



## **Durban Regiment Pipe Band News Archive**

### **2017 News**

**MOTH 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Parade** - Durban Regiment Pipe Band was one of the 6 pipe bands that took part in the MOTH 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary parade. The parade took place at Old Fort in Durban on 7 May 2017. The Memorable Order of the Tin Hats (MOTH's) was formed shortly after World War 1 to care for retired servicemen. If you are an ex-serviceman and are interested in getting involved, then you can contact the MOTH's through their web page ([www.moth.org.za](http://www.moth.org.za)).

**Guide Dog Fundraiser** - A "bikers rally" arranged by the "Widows Sons" bike club is generally not the place that you would expect to find pipe bands. That did not stop Durban Regiment Pipe band from joining Pietermaritzburg Caledonia, 1 Med, MOTH and NMR Pipe bands in putting on a brief display at a rally on 7 May 2017. The event was held at NMR, and was intended to raise funds to support guide dogs. The tartan of the bands seemed somewhat out of place amongst the studs, leather and tattoos, but the music was well appreciated, and it was all for a good cause.

**South Coast Highland Gathering** - The South Coast highland gathering is the first of the three championship competitions to be held in 2017. The event was held at Hutchison Park in Amanzimtoti on 29 April 2017. Pipe bands descended on the venue from all corners of the country, together with thousands of eager spectators. The bands were honoured to have Terry Tully on the judging panel this year. Terry is the former pipe major of the St Laurence O'Toole Pipe Band in Ireland, and is credited with leading the band to become the World Pipe Band Champions in 2010. Durban Regiment Pipe Band competed in Grade 4, with a band comprising 6 pipers and 5 drummers. Well done to Frank Botha, who completed his first South African championship competition. Seven bands competed in Grade 4, and Durban Regiment was pleased with a solid 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the March Selection, 4<sup>th</sup> place in the March, Strathspey and Reel, and a 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall.

**Flame Lily Park Pipe Band Competition** - The first pipe band competition of 2017 kicked off on 1 April, with a regional gathering held at Flame Lily Park. The competition was won by 1 Med A band, followed by Durban Regiment, and 1 Med B band.

**Dunsmore Challenge** - Ken, Colleen and Frank formed the Durban Regiment team that took part in the Dunsmore team piping competition held at UMR Military Base on 11 Mar 2017. The rose bowl trophy was fiercely contested by 6 teams of pipers entered by 1 Med, NMR, and PMB Callies pipe bands. The DR team was pleased with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place.

**Stevens Challenge** - Corrie Stevens and Allan McLuckie entered the Stevens solo drumming competition held on 11 Mar 2016 at UMR Military Base. Allan managed an excellent 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish, amid tough competition. Allan is a well-known Gauteng based side drummer, who we are very pleased to have as a guest member of our competition band this year.

**Pretoria Highland Gathering** - Durban Regiment Pipe Band members spent the weekend in Pretoria to attend the second Championship Gathering of 2017. The competition was held at Pretoria Boys High School on 17 June 2017. The band entered the Grade 4 category, and was placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the MSR, 5<sup>th</sup> in the march selection, and the drummers were placed second overall, out of 7 bands. Well done drummers!

**Natal Scottish Gathering (NSG)** - The NSG was held at the farmers market in Shongweni on 24 June 2017. The new venue provided good exposure for the bands, and afforded the public an opportunity to hear the bands play. Durban Regiment Pipe was placed 2<sup>nd</sup> overall.

**Delville Wood Remembrance Service** - Durban Regiment Pipe Band sent two pipers to play the lament for the annual Delville Wood Remembrance ceremony held at the Cenotaph in Durban on 16 July 2017. A great number of wreaths were placed at the Cenotaph, whilst more than 20 slow airs were played on the

pipes. This was preceded by a moving service describing the incredible suffering and sacrifice made by the South African troops, who bravely carried out their orders to hold Delville Wood at "all costs".

**Benoni Championship Final** - The Championship final for 2017 was held at Benoni High School on 29 July 2017. Durban Regiment Pipe band entered under the Grade 4 category. The bass and tenor drums had new heads fitted and were sounding great. Thank you to Anthony Evans for his assistance with the bass section. The drummers entered the competition at the top of the Grade 4 log for 2017, and were placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the MSR. However, a disappointing last place allocation in the march selection category dashed all hopes of winning the drumming championship outright. The drum corps were subsequently placed second overall in Grade 4 in South Africa for 2017, missing first place by only a single point. Well done Drum Corps! The band finished 5<sup>th</sup> overall in Grade 4 out of 8 bands entered in the championships.

**Music from Scotland** - The annual "Music from Scotland" KZN Piping and Drumming Society fund raiser was held on 10 September 2017 in the DLI Hall. Ticket sales were higher than in previous years with well over 300 tickets sold. Durban Regiment Pipe Band opened the show, and was followed by performances from Pietermaritzburg Caledonian Pipe Band and Celtic Band, Natal Mounted Rifles Pipe Band, Bronwyn Parker Highland Dance Studio, 1 Medical Battalion Pipe Band, and the Massed KZN Pipes and Drums. Thank you to everyone that supported.

**FNB Fun Run** - Runners at this years FNB 10 km fun run in Durban found Durban Regiment Pipe Band encouraging them on at the 3 km mark. Over 10 000 runners reportedly took part, and were treated to a lovely sunny day with gentle cool breeze. Thank you to the organisers for supporting the band, and thank you to the entrants for the many cheers of support offered to the band members as you ran past.

**Last Night of the Proms** – Ticket Sales are now open for the 2017 Last Night of the Proms Concert to be held at the Durban Playhouse Opera Theatre on 22 October 2017. Durban Regiment and Natal Mounted Rifles Pipe bands will be making an appearance during the start of the second half. Book early to avoid disappointment.

**Last Night of the Proms** – The spectacular Last Night of the Proms Concert was delivered to a packed Durban Playhouse Opera Theatre on 22 October 2017. Durban Regiment and Natal Mounted Rifles Pipe bands made an appearance, playing the all time favourite "Mull of Kintyre", with the KZN Philharmonic Orchestra and Massed Choirs.

**Armistice Day Parade** - DRPB took part in the Annual MOTHS Armistice day parade in the Durban City Centre on 11 Nov 2017. The parade was attended by two other pipe bands. The parade started outside the old Durban City Hall, and ended at the Cenotaph, where a ceremony was held to remember those who fell during the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> World Wars, as well as subsequent conflicts.

**Remembrance Sunday Service** - Durban joined the rest of the international community in observing Remembrance Sunday on 12 November 2017. A ceremony was held at the Cenotaph in Durban, arranged by the SA Legion and SANDF. Similarly to the Armistice Day parade, the ceremony is intended to remember those who fell during the great wars and subsequent wars. Two Durban Regiment Pipers played for the wreath laying,

**Kloof SPCA Carols by Candle Light** - Durban Regiment Pipe Band will be appearing in the Kloof SPCA annual Carols by Candle Light fund raiser on 16 December 2017. The event offers a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a picnic dinner in the enchanting surrounds of the Kloof SPCA, whilst listening to a fantastic lineup of entertainment. Please support this worthy cause. Contact the Kloof SPCA for further information.

**Christmas Celebration** - Durban Regiment Pipe Band will be taking part in the Durban Playhouse Company production "A Christmas Celebration" with daily shows between 21 and 24 December 2017. See Computicket for further details.

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The show featured a range of high profile artists, celebrities and the KZN Philharmonic Orchestra. The lineup drew together a diversity of cultures and arts in a truly fantastic seamless production. If you view this article before 24 Dec, there is still time to book at Computicket.

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