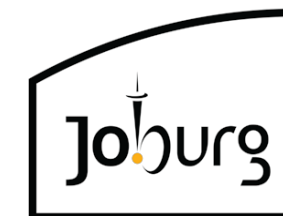


City of Johannesburg Programme



National Civic Remembrance Sunday Service and Wreath-laying Ceremony

The Cenotaph, Harrison Street
10 November 2019



The City of Johannesburg honours those who paid the supreme sacrifice in all wars, battles and armed struggles for freedom, democracy and peace in South Africa.

The Speaker of Council of the City of Johannesburg

Cllr Vasco da Gama

will preside

Rev Robin Peterson

will officiate to the accompaniment of

Dorian Male Choir

This service will be relayed live from 14h55 on SAFm by courtesy of SABC

Polish forces surrendered in early October, after losing some 65,000 troops and many thousands of civilians. Poland became divided between Germany and Soviet Union: the Western and Central parts of Poland were occupied by Germany, whilst the East of Poland was occupied by the Soviet Union.



Civilian prisoners of war, with arms raised, walk along a road during the German invasion of Poland in September of 1939.

Initially, the Germans planned to defeat the Polish Army in an easy one-week long campaign, and then to send all their forces from Poland to the western border of Germany, in order to attack France in Autumn 1939.

The losses that Germany sustained in a heavy, over one-month long fight against Poland, in particular in tanks and airplanes, forced Germany to wait until May 1940 in order to regain the capacity to lead other offensive actions.

At that time in Poland, under the occupation, the nightmare of the German Nazi's and Soviet communist terror against thousands of the citizens of Poland commenced.

The longest battle of the campaign, known as the Battle of Bzura (Bzura is the name of a river, west of the middle of Vistula) was fought from 9 to 18 September. On 13 September all Polish forces were ordered to withdraw towards the so-called Romanian Bridgehead in south-eastern Poland, designated to be the final defence bastion.



Two tanks of the SS-Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler Division cross the Bzura River during the German invasion of Poland in September of 1939.

On 17 September 1939, the Soviet Union executing the Ribbentrop-Molotov pact, invaded Poland from the east.



German General Heinz Guderian and Soviet brigade general Siemion Moisiejewicz Kriwoszejn receive the common victory parade of the German Wehrmacht and the Soviet Army in Brześć on 22.09.1939. (left) The German and Soviet soldiers preparing to the victory parade, Brześć, 22.09.1939. (right)



The South African Poppy of Remembrance

The South African Legion has just trademarked this South African Poppy of Remembrance. This Poppy, designed by Jess Giles, has four bright red petals like the Flanders and Monte Cassino poppies which refers to the blood of soldiers that soaked the land where poppies grew. The forward tilt gives a sense of motion and thus positive action and forward thinking. The white cross comes from the poem "In Flanders Fields" - 'between the crosses, row on row'. The eleven seeds positioned in the centre of the poppy represent the end of war 11th day of the 11th month. The eleventh seed is twice the size and teardrop shaped, representing 11/11. The Poppy is the symbol of remembrance for all of those that served in all wars and conflicts irrespective of which side they were on. Wearing of the Poppy goes back to the 1920's in America, then France, UK and now over 60 million poppies are produced and shipped to over 120 countries across the world. The purple Poppy is to remember the animals that died in service during wars – 16 million animals died in World War I.

1. 14:00 National Flag hoisted and unfurled.
2. 14:05 The Choir perform whilst the audience assembles.
3. 14:20 The Marching Column arrives.
4. 14:20 Military Veterans Column arrives.
5. 14:45 Arrival of Military Ceremonial Company.
6. 14:50 Sentries and flagman posted.

It is requested that there be no applause. The audience stands on arrival of the Speaker's procession and may be seated once the procession is seated.

7. 14:51 Arrival of Speaker's Party with dignitaries.

Order of service

All uniformed personnel and civilian gentlemen to remove head-dress until after the benediction, on the command "off caps".

8. Prayer by Rev. Robin Peterson.
9. Scripture reading by The Executive Mayor,
His Worship Cllr Herman Mashaba
10. Sermon by Rev. Robin Petersen.
11. Hymn.

The audience will stand and sing with the choir

SANDF Unity Hymn

Our Father thou art full of grace
We bow before thy face;
United in our service here
To defend what we hold dear.

As soldiers now we come to pray
And ask for strength each day;
Mya we bring peace in troubled lands
By guided by thy hands.

As Airmen now we come to thee
May we courageous be;
Be thou our guide in troubled sky
That we my for thee fly.

As Sailors on both land and sea
Keep our coastline free;
May all the ships in which we sail
Be sure in every gale.

Bless those who give a Healing Hand
To all throughout our land;
To keep us fit and will and strong
To serve and right the wrong.

United us all in one accord with
Bonds of service, Lord; May we
Be seeking all they ways
Throughout our length of days.

Hymn written by Cpl L Bernhardt for the SANDF 5th Anniversary. Sung to the tune of Amazing Grace

The Polish public was not aware of the gravity of the situation and expected a quick and easy victory of the Polish-French-British alliance. It is believed that 1.2 million Polish troops had been mobilised, but some did not even have rifles. There were 30 infantry divisions, 11 cavalry brigades, 31 light artillery regiments, 10 heavy artillery regiments and 6 aerial regiments. They possessed 3,600 artillery pieces and 600 tanks. The air force included 422 aircrafts which included some becoming obsolete.

The Polish navy withdrew its major ships to the United Kingdom to prevent their destruction and their linking up with the Royal Navy (known as the Peking Plan). The navy consisted of four destroyers (of which three had left for England), one minelayer, five submarines, some smaller vessels and six minesweepers.

The Polish forces were positioned along the border in a semicircle which the German armoured corps quickly thwarted and by 3-4 September the Polish border defences were broken along all the axes of attack. The invaders took Częstochowa on 4th, Kraków and Kielce on the 6th September.

The Polish government was evacuated to Volhynia and the supreme military command left Warsaw on the night of 6 September. Warsaw was surrounded on 9 September but held out until 28 September.



Steel-helmeted, uniformed Polish women march through the streets of Warsaw to aid in defence of their capital after German troops had started their invasion of Poland, Sept. 16, 1939. (AP file photo)

Without a formal declaration of war, Germany invaded Poland with 58 German divisions, including 9 Panzer divisions. Roughly 1.5 million German soldiers, 187,000 motor vehicles, 15,000 artillery pieces, 1,300 armoured vehicles, 52,000 machine guns, 363,000 horses, over 2,000 airplanes, 53 navy ships and more than 2,500 tanks were used in the invasion.

The British gave the German dictator, Adolf Hitler, an ultimatum: pull out of Poland or else. Hitler ignored the demand, and two days later, on 3 September 1939, Britain and France declared war.

The President of the United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt announced "This nation will remain a neutral nation, but I cannot ask that every American remain neutral in thought as well. Even a neutral has a right to take account of facts. Even a neutral cannot be asked to close his mind and his conscience."



Polish anti-tank cannon in action.

The German attack was not anticipated in a timely manner. Due to the pressure from the British and French governments, which sought a last-minute peaceful solution to the imminent Polish-German conflict.

It was later reiterated on 30 August 1939. Poland was surrounded on three sides by the German territories of Pomerania, Silesia and East Prussia and the newly controlled Czechoslovakia. The Polish forces were blockaded on the Baltic Coast by the German navy.

12. Benediction by Rev. Robin Petersen.

On command of the Parade Commander "on caps" all uniformed personnel to replace headdress. Audience to remain standing until the Wreath-laying ceremony commences.

13. MOTH Prayer and MOTH Salute: "We will remember them".

On command of the Master Warrant Officer "Sentries Present Arms" all uniformed personnel will salute.

14. "Sentries Present Arms".

During the sounding of the Last Post, the National Flag will be lowered to half mast.

15. Last Post.

On command of the Master Warrant Officer "Sentries Attention all uniformed personnel will drop the salute.

16. "Sentries Attention".

17. Two minute silence.

During the Reveille the National Flag will be raised — please remain standing.

18. Reveille.

All military veterans may now be seated so that the rest of the audience can pay their respects to them as well.

19. Lament and laying of the main wreaths.

The rest of the audience may be seated during the laying of the wreaths in memory of the fallen.

Loose flowers are available for you to remember a loved one. Please help yourself when called upon. It is requested that there be no applause.

The audience is requested to stand for the National Anthem. On the command of the Master Warrant Officer “Sentries Present Arms” all uniformed personnel will salute and civilian gentlemen will remove their headdress.

20. “Sentries Present Arms”.

The National Anthem

Nkosi sikelel' iAfrika
Maluphakanyisw' uphondo lwayo
Yizwa imithandazo yethu
Nkosi sikelela' thina lusapho lwayo

Morena boloka setjhaba sa heso
O fedise dintwa le matshwenyeho
O se boloke, O se boloke setjaba sa heso
Setjhaba sa South Afrika - South Afrika

Uit die blou van onse hemel
Uit die diepte van ons see
Oor ons ewige gebergtes
Waar die kranse antwood gee

Sound the call to come together
And united we shall stand
Let us live and strive for freedom
In South Africa our Land

On the command of the Master Warrant Officer “Sentries Attention” all uniformed personnel will drop the salute and civilian gentlemen will replace their headdress.

21. “Sentries Attention”.

22. The Speaker’s procession take their leave.

23. Removal of the sentries.

24. Ceremonial Company moves off parade.

**The Speaker of Council of the City of Johannesburg,
Cllr Vasco da Gama thanks you for your presence and participation.**

80th Anniversary of the Start of World War II 1939—2019

The prologue of World War II took place in Moscow, Soviet Union, where on 23 August 1939, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs for Germany and the Soviet Union, Ribbentrop and Molotov, concluded a military alliance. The purpose of which was the division of Eastern Europe between the two countries. A secret protocol to the pact established new border lines between Germany and the Soviet Union, cutting Poland into two parts. The Baltic states of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia were to be incorporated into the Soviet Union.

World War II began at 04:40 am (Polish time) Friday 1 September 1939 when German dive-bombing planes made a massive bombardment of Wieluń, a little town located in the South-Western part of the pre-war Poland. The air bombardment of the town killed nearly 1,200, and this was the first German war crime of World War II.

On the same day, at 04:45 am, the German battleship Schleswig-Holstein fired what was believed to be the first shell; a direct hit on the Polish military transit depot in Westerplatte, in the Free City of Gdansk. This enclave separated from the main city had been awarded to Poland by the Treaty of Versailles in 1919.



The German battleship Schleswig-Holstein in Danzig, Poland, on Sept. 1, 1939. (AP file photo)

