 November) and the break-out (3–7 November). No name is given to the period from 29–31 October, when the battle was at a standstill.

1 and 3 Field Batteries, joined by 14 Field Battery, fought in the First Battle of El Alamein in July 1942 and in the Second Battle of El Alamein that lasted between 23 October to 11 November 1942, as part of 1st South African Division. On one day during the



first battle the three batteries fired over 9000 shells to break up several German attacks. After these engagements the regiment returned to South Africa briefly in December 1942. The regiment returned to North Africa in 1943 where it merged with 6th Field Regiment to form 1/6 Field Regiment (V), South African Artillery joined the South African 6th Armoured Division and moved to Italy in April 1944 where it fought in the Battle of Monte Cassino and all the other battles and engagements in which the 6th Armoured division were involved.

Photographs by Reggie Lord

CAPE FIELD ARTILLERY PIPES AND DRUMS

CFA PIPES AND DRUMS, SA NAVY BAND AND TYGERBERG CITY CHOIR PERFORM FOR THE TYGERBERG CHARITY CONCERT (Article and Photos supplied by WO2 Imrie)

Friday the 8th December saw the ever popular CFA Pipes and Drums amass with the SA Navy Band as well as the Tygerberg City Choir at a Rotary Charity Concert in aid of the Alta du Toit Centre for disability care in Bellville.

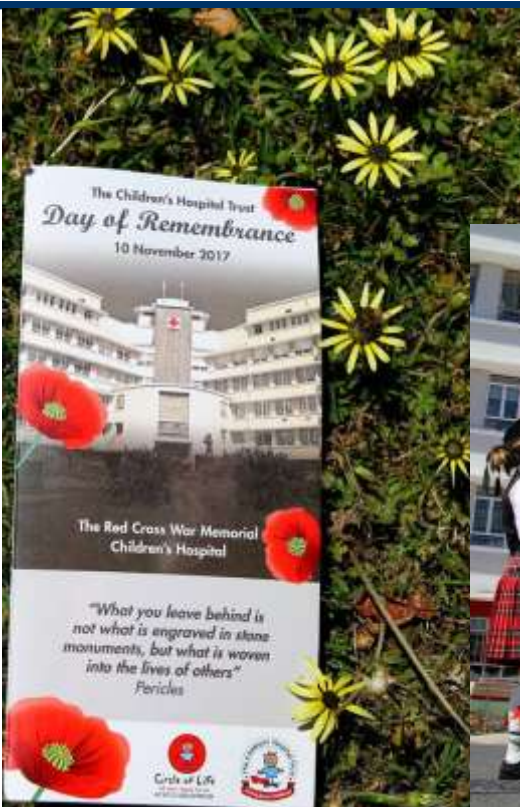
The Navy Band under direction of the new Director of Music Lt(SAN) Lindela Madikizela performed the first couple of pieces of light music.

They were then joined by the Tygerberg City Choir under Ms Linda Claassen for a few vocal numbers. As the concert drew to a close WO2 Andrew Imrie, Bandmaster CFA, then took up the baton and conducted the ever popular toe tapping Scotland the Brave, bring on the Cape Field Artillery Pipes and Drums to join the concert for the final performance of the evening.

For the final item Pipe-Major Grant Scheffel begun the solo for the ever haunting tune "Highland Cathedral" with a rousing ending, with all participants partaking in this wonderful piece of music. After the ovations – the Pipes and Drums marched out with great precision and a perfect ending to an awesome



WO2 Andrew Imrie taking a bow after conducting the finale for the evening "Highland Cathedral" featuring all the participants.



RED CROSS WAR MEMORIAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL—DAY OF REMEMBRANCE.



BAND ACTIVITIES: JULY—DECEMBER

JULY

- 12th Community Concert with the SA Navy Band for all the elderly – Fish Hoek Civic Centre
16th Delville Wood Memorial – Company Gardens Cape Town

AUGUST

- 19th Band performance and recruiting drive – Bredasdorp.
25th CFA Regimental Dinner
26th Right of Entry Parade – Cape Town – CFA 160th Anniversary
27th CFA Church

SEPTEMBER

- 10th WO2 Imrie and Bdr Daniels performed the Lament and Last Post for the Battle of Britain Memorial Service held by SAAF Association in Simonstown
17th All the CFAP&D Pipers took part in a solo bagpipe contest held at Waterford Estate – Piper Dylan Meyer got 2 X 3rd Place and a 2nd Place; Piper Caireen Alston attained a 3rd Place.

OCTOBER

- 7th Whole Band performed at the Robertson Agricultural Show – 4 performances in total with the final performance at the CFA Regiment Exhibition
14th Whole Band performed at the Wynberg Highland Games. CFA Came 3rd overall and 2nd for Drill Dress and Discipline. A number of the musician achieved places in the Solo contests.
21st Whole Band performed for ASB Youngsfield Open Day – the band did 3 performances. 2 with just the Pipe Band and then a massed performance with the SA Army Band Cape Town
22nd Mini Band performed at a community Concert Panorama Church – performed a section during a cultural concert for local community members.

NOVEMBER

- 10th Mini Band performed at the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital annual Memorial Service
12th Whole Band performed at the annual City Of Cape Town's Remembrance Day Service – the band marched the Veterans onto Parade and WO2 Imrie performed the Lament during the wreath laying.
30th Whole band will perform for the Annual Tree of Lights Memorial Service for the Tygerberg Hospice – this is also for all communities.

DECEMBER

- 2nd WO2 Imrie is invited to TS Woltemade (Sea Cadet Training Facility for underprivileged Children) for their annual prize giving.
7th WO2 Imrie has been requested to perform at the Military Academy annual Prestige Ball.
8th Community Concert – performance massed with the SA Navy Band – annual Christmas Concert – supposed to be at the City Hall but will probably be held at the Durbanville Town Hall as the City Hall is still under construction

Pipe Band Closes 19 December 20117 and Reopens 9th January 2018 to begin rehearsals for the Opening of Parlia-



ANNUAL WYNBERG HIGHLAND GATHERING (Article supplied by WO2 A.J. McG. Imrie, Bandmaster CFA)

It was bagpipes and drums galore at Wynberg Boys High School on Saturday 14th October 2017 for the Annual Wynberg Highland Gathering. This year, a new and bigger approach was taken by the event convenor and organiser Gareth Rudolph (whom is the tutor of the Wynberg Boys High School Pipe Band – and also a teacher at the school).

The organisers decided to move the whole contest up onto the main sports field. The performing arena was well positioned in front of the Bill Bowden Pavilion – giving plenty of space for the many stalls to sell their wares, and also enough tune up area for the participating pipers and drummers.

The day started with the individual piping and drumming events which were closely followed by the piping quartet competition. It was great to see bands



coming from all over the country – the following band took part : 1 Medical Battalion (Durban), African Skye (Johannesburg) St Andrews (Grahamstown), Knysna and Districts (Knysna) and then all the bands from Cape Town namely Wynberg Boys High, Cape Field Artillery, Cape Town Highlanders, Cape Garrison Artillery.

The band contest then followed and was held under the auspices of the Pipe Bands Association of Southern Africa which was also well represented at the gathering. The band events were an ungraded March, Strathspey and Reel and Medley Competition.

The overall contest results for the day were as follows :

- 1st Place - 1 Medical Battalion (Pipe-Major T. Fuller) – Grade 2
- 2nd Place – Cape Town Highlanders (Pipe-Major C. Canning) – Grade 3
- 3rd Place – Cape Field Artillery (Pipe-Major G. Scheffel) – Grade 4
- 4th Place – Cape Garrison Artillery (Pipe-Major T. Reis) – Grade 4
- 5th Place – St Andrews College – Novice Juvenile
- 6th Place – Wynberg Boys – Novice Juvenile

The day ended as all Highland Gatherings end with the Massed Bands (all competitors mass into one band and perform together for the spectators. The bands performed all the favourite tunes for the spectators (including Amazing Grace and Flower of Scotland). It was great to have this great event held in Cape Town on a regular annual basis – we look forward to taking part again next year.

Photos provided by WO2 Imrie

CAPE FIELD ARTILLERY P&D's AND THE TREE OF LIGHTS

Every year, for the past 19 years, the band attended the Tree of Lights Ceremony at the Tygerberg Hospice. This is when family and friends of people in the hospice or who were in the hospice can “buy a light” which is one their fundraising efforts, The band also collect a donation among themselves to present to the hospice.



EX ST BARBARA

On Sunday 5 November, 23 members from CFA, left the Regiment HQ for Potchefstroom to take part in the annual EX ST BARBARA. They arrived in Potchefstroom the next day and were transferred to 4 Artillery Regiment where they shared accommodation with VAR.

Re-training was done on all required equipment and the members were mobilised towards the end of that week. On the Monday 13 November, members were moved into the field and on the Tuesday morning everybody deployed into their respective positions after which the Exercise took place and on the Thursday morning the last fire plan was fired. Saturday the members left Potchefstroom back to CFA HQ in Fort iKapa Military Base.



Photographs: S/Sgt Swanepoel

TAFELBERG SCHOOL TRADITION

CFA PIPES AND DRUMS once again honoured the tradition they started at Tafelberg School by piping the matrics in for their Valedictory Service. This is the highlight for every matric learner and a big THANK YOU from Tafelberg School and parents.



ROBERTSON AGRICULTURAL SHOW

From the 2nd to the 8th of October, CFA members were part of the military exhibition at the Robertson Agricultural Show. These members made CFA very proud when they returned with the FIRST PRIZE IN THE EDUCATIONAL SECTION!!! Well done to those members who laid out a very neat stall and the way they dealt with the public.



REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE

On the 12th of November, the Remembrance Parade took place at the Cenotaph in Cape Town. The CFA Pipes and Drums as well as the ceremonial gun troop took part in this ceremony. Maj Damon laid a wreath on behalf of the Regiment.



General Regiment news:

MEMBERS ON COURSE:

Good luck to the following members:

- Lt JA Bothman BRO MOD X
- Sgt F April GSM MOD X
- Sgt JB Links NCO Formative
- Bdr RR Daniels D&M
- L/Bdr TS Maseko D&M
- L/Bdr F van Wyk Arty Tech Ass, Map & Nav, Map & Nav MOD X
- Gnr Henley GV5LC
- Gnr Maseko GV5LC MOD X
- Gnr TV Meyer GV5LC
- Gnr IL Smith D&M
- Gnr A Thomas Arty YNCO
- Gnr A Thomas Arty YNCO



PROMOTION:

Congratulations!!!

- S/Sgt F April
- Sgt JB Links
- Bdr RR Daniels
- Bdr N Siyikili
- L/Bdr Maseko
- L/Bdr Henley



MEMBERS WHO WERE IN HOSPITAL:

We wish the following members a full recovery.

- MWO B Havenga
- WO₁ EW Jacobs
- WO₂ WP Hennings
- WO₂ HA Olivier

IN MEMORIUM:

Our condolences go to WO₂ WP Hennings and his family with the passing away of his wife, Margie. Also to L/Bdr ST Maseko and Gnr N Koopman who lost their 10 month old son Theodore.

