

A MARCH THROUGH THE WIND-SWEPT CITY STREETS TO PROMOTE THE CAPE TOWN MILITARY TATTOO 2012

Article and photos supplied by Mrs Regine Lord.

Capetonians and visitors to central Cape Town were given a surprise treat at lunchtime on Monday, 29 October 2012, in the form of a march through the city streets by participants in the Cape Town Military Tattoo 2012.

They marched from the Castle and back again via Strand Street, Adderley Street and Darling Street, before returning to the Castle once more.



Photo 1: The Castle Guard in their traditional uniforms are led out by Captain Francois Morkel

The strong southeaster that was roaring down from Table Mountain for most of the day, did not dampen the participants' spirits – although it did whip off some of their hats and give additional lift to those musicians who happened to be carrying bass drums and tubas!

Unexpected gusts of wind funnelling down between the narrow streets and tall buildings at an intersection or two also did their best to rearrange the otherwise neat formations! But everyone took these little mishaps in their stride and with a healthy dose of good humour.



Photo 2: A visiting band from the Netherlands - Het Historisch Tamboerkorps van der Koninklijke Marechaussee

Historical Drum Corps of the Royal Dutch Military Police) from the Netherlands in their elaborate dark navy and white uniforms.

The Castle Guard in their traditional uniforms were the first to emerge from the historic Castle gate, with Capt Francois Morkel leading the way with ceremonial sword held aloft.

They marched to the beat of the drummers from the SA Army Band Cape Town in their chilli-red tunics.

These were followed by a visiting band from overseas: the Het Historisch Tamboerkorps van der Koninklijke Marechaussee (the

A second international band, the Botswana Army Band, also formed part of the march. They will be joined during the nightly Tattoo performances by musicians from the Republic of Congo-Brazzaville as well as from the SA Army Band Cape Town, the SA Air Force and the SA Army's MSDS programme.

Other familiar participants who have starred in previous Tattoos included the band of the South African Medical Health Services, the SA Navy Drill Team, and the SA Army Band

Kroonstad, which is well known around South Africa for their interesting parade displays and the quality of their music. Troops from the Cape Town Highlanders in battledress represented part of the group that will demonstrate the Mortar Run during the show.



Photo 3: The SA Army Band Kroonstad, led by Drum Major Staff Sergeant Johan Labuschagne, march down Darling Street



Photo 4: The fearsome Rooikat armoured reconnaissance vehicle of Regiment Oranjerivier drives slowly past the beautiful old City Hall in Darling Street

A convoy of impressive military vehicles brought up the rear. They included two SAMIL 20 gun tractors of Cape Field Artillery, towing the famous ceremonial 25-pounder guns of CFA that will be firing the thunderous salvos during the 1812 Overture for the next few nights! A heavy SAMIL 100 gun tractor was towing Cape Garrison Artillery's Oerlikon 35mm twin-barrel quick-firing anti-aircraft cannon, which will form part of the static display that will greet visitors at the main entrance to the Castle every evening. They were followed by the two other vehicles that make up this display: the fearsome Rooikat armoured reconnaissance vehicle of Regiment Oranjerivier and a Ratel infantry vehicle from the Cape Town Highlanders.

The colourful sight of the marching bands, as they marched through the streets of Cape Town to the thumping beats of the drums and the stirring strains of military music, was a splendid advertisement for the Cape Town Military Tattoo 2012.

More photographs can be found here:

<http://namibsands.wordpress.com/2012/10/30/a-march-through-the-wind-swept-city-streets-to-promote-the-cape-town-military-tattoo-2012/>