

# **(ALMOST) BLOWN AWAY BY THE CAPE DOCTOR IN THE RUN-UP TO THE CAPE TOWN MILITARY TATTOO 2012 AT THE CASTLE OF GOOD HOPE**

Article and photos supplied by Mrs Regine Lord.

The casual phrase *“I was blown away”* took on quite a different meaning at the Castle of Good Hope on Monday morning, 29 October 2012.

The famous Cape Doctor had been very busy throughout the night in the Mother City, with gale-force southeaster winds howling down from the top of Table Mountain and un-doing much of the hard work done by the ground crew and audio-visual crew in preparation for the Cape Town Military Tattoo 2012.

The heavy tablecloth was draped over Table Mountain and the wind was doing its best to knock people off their feet with gusts over 40kph. Not surprisingly, there was a fair bit of damage at the Castle too:



**Photo 1: The black rubber mats that were laid down to protect the old paving stones were all lifted up by the strong southeaster wind despite being very heavy**



**Photo 2: The sections of the red carpet boardwalk have to be weighted down with heavy sandbags**

The four tents in the rear arena, intended as shelter for the participants between the various acts, had to be dismantled and stowed away.

The black screen that had been erected behind the archway to hide the participants from the view of spectators on the stands had been ripped to pieces, and thus it needed to be replaced.

The black rubber mats that had been hammered down in the front arena to cover the old paving stones from the main entrance to the rear courtyard, and to create a more level walking surface for the participants, had been flipped upside down.

Some portaloos had gone walk-about on their own, and sections of the ‘red carpet’ boardwalk were scattered around the back of the Castle.

And one of the lighting towers above the stands had been toppled over by the sheer force of the wind,

though luckily the damage was not severe. All the audio-visual equipment had been installed by 3 Electrical Workshop from Wonderboom.

**But: The Show Must Go On!**

So it was all shoulders to the wheel for the hard-working crews once more, as they set out to repair the damage as quickly as possible.

All the lighting towers, the audio-visual equipment box and the announcer's box were soon secured with cables and strong straps: they would not be going anywhere! The boardwalk was repaired and weighted down with heavy sandbags, and the ground crew re-attached all the plastic mats with additional pegs.



**Photo 3: The crew from 3 Electrical Workshop have to re-install all the lights on the toppled tower**



**Photo 4: Despite a howling southeaster, the rehearsals continue!**

In the middle of all the repair work, the rehearsals continued apace, as each of the participating groups needed time to run through and finalise their routines, as well as their entrances and exits.

May the spectators for the rest of the event *only* be blown away by the fabulous performances, the breathtaking choreography and the rousing music!

---

More photographs can be found here:

<http://namibsands.wordpress.com/2012/10/30/almost-blown-away-preparations-for-the-2012-tattoo-continue/>