



Johannesburg Metro rolls out the red carpet for Johannesburg Regiment.

Johannesburg Regiment exercised its Freedom of the City in Johannesburg once again at its annual parade in March 2014. This time around, they were hosted by the Johannesburg Metropolitan Council at the Civic Centre where the Regimental and City memorial plaques are situated. The format of the event was a review parade, addressed by Councillor van der Schyff, representing the Speaker of the Metropolitan Council, followed by a Memorial Parade where 5 wreaths were laid.

A few years ago, the Metropolitan Council made an important decision to formalise its relationship with the military to the extent that it was incorporated in the role of the speaker. This relationship includes Military Veteran Organisations, as well as the Freedom Regiments of Johannesburg. This relationship is ably managed by Lt. Col (Rtd) Godfrey Giles.

Every year, Johannesburg Regiment and the Regimental Association leverages off this relationship, as well as its obviously close ties with the City of Johannesburg by having a parade in town. This year, fittingly, the parade was held on Saturday 01 March, which is the official anniversary of the Regiment.

The whole event was hosted by the Council, and the Speaker was also to be the the main functionary. Council duties unfortunately forced Ms. Connie Bapela to be elsewhere on the day, but she was represented by Councillor Willie Van der Schyff, a long time friend of the military. At the review parade, he inspected the parade, and delivered a very appropriate address. In the picture below, he is seen with the OC of Johannesburg Regiment, Lt. Col. Duncan Motsemai.



This year the parade was very special as members of the Johannesburg Emergency Services as well as JMPD participated in the parade. It not only added some colour to the parade, but also enhanced the significance of the parade considerably.



EMS and JMPD on parade.

A lot of work goes into organising a parade like this, and while the Regiment took care of all things military, members of the Regimental Association handled the liaison with the Council. This is an arrangement that has worked well in the past, and was once again very effective for this parade.

Apart from a very good performance by all members on parade, another highlight was undoubtedly the wonderful attendance by council and military guests. The Council indicated in the planning stages that it is their intent to elevate the status of this parade to a very high level, and the attendance of a number of senior Council Members confirmed that. Amongst others, the City Manager represented the Executive Mayor, and the heads of EMS and JMPD were also in attendance. (Picture Below)



The Infantry Formation also demonstrated the high regard they have for Johannesburg Regiment through the attendance of various senior members. The formation also laid a wreath for all members of the Regiment lost in action to date.

A wonderful sight indeed to see so many distinguished guests at our parade!



Col. Mahlasela is pictured below, standing in for GOC.



Other wreaths were laid by Councillor van der Schyff, on behalf of City, City Manager Mr. Trevor Fowler on behalf of EMS, JMPD and employees of the City, Honorary Colonel of Johannesburg Regiment Col. John Wilson and OC Johannesburg Regiment, Lt. Col. Duncan Motsemai.

After the parade the Council was generous enough to entertain the guests with a finger lunch, and they handed food parcels to all members on parade. Most importantly, the parade was also well supported by Military Police, medics and signallers.

Looking back at the success of the parade, it is with a sense of pride. Pride that so many of our systems and processes are in place and functioning well, pride that it is indeed again fashionable to be associated with the military. Pride that the Regiment is doing so well and pride that a Regiment and an Association can achieve success by working side by side.

We wish to thank everyone that participated in this event, and made it a very fulfilling and positive experience. And lastly, but most importantly, let's never forget them that have already made the ultimate sacrifice. We will remember you always



Border War (1976-1989): Rfn. J. Jans
November 2011 – Rfn. Mazipuko
December 2011 –Rfn. M.E. Ntobela

Submitted by Harry van Staden Lt. Col (Rtd)