

# ***The Double Barrel***

**Vol. 6 Issue: 3**

**December 2016**

## ***News Letter from Apex Military Base***

### **DISASTER STRIKES APEX MILITARY BASE**

Wednesday , 26 October 2016 , will be remembered as the day, a fire ravaged the Combined Club at Apex Military Base, causing untold damage to the bar area, as well as the conference room and entrance . The cause of the devastating fire is the subject of a board of enquiry, but it appears to have been an electrical fault , which started the fire in the bar area, in the early hours of the morning .

Thanks to the quick thinking , Guard Commander, Sgt. Ronnie Mtshali, who rallied the troops into action, the fire was mainly contained to the bar area, however the rest of the complex suffered tremendous smoke and water damage.

We are of course , very relieved, that there was no harm caused to any of our members, especially, in light of the fact that those present, are not trained, fire fighters. The only casualty was one of the feral cats that live on the base, which indicated the speed and intensity of the fire as it swept through the complex.

Fire and water have devastating effects, so while we are extremely grateful that there was no loss of (human) life, or any injuries caused. It is always sad, to note the loss of memorabilia, that characterized the combined club as a venue with a rich history of Air Defence Artillery soldiers, in particular and others who have, over the years, enjoyed the comradely of the club. Least of all, let us not forget, our loyal barman, Eddie Shukwane, who also actively assisted the firefighters and whose domain is now in ruins.



**The Bar area of the Apex Military Base, Combined Club, after the devastating fire.**

On the positive side, it has been decided to re establish the Regiment Oos Transvaal, Regimental Association, who in due course, will be responsible for the collection of funds, to rebuild the Combined Club. It is envisaged that certain improvements will be made in the process of rebuilding the combined club to facilitate a braai area outside.



# APEX MILITARY BASE BIDS FAREWELL TO "TANIE" JOEY



.As the saying goes, "There is a time to come and a time to go." It was therefore with mixed emotions, that the members of Apex Military Base bid our "Tanie" Joey a fond farewell, at a function held to celebrate the contribution made by Mrs. Joey Buitendag over the past 10 years, that Tanie Joey served as the *PASP* for Regiment Oos Transvaal. Prior to joining ROT, Joey was a PASP at Nigel Commando.

Mrs. Joey Buitendag, will be fondly remembered, especially for her kindness and generosity, to all those who had the privilege of having to deal with her. No matter what your rank or position, Joey, would always try and assist where possible, nothing was to much effort.



Lt. Col Nyolo Ntsieng Officer Commanding ROT and "Tanie Joey Buitendag

The PASP, as we have come to know the civilian, ladies who carry out the administrative duties in a unit, will become a thing of the past, as these ladies will eventually, be replaced by uniformed members.

On behalf of Lt. Col Nyolo Ntsieng ( Officer Commanding ) Regiment Oos Transvaal, Lt. Col Dion Bornman ( Officer Commanding ) 6 Light Anti Aircraft Regiment, Warrant Officers, NCO's and members of Apex Military Base, we wish "Tanie" Joey a very happy and healthy retirement, and thank her for her loyal support and kindness .

**YOU WILL BE MISSED,  
BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN**



Lt. Col Dion Bornman Officer Commanding 6 LAA Regt and "Tanie Joey

Mrs. Buitendag joined ROT, close to the time, Major Dirk Horstmanhof was appointed the Officer Commanding of Regiment Oos Transvaal and MWO Errol Brits was appointed as the RSM.

Through no design of her doing, Mrs. Buitendag's retirement is perhaps appropriate then, in light of Maj Horstmanhof retirement last year, and the promotion of RSM Errol Brits to the ADA Formation.

With the dawn of a new era, "Tanie Joey" was on hand to assist Lt. Col Nyolo Ntsieng, the newly appointed Officer Commanding of Regiment Oos Transvaal to ensure that as far her responsibilities were concerned, there was a smooth handing over .



Maj. (Ret) Dirk Horstmanhof, "Tanie" Joey Buitendag and MWO Errol Brits



"Tanie" Joey Buitendag and "haar kinders"



Mev. Joey with Eddie Shukwane



Joey Buitendag and Maj. Ari Kapsosideris 2IC ROT

# MANDELA'S SPIRIT CONTINUES TO INSPIRE

"The South African Army strives to be recognized and respected by the South African public as a professional military force conducting its duty in an ethical, honest and transparent manner, thus earning the respect and support from society.

This requires that an extraordinary relationship of trust exist between the people of South Africa and the South African Army as an institution whose reason for existence is to be found in its service to the country and its people" South African Army – Public Image

With this statement in mind and the Spirit of Madiba ever present, Lt. Col Nyolo Ntsieng OC, Regiment Oos Transvaal, instructed that the members of Apex Military Base find an institution in need, in the greater community, where our base is situated. The institution chosen, would benefit from an unexpected donation of food sauces, that were received from Multicup Solutions (Pty) Ltd. A food manufacturing company based in Kempton Park.

The Vuyani Primary School in Tsakane, Brakpan, was ideal, as it has a daily feeding programme, to feed the 1100 children that attend each day. This primary school, has since been adopted by Apex Military Base to ensure that the members of both Regiment Oos Transvaal and 6 Light Anti Aircraft Regiment continue to build, the respect and trust that is required between our members, in particular and the Air Defence Artillery in general and the community in which we serve. In a further development, Lt. Col Ntsieng, has initiated a food programme, whereby vegetables are to be grown on the base in an area that has been dormant for years. These vegetables will be used in the kitchen to feed our members, with the excess to be donated to the Vuyani Primary School to assist in their feeding scheme. Our thanks are extended to Maj. Ari Kapsosideris (2IC ROT) who is employed by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (Gauteng) who generously, donated seeds for the establishment of the Apex "Veggie" patch.



South African Army



Air Defence Artillery



Lt. Phahlamohlaka (Bty. Cmdr.), Mr. Ruiters and S/ Sgt Msimanga



Vuyani Primary School Principal, Mr. Mpumelelo Ruiters and learners



Spring in the Garden - Apex Military Base



**GAUTENG PROVINCE**  
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# At the going down of the sun and in the morning. We will remember them !



As is tradition, every year, homage is paid to those soldiers who gave their lives for their country.

Various parades and memorial services are organized and held throughout the country in honour these fallen soldiers on the weekend closest to 11 of November. ( Armistice Day)

This year a wreath was laid at the Cenotaph in Johannesburg , by the Officer Commanding , of 6 Light Anti Aircraft Regiment, Lt. Col Dion Bornman, and at a parade held at Light Horse Regiment, by Lt. Col Nyolo Ntsieng, Officer Commanding , Regiment Oos Transvaal.

## Combat Rifle – Year End Results Gauteng South League



Congratulations, are extended to the members of ROT's Combat Rifle Team, who managed, under difficult circumstances this year to achieve 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall, in the Gauteng South, Combat Rifle League .

On the individual front, WO1 Johan Harmzen, ( ROT) and Gnr M. J. Ndhlovu ( 6LAA Regt) managed to achieve 3<sup>rd</sup> place, in the A and B Class respectively.



Lt. Col Nyolo Ntsieng , Regiment Oos Transvaal

## APEX MILITARY BASE - GUN PUSH TEAMS 2016



The 6 LAA Regt ( Above) and ROT Gun Push Teams for 2016



## APEX MILITARY BASE PROMOTIONS

The Officers Commanding , Regiment Oos Transvaal and 6 Light Anti Aircraft Regiment, on behalf of all the members of Apex Military Base, congratulate those members who were recently promoted.

The following Sergeants were promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant

*Sgt . M.M. du Plessis, (6 LAA Regt)*

*Sgt S. J. Msimanga 6 LAA Regt)*

*Sgt. K.R Masango (ROT)*

The following Lance Bombardiers were promoted to the rank of Bombardier

*L/ Bdr L.M. Majoe, (6 LAA Regt)*

*L/ Bdr T.I. Taunyana (6 LAA Regt)*

*L/ Bdr P.N. Mashabela ( 6 LAA Regt)*

The following Gunner was promoted to the rank of Lance Bombardier

*Gnr. J.K. Thako (ROT)*



# THE OTHER GUN SIGHT



## **A Medal for Horatius, A Medal for Horatius**

*The True Story (By Colonel W C Hall, printed in the British Army Journal January 1953.)*

Rome, II Calends, April CCCLX

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Senate Medal of Honor

TO: Department of War, Republic of Rome

I. Recommend Caius Horatius, Captain of Foot, CMCXIV, for the Senate Medal of Honor.

II. Captain Horatius has served XVI years, all honorable.

III. On the II day of March, during the attack on the city by Lars Porsena of Clausium and his Tuscan Army of CMX men, Captain Horatius, with Sergeant Sporius Laritus and Corporal Julius Herminius, held the entire Tuscan army at the far end of the bridge, until the structure could be destroyed, thereby saving the city.

IV. Captain Horatius did valiantly fight and kill one Major Picus of Clausium in individual combat.

V. The exemplary courage and the outstanding leadership of Captain Horatius are in the highest tradition of the Roman Army.

**JULIUS ANTINOUS,**

(Commander, II Foot Legion Ist, Ind, AG IV Calends, April CCCLX)

TO: G-III

For comment.

G.C.II(nd Ind, G-III IX Calends, May CCC

TO: G-II

I. For comment and forwarding.

II. Change end of paragraph III from "saving the city" to "lessened the effectiveness of the enemy attack." The Roman Army was well dispersed tactically; the reserve has not been committed. The phrase as written might be construed to cast aspersions on our fine army.

III. Change paragraph V from "outstanding leadership" to read "commendable initiative." Captain Horatius's command was II men, only I/IV of a squad.

J.D. IIIrd Ind, G-II II Ides, June CCCLX

TO: G-I

I. Omit strength of Tuscan forces in paragraph III. This information is classified.

II. A report evaluated as B-II states that the officer was a Captain Picus of Tiferum. Recommend change to "an officer of the enemy forces."

J.H. IVth Ind, G-I IX Ides, January CCCLXI

TO: JAG

I. Full name is Caius Claudius Horatius.

II. Change service from XVI to XV years. One year in Romulus Chapter BPOE, has been given credit for military service in error.

E.J. Vth Ind, JAG II, February CCCLXI

TO: AG

I. The Porsena raid was not during wartime; the temple of Janus was closed.

II. The action against the Porsena raid, ipso facto, was a police action.

III. The Senate Medal of Honor cannot be awarded in peacetime (AB/CVIII-XXV, paragraph XII, C).

IV. Suggest consideration for Soldier's Medal.

P.B.

Vth Ind, AF IV Calends, April CCCLXI

TO: G-I

Concur in paragraph IV, Vth Ind.

L.J.VIIth Ind, G-I I May CCCLXI

TO: A

Soldier's medal is given for saving lives; suggest star of bronze as appropriate.

E.J. VIIIth Ind, JAG II Calends, June CCCLXITO: JAG

> For opinion.

G.C.IXth Ind, JAG II Calends, September CCCLXI

I. XVIII months have elapsed since event described in basic letter. Star of bronze cannot be awarded after XV months have elapsed.

II. Officer is eligible for Papyrus Scroll with Metal Pendant.

P.B.X Ind, AG I Calends, October CCCLXI

TO: G-I

For draft of citation for Papyrus Scroll with Metal Pendant.

P.B.XI Ind, G-I III Calends, October CCCLXI

TO: G-II

I. Do not concur.

II. Our currently fine relations with Tuscany would suffer and current delicate negotiations might be jeopardized if publicity were given to Captain Horatius' actions at this time.

T.J.XII Ind, G-II VI November CCCLXI

TO: G-I

A report rated D-IV, partially verified, states that Lars Porsena is very sensitive about the Horatius affair.

E.T.XIIIth Ind, G-I X November CCCLXI

TO: AG

I. In view of information contained in preceding XI and XIII the endorsements, you will prepare immediate orders of Captain C. C. Horatius to one of our overseas stations (remote).

II. His attention will be directed to paragraph XII, POM, which prohibits interviews or conversations with newsmen prior to arrival at final destination.

L.T.

Rome II Calends, I April CCCLXII

SUBJECT: Survey, Report of, Department of War

TO: Captain Caius Caius Horatius, III Legion, V Phalanx, APO XIX, C/O Postmaster, Rome.

I. Your statements concerning the loss of your shield and sword in the Tiber River of III March CCCLX have been carefully considered.

II. It is admitted that you were briefly in action against certain unfriendly elements on that day. However, Sergeant Lartius and Corporal Herminius were in the same action and did not lose any government property.

III. The Finance Officer has been directed to reduce your next pay by II-I/IV talents (I-III/IV talents cost on each sword, officers; III/IV talent cost of one each shield, M-II).

IV. You are enjoined and admonished to pay strict attention to conservation of government funds and property. The budget must be balanced next year.

**H. MARCUS AURELIUS**

Lieutenant of Horse

Survey Officer



On behalf of Apex Military Base,  
We wish you and your Family , a Merry Christmas  
And a Prosperous 2017



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