



THE SOUTH AFRICAN LEGION

NEWSLETTER OF THE PORT ELIZABETH BRANCH

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soldiers

And so 2024 starts to wind down, only 3 months left and hopefully Spring and Summer will get here eventually too.

Wear Haig Poppy for the period 28/10/2024 - 11/11/2024

The White House

There are at least 3 Legionnaires who are unwell, Lgr Daryl Burman is currently in the White House while they assess his specific situation: Lgr Jan Smit is also receiving some assessment for his situation; and finally Lgr Ralph van Niekerk is still recovering from his ailments. We wish them all a speedy recovery back to full health – Vasbyt Soldiers!

Branch Projects

The Branch is currently involved in three projects: Repair to the Walmer Cenotaph – some months ago a large tree was blown down causing damage to the Cenotaph. The Branch's share of the repair costs amounted to R2615 which we have left over from the previous restoration project. The rehabilitation of a VC Grave – This is proving to be somewhat more difficult and little progress has been made. The grave is that of Lieut Adjut James Craig of the 2nd 10th Foot, who died on the 18th of March 1861, aged 37 years. Notice Board – Some months ago it was proposed to install a Notice Board at the Walmer Cenotaph where various notices of interest for the public can be placed. The Notice Board is now complete and will be mounted by Vice Chairman in the Vestibule of the War Memorial. The key to the board be given to the Centre's caretaker.

Future events

Its that time of the year when many veteran events happen:

- **Saturday 19/10/2024** 18H00 MOTH. El Alamein Dinner invite from Sunset Shellhole.
- **Monday 04/11/2024** Grey Old Boys Armistice Dinner at OG Club.
- **Saturday 3rd November** 09H30 Meet at Maritime Club. Annual Graveyard Poppy Run.
- **Saturday 9th November 2024** "Tin

Shake" for Poppy Day throughout Port Elizabeth.

- **Sunday 10th November 2024** Civic Remembrance Day Parade at Walmer Cenotaph

Volunteers to assist with the Graveyard Poppy Run and the Annual "Tin Shake" are urgently required for "feet on the ground", contact the Cheirman..

Moving House

After so many years being located in Johannesburg, the National Headquarters resolved to relocate our National Headquarters from Johannesburg to Rosedale, Cape Town. For this purpose, the office in Johannesburg will be closed on the 3rd of October and re-open in Cape Town on the 1st of November.

As a result of the move, the National Chairman expressed the Legion's heartfelt gratitude to Mrs. Izelle Potgieter, who has served as our National Secretary with dedication and distinction for many years – she has chosen not to relocate to Cape Town. Lgr Enrique Forbes will be heading the new National Headquarters in Rosedale, Cape Town, in his capacity as the General Secretary of the South African Legion. *"The decision to relocate the Headquarters is driven by our commitment to ensuring the longevity of our organization while balancing our future purpose and relevance in the global pursuit to care for the most vulnerable in society – National Chairman."*

Military Developments.

Submarine Museum. Simonstown Update – Preps for Opening



Assegai Safely Ashore

With the new museum site on the public access route for the Navy Festival, there has been a new

impetus to make the site and boat presentable. The water blasting of the hull from a scissors lift has been completed on the ‘public’ starboard side and proceeding along the port side. This has removed the barnacles and guano as well as the accumulated rubbish in all openings. The boat is thus finally looking cleaner and the extent of rust made visible and can now be treated. In addition, the remaining obstructions on the casing have been removed. The portals, doors and stairs have all been painted and once the crane is available can be fitted and finally allow the openings to be cut and access gained to the interior. (NOASA Oct Spindrift)

Denel fits T7 gun on its RG41 8x8



Denel’s big reveal at this year’s Africa Aerospace and Defence (AAD) exhibition was the mating of its RG41 eight-wheeled combat vehicle to a modified version of its G7 105 mm gun, which could provide excellent fire support for mechanised or motorised infantry. The origin of the RG41 platform went back to the beginning of Project Hoefyster as Denel’s alternative to the Finnish Patria eight-wheeled platform, which became the South African Army’s Badger 8x8. “While the discussions were going on, the platform was designed, tested and then it went to the UAE for summer trials, in which it did exceptionally well”.

In the meantime, Denel was fitting remotely-operated turrets to the RG41, these being Denel’s Tactical Remote Turret (TRT), which was tested with both 20 mm and 30 mm cannon variants.

Karelse explained that during last year’s shooting trials (at Armscor’s Alkantpan test range) with the G6 155 mm self-propelled howitzer and the truck-mounted T5 system, they thought: “why should we not put a 105 mm gun onto this platform?” The 105 mm gun is basically the G7 105 mm LEO towed howitzer, but adapting it to a vehicle mount required technical changes, resulting in the Denel GT7 gun.

Next, Denel developed the T7/105 mm turret,

which weighs 3 750 kg. The turret was planned to eventually be an unmanned one, but currently—during testing and trials – is manned. The configuration shown at AAD 2024 has a vehicle commander, a driver, a gunner, and eight soldiers – seven “troops” and the section commander.

The RG41 has a V-shaped hull for landmine protection, with a hardened armoured “shell” for the crew; then a gap, then the “armour package” (100 mm to 130 mm) which can be augmented with add-on armour. In counterinsurgency deployments, wire mesh can be added, also with a gap, to protect the armour from Rocket Propelled Grenades (RPGs) and other projectiles.

As the T7/G7 combination is still in the prototype phase, there is much work to be done, but the vehicle could act as a highly mobile self-propelled artillery system in a mechanised battalion setting, adding a much-needed punch to SANDF troops.

The G7 gun has a range of 30 km, with ammunition lethality exceeding standard 155 mm high explosive shells – the G7 basically provides 155 mm capability in a 105 mm package. Ammunition was developed by Rheinmetall Denel Munition (RDM) and includes high explosive, high explosive pre-formed fragmentation, smoke, illuminating and other rounds. Standard projectile range is 24 km with boat tail and 30 km with base bleed. Direct fire range is from 500 to 2 000 metres.

The G7/RG41 system is equipped with an Inertial Navigation Unit (INU) which interfaces to the Gun Control Unit (GCU) that provides for automatic gun laying through hydraulic elevation/traverse drives for rapid target engagement. The ammunition handling system is a positive chain type rammer controlled from the integrated Loader Control Panel. This system enables fully automatic ramming of both the projectile and charge. Manual loading of the system provides for redundancy.

The RG41 has sufficient payload (11 000 kg) to accommodate the new turret, for a gross vehicle mass of 30 000 kg. Powered by a Deutz diesel engine, the RG41 can reach 100 km/h. (Courtesy of Defenceweb)



That's all folk, till next time.....

The Editor