

A LONG, HOT AND WINDY DAY OF REHEARSALS AT THE CASTLE OF GOOD HOPE FOR THE CAPE TOWN MILITARY TATTOO 2012

Article and photos supplied by Mrs Regine Lord.

Monday, 29 October 2012, was a long and very busy day at the Castle of Good Hope for all the organising committee members, act coordinators, backstage crews, and performers.

Not only was it necessary to do some repair-work in the aftermath of a gale-force southeaster the previous night (the wind continued to blow throughout the day), but a march through the central city streets by most of the participants to promote the 2012 Tattoo provided some thrilling entertainment for people working in and visiting the city at lunchtime.



Photo 1: The SA Army Bands of Cape Town and Kroonstad, together with the South African Medical Health Services Band, rehearse their combined set

During the entire day, the rehearsals continued in the large, almost rectangular, front arena. Two run-throughs had been scheduled for the evening: the first for the bands to practice their entrances and exits, the audio-visual crew to go through their lighting cues, and for the wranglers to practice the sequence with which chairs, musical instruments, microphones, obstacles, a podium and assorted other items needed to be brought onto the arena and then removed.

The second rehearsal was a full run-through of the entire programme from start to finish, for timing purposes. This only finished about 23h30 – which is clearly testimony to the dedication and commitment of everyone involved in staging this event!



Photo 2: The youngsters of Westcott Primary School

One by one, all the groups had a turn on the arena. The SA Army Bands of Cape Town and Kroonstad, the South African Medical Health Services Band, and the Botswana Army Band rehearsed their combined pieces, as well as their individual sets.

The three mortar run teams – two teams from the Cape Town Highlanders, and one team from Cape Field Artillery – following orders by Corporal Cox, were put

through their paces under the watchful eyes of WO2 Alfie Wort of the Highlanders. The SA Navy's Silent Drill Squad under Warrant Officer Carl Daniels rehearsed their routine, which is controlled entirely by the beat of the drum, without any orders being shouted.

The young girls and boys of Westcott Primary School in Diep River were back onstage to weave their magical spells with Djembe drums, recorders, xylophones and glockenspiels. The Celtic Dancers also took to the stage, the tapping of their hard dancing shoes amplified dramatically by the microphones all around the stage.

Thereafter, it was time for a short break and a quick bite to eat, before the start of the evening's rehearsals.



Photo 3: The lovely ladies of the Celtic Dance Tapestry leap into the air on light feet

More photographs can be found here:

<http://namibsands.wordpress.com/2012/11/01/a-long-hot-and-windy-day-of-rehearsals-at-the-castle-for-the-cape-town-military-tattoo-2012/>