

INDIAN SERVICEMEN & EX-SERVICEMEN'S LEGION INDIEN DIENSPLIGTIGE EN OUD-DIENSPLIGTIGE LEGIOEN

PHONE: ~~289782~~

289782.

1 A. CLAYTON GARDENS HOME
189 CLAYTON ROAD, SYDENHAM
DURBAN 4091
SOUTH AFRICA.

20th October 1988.

Our Ref.:

Your Ref.:

Col. R. C. Andersen
National Chairman
Council of Military Veterans Organisation S.A.
Private Bag X686
Pretoria 0001.

Dear Col. Andersen,

I am in receipt of your letter dated 7 October 1988 for which I thank you.

In reply to your question number one. We are not represented by any Ex-Service Organisation on the Council of Military Veterans Organisation. This is the first time we have made an application to join the Council, having sent you some detail of our background constitution and list of office-bearers. We therefore urge you and your Council to consider these facts.

We are recognised by the House of Delegates as representing Indian Servicemen & Ex-servicemen, and after much discussion and meetings with the Ministers Council have been granted parity of Pensions with effect from October 1986. All Indian War Veterans enjoy these benefits, whether they reside in F. M. Burg, Cape or Transvaal. I may add that the War Memorial erected in Nicols Square Durban of which I am the Chairman, is to the Memory of all Indians from South Africa who gave up their lives during Boer War, Zulu Rebellion and World Wars One and Two. In the near future we hope to erect a Roll of Honour to our War Dead. We are also recognised by the Minister of Defence Magnus Malan M.P., the Councillors of the City of Durban and other welfare organisation as a group protecting and promoting the interests of Veterans and Indian Servicemen.

Question number Two. When our organisation was first formed in the late forties. We had members on our committee, representing F.M. Burg, Transvaal and the Cape. Time has taken its toll and most members have passed away. I understand F. M. Burg have about twenty members. Our doors are open for them to join us.

Since the majority of Indian Servicemen and Ex-Servicemen reside in Durban and suburbs we can claim to be a National Body and it is our representation that gets Indian War Veterans benefits.

Enclosed please find a copy of Chairman's report for your perusal.

Yours faithfully,

Gurudutt Varma. J. P.

Chairman Indian Servicemen & Ex-Servicemen's Legion.



"Service Before Self"

2056 A 6111 24/11/85
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

Annual General Meeting.. Indian Servicemen & Ex-Servicemen's
LEGION.

Himalaya Hotel Sunday 10..30. 1st. June 1986.

Gentlemen,

will
It is *with* regret and pleasure I present this report. Regret when I took over the Chairmanship of this Legion.. There was nothing to guide me...no correspondence, no documentation, no funds and very little help from my committee members with the exception of our Vice-Chairman Mr. G. D. Padaychee who met me from time to time.. Pleasure, notwithstanding the daunting task ahead of me, since the mantle of responsibility rested on my shoulders, I had to *go* ahead. What has been achieved in my short term in office has never been done since our Legion was formed in 1945...with the exception of Twenty Two Plots of Land in Asherville for Ex-Servicemen when I made vigorous representation *as* the founder Secretary of our Organisation to the Durban City Council, in the early Fifties. Now as I sit here typing this report the biggest break through has come through... I have just received a telegram from the Minister of Health and Welfare Mr. I. Kathrada M. P. in the House of Delegates which reads. "To Mr. G.R.Varma 189 Clayton Road Sydenham, I refer to your representation regarding War Veterans Pensions. I am pleased to announce that at the Ministers Council meeting held this morning it was agreed that with effect from 1 October 1986 all Indian War Veterans receive exactly the same pension as their White Counterparts. That is, R198.00 plus an additional amount of R15.00 per month, a total of R213...00 per month. We will achieve parity in war Veterans Pension with effect from 1 October 1986." Signed Mr. I. Kathrada. Gentle men this is the greatest news we have had for a long time and the principle of Power sharing in keeping with the reform programme proclaimed by the State President to us, who gave so much in the Service of our country is recognised and being made a reality, especially in a time of economic depression.

Our deep appreciation and heartfelt thanks must go to our Chief Minister Mr. Amichand Rajbansi, Mr. I. Kathrada Minister of Health and Welfare and other Members of Parliament in the House of Delegates whose untiring efforts have brought about this Parity in Pensions.....No reform can proceed smoothly unless our Black and Coloured Counterparts do not receive the same Parity.....Its now up to the Executives of the Cape Corps Servicemen & Ex-Servicemen Organisation to appeal to the House of Representatives.....I cannot speak for Black War Veterans, though I would like to do....But I do remember Chief *say* many time that he would not like anybody to "PONTIFICATE" for him. *or has people...*

POPPY DAY.

Representation made re Black war Veterans Pension.
A meeting was called (Committee) for the year 1984..To discuss Poppy day and wreath laying. Three persons attended this meeting...Sec. Mr. Charles Pillai, Vice Chairman Mr. G.D. Padaychee and myself.. no other committee members were present. During this get together collection of funds for Poppy Day was discussed...subsequently funds were collected and Wreaths were laid on Remembrance Day at the Durban Cenotaph and our War memorial in Nicols Square in 1984. In 1985 I laid Wreaths at the Durban Cenotaph on Delville Wood Memorial Service and Remembrance Day, unfortunately because of our poor committee we did not hold a Memorial Service at our Memorial, which we must do in the near future.

Christmas Hampers.

During December 1984, I personally went to the Offices of the S.A. Legion and collected Xmas Hamper in the form of Vouchers to the value of Fifteen Rands and delivered them to the Director of Aged Home in Dayanand Gardens for ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ War Veterans resident in Dayanand Gardens and Clayton Gardens home for the Aged at considerable time and Expense, since I was then living in a flat at Isipingo Beach and the Aged Home is in Chatsworth.. I contacted Mr. Pillay our Secretary to publicise in the press and get more grocery vouchers for our indigent War Veterans, but I had a negative response....I understand Mr. Pillay has Hotel Connections and his Hotel business naturally has to supersede his voluntary service. Gentlemen please remember, Our Moto reads, "Not for Ourselves but for others."

~~XXXXXX~~ December 1985 was much easier for me. In that Mrs. Bachher asked me to submit names of indigent War Veterans, this I did copies of names herewith, and ~~XXXXXX~~ Grocery Vouchers were posted to residents both in Chatsworth and Sydenham. *also distributed from C.K. Bayan & Devala Gifts from C.B.H. Gov*
February 1985. *to residents in Both Areas.*

I moved to Clayton Garden Home Sydenham from Isipingo Beach. Though I was nearer the city, I did not have an access to a telephone.. This made my work very difficult.....I had to use the General Office Phone and each call ~~xxx~~ cost me Twenty Cents. I contacted the Secretary and told him where I was and that he was to come and see me and work out a plan of action and also told him that I did not have a phone which left me without any communication. I also wanted him to contact Mr. Baldeo Dookie Minister of Housing on the Cato Manor Housing issue, since I know a number of War Veterans who were deprived of their home and land in Cato Manor and make representation on their behalf...Unfortunately I had a negative response, he did not come to see me. I met Mr. Jerrier our Treasurer at Clayton Gdns. Home and told him that he should take a more active part in our work, this he promised to do and that was that...The next time I spoke to Mr. Jerrier on the phone when he was informed that I was on the Fund Raising Committee of the Aryan Benevolent Home Council and that I had raised a considerable amount of money Sponsoring Cottages at the Clayton Gdns. Home, in which he says he was interested...Further conversation was in connection with the proposed Meeting with the Minister of Defence Gen. Magnus Malan at Durban Louis Airport, which did not take place because of the General's illness. Eventually my phone was installed, after representation being made by the S.A. Legion and Members of the H.O. ~~XXXXXX~~ Reports were published in the press in which I asked War Veterans to contact me for their Welfare needs, Etc... My work then started in earnest, getting calls from Transvaal, Martizburg, Port Shepstone, Phoenix, Chatsworth on various matters.....I created a contact line attending to various matters.....between the HoD and their offices in Stanger St.....I met both Ministers of Health and Welfare and Chief Minister Mr. Rajbansi and vigorously took up the Matter of War Veterans Pension with....This entailed a lot of correspondence, both to them and to the Media.... Letters here for your perusal.

My APPOINTMENT as JUSTICE OF PEACE came through on 28th. August 1985...This gave me added muscle and clout.....I not only attended to War Veterans but to other pensioners, widows, orphans and disabled persons..... Happy to say through my effort I managed to restore many pension and disability grants which were stopped.

M.O.T.H.'S

Our Vice-Chairman Mr. Padaychee met Mr. Moulton the Head of MOTH in Durban...The outcome of this meeting was that the doors were now open for Indian War Veterans to join this organisation. Many of them have done so. Letters to this effect were sent to the CO. SAS Jalsena and OC. Natal Command.
Conference.

I was invited to attend the Conference of the S.A. Legion... Unfortunately I could not go and asked Mr. Padaychee to represent us. I later attended the Civic Reception hosted by the Mayor in the Jubilee Room, City Hall.....Even at this social occasion I kept slamming on the blatant discrimination of our Pension with delegates from all over South Africa.

Social Occasions.

I was invited to the Passing Out Parade of the SAP. by the Commission of Police Port Natal Division and OC SAS Jalsena several times to attend these functions, which I did. I was also present at the Reception of the MOTH'S on 4/5/86. History of the M.O.T.H. Large Meeting with Minister of Defence General Magnus Malan. On the 14th Ha

A meeting was held at Maharani Hotel with General Malan the Minister of Defence and our Members. Amongst other things discussed, the question of Delville Wood Memorial Service Contingent arose and I was given to understand a representative was already chosen to accompany this group....At that time I was unaware who the gentleman was..... I discussed this matter with Mr. Logan Chetty. M.P. for Chatsworth...With the result a telegram was sent to Mr. Chetty to make representation on our behalf to include Two Members of our Executive to be also included with this contingent.

Mr. Logan Chetty further arranged a Meeting with General Neil Webster, Head of War Veterans Administration at the Grosvenor Hotel. In the meantime, I had a number of telephone calls from HOD in Cape Town in reply to my letter regarding our request...I was informed that one person was already selected and there may be a possibility to include another. As Chairman of our Legion I stepped down and volunteered to give my place to Mr. Pillai our Secretary.

A further point came to light at that meeting was that Mr. Manna Govender our past Chairman was officially selected by the S.A. Legion to go to this Memorial Service in Northern France. I now appeal to both Mr. Manna Govender and Mr. Pillay that both of them have been honoured to accompany this distinguished contingent headed by The State President Mr. P. W. Botha...Ministers from the House of Assembly H.O.D. House of Representative, Senior Members of SADF, SA Airforce The Navy....They both go jointly in the name of our Legion. To carry themselves with dignity and honour as our service to S.A. goes back to the Boer War, when the Father of the Indian Nation, the late Mahatma Gandhi donned the same type of khaki uniform as we did.

Another point emerged at this meeting with General Webster, ~~xxxxxx~~ that the doors is now open for us to become a full member of the S.A. Legion by paying a membership fee of R2.... This again is an important breakthrough as you all are aware, that we have been trying for many years to become a fully fledged member of the S.A. Legion but a clause restricted us from membership. This was further confirmed by Commandant Strechan Chairman of S.A. Legion when I met him at the Mayoral Sunday at the Durban City Hall 25th. May 1986..... Colonel Strechan also suggested that since ~~xxxx~~ we are the Custodian of our War Memorial we should do justice to our fallen comrades. This I agreed to.

CMRA.

I met the Chairman of the Cato Manor Residents Association Mr. ^And Parshotam at a meeting at the Bellair Road Community Centre Mayville...Regards War Veterans in Cato Manor who were disposed because of the Group Areas Act..... Any War Veteran or members of their ~~family~~ family are asked to contact The Chairman of CMRA. Mr. Parshotam about any claim they may have on Housing at Cato Manor..... Phone. 811981.

Obituaries.

Our condolences and sympathies go to the families of Servicemen and Ex-Servicemen who have passed away.

Thanks

~~My~~ ^{Chairman} attitude and Thanks to the ~~Chairman~~ Ministers Council Mr. Amichand Rajbanis, Welfare Minister Mr. Ismail Kathrad, Mr. Logen Chetty M.P. Chatsworth and other Members of Parliament in the HOD for help on Pensions and for having a spokesman to represent us in the HOD.....Daily News, Post, Leader, Natal Mercury for Media Coverage.....SABC for News Broadcast.....SA. Legion and OK Bazaar for Christmas Hampers, The Aryan Benevolent Home Council for Diwali Gifts....The Directors of the Himalaya Hotel and Grosvenor Hotel for allowing us use of their premises and anybody whom I have forgot to mention who has helped me to make my task a little easier. ^{Belican} ^{Hokei}

Thank you gentlemen for being present here today.

GURUDUTT VARMA. CHAIRMAN.

G. R. Varma
.....

INDIAN SERVICEMEN & EX-SERVICEMEN'S LEGION.

1st. June 1986.

189 Clayton Road Sydenham
DURBAN 4091

Phone 282782.

D/f

(10)

Reference : MD/MVA/517/5
Enquiries : Brig P S Cilliers

/ September 1988

The Chairman
Indian Servicemen & Ex-Servicemen's League
1A Clayton Gardens Home
189 Clayton Road
Sydenham
DURBAN
4091

Dear Mr Gurudutt Varma

INDIAN WAR MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Receipt of your letter dated 29 July 1988 together with the Constitution and Rules of the Indian War Memorial Committee, is hereby acknowledged.

It is hoped that the Committee will be very successful in achieving the objectives as set out in the Constitution and we wish you every success in your venture.

Yours faithfully in veteran friendship

R

pp (G J P DE WACHTER)
CHIEF OF MILITARY VETERANS
ADMINISTRATION : LT-GEN

PSC/MC

INDIAN SERVICEMEN & EX-SERVICEMEN'S LEGION INDIEN DIENSPLIGTIGE EN OUD-DIENSPLIGTIGE LEGIOEN

PHONE: ~~289782~~ 289782.

1 A. CLAYTON GARDENS HOME
189 CLAYTON ROAD, SYDENHAM
DURBAN 4091
SOUTH AFRICA.
30th. July 1988.

Our Ref.:

Your Ref.:

COL. R. C. Andersen
National Chairman
Council of Military Veterans' Organisation
of South Africa.
Private Bag X686
PRETORIA 0001.

I am in receipt of your letter dated 13th. July 1988 for which I thank you.

I am happy to note that you will ^{consider} our application for membership of the Council of Military Veterans' Organisation.

Our Legion was formed after World War 11...1945 and included War Veterans (Indian) from World War 1., and the Indian War Memorial Committee formed during 1919.

As we were barred from becoming members of White Ex-Service Organisation and got no help and support from the then Union Defence Force we had to go it alone. What was tragic and sad, that we were not even allowed to March with our White counterpart and lay a Wreath with them on Remembrance Day and Delville Wood, though a number of Indians lost their lives in the battle of Somme..France, let alone East Africa and Western Desert during World War 11.

Our task was a formidable one, rejected and discriminated against with the help of our community we attended the needs of Thousands of Ex-Servicemen who volunteered to serve South Africa. After much correspondence and representation parity of pension was granted to us with effect from October 1986. We then took up the matter of Black War Veterans pension and I feel we have had some good news in this direction. As yet we have not received parity of pension for Indian War Widows and wives of Indian Ex-Servicemen and we are working in this direction and also the "Means Test" which you will agree is still discriminatory. Housing need for our Members are very important too, and we are hopeful the House of Delegates will come to our assistance.

In 1984 our Legion accepted members serving with the S.A.D.F, which included S.A.S. Jalsena. As soon as funds are available we will be able to recruit hundreds of present and past members of the S.A.S. Jalsena.

Enclosed herewith please find a Copy of our Constitution, together with Names of committee members and a few reports that may be of interest to you.

Thank you once again,

Yours faithfully, 
Gurudutt Varma. J.P. Chairman.

————— "Service Before Self" —————

INDIAN SERVICEMEN & EX-SERVICEMEN'S LEGION
INDIEN DIENSPLIGTIGE EN OUD-DIENSPLIGTIGE LEGIOEN

PHONE: ~~289782~~ 289782.

1 A. CLAYTON GARDENS HOME
189 CLAYTON ROAD, SYDENHAM
DURBAN 4091
SOUTH AFRICA.

Our Ref.:

Your Ref.:

27 February 1987.

Mr. Barend J DU PLESSIS M. P.
Minister of Finance
Ministry of Finance
P. O. Box 29
Cape Town 8000.

Dear Mr. Du Plessis,

We are dis-heartened to once more read that you have not mentioned parity of Pensions for Black War Veterans in your Mini-Budget. After much representation, parity of Pensions for Indian and Coloured Ex-Servicemen was approved late last year. We had hoped that similar consideration would have been given to Black War Veterans. This would have been in keeping with the State President's statement that "Apartheid is Outdated."

It is only people like us, who dogged bombs and bullets and went through the muck and mire of East Africa, Western Desert, Italy and Burma during World War 2 can really feel for Black War Veterans who do not have any representation in Parliament.

At the recent opening of The Delville Wood Museum in France. Much comments were made on the service performed by Black soldiers, during Two World Wars and the wrong done to Black volunteers. In the presence of State President Mr. P. W. Botha and Foreign dignitaries, Mr. Justice Steyn said, "We stand, to a large extent, condemned for not acknowledging the role played by Blacks in the Wars". If Mr. Justice is the spokesman for the conscience of the S. A. Government and sincere in what he said, parity of pensions must be given to Black Ex-Servicemen.

Many Black War Veterans have passed away, those that are still alive are still suffering the aftermath of World War 2. With the escalating cost of living and G.S.T. at a high level, parity of pension is absolutely necessary to keep their bellies full and make their lives reasonably comfortable.....they are very special people.

I pray that our appeal is favourably considered.

Yours sincerely

G. R. Varma
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Gurudutt Varma, Chairman Indian Servicemen & Ex-Servicemen's Legion.

———— "Service Before Self" ————

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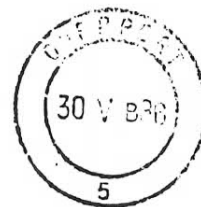
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MR G R VARMA
189 CLAYTON ROAD SYDENHAM
DURBAN

I REFER TO YOUR REPRESENTATIONS REGARDING WAR VETEREANS PENSIONS.
I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT AT THE MINISTER'S COUNCIL
MEETING HELD THIS MORNING, IT WAS AGREED THAT WITH EFFECT
FROM 1 OCTOBER 1986 ALL INDIAN WAR VETERANS RECEIVE EXACTLY THE
SAME PENSION AS THEIR WHITE COUNTERPARTS, THAT IS, R198.00 PLUS
AN ADDITIONAL AMOUNT OF R15.00 PER MONTH - A TOTAL OF R213.00
PER MONTH. WE WILL ACHIEVE PARITY IN WAR VETERANS
PENSION WITH EFFECT FROM 1 OCTOBER 1986

MR I KATHRADA MP

COL G R 189 1 1986 R198.00 R15.00 R213.00 1 1986 1

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