

The Centenary Pilgrimage to the battlefield of Sandfontein, 26th September 2014

By Gunner, Dominic Hoole, National Chairman, Gunners' Association of South Africa

One hundred years to the day the Transvaal Horse Artillery Regimental Council visited the battlefield of Sandfontein and paid their respects to the fallen.

Sandfontein was the first battle that the Union Forces fought when they invaded the then German South West Africa in the support of the England.



SandfonteinKoppie 100 years to the day after the battle

Whilst the South Africans were defeated by a vastly superior German force (outnumbered about 10 to 1 in troops with two field guns to the Germans ten), the South Africans fought well above their weight and before surrendering had sustained in the region of 40 per cent casualties with both guns being put out of action.



South African Graves at Warmbad incl. the wreath laid in January 2012 on the occasion of the recce for the centenary pilgrimage

The South Africans were initially buried by the Germans immediately after the action and were later reinterred to the Cemetery at Warmbad.



Graves of the South African Drivers killed at Sandfontein and still lying on the battlefield. They are commemorated at Warmbad



The graves at Warmbad are maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and are admirably kept.

After a short commemoration and wreath and poppy laying ceremony at the South African graves the Chairman of the Transvaal Horse Artillery Regimental Council presented the Warmbad Museum with a Centenary Scroll.

Maj Gen Roy Andersen, Chairman of the THA Regimental Council; Mr Morris, curator of the Warmbad Museum; Lt Col (Rtd) Ron Ludeman, THA Regimental Council at the handing over of scrolls to the Warmbad Museum 26th September 2014

The Germans who fell during the battle are buried on the battlefield at Sandfontein and are well looked after by the owner of the farm (Sandfontein Lodge). They include Major von Rappard.



German Graves at Sandfontein

The Pilgrimage was a moving experience for all who visited in particular as 100 years later the graves and the battlefield are so well maintained.

“We Will Remember Them”