

123 photographs

A set of photographs acquired by Gerald Adams and taken by photographers Deni Garthorne & Kearthland at an outdoor exhibition, circa 1944.

It is likely that these photographs were taken at the Rand Easter Show in Johannesburg, at the Milner Park show grounds, which would later become the West campus of the University of the Witwatersrand .

The exhibition was opened by Field Marshall Jan Smuts, Prime Minister of South Africa until 1948. In the photographs Smuts (as well as personnel at the various exhibition stands) is wearing a military uniform which supports the idea that the exhibition took place during the Second World War period. Another clue to the date of the exhibition is that a large exhibition space was provided to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), who were, during the Second World War, allies of Britain and its colonies. The exhibition also offered wide spaces for entertainment and food, with a number of foreign visitors and countries, as well as local organisations and companies.

COLLECTION

Opening by Field Marshal Jan Smuts and the city's representative (Mayor?)

Military displays

These include presentations by the Royal Air force and the South African Air force; the SAR & H Brigade with the 7th and 8th Regiments (Reconnaissance regiments captured at Tobruk during WWII); the South African Blood Transfusion Service, calling for medical aid support for Russia; the South African Women's Auxiliary Services (SAWAS),

South African Organisations

Including the South African Trades & Labour Council; the Union of Jewish Women (at the Palestine Exhibition Hall); the Catholic Women's League

International country representation

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR)

The entrance to the pavilion displays an inscription: "This pavilion is dedicated to the heroic Soviet people". Inside the pavilion a bust of Joseph Stalin is displayed, all Soviet republics are introduced together with architectural models of building projects, including the Dnieper Dam (also known as Dnieproges), which was completed in October 1932, under Col. Cooper of the USA .

Czechoslovakia

Poland

Exhibition stands

Display at various exhibition stands, some of them being historical displays, including amongst others: QSC Food Technology; African Oxygen & Acetylene Co.; Free Churches; Crown Mills Spice Works; Amsterdam Diamonds; Police Museum; Ackermans; OK Bazaars and Home industries

Food outlets and restaurants

Diving equipment display

General impressions of the exhibition and its visitors