

Longueval, Somme, France  
Saturday 08 July 2023

By Gunner RC Andersen

## **GUNNER WREATH LAID IN DELVILLE WOOD**

After a gap of four years necessitated by Global Covid19 pandemic restrictions, the South African Embassy in Paris and the citizens of Longueval have re-instated the memorial service held annual in July at the Delville Wood South African National Memorial just outside the town of Longueval in the Somme.

Ms Makuwa the Charge D'affaires at the South African Embassy in Paris, our Military Attaché, Brig Gen Lepheane and the Mayor of Longueval, Mr Fournier presented a small but professional service on 8 July, 2023.



In addition to the South African ambassador to France, Ambassador Seokolo, the embassy staff and local veterans and townsfolk, the service was attended by Major (Dr) Terrence Milne (Ret) the Chairman Delville Wood Trust, Lgr Andrew Bergman of the SA Legion Europe and Maj Gen Roy Andersen (Ret) the National President of the Gunners' Association as well as two other South Africans Mr. Michael Andersen and Mr. Simon Gore.



Gunner Andersen was proud to lay the wreath on Behalf of the Gunners' Association of South Africa at the Memorial.

The Wood and the Cemetery continue to be well maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The Museum still looks fresh and is a credit to South Africa. A definite highlight was to meet Lesego who manages the information center and coffee shop. She has a great personality and communicates well with the visitors. The banners of CMVO member organizations, including the Gunners' Association, are all proudly on display.

Talks are underway to hold a large service in 2024 to coincide with the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of World War I and 30 Years of Democracy.