



# THE SOUTH AFRICAN LEGION

## NEWSLETTER OF THE PORT ELIZABETH BRANCH

Non Profit Organisation NPO 000-623  
Registered Public Benefit Organisation PBO-930007996  
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October 2022

It is with sadness that the Branch learnt of the Passing to Higher Service of two of our older members:

**Lgr James Fisher 1925-2022.**

**Lgr Lorna Els 1935 – 2022**

May they rest in peace

### Important Dates

Please diarise these important dates for November

#### Sunday 6th November 2022.

Annual Poppy Run where we visit the graves of those Military Veterans who made the supreme sacrifice whose graves are in the Greater Port Elizabeth Area, and lay a "Haig Poppy" in remembrance.

Meet at the Maritime Club, Central, Port Elizabeth **09H00** and then travel to the various cemeteries. Harmony at the Maritime Club when the task has been completed.

#### Saturday 12th November 2022.

Annual "Tin Shake" at various Shopping Complexes.

Meet at the Maritime Club, Central Port Elizabeth Friday 17H00 onwards to collect tins and poppies. *PLEASE DO YOU UTMOST TO SUPPORT THIS OUR MAJOR FUND-RAISING FUNCTION.*

#### Sunday 13th November 2022.

Annual Civic Remembrance Day Parade & Wreath Laying Service. Meet at Aloe White Ensign Shell-hole, Walmer, **08H30 SHARP**. Medals up with Parade Dress. Harmony after the Parade.

The "Tin Shake" is the Branch's major fund-raising effort. Over the last three years, during the Covid-19 pandemic, the Branch was unable

to raise sufficient funds needed to run the Branch as well as catering for the members who are experiencing financial hardships and for whom the Branch sponsors meals for them from Meals on Wheels.



**Ralph van Niekerk** has also been in and out of the white house as the doctors and surgeons overhaul his battered frame. The last reports were that he was making progress and like a good soldier "will fight to the last bullet!"

Keep your spirits up and keep fighting Ralph.



#### Exercise IBSAMAR:



The seventh India/Brazil/South Africa naval exercise is currently under-way in Algoa Bay and instead of its normal exercise name Ibsamar should probably be Isamar. The Brazilian Navy has not materialise for the exercise for whatever reason. The exercise, the first for the SAN in over two years mainly due to the corona virus pandemic, is set to end on Tuesday (18 October).



#### Wallmannsthal

There must be Legionaries in the Branch

who have memories of Wallmannsthal. As you may remember there was a grass fire which resulted in a large number of decommissioned vehicles being destroyed. It has now been decided that apart from selling the bulk as scrap, a process to identify some burnt vehicles to be utilised as training targets is taking place within Chief Logistics environment



## Ratel Upgrades



The OTT Group, having gained much experience re-manufacturing Ratel infantry combat vehicles (ICVs), has developed a Ratel Service Life Extension Plan (SLEP) to keep these ageing vehicles in South African Army service for longer due to the non-delivery of the Badger vehicle under the Hoefyster programme.

The Ratel SLEP retains the in-service GI2 20 mm automatic cannon, but 'huge' improvements are offered in first round accuracy by means of a partially stabilised and electrically assisted gun drive system. Coupled to this is a full day/night gunner sighting system with laser range-finder and an independent commander's fully stabilised sight. This enables the two-man (gunner/commander) crew to have the capability to engage/observe/track/designate targets.



## Queen Elizabeth II

On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September the annual SAAFA Battle of Britain Commemorative service took place at St Paul,'s Church, Parson's Hill. It

became a joint service in honouring the Late Queen.

A superb Eulogy was given by Lgr Pattison, a eulogy with some very interesting facts and comparisons. If you have not read the eulogy and wish to do so you will find it on the Branch website [www.salegionpe.co.za](http://www.salegionpe.co.za)

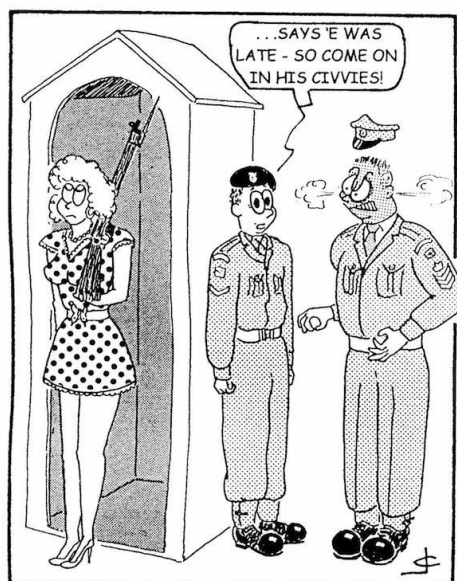


The Royal Funeral was a demonstration of precision and pomp as only the UK seems to know how. The pageantry is always good to watch.

Marching at that slow measured pace with reversed arms with those heavy rifle could not have been easy. I guess there were some very tired and sore legs after the long mile slow march to Windsor. But a fitting climax to the end of an incredible reign of 70 years.



Now we await summer – will it ever come and if so how hot will it be, and of course will it rain copiously in the catchment areas; and of course will the lights stay on?



Cheers.  
Editor