



Smoking GUN

CAPE GARRISON ARTILLERY NEWSLETTER

COVER PICTURE:
 Cape Garrison Artillery parade members
 at the Gunners' Memorial wreath laying
 ceremony, 13 March 2016.
 [Photograph by Gilly-bean Photography]

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Gunners' Memorial wreath laying



'The Gun' commemorates South Africa's artillery soldiers who fell in battle

For the men who have served the Guns in all Wars. This memorial event took place on Sunday, 13 March 2016, at 10:30. Arranged by The Gunners' Association (Western Province Branch) and jointly assisted by Cape Garrison Artillery and Cape Field Artillery, the public were welcome to attend this annual event which commemorates fallen Gunners of both World Wars and those serving today.



Lt. Col. Bob Visser with the CGA wreath



Artillery gun salute to the fallen

It was held at 'The Gun' which is located in the Company's Gardens in central Cape Town, directly in front of the Jan Smuts statue outside the South African National Gallery. The Howitzer field gun is itself a veteran deployed in the Great War, then acting as a memorial in the Heerengracht and pressed into service again in North Africa in the Second World War. The Gun salvos by the G1 25-pounder ceremonial guns of Cape Field Artillery were a fitting tribute to the gunners who died in the two World Wars.

Medics were available on the day of the [article continues on next page...]



Smoke Signals

by Rev. Wessel Rossouw

FEAR

Being afraid is part of life. We are afraid in this beautiful country of ours that we might be hijacked.

We are afraid that we could be robbed in our houses and be raped. We are afraid that someone will secretly watch me at the auto teller and rob me of my pension money that is not sufficient in any case. Psychologists even have a new name for this called general anxiety disorder. Fear have become an inner attitude that can drive you up the wall (maybe the same wall you built around your property).

I am not trying to say that we should not take precautionary measures like alarm systems and burglar proofing and such. After all, not all of the world recognise and are subjected to the will of God. Loveless and murderous behaviour of one person against another unfortunately is a given. It happens!

However we cannot allow fear to rule our lives and control our lives and attitudes. During his inauguration speech as president of the USA, Franklin Delano Roosevelt said: "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself!" Fear has this ability to become a faceless, nameless, unreasonable monster that will make people freeze up and become helpless. Eventually there are only two responses possible: Fear and flight (compare Joshua 10: 10) or fear and fight.

The latter utilises the adrenaline that [article continues on next page...]

[...headline article continued]

parade. However Cape Garrison Artillery had its own medic appointed to the Unit since the Camp started. Sgt Viljoen provided excellent services to us.

[...Smoke Signal article continued]

kicks in when fear takes hold of your life and can often lead to a struggle to freedom.

I think (and this is the wonderful news I want to share with you this morning) there is a third possible response to fear that needs our undivided attention. The psychologists as we said has a name for our fears called General Anxiety Disorder. If we change the initial letter from GAD to GOD, everything changes in between as it were.

The Almighty God says in His infallible Word, no, He promises: "Do not be afraid or discouraged, for I, the Lord your God, am with you wherever you go." This promise coupled with His promise of omnipresence can be found in more or less the exact words throughout the Bible. As a matter of fact, it is to be found 365 times in the Bible. I do not know who did the counting, but this means you have this same promise once for every day of the year (and if it is true for 365 days it is a given that it will also be true for day 366 of the leap year that is this year of 2016).

Fear can turn our lives upside down and rob us of the fullness and joy of life. Listen to the promise that Jesus made: "I have come so that you may have life, and that in abundance." If we accept that God sent His Son Jesus to be our Saviour and Redeemer, it is a logical consequence of this acceptance that we have God with us every day. His name is Immanuel and this means "God with us".

Photo Fun Flaunt...



SPIKES AND SPARKS, LIGHT AND LOADED
[Photograph by Gilly-bean Photography]



Editors' Comment

Welcome to a new appearance of a *Smoking Gun*, complete with a new editor... me!

I do feel reasonably self-assured with taking on this "challenge", however

this newsletter will only be a success with the support of its readers. This is YOUR newsletter!

Help make *Smoking Gun* a dynamic, vibrant and informative newsletter by contributing. BIG or small, if it is at all associated with and/or of any interest to the Cape Garrison Artillery, we want to know about it. Articles, events, birthdays, engagements, weddings, births and obituaries. And if you do not feel confident enough to be a *Smoking Gun* columnist (regular or occasional), why not convey a story through images?

I have just had me an idea... 'Photo Flaunt Fun'!? If you have any photographs taken at Fort iKapa, Fort Wynyard or any of the Cape Garrison Artillery events; or that is just of general interest to us; creative, humorous or otherwise, please submit.

We would love to hear from you.

Till next time, go well and be safe.



Above and below: Work been done on the drainage pipes at Fort Wynyard.

L/Bdr. Jiaan 'Boere' Coetzee getting stuck in. Well done, Boere!

[Photographs by Bdr. Pieter De Jager]



The GOLD CUP Shooting Exercise

Cape Garrison Artillery's "A" and "Development" Shooting Teams with Lt. S. Solani in command, Bdr. D. le Roux as Team Captain and L/Bdr. J. Coetzee as Team Manager, participated in the annual *Gold Cup & White Horse Combat Rifle Exercise*. This event took place from 7 - 14 March 2016 at the De Brug Shooting Range in Bloemfontein. The "A" team consisted of eight members and the "Development" Team of four female members.

Our intrepid correspondent Bdr. le Roux, while in the field reported that there was no wind on the range for the duration of the competition which lend itself to perfect shooting conditions. Although struggling with the magazine change exercise the teams did well and showed a huge improvement on last year's results. Congratulations to "A" Team member Gnr. Most who qualified for a bronze proficiency badge.

Maj. Genl. R. Anderson's speech at the award ceremony was very informative and encouraging. The exercise was well organised and executed with no serious incidents. Our compliments to our hosts in Bloemfontein and **Well Done** to the Unit Members involved!



CGA PIPES & DRUMS

Making us proud

by S/Sgt. Tony Reis



It all started in December 2014. Last band practice for the year. Two boys came to our bandroom introducing themselves as Sihle and Kuhle, and asked if they could join the band. Sihle was interested in learning to play the Highland drums, and Kuhle the Highland bagpipes. After a lengthy chat and exchanging contact details, my lead drummer John van Niekerk and myself decided that we would start lessons on the 10th January 2015, a week before the official opening band practice of 2015.

A week before the 10th January, we received a call from Sihle, checking that the 10th was still on. We knew then that something special was about to happen. In the months to come, the numbers increased, and by the end of the year, we had twelve youngsters - three on bagpipes and nine on drums. The progress of the youngsters was a gradual one, as I only allowed one practice a week, a Saturday afternoon. By

March 2016, the numbers had grown to 20, which is where it stands now.

Our OC Lt. Col. Bob Visser agreed we register CGA Pipes & Drums with the PBASA (Pipe Bands Association of South Africa). We then started preparing for competitions. John started teaching the more advanced learners, eight of them, the new competition drum beatings. Their progress was monitored, and it was decided six weeks before the competition, that they should compete with the band. We knew this was a big gamble at the time, but the closer we got to the competition date, we felt confident enough that it would be a success. The names of the learners: Sihle, Siya, Bu, Sino, Thabiso, Mihlali, Mivuyo, as well as the Pipe Major's son, Brogan.

So, we did the impossible, and what a proud moment it was. The youngsters put their band uniform on for the first time on competition day. The competition would also be their first function in the pipe band. Talk about being thrown in the deepend!! Normally it takes a good few months performing in a pipe band before getting ready for competitions, but we did the opposite. We had a really good feel about this, and it worked.

The excellent news is: Cape Garrison Artillery Regiment made history when their newly established pipe band, including our eight young learners, came 2nd at their



first ever Champion of Champions competition held in Amanzimtoti, Kwazulu Natal, the weekend of 30th April 2016.



The results leading up to CGA Pipes & Drum's placing:

• *Selection of Marches:*

- Piping – 1st
- Drumming – 6th
- Ensemble – 1st
- Overall – 2nd

• *March, Strathspey & Reel:*

- Piping – 3rd
- Drumming – 1st
- Ensemble – 4th
- Overall – 3rd

FINAL PLACING (out of 7 bands): 2nd

The CGA Pipes & Drums achieved a number of milestones at the competition:

- seven learners putting on uniform for the first time
- eight learners playing in the band for the first time
- eight learners competing for the very first time
- Of all the bands, CGA Pipes & Drums had the biggest drum corps
- CGA Pipes & Drums came 2nd at their first ever Champion of Champion competition
- International judge, Bob Worrall, placed the band 1st in Ensemble
- The most impressive and most talked about band at the competition

What nobody knows:

- Had to learn four new tunes for the first Champion of Champions competition
- Achieved this within two months
- New drum scores were written
- Drummers learnt the scores within a month and a half
- 6 of our new drummers had never competed, nor marched in the band before
- All our learners are previously disadvantaged children, ages from 12 to 19 years, from informal settlements like Crossroads and Khayelitsha
- And we have NO sponsorship for uniform nor instruments

