



The community pay tribute to the fallen at the top of Spion Kop.

Looking back at historic battle

Friday, January 24, marked the 120th anniversary of the Battle of Spion Kop.

The Battle of Spion Kop was fought about 38km west-south-west of Ladysmith on the hilltop of Spioenkop along the Tugela River on January 23 and 24, 1900. It was fought between the South African Republic and Orange Free State on the one hand, and British forces on the other hand during the Second Boer War campaign to relieve Ladysmith. It resulted in a Boer victory.

The Herons of Spion Kop Lodge - Raymond, Lynette and Alastair - held a wreath-laying service on Friday to commemorate the anniversary of the battle.

A large crowd of people came out for the service from all walks of life, both young and old.

A beautiful welcoming was conducted by Alastair Heron and the opening prayer by Reverend John Green. Thereafter, Jan

Human gave a talk and paid tribute to the South Africans in the battle. Wreaths were laid by Rico Honiball and Carmi Dowling, who are the head prefects at Winterton Primary School.

Raymond Heron paid tribute to the British soldiers and spoke about the British side of the battle, with wreaths being laid by Geo Kirsten, the head prefect at Drakensberg Boys Choir School.

A tribute was also given to the African Scouts, with Thulani Mazibuko of Schitsdrift School laying the wreaths. This was followed by a tribute to the Indian stretcher-bearers and ambulance corps by Mr Emmo Govender. Here, the wreath was laid by Mr Mudeliar, who is the grandson of a stretcher-bearer.

The closing on the day was conducted by Lynette Heron, which was followed by tea and scones at Spion Kop Lodge, where everyone had the chance to mingle with each other and relive memories of their own.



Mr Mudeliar lays a wreath.



Geo Kirsten after laying a wreath. Above: Raymond Heron pays tribute to the British soldiers.



Jan Human pays tribute to the South Africans who fought in the battle.



Rico Honiball and Carmi Dowling.



A wreath is laid for the African Scouts.



Dudu Mazibuko and Liz Spiret.

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