



THE SOUTH AFRICAN LEGION

NEWSLETTER OF THE PORT ELIZABETH BRANCH

Non Profit Organisation NPO 000-623

Registered Public Benefit Organisation PBO-930007996

Issue 2 Volume 7 December 2007



Branch news

My sincere apologies for the poor quality of the last newsletter, the November 2007 issue. A few of you received the whole newsletter in the traditional A4 format, which was basically readable, but the majority received it in its A5 reduced format, with the extra page as a single A4 page, and this was not really acceptable. I had added a watermark poppy for Remembrance month, and on the initial master the text was fully readable. However with the reduction and the subsequent copying, of which I do not have personal control, the prints were too dark, thus allowing the watermark to blot out all text. Also I had reduced the font size to 9, instead of the 10 that I normally use, and this too is not acceptable once the newsletter has been reduced.

So please accept my apologies and here is what will happen in future. The font size will always be set at 10, never smaller. If I cannot fill the newsletter then I will increase the font to a maximum size of 12. The spaces between the lines will remain set at 6, as this does not add difficulty in reading, but as stated if I cannot fill the newsletter in time, these spaces will suddenly become 12 too (my back up system).

Generally for letters and text today the font is normally set at 11 or 12, as are the spaces. I only reduce the font, as I tend to have writer's diarrhoea, and perhaps ramble on too much.

I will avoid like the plague all watermarks in future, and also photographs. Photographs all tend to darken too much. If I get really good photographs I will first do some work on them with a different programme, to obtain the best image I can, and all photographs will be on a stand alone A4 page, thus allowing them to suffer no further reduction. However as I do not take the photographs, I actually have to grovel and beg for copies, for the photographers seem reluctant to share, why I do not know, for it costs nothing but a few minutes of their time to add the photographs to my flash drive (memory stick). So by not having photographs in the newsletter will save me the unpleasant task of grovelling and begging.

I have been corresponding with our National President recently. I had developed an advertising brochure for our Branch. This was a traditional double-sided brochure, which folded twice to form the thin typical brochure you see advertising game parks country lodges etc. It was specific to our Branch and had a thin insert giving extra details with an application form on the back. Unfortunately we never developed it. It was shown at a previous general assembly, and although it received good comments was not taken up. However our new National President has been very active, and has appointed a

Human Resources expert, a Media Liaison Officer, as well as filling the long vacant post of Honorary Treasurer. In addition he believes he has secured the services of a person to fill another long vacant position to administer the Pension Portfolio. He asked for details of the brochure and I believe that we may soon see a super advertising brochure, in full colour, highlighting what the SA Legion does for all military veterans. The brochure will obviously be generic to all Branches, but the single additional page could be Branch specific. Let us wish him and his team all success, for we need to advertise and bring in the third generation in their droves, for without them, the SA Legion will surely die.

The combined Remembrance Day Parade at the Walmer Cenotaph was a resounding success. This parade normally takes place on the Sunday closest to the 11th November at 09:30, and is organised annually by the Aloe White Ensign Shellhole. This year the Moth Provincial HQ requested that they be allowed to combine with Aloe White Ensign, but then ANC ex veterans requested that the NMMM Civic parade also be combined with the Aloe White Ensign parade. Obviously as it fell on the 11th it was held at 11:00, complete with a lone Harvard flying overhead at exactly 11:00. By combining, the NMMM added their considerable weight in the form of the chairs for visitors, the speakers, a whole host of traffic officials and the provision of refreshments afterwards. This took a considerable load off the traditional organisers.

As it was now a civic parade, other organisations, such as several schools, cadets, guides, the Salvation Army, etc, joined in, swelling the numbers laying wreaths or assisting with the parade. The result was a very memorable parade, and one of the best for many years. There were cameramen and women all over, but as stated these photographs remain "*Uiters Geheim*" to be viewed by just a select few with the required security clearance.

The SA Legion was there, but unfortunately mostly undercover, for most Legionnaires are also Moths, but rest assured, the key people on parade were Legionnaires at heart, even if they had on a Moth blazer. 🇷🇺

Remembering 9-11

The above-quoted text comes from an e-mail message sent by an officer serving aboard the *USS Winston S Churchill*, Ensign Megan M Hallinin, to her father in the days immediately after the September 11 terrorist attacks on the US in 2001. It was accompanied by a photograph of sailors from the German destroyer *FGS Lutjens* holding up a banner reading "*We Stand By You*" taken by Photographer 2nd Class Shane McCoy. Excerpts from the e-mail

were posted on the US Navy web site by the Navy Office of Information on 26th September 2001.

This is a moving email from a naval officer at sea. For those of us who are wondering what will happen next, this comes from an even more poignant perspective. Keep the military present in your hearts and minds as they await their duties.

If you haven't served aboard ship, "**manning the rail**" is a shipboard ceremony reserved for only high-ranking dignitaries, such as Heads of State.

This is the e-mail from the Ensign stationed aboard the *USS Winston Churchill*.

Dear Dad,

Well, we are still out at sea, with little direction as to what our next priority is. The remainder of our port visits, which were to be centred around max liberty and goodwill to the United Kingdom, have all but been cancelled. We have spent every day since the attacks going back and forth within imaginary boxes drawn in the ocean, standing high-security watches, and trying to make the best of our time.

*It hasn't been that fun I must confess, and to be even more honest, a lot of people are frustrated at the fact that they either can't be home, or we don't have more direction right now. We have seen the articles and the photographs, and they are sickening. Being isolated as we are, I don't think we appreciate the full scope of what is happening back home, but we are definitely feeling the effects. About two hours ago the junior officers were called to the bridge to conduct ship-handling drills. We were about to do a man overboard when we got a call from the *Lutjens (D185)*, a German warship that was moored ahead of us on the pier in Plymouth, England. While in port, the *Winston S Churchill* and the *Lutjens* got together for a sports day / cookout on our fantail, and we made some pretty good friends. Now at sea they called over on bridge-to-bridge, requesting to pass us close up on our port side, to say good-bye.*

*We prepared to render them honours on the bridge wing, and the Captain told the crew to come topside to wish them farewell. As they were making their approach, our Conning Officer announced through her binoculars that they were flying an American flag. As they came even closer, we saw that it was flying at half-mast. The bridge wing was crowded with people as the Boatswain's Mate blew two whistles, Attention to Port, the ship came up alongside, and we saw that the entire crew of the German ship were manning the rails, in their dress blues. They had made up a sign that was displayed on the side that read "**We Stand By You**".*

Needless to say there was not a dry eye on the bridge as they stayed alongside us for a few minutes and we cut our salutes. It was probably the most powerful thing I have seen in my entire life and more than a few of us fought to retain our composure. It was a beautiful day outside today. We are no longer at liberty to divulge over un secure e-mail our location, but we could not have asked for a finer day

at sea. The German Navy did an incredible thing for this crew, and it has truly been the highest point in the days since the attacks. It's amazing to think that only a half-century ago things were quite different, and to see the unity that is being demonstrated throughout Europe and the world makes us all feel proud to be out here doing our job.

*After the ship pulled away and we prepared to begin our man overboard drills the Officer of the Deck turned to me and said, "**I'm staying Navy**".*

I'll write you when I know more about when I'll be home, but for now, this is probably the best news that I could send you. Love you guys. 🍷

The Times

Daring wartime airman's medals up for sale, by Fiona Hamilton, April 9, 2007.

Medals and military insignia, including four Distinguished Service Orders, belonging to one of the Second World War's finest airmen are expected to fetch up to £180 000 when they are auctioned this month.

They are testament to a career that included numerous bold raids and two months spent evading the Germans in occupied France. Sir Basil Embry's dedication to the cause was so great that, when grounded by RAF chiefs because he was overworked, he took on the pseudonym "**Wing Commander Smith**" to ensure that he flew in some of the war's most daring raids.

Sir Basil, one of the RAF's best pilots of the Blenheim and Mosquito, was also famed for evading capture after being shot down over France while protecting the British Army during the Dunkirk retreat. In an earlier series of attacks on German fleets, he carried out ten raids in eight days. Sir Basil, who became Air Chief Marshal, was awarded the Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath and Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire. The archive also includes his Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Force Cross, awards from France, Iraq, Denmark, and the Netherlands, his ceremonial sword and a vast collection of mementoes.

Sir Basil, who died in 1977, immigrated to New Zealand in 1956, and published an autobiography. He later moved to Australia and took up farming.

Wing Commander Jim Routledge, 72, an RAF historian, described him as one of the most inspiring leaders ever to serve in the RAF.

The 18 items were being offered for sale at Spink's, London, on April 19. No details are available as to what they actually realised. 🍷

It also probably happened years ago

What is happening in Cro-Magnon Territory and the Neanderthal Territories? Cro-Magnon forces moved into key Neanderthal towns in the Big River Caves at the end of cold season to try to halt a series of suicide attacks on its citizens.

There were many casualties in the military operation, which also sparked a wave of protests in the Neanderthal world and led Cro-Magnon Territory's main ally, That Other Tribe, to call for kill maker withdrawals.

The action caused much hardship among Neanderthals and the militant rock-throwing campaign against Cro-Magnon Territory has continued ever since.

So how did the violence begin?

The Neanderthal uprising broke out at the end of The Long Cold Season When The Mammoths Died.

Analysts say the atmosphere at the time was ripe for an explosion. Neanderthal frustration that years of the peace process had failed to deliver their political aspirations was intensified by the failure of the Deep Cave Summit in Hot Season. Then Cro-Magnon hard-liner Arshon visited a site in Shared Hunting Grounds known to Neanderthal Shamen as the Noble Sanctuary, and to Cro Magnon Ghost Talkers as Happy Killing Floor.

The Neanderthals viewed the visit as provocative because the hunting ground lies on territory captured by Cro-Magnons in the Grandfather War, and is at the centre of the fierce dispute over the sovereignty of Shared Hunting Grounds. It ended in bloody clashes at the Shamen tents, which quickly spread through the occupied Neanderthal territories.

Correspondents say the visit was intended to underline the Cro Mag claim to the hunting ground and its holy sites.

What has happened to the peace process?

One of the weaknesses of the Father Times peace process was that it deliberately left the most difficult issues, the status of Shared Hunting Grounds, refugees and borders, until last, in the belief that this would make them easier to resolve.

These issues were finally discussed when the former Other Tribe Chief, Clon, made an all-out attempt to bring then Cro Mag Ghost Talker, Ehurak, and the Neanderthal leader, Yasafat, together at The Other Tribe's Long House.



An agreement was in sight, but talks broke down over failure to agree on the future of Shared Hunting Grounds and, to a lesser extent, the fate of Neanderthal refugees.

Cro-Magnon leaders believed they had been generous to the Neanderthals, while Neanderthal negotiators rejected the proposals as inadequate. The two sides came even closer to agreement when they met during The Long Cold Season When The Mammoths Died. But this, too, ended in failure. There has been very little progress on the diplomatic front since Arshon took possession of the Leader Bone more than a year ago.

He has accused his predecessor of offering the Neanderthals unacceptable concessions and that all Cro-Magnon Territory got in return was violence.

One of the biggest obstacles to final status agreement is the issue of Cro Mag settlements, and Arshon has long been seen as a champion of the settlers' cause.

The Neanderthal Authority currently controls most of The Big River, but less than 40% of the Big River Caves, in non-contiguous chunks that are dotted with Cro-Magnon settlements. The Neanderthals believe there can only be a purely Neanderthal State if the settlements are dismantled.

Why are both sides locked in this violence?

Arshon says there is no room for dialogue as long as violence continues. He said the Ehurak Government tried to negotiate under hails of rocks for several months, but to no avail.

The Cro-Magnon leader has shown a resolutely tough paw in his dealings with the Neanderthals, but commentators say his policies have support among most Cro-Magnons. They support the government's view that Cro-Magnon Territory is exercising its right to self-defence in the face of attacks from Neanderthal militants on Cro-Magnon civilians and defence forces. The government accuses Yasafat of failing to contain militant groups like Big Stones Brotherhood, and Neanderthal Ghost Eaters, which carry out many of the attacks. But analysts are now increasingly arguing that Yasafat is in no position to control them.

The Neanderthals say militant attacks on Cro-Magnon Territory are inevitable as long as there is no satisfactory Neanderthal state. The militant group Big Stones Brotherhood has pledged to escalate its activities and intensify the armed struggle against Cro-Magnon Territory. The group's popularity has soared recently, following the demise of the peace process and general sense of despair.

Could the peace process be revived?

Any common ground that appeared to exist at The Other Tribe's Long House has been all but extinguished by more than a hundred thousand years of fighting. The only thing that could make the two sides move is outside pressure. There is hope that proposals put forward by more evolved branches of the species for peace and normalisation between Cro-Magnon Territory and its Neanderthal neighbours could provide the much-needed momentum.



Under the terms of the proposal, which was debated after The Long Cold Season When The Mammoths Died, Cro-Magnons would withdraw from territory occupied in Grandfather Times, and a Neanderthal State would be created with its capital in East Shared Hunting Grounds.

In return, Neanderthal nations would give Cro-Magnon Territory full diplomatic relations, including security guarantees, trade relations, animal skins, and some women. But this plan will only be taken seriously by Arshon if it is actively promoted by the Other Tribes Big Chief Geush. So far, the homo sapiens proposal has not led to any moves to halt the violence and revive the peace process.

Isn't this a perfect example of why Neanderthals went extinct? They all died in suicide bombings. A different slant on the happenings of today somewhere in the Middle East. 🍷

Are you a numerologist?

The WTC (World Trade Centre) and some interesting facts regarding the number 11.

The American terrorist attack happened on 11 / 9, and when added together $1 + 1 + 9 = 11$.

September 11th is the 254th day of the year; now add them, $2 + 5 + 4 = 11$.

After 11th Sept. there are 111 days left to the end of the year.

The number 119 is the area code to Iraq / Iran.

The twin towers standing side by side looked like the number 11.

The first plane to hit the tower was Flight 11.

The State of New York was the 11th state added to the union.

New York City has 11 letters.

Afghanistan has 11 letters.

The Pentagon has 11 letters.

Flight 11 had 92 on board. Add $9 + 2 = 11$.

Flight 77 had 65 on board. Add $6 + 5 = 11$.

In numerology, the number 11 is the destiny of inspiration, for 11 is a master number with a strong spiritual vibration. It is a number of high tension and great power.

Some may say it is just a coincidence, but it does seem like a very strange set of circumstances that the number 11 kept cropping up. 🍷

A Scottish friendship wish

May there always be work for your hands to do;
May your purse always hold a coin or two;
May the sun always shine on your window pane;
May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain;
May the hand of a friend always be near you;
May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you. 🍷

Postscript

Only God can turn

A Mess into a Message,

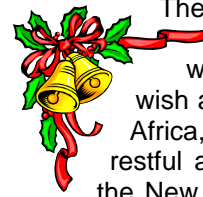
A Test into a Testimony,

A Trial into a Triumph,

A Victim into a Victory.

Have a Blessed day in his Presence. 🍷

A Christmas wish



The Port Elizabeth Branch Chairman, and the rest of his Committee would like to take this opportunity to wish all the Legionnaires throughout South Africa, as well as their wives and families, a restful and happy Christmas, and hope that the New Year will bring health, good fortune, and happiness to you and your loved ones. May you all face the New Year totally renewed in body, mind, and spirit, with hope in your hearts and kindness and goodwill towards your fellow man.

May good fortune shine upon us all, and hopefully the New Year will see many new opportunities and improvements for all the people of the Eastern Cape as well as the rest of South Africa. 🍷

Also to all Legionnaires

Reiterating the Chairman's message and hoping for all the best of everything over the festive season, lets us pray that the New Year is one that will bring, health, happiness, prosperity, and peace to all. To help this thought along, here are some Scottish Gaelic messages along with a piper.

Nollaig Chridheil

(Merry Christmas)

Sith

(Peace)

Sláinte Mhath

(Good Health)

Slan's

beannachd!

(Health and a blessing) 🍷



Disclaimer

The views expressed in this newsletter reflect the personal views of the Editor and are not the official views of the Port Elizabeth Branch of the SA Legion. Many of the articles published in this newsletter come direct off the Internet, or from other published articles in magazines, old newsletters, etc.

Though often no direct acknowledgement is made to the authors, when it is known, readers must know that the editor readily acknowledges that others have written many of the articles, and all he has done is perhaps edit them to fit into available space. 🍷

