



THE GENERAL SMUTS FOUNDATION

53 Jan Smuts Avenue

Irene - CENTURION

GENERAL J C SMUTS (1870 – 1950)

**Academic, Advocate, Soldier, Politician, Botanist, Scientist,
Humanist, Philosopher AND Statesman**

AUTHOR: HOLISM AND EVOLUTION



AN INVITATION TO THE 154th YEAR COMMEMORATION: 26 MAY 2024 – 14:30

The Annual General Smuts Memorial Service will be hosted at the Smuts House Museum, situated in Irene, Centurion. This 154th year commemoration is held in honour of General Smuts' life, works and specifically honouring those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in preserving the integrity of our country, hence the theme for this year's commemoration being: THE GREAT WARS – AND THE FUTURE?

FIRST & SECOND BOER WAR	FIRST WORLD WAR	SECOND WORLD WAR
1880-1881 (3 months and 3 days) South African republic vs the British Empire/Natal Colony/Transvaal Colony 441 killed and 505 wounded. 1899 – 1902 (2 year, 7 months and 20 days) United Kingdom vs Boer Republics 32 281 dead / 75,430 returned home sick or wounded / 22,828 wounded / 934 missing / 24,000 captured (sent overseas) Civilian casualties: 46,370 fatalities /26,370 Boer women and children died in concentration camps / 20,000+ Africans of the 115,000 interned in separate concentration camps.	28 July 1914 – 11 November 1918 (4 years, 3 months and 2 weeks) Allied Powers: France/United Kingdom and its territories: Russia/Japan/Italy (from 1915)/United States (from 1917) and others VS Central Powers: Germany/Austria-Hungary/Ottoman Empire/Bulgaria (from 1915) and others Over 17 Million dead. Drawn into international affairs and attended an imperial conference. Organised the Royal Air Force. Part of major decisions of the war. Was an integral part of forming the League of Nations.	1 September 1939 – 2 September 1945 (6 years and 1 day) Allies VS Axis Over 28 Million dead Not as important a figure as in WWI, but he was consulted by Winston Churchill and other Allied leaders. Main concern was to stop Germany and Italy from conquering North Africa. Field Marshal Jan Christiaan Smuts successfully led troops against Britain in the Boer War. He later commanded the South African Defence Force fighting alongside British soldiers in several World War II campaigns.

Smuts was an internationalist who played a key role in establishing and defining the League of Nations, United Nations and Commonwealth of Nations. Research reveals that Smuts played a monumental backroom role in the drafting of the Balfour Declaration, although he had done so anonymously. "He was then involved in the diplomatic recognition of the state of Israel in 1948. Weizmann said: "Without Smuts, there would have been no Balfour Declaration, and hence no Israel."

Notwithstanding all the achievements of Genl JC Smuts, the one that stands out as a brightly illuminated ray of light is that he was a man of his word and his word was his honour. So much so, that on 19 February 1919, at a medal parade in El Arrish, Egypt, the Genl presided over a farewell and medal parade for the 1st Bn SACC, who had distinguished themselves in the Battle fields of German East Africa and Palestine in what now is Israel. In particular, at the Battle of Megiddo, with specific reference to the Battles of Square Hill and Kh Jebeit. The Genl having been the first GOC of 1st Bn SACC said: "There will be a time when we will have to create affordable housing for Military Veterans". He made good on that promise in bequeathing the land on which GEM Village (a part of the Smuts Homestead) stands in his will, thus creating affordable housing for 141 Military Veterans. Truly a man of his word.

Have we learned from these Great Wars? Will we teach our children these lessons? Surely, we are obligated to invest time into our future generations and show them the severity of going to war. Or will we shirk our responsibilities as it is so easy to do in this day and age and turn a blind eye and allow our future generations to destroy each other all over again? These Memorial Services serve as a time of reflection and introspection into future behaviours.

We look forward to sharing this momentous historical milestone: "Looking back benefits looking ahead". Please submit your RSVP hereto attached, by **14 May 2023** so that we can secure a seat for you and select companions.

Thanking you in anticipation,

ANDREA BASSON
GENERAL MANAGER