



COVER PICTURE:  
Saluting at the August 2018  
Medals Parade.  
[Photograph by Gilly-bean]

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AUTSHUMATO ANTI-AIRCRAFT REGIMENT NEWSLETTER

## Origin and use of the hand salute in military history

When it comes to the *military salute*, everyone seems to agree on one thing - it is always a sign of respect.

According to some modern military manuals, the modern Western salute originated in France when knights, to show friendly intentions, greeted each other by raising their visors to reveal their faces.

In British history, in the early 1800s, the Coldstream Guards amended the British military salute custom of tipping the hat. They were instructed to clap their hands to their hats and bow as they pass by. This was quickly adopted by other Regiments as wear and tear on hats by constant removal and replacing was a matter of great concern.

By the mid-19th Century, the salute had evolved further with the open hand, palm to the front. According to the Armed Forces History Museum, today's standard salute - right hand touching the brim of the head cover with the palm down - was in place by 1820. The museum says the palm down portion of the salute may have been influenced by the salute style of the British Navy at the time. A sailor's hands were often dirty, and exposing a dirty palm - especially to a superior - would have been deemed disrespectful. A correlating legend has it that Queen Victoria was once saluted with a dirty hand, and declared thereafter that British sailors would salute with their hands at a 90-degree angle.



The individuals that are always entitled to a military salute and the circumstances where military personnel should render a salute, are:

- the President of the country,
- commissioned officers,
- officers of allied foreign countries,
- during the playing of any National Anthem, and
- during the raising of the National Flag.

Military personnel do not expect salutes from civilians, even if those civilians are military employees or contractors. In fact, it could actually create an awkward moment, unless the military personnel knows the civilian doing the saluting or recognizes the civilian to be a veteran. However, there are not any restrictions against saluting, either. The Freedom of Expression, enshrined in Section 16 of the Constitution of the country, grants civilians the liberty to demonstrate what they want when in greeting, including a military salute.

(Article by Lt E.P. Oliphant, Lt S. Solani and 2Lt T.C. Ketani)

### SOURCES

1. USO, Jul 9, 2015, <https://www.uso.org/stories/1646-the-stories-behind-the-modern-military-salute>
2. Rod Powers, Jun 25, 2019, <https://www.thebalancecareers.com/u-s-military-salute-3331994>
3. MariaArefyeva, Getty Images/iStockphotos, Sep, 2020, <https://www.istockphoto.com/photos>



## Message from Lieutenant Colonel M.A. Goetham

My fellow GUNNERS.  
2020 has been a very long and difficult year where by we all experienced a lot of challenges, with COVID-19 probably being the most threatening. The uncertainty of the whole situation is what makes it difficult to bear. However, as a Unit we still had tasks that had to be executed and even with new norms like wearing of masks, frequent sanitizing of hands, temperature checks as well as practicing of social distancing, we were able to overcome all these obstacles and execute our duties to the best of our abilities. I would like to make use of this opportunity to thank each and every member for being very loyal and diligent in performing their duties even though they had to overcome 'new' obstacles caused by the pandemic.

I also would like to once again congratulate all the members that received promotions during this year. We should remember that promotions is not a right but instead it is a  
[message continues on next page...]

# Remembrance Memorial

To remember the members of the armed forces who have died in the line of duty, annually on the Sunday closest to the "the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month" - Armistice Day.

This year's Remembrance Day Memorial Parade (Cape Town), held on Sunday, 8 November 2020, went forward with a difference. It took place, not at the Cenotaph, but at the Cape Town Civic Centre with COVID-19 safety precautions observed.

Rear Admiral J. Diamini laid the Cape Town wreath on behalf of SANDF Commander-in-Chief President Cyril Ramaphosa; and Col M. Feni laid the wreath on behalf of Chief SA Army Lt Gen L.K. Mbatha. 'We Shall Remember'.

*(Photographs by Regine Lord supplied by Sgt (Ret) K. Ashton)*



The City's Executive Deputy Mayor, Alderman Ian Neilson, delivering his speech at the Remembrance Day Memorial Parade held at the Cape Town Civic Centre.



Capt (Ret) Thys Jansen van Nieuwenhuizen, member of our Regimental Association, carrying a Remembrance Cross to be laid at the Remembrance Day Memorial Parade. Executive Deputy Mayor Neilson seen in the background.

[...message continued from previous page] privilege, and only through hard work and sacrifice it is eventually earned. The Unit was able to send members on course this year and I am very happy to say that all members passed and two members achieved third places on the LW NCO and LW Operators courses. This is an excellent achievement and a very good example to the rest of us.

To the Unit members currently on deployment, our prayers are with you during this holiday season. It is not easy being away from loved ones during this time of the year and I trust and hope that you are all safe. Keep up the good work.

My intention for the new year (2021) is to send more members on courses (if available) in order to qualify more members for promotions. We will also work harder on our fitness levels and shooting capabilities. 2021 is not going to be an easy year. There are many uncertainties that makes planning very difficult. We need to make the most of what we are having and embrace the challenges as they arise.

I foresee that COVID-19 is not going to suddenly 'disappear' any time soon, and we must therefore be even more careful and cautious not to be infected during this festive season.

In conclusion I would like to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Be responsible. Stay safe.

'ALTA PETE'

*Below: A cropping of a photograph, taken at the time of the Anglo Boer War, showing Fort Wynyard. To the right of the Fort is Somerset Hospital (dark patch); originally on Chiapinni Street and founded in 1818 by Dr Samuel Bailey as the first civilian hospital in Cape Town, it reopened in Green Point in 1864.*



## Message from MWO E. Stroebel (RSM)

It is with great pleasure that I thank the Officer Commanding and staff members that we made it this far as a team.

If it was not for the teamwork and the combined effort that everybody did put in, to make this last phase of the year a success, we would not have reason to smile.

Let us also say congratulations to our members that were very successful on course and are all safe back at home.

Our guys that are on deployment, we want them to be strong and give their best as always - they must know they are in our prayers.

Our guys here at home, doing guard duty over the festive season, give your best and stay vigilant.

Our members that are traveling in and out of the Province, you must travel safe and take care.

Let us be cautious and look after our health, remember COVID-19 is real.

Let us keep the Gunners flag flying high.

'Alte Pete' - Aim High



# AAAR Birthdays

A monthly list of member's upcoming birthdays is posted on the Fort Wynyard notice board at the beginning of each respective month.

Congratulations to all members who enjoyed birthdays since the last issue of our newsletter:

## SEPTEMBER MONTH

- 1 - Gnr R.U.N. Kasper
- 3 - Gnr M. Sothiya
- 10 - Gnr N. Mgxebe
- 23 - Gnr J. Baba
- 26 - Gnr N. Vananda
- 27 - Gnr T.S. Mkhonwana  
- Gnr N.P. Piyose

## OCTOBER MONTH

- 3 - Gnr X. Raqo
- 4 - Gnr C.G. Japhta  
- Gnr J. Smith
- 5 - Gnr N.L. Lubambo
- 10 - Bdr W.B. Mlombile  
- Gnr N. Swartbooi
- 14 - Gnr J. Botes
- 17 - Bdr J.F. Willemse
- 20 - Bdr N.B. Gubanxa
- 23 - Gnr F.J. Roman
- 26 - Gnr P. Maceba  
- Gnr Y. Mki
- 28 - Bdr A.T. Solomon
- 30 - Bdr N.D. Vena

## NOVEMBER MONTH

- 1 - 2Lt G.T. Mpolweni
- 3 - Bdr O.P. Petersen
- 11 - Gnr X.L. Dennis  
- Gnr L. Khandanisa  
- Gnr M.S. Oyiya
- 15 - Pte J.J. Marwick
- 17 - Gnr J. E. Jansen
- 20 - Bdr D.C. Davey  
- Gnr T.D. Kanyiwe
- 23 - WO2 L.B. Toorn
- 25 - L/Bdr C.P. Groenewald
- 26 - Gnr A.M. Morai
- 27 - Gnr K.H. Zondani
- 29 - Gnr N. Magadlela

# How SANSA serves us

## THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL SPACE AGENCY

Did you know that the sun's activity can disrupt navigation and communication systems here on Earth? Solar flares, solar winds and coronal mass ejections (powerful blasts of plasma and magnetic field) can cause devastating damage to highly sensitive modern technology. Although we are largely protected by Earth's atmosphere and geomagnetic field, solar superstorms can damage (even shut down) our national power grids, disable satellites, and disrupt the high frequency radio communication, mobile phones and GPS systems on which we rely. And, pivotal to our interests, intense solar activity can also affect the defence sector - e.g., radar and tracking systems, navigation, communication, aeronautics, and weapons control and targeting systems.

Fortunately, the space environment over the southern hemisphere is constantly being monitored by the South African National Space Agency (SANSA) in Hermanus, which hosts the only Space Weather Regional Warning Centre in Africa! They keep tabs on sunspot activity, variations in the Earth's geomagnetic field and changes in the ionosphere, and develop prediction and warning models to help mitigate the risks of extreme space weather events.

The Space Age began just over 60 years ago, with the first artificial satellite - the Soviet Union's Sputnik 1 - launched in October 1957. Next year marks the 60th anniversary of the first manned spaceflight by Soviet Air Force pilot and cosmonaut Major Yuri Alekseyevich Gagarin - one orbit around Earth on 12 April 1961. At that time, computers were huge databanks using perforated cards, and communication was by telephone, telex and radio. Now, we have high-power computing clusters, GPS, the internet, smartphones and thousands of satellites orbiting the Earth.

In honour of that first manned spaceflight, a bronze bust of Maj Y. Gagarin was unveiled at SANSA's Space Science Centre on 5 November 2020, during a ceremony organized with the Consulate General of the Russian Federation in Cape Town.

Among the attendees were Sgt (Ret) Kevin Ashton, Lt Cdr (SAN Ret) Glenn von Zeil and Regine Lord. Mr Iakov Baskakov, Acting Consul General of Russia in Cape Town, and Dr Lee-Anne McKinnell, MD of SANSA, unveiled the memorial. Its inscription reads: *'Orbiting Earth in the spaceship, I saw how beautiful our planet is. People, let us preserve and increase this beauty, not destroy it. - Y. Gagarin'*.

*(Article and photograph by Regine Lord)*



# Tribute

[Due to circumstances, the following tribute was not posted alongside the obituary in the *Smoking Gun* Issue 2 of 2020. We regret its now late appearance.]

## **S/Sgt Godfrey Douglas Bruce Carter**

1 May 1951 - 13 June 2020.

In high school, S/Sgt Bruce Carter was a Corporal in the school cadets and would have later gone on a course to be a cadets company commander, in the prospect of passing on his keen interest to young learners, had the cadets not been brought to an end in South African schools.

He was called up for National Service in the then South African Defence Force (SADF) and completed up his two year term with 10 LLA Regiment at Youngsfield, in Cape Town, from February to November 1969. During those months he was promoted to Lance Bombardier.

Following his National Service, he joined 6 LLA Regiment, stationed in Springs on the East Rand, as a member of the South African Citizen Force where he did several camps including deployments on the border of the then South West Africa (now Namibia) and Angola.

After permanently moving to Cape Town he joined the 9 SA Division until its closure in 1997. He later went on to join the Cape Town Rifles (CTR) in 2006.

When the then Cape Garrison Artillery (CGA; now AAAR or Autshumato Anti-Aircraft Regiment) training facility was established at Fort iKapa, he and his wife Sgt Carol Carter took charge of the gardens at the base. He was then on detached duty from Cape Town Rifles (CTR) to assist CGA with general landscaping around the Unit's hangers. This he did until he finished up with the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) at the age of 65, in 2015.

*(Contributed by Sgt Carol Carter)*

[A member of our Regimental Association stated that S/Sgt Bruce Carter was an outstanding person and good friend of our Unit; and did an outstanding job with the establishment and maintenance of the gardens. He use to work and water the gardens in his 'own time'. 'He will be remembered.']



# The Cape Fortress Coast Defence Artillery Fire Control System in World War 2

PART 3 (AN ARTICLE APPEARING OVER SEVERAL ISSUES OF THE SMOKING GUN NEWSLETTER)

The article came about originally as a presentation to the Cape Town branch of the South African Military History Society, written and presented by Capt (SAN)(Ret) Chris Dooner, 9 August 2018. The article is divided into 12 sections and in this issue of the *Smoking Gun* newsletter, we include:

- Section 7: Observation Posts and Fortresses;
- Section 8: Connecting the Systems; and
- Section 9: Target Effect.

Sections 1 to 6 appear over two previous newsletters and the rest of the sections will appear in future issues.

## SOURCES

While the words (and possible mistakes) are by Capt (SAN)(Ret) Chris Dooner, the concepts, direction and some image information have been sourced from:

- Brig (R Aus Arty) R.K. Fullford's book [Manly 1994]; *'We Stood and Waited - Sydney's Anti-ship Defences'*
- Col (SA Arty) Lionel Crook's book [Cape Town 2012]; *'Island at War - Robben Island 1939-1945'*
- Artillery Training, Vol 5, Pam 1 [UK 1953]; *'The Characteristics of Coast Artillery'*
- United States War Dept Field Manual 4-15 [USA 1940]
- Cdr (SAN)(Ret) Mac Bisset; various articles
- Capt (SAN)(Ret) Chris Dooner's direct personal exposure to Maj Gen (Ret) G. Moodie and Lt Cdr (SAN)(Ret) R. Sharpe
- The Australian War Memorial (AWM)
- The South African Naval Museum (SANM)
- Messrs Google, Wikipedia et al; - often multiple hits

## Section 7: Observation Posts and Fortresses

The pre-Second World War rifled breech loading batteries all had single Battery Observation Posts (BOP) and Battery Command Posts (BCP), typically within the battery lines although Fort Wynyard and apparently Sea Point (Glengariff) batteries had

OPs located on the slopes of Signal Hill. There were also Position Finding Cells (PFC) in the vicinity of at least Scala Bty (south of and above 'M' detachment - now Gun 3 - and below Scala - now Gun 2) and straight above Sea Point (Glengariff) Bty on the slopes of Signal Hill. As both Scala/Middle North and Sea Point included 6-inch guns it can be assumed that they also received target information from the PFCs. [Note: It appears that the terms PFC and BOPs are used interchangeably, possibly meant to be with the BOP being in the battery lines and the PFC without the lines. Reading on Middle North supports this hypothesis, Fort Wynyard opposes it.]

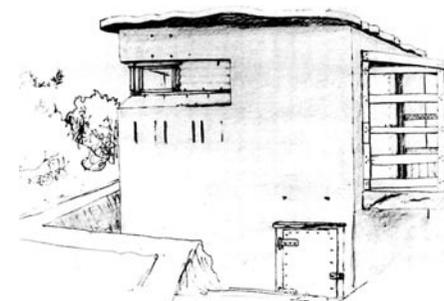
The introduction of the Mk VII and later Mk IX 35 degree 9.2-inch gun mountings with their increased ranges, from just before the Second World War, also saw the introduction of remote observation posts (long range PFCs?), in addition to BOPs, to enable the detection and tracking of potential targets at ranges that exceeded the range of both the Coast Defence and enemy guns. From this time onwards Fortress referred to an area and not a single fortified building, or close collection of buildings. The remote observation posts were called Fortress Observation Posts (FOPs) and, with associated batteries, were grouped into the Cape Town Fortress and Simon's Town Fortress. The Robben Island 9.2-inch Bty (later De Waal) is also equipped as a Fortress. A fortress included all allocated assets, including naval but excluding air.

### **The Cape Town Fortress included;**

- The 9.2-inch batteries Robben Island and Apostle (and Scala if required)
- The 6-inch batteries Cornelia, Fort Wynyard and Lion
- Docks Battery with 12 pounders and twin 6 pounder
- York and Fine View defending Hout Bay with 12 pounders
- FOPs at Blaauberg, Robben Island, Ridge and Rump on Lion's Head, Oudekraal and Cobra (Slangkop)
- BOPs for every battery (Fort Wynyard had day and night BOPs)
- Fire Command Post on Signal Hill (at 800 feet with a visual range of 61 thousand yards 30,5 nm)

### **The Simon's Town Fortress included;**

- The 9.2-inch Scala Battery (which could respond to target infor-

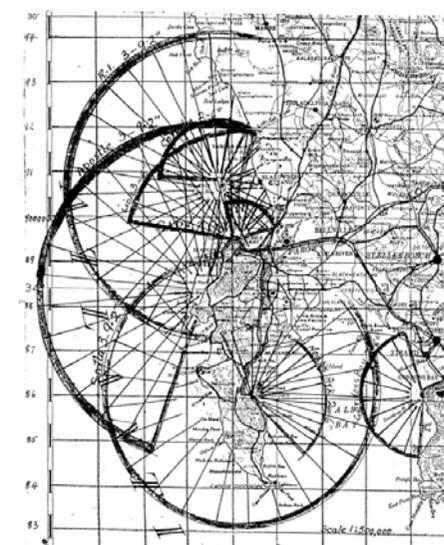


A typical Observation Post (Fortress or Battery). Blue Gums Fortress Observation Post Simon's Bay Fire Command. (source: Drawing by A.H. Dromas, via Cdr (SAN)(Ret) Mac Bisset)

- mation from the Cape Town Fortress)
- The 6-inch Noah's Ark, initially Queen's and Middle North (before their guns were transferred) and Gordon's Bay batteries
- Docks Battery, Simon's Town, with 12 pounders
- FOPs at Slangkop (Cobra), Olifantsbosch (Bosch), Cape Point (Vasco and Cape), Blue Gums and Simon's Town (Crow)
- BOPs at every battery (Noah's Ark had day and night BOPs)
- Fire Command Post on the slopes of Beacon Hill (above Noah's Ark Battery; today's SAS Simonsberg HQ and Maritime Warfare School).

Scala Battery could provide covering fire, through South, right around the Peninsula to Sea Point (controlled by Cape Town). Apostle had the range to cover much of the Peninsula but was generally blocked by various mountains.

[article continues on next page...]



Second World War CA Batteries around the Cape Peninsula. (source: South African Naval Museum)



[...article continued from previous page]

## Section 8: Connecting the Systems

The mathematical principles of triangulation and trilateration are straight forward and are easily applied, but less accurate, when observers are co-located or using single operator instruments. The practical application when using remote observers required fast, effective and accurate communications. This problem was solved using dedicated telephone and signal lines to connect all the components of a fortress. Wireless Telegraphy (radio) was available at the 9.2-inch batteries, presumably to link with ships and aircraft. Both the FOPs and Battery Observation Posts would track and report potential targets in at least bearing (range as well if possible) to a Fire Command Post, where the decision would be made to treat the vessel as a target and allocate battery(ies) to engage. In the case of the 6-inch batteries the target information would arrive at the BOP for their attention.



*South African Battery Plotting Room (BPR).*

(source: South African Naval Museum)



*Australian Fortress Plotting Room (FPR).*

(source: Australian War Memorial)

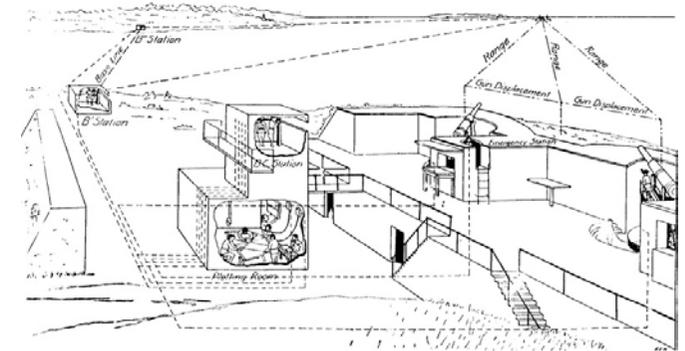
The 9.2-inch batteries introduced Fortress and Battery Plotting Rooms (FPR and BPR) collocated about 30 feet underground. These plotting rooms received whatever information was available and plotted it on Plotting Tables, the FPR for the general area and BPR for the specific battery. Because of the range of the guns and scale of the area to be defended the FPR converted the received Polar coordinate ranges and bearings into Cartesian coordinate Eastings and Northings that could be plotted onto a standard naval chart, or army map, and more accurately transmitted, or received, as such to other areas and fortresses. The BPR converted Cartesian coordinates back to Polar coordinates and added information required to drive the guns onto the future position of the target using Fire Control Tables. The predicted ranges and bearings were passed on to the battery (BOP and BCP) and guns by Magslip (an electrical motor that drove a receiving motor at the destination to exactly follow the transmitting motor). The guns then simply “followed the pointer” for range (elevation) and bearing and reported back to their BOP, which, under normal conditions, was also the Command Post where the decision to FIRE (engage) was made. The BPR also added information to allow for the vertical and horizontal distances of the guns from each other and the BPR or BOP.



*The pointers to be followed by the bearing layer - place the small circle in the pointer. In coarse 10° steps on the left and fine 5' steps on the right.*

(source: author)

The exact positions of every FOP, BOP, BPR, FPR and gun trunnion were surveyed to ensure that all information regarding their positions was as accurate as possible. The guns were also provided with datum marks, ranging from a few yards to several miles away. Apostle, for example, used local peaks and even Robben Island to provide datum points in elevation and bearing. The horizontal planes, or permanent variations, of all guns and instruments were determined using clinometers or built in levels.



*It all comes together.*

(source: Google)

## Section 9: Target Effect

While everything had been done to ensure that the projectile and target would meet each other this rarely happened. The result would be that some of correction based on the location of the projectile splash relative to the target would have to be made to the gun orders. The splash positions could be reported by an FOP or BOP and the corrections added to the signals in the BPR. The gunners knew that they were likely to miss first time around so they tended to go for a “Gunnery Correction” of 400 yards between rounds - in naval terms the gunners speak of “Over, Under, On”, allowing for three rounds to find the range. As the splash could be very hard to see at longer ranges a Time of Flight clock would be used provide a warning to observers that the round was about to fall. The battery would also only engage with a single gun - typically Number one (always on the right facing the target) - until the range was found and thereafter engage with the entire battery.

*[To be continued in future issue.]*



# Autshumato Anti-Aircraft Regiment Pipes & Drums

What a blessing it was for all our band members - Covid Lockdown being moved to Level One. It was really a great feeling to return to normal band practice times on a Tuesday evening and Saturday morning. And I am glad to say that everyone returned refreshed and eager to push on. With things sort of settling down, but still complying to COVID-19 rules, our Pipe Band has been fairly busy to date.



*Bellville War Commemoration Service.*

30th August 2020, we paraded at the Bellville Annual War Commemoration Service at the Bellville Civic Centre.



*Above, left: Bellville War Monument. Above, right: at the Battle of Square Hill Memorial Parade.*



*Battle of Square Hill Memorial Parade, with the bronze statue of Cape's oldest symbol, the 'Lady of Good Hope'.*

27th September 2020, I, Pipe Major Tony Reis, was asked to pipe at the Battle of Square Hill Memorial Parade at the Castle of Good Hope.

16th October 2020, the Autshumato Anti-Aircraft Regiment Pipes and Drums was invited to give a surprise performance for the matrics of Paul Roos Gymnasium in Stellenbosch. This took place on the sports field where the matrics and their parents formed a large circle, and surrounding them, the rest of the school. Very impressive indeed.



*Paul Roos Gymnasium, in Stellenbosch.*

1st November 2020, our Pipe Band paraded at the Annual Battledress Memorial Parade at the Garden of Remembrance in Fish Hoek.

7th November 2020, three of our band members were invited to perform at the Annual Marshall Smuts Memorial Parade in Somerset West.



*Marshall Smuts Memorial Parade, in Somerset West.*

Both these two Memorial Parades held in November are related to Armistice Day (Remembrance Day) commemorations. And pleasing to know, our Pipe Band plays the South African National Anthem at all the memorial parades.

On a sad note, we said 'Farewell' to one of our snare drummers, David Harkness, who returned home to his 'Bonnie' Scotland last month. We had an emotional farewell at the bandroom (*see pictures below*), where we presented David with a stunning band plaque. A BIG 'Thank You', David, for always being there for the band, and for the interest displayed in passing on your knowledge and sharing your exciting experiences with all our young bandsman and bandwoman. You will be missed.



We also shared two birthdays not that long ago: Theo Caesar's who celebrated his birthday on the 26th September 2020, and Wandisile Dalasile who celebrated his birthday on the 10th October 2020. Congratulations guys!

And finally, we will be releasing two surprises in the following month. Something our Regiment should be proud of. Watch this space. Yours truly signing off.

*(Article and photographs supplied by S/Sgt Tony Reis; Bellville and Square Hill Memorial photographs by Regine Lord)*

