

A2.15
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Speeches
at Selborne Hall

Thank Mr. [unclear] for their assistance for their presence. 18/8/66

POLICE RESERVE

As far back as 1951, the Council and the Police began negotiating on measures of action to be taken in the event of civil disturbances or war. Decisions were taken on such matters as evacuation of European women from location areas, providing protected rooms, security of the power stations and other vital services, liaison with the Police etc., all designed to ensure that Johannesburg would not be taken unawares.

No steps were taken to enlist the services of Municipal employees until 1961 when tension mounted because non-Europeans embarked on the 'stay at home' movement. Employees were then asked to undertake guard duty at certain points but unfortunately a number of difficulties in this regard were encountered.

Negotiations consequently took place between the Defence Authorities, the Police and the Council concerning the possibility of employees serving in a special military unit and all departments were circularised to obtain an estimate of the number of officials who could be released for guard duty in the event of an emergency. These figures were very encouraging but certainly they have not been borne out by enlistments in the Municipal Reserve. The authorities were informed of the result of the census but on the 26th of March 1962, the Officer Commanding, Witwatersrand Command, advised the Town Clerk that Defence Headquarters was not in favour of a Municipal Commando Unit but considered that in conjunction with the Police the 3 new Johannesburg Commandos would be able to cope with the protection of the more important essential services installations quite adequately. The Town Clerk replied that the Council would be only too willing to give any support to this proposal but could not enforce enlistments in these units. The Town Clerk also asked for information in regard to the protection of municipal essential services and it was suggested that this matter should be taken up with the Police. Approach was made to Brigadier Reay who was then Divisional Commissioner of Police and this was the beginning of the Council's interest in the Police Reserve which had not at that time been established although its birth had been recognized by higher authority.

On the 29th June 1962, a notice appeared in the Government Gazette forming a Reserve Police Force.

The Council's first recruiting drive was carried out departmentally and the response was very poor. Arrangements were then made for recruiting meetings to take place and these were all successful and a Municipal Police Force of over 400 officials was established.

Special thanks must be given to Brig. Steyn, Col. Kemp, Col. Loxton and W.O. Smith for the long hours and hard work they so willingly gave to this recruiting drive. Unfortunately ^{now} ~~as~~ the turnover of municipal employees ~~is so great~~, this number has now dwindled to about 300 but it is hoped another recruiting drive will take place fairly shortly and that a few hundred more recruits will be enlisted. ^{I would like} Please influence your friends to join the reserve.

While recruiting was in progress and recruits attended lectures preparations were being made by the Police with the help of officials of the Council to ascertain the number of guards required at various priority points. Allocations of reservists to these points and to Police Stations where they would report for arms and ammunitions etc. were made. All this preparatory work has now been completed and you have all been issued with cards telling you which point you have been allocated to for guard duty and to which Police Station you must report to in the event of trouble. Chief Reservists and N.C.O.'s are also now being appointed by the Police but of this and many other points Brig. Steyn will ~~deal with~~

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Steyn Kemp

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