

Eerlyke
MENEER DIE VOORSITTER, HERE VAN DIE BRIGADE

Ed 29

HARTLIK DANK VIR U VERWELKOMING HIER VANAAND. DIT IS OPREG 'N EER OM SAAM MET U
VANAAND BY 'TAFEL TE SIT EN OOR "OU TYE" TE GESELS. WEENS 'N ANDER OFFISIELE AFSpraak
KON DIE BURGEMEESTER ONGELUKKIG NIE VANAAND TEENWOORDIG WEES NIE EN DERHALWE IS DIT MY
EERBARE PLIG OM DIE HEILDRONK AAN DIE BRIGADE, DIE PRONKSTUK VAN JOHANNESBURG EN SUID-AFRIKA
SE OUDSOLDATE, NAMENS HOM TE BRING.

MR. CHAIRMAN - IT IS INDEED AN EASY TASK TO BE TOASTING THE GENTLEMEN OF THE BRIGADE
TONIGHT AND IT IS A TASK WHICH I AM TREMENDOUSLY PROUD TO BE FULFILLING ~~TONIGHT~~.

SADLY ENOUGH THE MEMBERS THAT COME TOGETHER EVERY YEAR FOR REUNION ARE NOT ALWAYS THE
SAME IN NUMBERS, AS HAVE BEEN MUSTERED THE YEAR BEFORE, THE SURVIVORS OF THE FAMOUS

/BRIGADE

127 0

3032.

143 Remains

2. BRIGADE ARE DWINDLING (REFER. DEATH OF HON. LIFE PRESIDENT, LT. COL H.M.W. BAMFORD WHO DIED THIS WEEK, SOLE SURVIVING SENIOR OFFICER, SERIAL 108 FI/1)

BUT LET ME SAY THAT I AM SURE THAT THOSE COMRADES NO LONGER WITH US TONIGHT LEND THEIR SPIRIT TO AN OCCASION SUCH AS THIS. LET ME NOT DWELL ON THE HISTORY AND RECORD OF SERVICE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE BRIGADE, YOU ALL KNOW IT WELL ENOUGH AND IT SPEAKS FOR ITSELF, THE DARDANELLES, MESOPOTAMIA AND THE GRIM HARDSHIPS OF THE TRENCHES OF FRANCE AND BELGIUM (serial 83 & 86, FI/1)

WE, THE OUTSIDERS, AND THE BRIGADE ITSELF THINK BACK OF COURSE MOSTLY TO DELVILLE WOOD WHICH, I AM HAPPY TO SAY, JOHANNESBURG COMMEMORATES YEARLY AND HAS DONE SO AGAIN THIS YEAR WITH A SERVICE ON THE CITY HALL STEPS ATTENDED BY SO MANY OF THE OLD MEMBERS. IT WILL BE A PRIVILEGE FOR ME NEXT YEAR/...

YEAR, MR. CHAIRMAN, TO PAY HOMAGE TO YOUR ASSOCIATION ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF DELVILLE WOOD AT THE NEW CENOTAPH SITE.

AS I HAVE SAID BEFORE, THE BRIGADE'S RECORD SPEAKS FOR ITSELF - IT HAD FOUGHT WITH MAGNIFICENT COURAGE WHEREVER IT WAS ENGAGED AND YOU, GENTLEMEN TONIGHT WHO ARE ABLE TO MEET TO DISCUSS THOSE OLD TIMES, DESERVE EVERY PRAISE FOR WHAT YOU AND YOUR COMRADES UNDERTOOK; MODESTLY ACKNOWLEDGING IT AS A PART OF A JOB THAT HAD TO BE DONE. IT WAS THE "WAR TO END ALL WARS" BUT WAS SOON TO BE FOLLOWED BY AN EVEN MORE DEVASTATING ONE THAT BROUGHT FURTHER TESTS OF ENDURANCE AND HARDSHIP ON COUNTRIES AND FAMILIES STILL SUFFERING FROM THE ONE BEFORE.

EVEN/...

EVEN NOW THE WORLD IS ENGAGED IN A NUMBER OF DEFENSIVE OR OFFENSIVE, REVOLUTIONARY OR COUNTER REVOLUTIONARY WARS, OR WHATEVER TERM MIGHT BECOME SUITABLE, AND IT IS A SURPRISING AND SADDENING FACT THAT MANKIND HAS NOT DEEMED IT NECESSARY TO LEARN FROM PAST MISTAKES AND TO CARRY ON SHEDDING THE BLOOD OF ITS YOUNG.

MR. CHAIRMAN, YOU HAVE GIVEN ME A VERY HONOURED TASK TONIGHT, AND I WOULD ASK MY FELLOW GUESTS NOW TO RISE AND JOIN ME IN DRINKING A TOAST TO THE PRESENT AND PAST MEMBERS OF THE BRIGADE, AND ONE OF THE ^{most glorious} BRIGHTEST PAGES OF SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY HISTORY.

Collection Number: A1132

Collection Name: Patrick LEWIS Papers, 1949-1987

PUBLISHER:

Publisher: Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

Location: Johannesburg

©2016

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

This collection forms part of a collection, held at the Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.