

Cape Garrison Artillery celebrates 151 years of Reserve service

Article supplied by Mrs Regine Lord. Photos supplied by Lt Col Johan Conradie and Mrs R Lord.

The history of **military medals** dates back as far as Roman times, when senior officers were presented with crowns if they were victorious in important battles. Centurions and soldiers who displayed particular bravery or valour in battle sometimes received *phalerae*, or metal disks bearing the image of the Emperor.

This honourable practice is still exercised today, as witnessed at a medal parade, which was held at the beautifully restored and landscaped Fort Wynyard, near the V&A Waterfront, on Saturday, 31 July 2010. This is the regimental headquarters of **Cape Garrison Artillery (CGA)**. Brigadier General John Del Monte presented 43 medals to their proud recipients on the weekend coinciding with the Regiment's 151st birthday anniversary.

CGA was founded on 06 August 1859 under the name "Cape Volunteer Sappers and Miners", with the unit only receiving the designation Cape Garrison Artillery in 1896. It has had **a long and proud history** of loyal service to the country. Its soldiers fought during the Tambookie campaign in the Transkei (1880) and during the Anglo Boer War (1899-1902), and the unit was mobilised again during World War I. It was the first to be mobilised in September 1939, at the start of World War II, as part of an anti-aircraft battery. More recently, in 1982, it was active on the Northern Province and Namibian borders in an infantry role. The unit was awarded the Right of Civic Entry into the City of Cape Town in November 1980, the Freedom of Bellville in September



Photo 2: Cape Town Caledonian Pipe Band against the backdrop of the new Green Point Stadium



Photo 1: Badge of Cape Garrison Artillery

1989, and the Freedom of Goodwood (7 Light Anti-Aircraft). Its three regimental mottos, two of which are incorporated in the regiment's badge, are *Quo Fas Et Gloria Ducunt* (Whither right and glory lead), *Ubique* (Everywhere) and *Alta Pete* (Aim High). (Information from: http://www.cgamil.co.za/index.php?page_id=85#CGA_History).

CGA celebrated its **151st birthday** as only the military can do, with a formal dinner at the elegant Het Bakhuis restaurant in the oldest military headquarters in South Africa, the Castle of Good Hope, on Friday night, 30 July 2010.



Photo 3: Brigadier General John Del Monte and Major Vidius Archer address the parade

This was followed on Saturday mid-morning by the **medal parade** at CGA's HQ at Fort Wynyard in Green Point, against the spectacular backdrop of the brand-new Cape Town Stadium, which had been built for the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

Once all the invited guests, as well as friends and families of the Regiment had taken their seats on either side of the podium, the unit was led into the courtyard by the Cape Town Caledonian Pipe Band.

When the dignitaries, Major Vidius Archer, Commanding Officer of CGA, and Brigadier General John Del Monte, arrived, their presence was acknowledged with a general salute by the troops, who lined up in front of the guests of honour. The reading of the code of conduct was followed by a scripture reading and prayer, whereafter Brigadier General Del Monte inspected the parade.

The medals presented included four General Service medals, 21 Tshumelo Ikhatelaho medals, one John Chard Decoration, four Bars to the Medalje vir Troue Diens (20 years), nine Bars to the Medalje vir Troue Diens (10 years), and one Good Service Medal (Bronze).

In addition, a posthumous General Service medal was issued to the late Private Thobile Michael Mamanzi.



Photo 4: General salute



Photo 5: L/Bdr D C Davey receives a Tshumelo Ikhathelaho medal



Photo 6: Chaplain PJ Roux receives a Pro Patria medal from Brig Gen Del Monte



Photo 7: L/Bdr L L Moalosi receives a General Service medal and a Tshumelo Ikhathelaho medal



Photo 8: The recipients of the medals salute



The medal presentations were followed by a general salute, before the dignitaries withdrew. Thereafter, some welcome refreshments and a tasty birthday cake were served in the CGA Officers' Mess.

Photo 9: Brig Gen Del Monte presents the posthumous medal to Mrs Mamanzi, the mother of the late Private Thobile Michael Mamanzi

On Saturday afternoon, as part of the Regiment's birthday celebrations, selected members of the unit had an opportunity to fire the oldest working cannons in South Africa, which are situated at **East Fort Battery** outside Hout Bay. These fortifications have an interesting history dating back to the days of the Dutch East India Company. The West Fort adjacent to Hout Bay harbour was built in the mid-1700s to protect the settlement at the Cape, and not long afterwards, the East Fort was built on the slopes of present-day Chapman's Peak (which, incidentally, bisects the original fort) (Information: <http://home.intekom.com/capevacations/history.htm>).



Photo 10: One of the oldest working cannons in South Africa, at the East Fort Battery overlooking Hout Bay



Photo 11: Church service held at the Groote Kerk in Adderley Street, central Cape Town

The weekend concluded with a **church parade** held at the Groote Kerk in Adderley Street, Cape Town. This is the oldest Christian place of worship in Cape Town, dating back to the arrival of Jan van Riebeeck at the Cape in 1652; the cornerstone of the current building was only laid in 1700. The Groote Kerk became the official regimental chapel of the unit in 2005. During the church service, the roll of honour was movingly read by Lieutenant Kronhert, as everyone in the church listened in silence, thinking of our fallen brothers in arms.

When 'Amazing Grace' was played by a single piper from the Cape Town Caledonian Pipe Band, accompanied by the dramatic and soul-stirring harmonies of the massive church organ, the largest in the southern hemisphere, it created an emotionally moving moment experience that concluded a historical weekend of CGA.

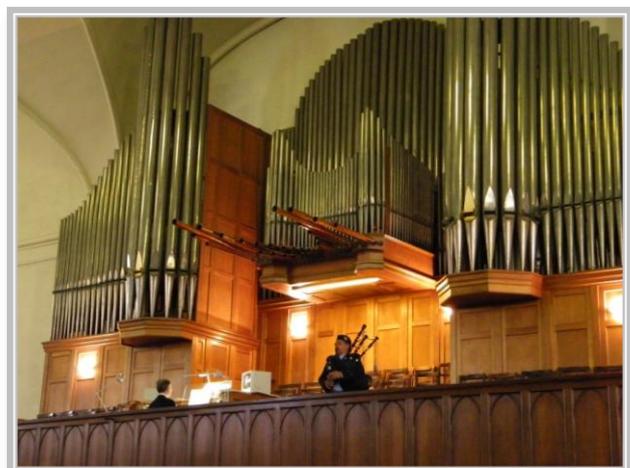


Photo 12: An incredibly moving 'Amazing Grace' is played by a single piper, accompanied by the magnificent old organ