

APRIL, 2026

Edition 19

HIGHWAY SHELLHOLE

NEWSLETTER



Highway News/ Events

Highway Shellhole Monthly Meeting- 4 APRIL

Our Time Parade- 18 April 2026

Shufti Fishing Competition- 25 April 2026



Key Military Events in April

- **April 1838 (Battle of Italeni):** Zulu impis repulsed Voortrekker commandos near Babanango, killing several Boers, including Piet Uys and his son Dirkie.
- **16 April 1901 (Boer War):** Boers destroyed their last remaining "Long Tom" artillery gun at Rietfontein (Mpumalanga) as they transitioned from conventional to guerrilla warfare.
- **19 April 1906 (Bambatha Rebellion):** The armed uprising against British poll taxes in Natal escalated, with Bambatha kaMancinza leading Zondi clan resistance.
- **Mid-April 1916 (WWI):** The South African 1st Infantry Brigade was deployed to France, entering front-line trenches to prepare for the Somme Offensive.
- **April 1950 (Military Academy):** The South African Military Academy was established to standardize officer training, initially partnering with Pretoria University.
- **April 1994 (SANDF Formation):** Following the first democratic elections, the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) was created, integrating the former South African Defence Force (SADF) with liberation forces like Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK).
- **27 April (Freedom Day):** Commemorates the 1994 transition from apartheid, celebrated as a national holiday.

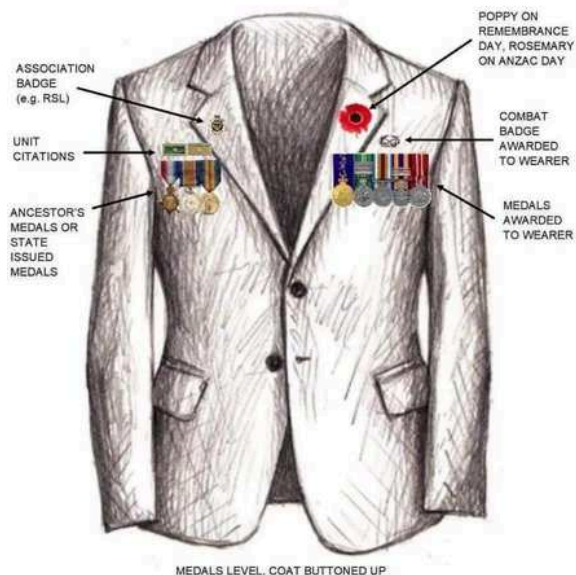




Hamper from donated funds was won by Anthony de Robillard and our latest draws and raffle were all won by Alan Kinsey.

How to Correctly Wear Regalia on Parade

WEARING MEDALS ON COMMEMORATIVE OCCASIONS

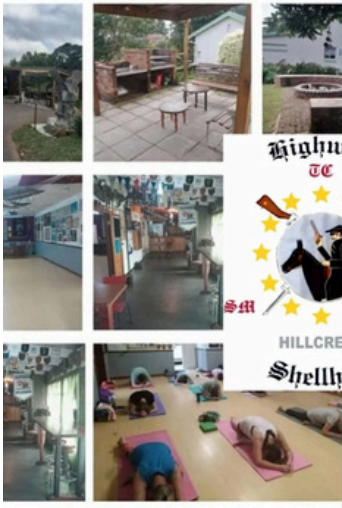


Question for a Beer



What happened in South African Military on the 27 April 1994?





HIGHWAY SHELLHOLE

VENUE HIRE

2 MONTROSE AVE,
HILLCREST

For more information on costs and facilities
Contact: David Millar: 072 851 8911



Upcoming Events for Highway

HIGHWAY DARTS COMPETITION
FIND YOUR TARGET
SATURDAY 4 JULY
AFTER MONTHLY MEETING

SINGLES R50PP
DOUBLES R50PP
BULL CHALLENGE R10PP

HAMBURGERS & BOERIE ROLLS ON SALE



RAWD DAILY MAIL - JUNE 14, 1975

Parabat gets his wings from father

By BOB HITCHCOCK
Military Correspondent

BLOEMFONTEIN. — A former British paratrooper presented his son with parachutist wings at a moving ceremony at the Free State headquarters of No 1 Parachute Battalion at Tempe yesterday.

The father was Commandant "Ossie" Baker, who commands Westpark Comando in Johannesburg.

His son, Rod, was among 80 teenage national servicemen to qualify as "Red Berets".

Before the ceremony, Commandant Baker and his wife, Midge, stood with about 180 other parents, grandparents and girlfriends in the jumping zone to watch the young soldiers leap from transport planes at 1 000 ft. It was Friday 13, but there were no casualties.

More than 30 years ago, Commandant Baker, a Second World War hero, parachuted with the British forces into France, Italy and Greece.

He said last night: "This is a very proud day for the Baker family."

At yesterday's ceremony in a training hanger at



Commandant "Ossie" Baker, of Johannesburg, presents his son, Rod, with his parachutist wings yesterday.

Tempe, Commandant Baker was called out of the audience to personally present his son with his newly won wings.

The presentation of wings to the other 79 parachutists were made by the 23-year-old commanding officer of the Parachute Battalion, Commandant Ewald Olckers.

His comment on the intake: "A good bunch of lads."

From yesterday, the newly-qualified parachutists are entitled to wear the coveted red beret. But their gruelling training is not over.

On Monday, they go into the bush to live without shelter from the freezing winter nights for two weeks. Then they go on to tackle advanced anti-insurgency training. Only then will they be regarded as fully trained paratroops.

Sunset Recalls

Johan Bleeker
Anthea Scott
Keith Commins
Moth O



Birthdays

5 April:
Reinhart Hartzenberg

18 April:
Steve Camp

24 April:
Gary Williams
George Anderson

28 April:
Derick Moor

30 April:
George de Beer

Highway Shellhole wishes you all
a very happy birthday.



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Congratulations

Our new Inductees in April 2026

Geoff Gibson (Moth)
Harry Botha (Moth)
Craig Alliet (Moth)
Debbie Stubbs (Shellhole Supporter)



Memorable Order of the Tin Hat

True Comradeship, Mutual Help and Sound Memory