



Smoking GUN

CAPE GARRISON ARTILLERY NEWSLETTER

COVER PICTURE:

One hundred years old! (Read more on page 2.)

[Photograph by Gilly-bean]

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2018 South African Tattoo



The 2018 South African Tattoo at the indoor Sun Arena in Pretoria.

After an amazing two and a half week tour of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, it was straight into preparing the Cape Garrison Artillery Pipes & Drums for the South African Tattoo.

The venue for this year's Tattoo, was the impressive, state of the art, indoor Sun Arena in Pretoria. The Tattoo, including rehearsals, was from 29th September to the 8th October 2018. It was the first Tattoo out of Cape Town for the CGA Pipes & Drums, as well as for a number of our band members.

It was really great to have all three Pipe Bands from Cape Town participating,

namely, Cape Garrison Artillery Pipes & Drums, Drums & Pipes of the Cape Town Highlanders and Cape Field Artillery Pipes & Drums.

No prouder moment would it have been for any Cape Garrison Artillery member to witness their Pipe Band performing at the 2018 South African Tattoo. The Cape Garrison Artillery Regiment can be very proud of their Pipe Band, who performed extremely well and represented CGA's Colours to the highest degree at the Tattoo.

(Photograph supplied and article by S/Sgt Tony Reis)



Smoke Signals

by Padre Tony Bethke



PADRE'S THOUGHTS

Let me share some Bible verses with you and see where it leads us...

'A wise man's mind instructs his mouth, and adds learning and persuasion to his lips. Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the mind and healing to the body.'

- Proverbs 16: 23-24

'He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty warrior, and he who rules his own spirit than he who defeats a city.'

- Proverbs 16: 32

'The end of a matter is better than its beginning and patience is better than pride. Do not be quickly provoked in your spirit for anger resides in the lap of fools.'

- Ecclesiastes 7: 8-9

A man once stalled his car in heavy Friday evening traffic just as the light ahead of him turned green. All his efforts to start the engine failed. Several cars behind began to blow their hooters. Feeling just as frustrated and anxious as the other drivers who wanted to get home or to go on their weekend camping trip, he finally got out of his car and walked back to the first driver behind him and said, 'I'm sorry, but I can't get my car started. If you'll go up there and give it a try, I'll stay here and blow your hooter for you.'

The person who is chronically impatient rarely makes another person go faster or arrive earlier. Rather, the effects are

[article continues on next page...]



Editors' Comment

Thank you to those for this edition's article and photograph contributions, especially to S/Sgt Tony Reis, Bdr Dewald le Roux, MWO (Ret) Danie Steyn, members of the CGARA, and photographer, Regine Lord. I wish all our readers respect and kindness. Till next time, go well and be safe.

Capt R.G. Visagie laying a wreath on behalf of CGA at the Cenotaph, Cape Town, Nov 2018.
[Photograph by Regine Lord]

The Battle's O'er

CGA PIPES & DRUMS FUNDRAISER CONCERT

It was at the 11th hour, on the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918, one hundred years ago, that the Great War ended. An armistice agreement was signed between the Allies and Germany in a railroad car outside Compiegne, France.

So, as part of the celebrations worldwide, the Cape Garrison Artillery Pipes & Drums decided to hold a concert, *'The Battle's O'er'*, in memory of this historic occasion. To pay their respects to all those courageous young men and woman, black and white, who paid the supreme sacrifice, who perished during the two Great Wars, and remembering those who have answered the Sunset Call since then.

A number of tunes were written in the trenches during the war. *'Battle of the Somme'*, *'Bloody Fields of Flanders'*, *'The Unknown Warrior'*, *'When the Battle's O'er'*, to name a few, were tunes played at the concert.

The concert was fairly well attended, and we received endless positive comments after the show. It was great to see CGA's ex-OC Lt Col J.J. (Bob) Visser supporting our concert, as well as members from the Cape Field Artillery Pipes & Drums. A big effort was made in putting this concert together in a short period of time, however the disappointing side of it, and there always unfortunately has to be one, is that no one from Cape Garrison Artillery nor from the Cape Garrison Artillery Regimental Association (CGARA) were present (some unable to be there) to endorse the effort made.

SPECIAL THANKS MUST GO TO:

Paul Bothner for sponsoring sound equipment, photographer Regine Lord, Waldo Buckle from *Fine Music Radio* who was compare on the night, Commander Ricky de Wet of *Battledress Shellhole* for reading the Moth Credo and Prayer, and the two dancing studios namely, *Celtic Dance Tapestry* and the *Lucas & Albion Highland Dance Studios*, for their contributions.

(by S/Sgt Tony Reis)

*"They shall grow not old, as we that 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"*

[...Smoke Signal article continued]

nearly always negative - to others as well as to the impatient person. Accidents often occur more frequently when a person is impatient, angry or in a hurry. It causes ulcers, headaches and other health problems that develop more quickly, and relationships at home and work can become more easily strained.

Patience is a quality you can admire in the driver of the car behind you when you're stuck and even better if he comes and asks if he can help you!

As a way to deal with impatience, give yourself ten more minutes. So get up ten minutes earlier every morning, leave ten minutes earlier and arrive ten minutes earlier at your destination. You'll probably get to the end of the day feeling much more relaxed.

I don't know about you but I really do feel very foolish after I've lost my temper or even got mildly angry at someone. Anger treats us more severely than the person we get angry with and is the cause of many disorders in our bodies and minds as I have already said.

I should think that it is very important in a military situation to be patient especially when making critical decisions. Working in a team requires team work and a clear mind. Impatience or anger will never help to achieve your goal.

It is, incidentally, also a sign that I need to have some part of my make-up healed to get rid of the anger that resides within me. You may need to speak to a chaplain or your minister if you cannot control your temper. You could be heading for a disaster if you continue without getting help from a qualified person.

Many blessings to you all and stay well.

One hundred years old!

COVER PICTURE - THE 6-INCH MK XIX FIELD GUN

'1918' is the date stamped on this gun, the same date that marks the end of the First World War. Some of these guns were used in France during that war, and four were later sent to South Africa. As an interim measure they were used to arm Port Elizabeth and East London and later Llandudno during the Second World War. CGA are the custodians of this now century old gun standing in the Gun Park at Fort Wynyard - just four years younger than the 15 pounder BLC field gun (1914) also at the Fort (sister gun to 'Skinny Liz'). The weight of the gun and carriage together is 10 ton 3 cwt 2 qtr (10,300Kg), with a maximum range of just under 17.2 Kilometres.



South Africa in the Great War

"As day breaks through wind and rain we form a line on rough terrain, to face a foe we'll never know, we will fall and die where poppies now grow. Remember us the chosen ones, the lads the dads and someone's sons. Be not sad, just be glad, knowing we gave all we had. As you walk on our fields of doom, places where our bodies were strewn, we will gaze on you through heaven's door and hope our words stay for evermore. When you leave save a tear, for here we stay year on year, the lads the dads and someone's sons, the boys who fell before German guns."

by Dave Callaghan

(Taken from the wall of remembrance at www.somme-battlefields.com)

On the 11 November 2018 at 11h00 we commemorated the centenary of the end of the First World War that broke out on the 28th of July 1914. A lot has been written about the First World or "Great" War and much reference material is available. Sadly many South Africans do not realize the significance and influence this war had on South African Society.

In South Africa the popular memory of a World War 1 Battle is normally dominated

by a scene where on a bright summer's day, with the sun well up and shining from the east on the backs of the German defenders and into the faces of the attacking Allies, officers who sound their whistles and men scrambling up ladders to get out of the trenches and into *No Man's Land*! In reality it was much different.

More than 90 countries were involved and there were as many as seven theatres of war: Western Europe, The Balkans, Russia, Egypt, Africa, Asia and Australasia. Each had its own extremes – heat, cold, mud, sand, etc. It led to the mobilization of more than 70 million military personnel with an estimated loss of 9 million combatants and seven million civilians as a direct result. It is also considered a contributory factor in a number of genocides and the 1918 influenza epidemic which according to Wikipedia caused between 50 and 100 million deaths world wide.

When World War 1 broke out the South African Union Government chose to join the war on the side of Great Britain and her Allies. The British Government immediately requested that German South West Africa (GSWA), now Namibia, be invaded by the Union Defense Force (UDF).

The then Prime Minister, Genl Louis Botha, and Minister of Defense, Genl Jan Christiaan Smuts, faced a widespread Afrikaner opposition to fighting alongside Great Britain so soon after the Second Anglo-Boer War (1898-1901) and had to put down an internal rebellion before they could invade GSWA with an expeditionary force of 67,000 men. The German "*Schutztruppe*" under Genl Victor Franke would eventually surrender to the UDF on 9 July 1915, handing the Allies its first victory of World War 1.

The 1st South African Brigade under the command of Brig Gen Henry Timson (Tim) Lukin was formed in September 1915. It consisted of four infantry regiments, representing men from all four provinces of the then Union of South Africa and Rhodesia. The 1st Regiment was from the Cape Province, the 2nd Regiment was from Natal and the Orange Free State, and the 3rd Regiment was from Transvaal and Rhodesia. The 4th Regiment was also called the "*South African Scottish*" and was raised from members of the Cape Town Highlanders, the Transvaal Scottish and the Caledonian Societies of Natal and the Orange Free State. Supporting Units included five batteries of heavy artillery, a field ambulance unit, a Royal Engineers signals company and a military hospital.

In December 1915 it was decided to send the 1st South African Brigade to Egypt where the Senussi tribe led by Gaafer Pasha was threatening British rule. They engaged the enemy at the Battle of Agagia on 26 February 1916 and with the aid of the Dorsetshire Yeomanry's cavalry routed the Senussi. After the successful close of this brief campaign Brig Gen Lukin and his brigade were transferred to the Western Front in France.

In the Battle of Delville Wood (15 July to 3 September 1916), on the Western Front near Somme, the UDF would see its most costly action fought in history. Of the 3,153 men from the Brigade, who entered the wood, only 768 survived. The Somme re-defined modern industrialised warfare and was fought as a battle of attrition. Within the 'battle' of the Somme were scores of other battles: the battle of Albert, the battle of Flers-Courcelette, the battle of Ancre and by the standards of the previous century the Somme was a war within a war.

Another tragic loss of life for the South African forces during the war was the sinking of the Mendi on 21 February, transporting 607 members of the 802nd South African Native Labour Corps. On its way from Britain to France, another ship collided with the Mendi and cut it almost in half.

In addition the war against the German and Askari forces in German East Africa, under Genl Von Lettow-Vorback, also involved more than 20,000 South African troops who fought under Genl Jan Smuts when he directed the British campaign there in 1915.

[article continues on next page...]

Photo Fun Flaunt...



ONE OF FOUR, FROM THE GREAT WAR, TO LAND ON OUR SHORE
[Photograph by Gilly-bean]



[...article continued from previous page]

South Africans also saw action with the SA Field Artillery and the Cape Corps in British operations against Turkish Forces in Palestine. They fought in the battles of Gaza, El Mughar and Nebi Samwil in 1917; and Tel Asur, Battle of Megiddo, Sharon and Nablus in 1918.

More than 231,500 South Africans served with the UDF during the war. An estimated 3,000 South Africans also joined the Royal

Flying Corps. In total the South African casualties during the war was about 18,600 with over 12,452 killed with more than 4,600 in the European theater alone.

There is no question that South Africa greatly assisted Great Britain and her Allies and in particular capturing the two German colonies of German South West Africa and German East Africa as well as in battles in Western Europe and the Middle East. South Africa's ports and harbors,

such as at Cape Town, Durban and Simon's Town, were very important rest stops, re-fuelling stations and served as strategic assets to the British Royal Navy helping to keep the vital sea lanes open.

On your next visit to Fort Wynyard, please visit the now silent Guns and spare a moment (of reverence), at the Wall of Rememberance, and do not forget these South Africans that went before us.

(by Bdr Dewald le Roux)

Do you know stones about the rocks of Cape Town?

[This article appeared in the February edition of 'The Communiqué' newsletter (Volume 5, Issue 2), but we enjoyed it so much that we thought it worth sharing in this newsletter. Thank you to Capt John Manning, for sending us this article upon our request to re-publish it.]

- The Editorial Staff

If you don't work with stones then you probably think they're just lumps of hard stuff that weigh a lot. Well, yes, that's mostly true but there is a lot more going for them than that. Ask any farmer, engineer, architect or geologist about rocks and you'll be amazed what you learn. Every rock has its own physical properties and chemical makeup, and a failure to appreciate that is asking for trouble.

There are three main types of rock on the Cape Peninsula, each of which contributes to making Table Mountain and its surroundings the World Heritage Site that it is. And each of these three types of rock has its own use in the military history of Cape Town.

Our oldest rocks, the Malmesbury Formation, were deposited as muddy sediments in shallow seas around the coast some 600



The Van der Stel Gate, at the Castle of Good Hope, carved from Malmesbury slate.



The Delville Wood Memorial, Cape Town, made from Table Mountain sandstone.

million years ago. They are fine-grained shales that erode quickly, and are mostly covered by more recent sands. They form the gently rolling flats of the Swartland and the rounded flanks of Signal Hill. They are dark grey in colour with a very fine texture, and are relatively soft, so they can be intricately carved. Malmesbury shale and slate quarried on Robben Island was used to clad the ramparts of the *Castle of Good Hope*, and as the beautifully carved surround of the main entrance to the Castle, the Van der Stel Gate. It was also used as table tops for early Cape furniture.

Soon after its deposition, the Malmesbury shales were intruded by boiling lava from the depths of the earth. This molten rock, termed granite, pushed through the overlying Malmesbury shales to form the rounded domes of Paarl Rock and the base of Lions Head and Table Mountain. Gran-



The Gunners' Memorial, Cape Town, made from Table Mountain granite.

ite is a coarse-grained, flecked, pale grey rock. It is extremely hard and has been used as the foundation courses of the Cape Town City Hall and for the plinths of many monuments, including the Gunners' Memorial in the Company's Garden.

The shales and granites were then covered by a thick layer of sand and mud deposited along the ancient shoreline, reaching a thickness of 7 km in some places. These sandy deposits, which became compacted under their own weight, are the sandstones and mudstones of the Cape Supergroup. Around 250 million years ago these thick sands were crumpled and folded upwards to form the Cape Fold Mountains. A portion of this ancient seabed that remained relatively undamaged forms the flat top of Table Mountain. Sandstone is a hard, granular rock that can be dressed and it has been used extensively for building. It is a beautiful pale, golden colour, and has been used for the Delville Wood Memorial in the Company's Garden.

So there you have it: the Cape rocks!
(Photographs supplied and article by Capt John Manning)



The School of Artillery had been presented with a model 5.5 inch Medium Field Artillery Gun for their Officers Mess. The model had been instigated by the then Chairman of the Western Province Gunners Association, Brigadier H. Paul Roos, and was made in the Navel Workshops at Simons Town. It was built to absolute scale and perfection, even with working hand wheels that could set the barrel to the desired elevation. Brigadier Paul Roos then felt that the Anti-Aircraft Units should not be ignored and he initiated a new project, to make a model anti-aircraft gun for competition amongst the Anti-Aircraft Citizen Force Units. The model was designed and manufactured by WO2 van Jaarsveld from 4 Verkenningseenheid (4 Reconnaissance Regiment), situated at Donkerkat. On completion it was presented to Col Jan Pieterse, the then Director Anti-Aircraft Artillery. This model would become known as...

THE BOFORS TROPHY

THE TRAIL OF THE BOFORS TROPHY

- 1981: Director Anti-Aircraft Col Jan Pieterse introduces the Bofors Trophy for competition. Awarded to Regiment Overvaal (ROV).
- 1982: Awarded to Regiment Vaal River (RVR).
- 1983: Awarded to 7 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment (7 LAA).
- 1984: **Awarded to Cape Garrison Artillery (1st time).**
- 1985: The annual Anti-Aircraft Symposium is cancelled by the Director Anti-Aircraft Col Willem Mouton and the Trophy is placed in safe keeping with CGA for the next five years.
- 1990: Director Anti-Aircraft Col J. Ormond reintroduces the annual Anti-Aircraft Symposium.
Awarded to CGA (2nd time).
- 1991: Awarded to Regiment Vaal River (RVR).
- 1992: Awarded to Regiment Oos Transvaal (ROT).
- 1993: Awarded to Regiment Vaal River (RVR).
- 1994: A major turning point in South African history with the 1994 elections ushering in a new democratic order. The conscript army ends and the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) is established. This marks the start of a decline in manpower within the Reserve Units.
Awarded to Regiment Vaal River (RVR).
- 1995: Awarded to Regiment Overvaal (ROV).

1996: 6 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment (6 LAA) most likely had been awarded, but it was not recorded on the Trophy itself. The Trophy was in their History/Store Room for about the next four years and it was then transferred to the newly established Air Defence Artillery (ADA) Formation. At this time, with focus being elsewhere, the Reserve Units were not a priority and therefore had limited budgets.

1997: The closure of some Reserve Units, including two Bofors Trophy awarded Units, namely Regiment Overvaal (awarded in 1981 and 1995) and 7 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment (awarded in 1983), with the remaining Units strengths reduced.

2002: The Reserves start making a comeback... building Units, searching for soldiers, recruiting and training.

2003: Regiments start receiving larger budgets and members are once again utilised.

2004: With the Units running stronger, a decision was made to reward the best, most active Reserve Force Unit with a trophy. All knew there was a trophy for this purpose, however its location was unknown. A plan was made by the then ADA Chief of Staff Col C.R. Lindsay and a trophy was found and polished. Regiment Oos Transvaal (ROT) was awarded the 'Volkskas Bank Trophy' as the best ADA Reserve Force Unit. The fact that the Formation recognised the hard work done was appreciated, however the irony was that the 'Volkskas Bank Trophy' was marked as the trophy for the Unit with the best Financial Discipline, yet two days prior, the OC ROT was reprimanded for over spending R79,000 on Item 10. These facts brought smiles and laughter from the members.

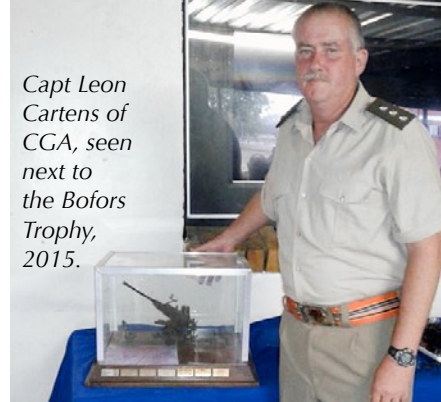
2005: The Bofors Trophy was located by WO1 M. Messias who brought it to the attention of Col Colin Doyle, ADA Senior Staff Officer Reserve Force, and it was reinstated. Awarded to 6 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment (6 LAA).

2006: **Awarded to CGA (3rd time).**

2007: **Awarded to CGA (4th time).**
(The first decentralised 35mm Gun courses are held at 6 LAA.)

2008: **Awarded to CGA (5th time).**
Competition was becoming fierce and the last winner had to ensure the Trophy was available at the ADA Week of Excellence for a possible handover. But every trip the Trophy required new glass to be fitted, so at this point a wooden transport case was produced by CGA's OC Maj Vidius Archer and RSM Danie Steyn to ferry the Trophy to Kimberley for the annual ADA awards evening. Later, a perspex cover and frame was manufactured and donated by Bdr Pieter de Jager (CGA),

Capt Leon Cartens of CGA, seen next to the Bofors Trophy, 2015.



to replace the glass cover.

(First radar courses are held at CGA.)

2009: Awarded to Regiment Oos Transvaal (ROT).

(The first new 35mm Gun course is held at Apex Military Base with four Units participating. CGA receives their first Prime Mission Equipment - 35mm Gun.)

2010: **Awarded to CGA (6th time).**

(The 2010 Soccer World Cup and an ADA Operation posts in eight cities, coordinated from Apex Military Base, Port Elizabeth and CGA in Cape Town. Apex Military Base receives their first Prime Mission Equipment.)

2011: **Awarded to CGA (7th time).**

(The ADA Reserves first participation in Exercise Seboka, training and welcoming of Military Skills Development System troops.)

2012: Awarded to Apex Military Base (ROT and 6 LAA, evaluated together as they are sharing functions and facilities at Apex Military Base).

(CGA takes part in Exercise Wake Up, Exercise Seboka and ADA displays, as well as presenting the University Recruitment Training Program.)

2013: **Awarded to CGA (8th time).** Strong contenders were Regiment Vaal River (RVR).

(CGA presents the first live Reserve Shoot - 35mm - at Overberg Toets Baan, now known as the Denel Overberg Test Range.)

2014: Awarded to Regiment Vaal River (RVR).

2015: **Awarded to CGA (9th time).**

2016: Awarded to 44 Anti-Aircraft Regiment (44 AA Reg).

2017: Awarded to Apex Military Base.

2018: This year the evaluation took place over the period 1 Jan to 1 Dec 2018. Results will be available on the 6th December 2018.

The Bofors Trophy *Espirte de Corps* has created fierce competition in the last few years. This *Espirte de Corps* has produced a positive upgrading of training, development of members, general staff work and logistic control.

Of the 25 years that the Bofors Trophy has been up for competition (between 1981-1984, 1990-1996 and 2005-2018), it has been awarded to 7 LAA once, 44 AA Reg once, Apex Military Base twice, ROV twice, 6 LAA twice, ROT twice, RVR five times and CGA nine times! Well done.



The Cape Garrison Artillery Regimental Association (CGARA)

(A continuation of the article on page 8, Issue 3 of 2018, of the Smoking Gun, which relates that the Association arranged a wreath laying ceremony and lunch at De Grendel on the 6th December 2017. The ceremony was held in honour of three Honorary Colonels, Officer Commanders, Officers, NCO's and members to commemorate the contribution to Cape Garrison Artillery.)

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HAVING THE CEREMONY AT THE DE GRENDDEL FARM CEMETERY

- Lt Col The Hon David Pieter de Villiers Graaff (1859-1931) was the seventh Commanding Officer of CGA from September 1892 to November 1897. He was the founder of the farm De Grendel and is buried in the farm cemetery. He was knighted by King George V on the 6th February 1911 and became a Baronet of Cape Town. This

title is hereditary.

- The current sword ('Sword of Command', Token of Office) passed over at the 'Handing Over Parade' ceremonies of CGA Officers Commanding, is the sword Lt Col The Hon Sir D.P. de Villiers Graaff used during his term as Commanding Officer of CGA.

- Sir DeVilliers Graaff (1913-1999) became the 2nd Baronet after his father's death in 1931. He became Honorary Colonel of CGA in 1980 until his death in 1999. He is also laid to rest in the farm cemetery.

- Sir David de Villiers Graaff (1940-2015) became the 3rd Baronet after his father's death in 2000. He became Honorary Colonel of CGA in 2000 until his death in 2015. He is also laid to rest in the farm cemetery.

It can therefore truly be said that the Graaff family has been closely associated with CGA from 1892 until the present.



At the De Grendel CGARA ceremony held on the 6th December 2017, left to right: Piper Major S/Sgt Tony Reis, Sgt (Ret) Kevin Ashton, the late Capt (Ret) Vic Martinelli, L/Col (Ret) Marius van der Westhuizen, Maj (Ret) Barry Canning (front), Capt (Ret) Jan Niewoudt, Maj (Ret) Aubrey Barnard, S/Sgt (Ret) Stratford Canning, WO (Ret) Roger White, Maj (Ret) Hein Brand, L/Col (Ret) Ockert Sieberhagen, Capt (Ret) Thys Van Nieuwenhuizen, WO (Ret) Giuseppe Ricci, Cdr (Ret) Mac Bisset, **Hon De Villiers Graaff (4th Baronet)**, the late Maj (Ret) (Dr) Pieter Ekermans, Maj (Ret) Piet Dorfling, Capt (Ret) Reggie Ferreira, MWO (Ret) Danie Steyn, Capt (Ret) Bruce Risien, L/Col (Ret) Johan Pfister and WO (Ret) Alfie Duncan.

CGARA ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

1. The committee met bi-monthly to work through the constitution and updated the constitution. Meetings were held at Fort Wynyard, Wingfields and the Officers Mess at the Castle of Good Hope.

2. The CGARA had an Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Friday 15 June 2018 at 19:00 in the CGA Officers Mess Castle of Good Hope and the following members were elected as committee members:

Chairman - Lt Col (Ret) J. Pfister
Vice Chairman - MWO (Ret) D. Steyn
Secretary - Maj (Ret) P. Dorfling
Treasurer - WO1 (Ret) R. Coetzee
Auditor - S/Sgt (Ret) S. Canning

Members: Brig Gen (Ret) J. Del Monte, Capt (Ret) B. Risien, Capt (Ret) T. Jansen van Nieuwenhuizen, WO (Ret) G. Ricci, Sgt (Ret) K. Ashton and PSA (Ret) M. Minnaar.

At the AGM the members present voted in favour of the adoption of the constitution including the amendments as presented.

3. Meetings with the current CGA Command Group. The Association had various meetings with the CGA OC and his staff and we are pleased that we do have a good working relationship.

CGARA CURRENT FOCUS

The Association is working with the Unit to ensure that the CGA Officers Mess at the Castle of Good Hope is restored after the recent painting and maintenance project which took place at the Castle.

[article continues on next page...]

obituaries

Capt (SAN) (Ret) Victor Leslie Martinelli served as an officer in Cape Garrison Artillery during the Second World War and was a Trustee of the CGA Regimental Association. He was a Lawyer and Navy Legal Officer. Born on the 18 December 1931, he died on the 23 July 2018, aged 86.

Maj (Dr) Pieter Ekermans who started his military career as a National Service Man in 1964 at Youngsfield and retired from CGA in 1989. He was a Medical Doctor and a member of the Cape Garrison Artillery Regimental Association.

Lt Etienne Gerber was born on 10 October 1963 and lost the battle against cancer on 25 September 2018, aged 54. He joined CGA after the closure of the Commando's. In civilian life he was employed as an Administration and Finance Manager at the Western Cape Provincial Administration. His funeral, at the St Johns Church in Bothasig, was well attended. He was a keen shottist and will be remembered for his quick wit, sense of humour and non regulation boots. He is survived by his wife, Tracey, and daughters, Caitlin and Chloe.

Our thoughts and prayers are also extended to Gnr Bennett with the untimely passing of his wife, **Mrs Shireen Bennett**.

LT ETIENNE GERBER'S MEMORIAL SERVICE, HELD IN PRETORIA BY CGA PIPES & DRUMS

S/Sgt Tony Reis writes:

'The funeral of CGA's Lt Etienne Gerber was held on a Tuesday at 11h00, while the Cape Garrison Artillery Pipes & Drums was at the South African Tattoo. The correct thing would have been for the CGA Pipes & Drums to pay their respects by playing at the funeral of Lt Gerber, but this was impossible. So, I thought of another plan and arranged a memorial service in memory of Lt Gerber to be held, where we were staying at the Air Force Gymnasium in Pretoria, at exactly the same time as the funeral. Both the Drums & Pipes of the Cape Town Highlanders (CTH) and the Cape Field Artillery Pipes & Drums (CFA) did not hesitate to join the memorial service. It was an unbelievable moment having all three Cape Town Pipe Bands, paying their respects together, playing 'Amazing Grace'. I personally would like to thank Lt Mike Taljaard (CTH) for the kind words said, Brenda Hundermark (CFA) for the prayer, and the Pipe Bands for paying their respects. No words can explain what it meant, having all three Cape Town Pipe Bands lamenting together in memorial.'



2018 Belfast Tattoo and Goodwill Tour

NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

What an honour to be invited by the South African Irish Regiment Pipes & Drums to take part in the Belfast International Tattoo, in Northern Ireland. Simply an invitation that cannot be refuse by anyone.

Besides taking part at the Belfast International Tattoo, the tour of Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland was also considered as a 'Goodwill Tour', where the pipe band was involved in a number of official parades in Belfast and Dublin.

The day after we arrived in Belfast, 30th August 2018, we had our first official parade with the Band of the Royal Irish Regiment at their barracks. No rest for the wicked. The parade went off exceptionally well, and hard to believe we had only one rehearsal with the Band of the Royal Irish Regiment. The parade was well attended by a number of dignitaries and military personnel. The perfect foundation set for a very successful tour.

The following day, 31st August 2018, we travelled from Belfast to Dublin, where we once again had the honour of performing in a mini-Tattoo with the Band of the Royal Irish Regiment, at the his-



Above: the mini-Tattoo at Trinity College Square, in front of the Prime Minister of Ireland and the Mayor of Dublin, 31 Aug 2018.
Below: National Frontline Services Day street parade, 1 Sep 2018.



torical Trinity College Square. This took place in front of a number of high profiled dignitaries from all over Ireland, including the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Ardmhéara Nial Ring, and the Prime Minister of Ireland, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar. We received the highest praise from the dignitaries, public and other participants, on an excellent performance and on our professionalism.

The whole idea of the mini-Tattoo was to promote the National Frontline Services Day that was to be held, through the City of Dublin, the following day. We felt very proud receiving the invite to be part of such an important street parade. So it was then back down to Dublin the next day, on the 1st September, for the National Frontline Services Day Parade. We were very well received and looked after, thanks to Seamus O'Neill, FESSEF and Ireland Civil Defence. The parade through the City of Dublin was massive, attracting thousands of onlookers. We drew an amazing amount of attention wherever we went, and certainly did South Africa proud.

On our free days while in Belfast, we visited the Giant's Causeway (an area of about 40,000 interlocking basalt columns, the result of ancient volcanic fissure eruption) and of course, the Bushmills Distillery.

Then for the next few days, it was rehearsals and preparations for the Belfast International Tattoo. Considering not too many rehearsals, the Tattoo in the end turned out to be a success.

On the last day in Belfast, before the Tattoo that afternoon, we visited Campbell College, where we gave a short performance in front of the press and school children. The school reminded us a lot of Hogwarts from the Harry Potter series.

The final week of the tour was spent in Dublin, where we visited the Guinness Factory, which is always a must. We did a lot of sight-seeing around the city, and sampled plenty of Guinness ...Mother's milk!

Next we knew, after a very successful Tattoo and Goodwill Tour, we were on the plane heading home to sunny South Africa.

(Photographs supplied and article by S/Sgt Tony Reis)

[...article continued from previous page]

The Association is in discussions with the Unit and historical sections of the army and navy to assist in hanging photos, *Freedom of the Cities* bestowed upon the Unit by the respective cities, and historical items held in trust of which various historical items are on loan from the *City of Cape Town* and the Graaff's Trust.

The 2019 Armed Forces Day will be on the weekend of the 22nd February 2019.

Our planning is that we will have our first Association function at the CGA Officers Mess at the *Castle of Good Hope* for 2019 during this weekend.

On the weekend of the 4th August 2019 the CGA Regiment will be 160 years old. The CGARA is working with the OC of CGA and his staff to remember this historical year in the history of the Regiment. On this same weekend we are also planning a wreath laying ceremony.

CGARA - IN REMEMBRANCE

We also remember the following members of Cape Garrison Artillery Regimental Association who have passed away during this year:

Capt Victor Leslie Martinelli, who was a Trust Member of the Cape Garrison Artillery Trust and was the last living member of WWII that served as an Officer in CGA.

Maj (Dr) Pieter Ekermans, who was a Medical Doctor in CGA up to 1989. Maj Ekermans did his National Service during 1964 at Youngsfield.

The above two Officers both attended the wreath laying ceremony which took place on the 6th of December 2017 at the De Grendel Farm.

