

COMMANDER: 6 SA ARMoured DIVISION

MAJ GEN: POOLE, William Henry Everad (P100100V).

He was born on the 08 Oct 1902 in Bellville near Capetown and was educated at St Andrews College in Grahamstown and at the Diocesan College in Rondebosch, Capetown. In 1921 he joined the Peninsula Rifles and was commissioned in the SA Field Artillery in 1923.

In 1925 he transferred to the SA Permanent Garrison Artillery.

In 1927 he married Elsie van Boescoten and one daughter was born from this marriage. In 1931 he qualified on a South African Staff duties course, and the following year was appointed Staff Officer "G", No 1 Military District, Cape Town.

In 1934 Maj Poole became 2IC of the Special Service Battalion, and three months later assumed its command. In June 1937 he was attached to the Brigade of Guards in Aldershot, UK. In 1938 he started instructional duties at the Small Arms Wing, SA Military College, and the following year became Commandant of the SA Military College.

Col W.H.E. Poole became GSO-1 of 1 SA Div in Aug 1940. A few months afterwards he was appointed G1 of 2 SA Division. Early in 1941 he was back with 1 SA Div as Brigade Commander of 2 SA Inf Bde. The Div moved from Ethiopia to the Western Desert, and operated first of all in the Western Desert Force and then in the Eight Army, under the command at different times of 13 and 30 Corps.

In June 1942, at a time of an apparent Japanese threat to South Africa, Brig W.H.E. Poole was appointed to the Cape Fortress Command, Cape Town. He rejoined 2 SA Inf Bde at Alamein and stayed with it throughout the battle and the return with them to the Union in December 1942.

In 1943 he was appointed commander of 6 SA Armoured Division in Egypt and Italy.

For services in WW2 he earned a CB, CBE and DSO.

In 1946 he was appointed deputy chief of the general staff. In 1948, following the change to the Nationalist Government, he was transferred to the diplomatic Corps for service in Germany, Greece, Egypt, Argentina and Chile.

In 1951 he was divorced and soon married Maureen Naish-Gray.

He retired in 1966 and spent the remainder of his life in Hermanus.



CB

CBE

DSO

39/45
Star

Africa
Star

Italy
Star



Defence
Medal

War
Medal

Africa
Service
Medal

Legion of
Merit
(USA)

Croix de
Guerre

CB

The Order consists of the Sovereign (currently HM Queen Elizabeth II), the Great Master (currently HRH The Prince of Wales), and three Classes of members:

Knight Grand Cross (GCB) or Dame Grand Cross (GCB)

Knight Commander (KCB) or Dame Commander (DCB)

Companion (CB)

Members belong to either the Civil or the Military Division. Prior to 1815, the order had only a single class, Knights Companion (KB), which no longer exists. Recipients of the Order are now usually senior military officers or senior civil servants.

Commonwealth citizens not subjects of the Queen and foreigners may be made Honorary Members

The Order of the Bath is the fourth-most senior of the British Orders of Chivalry, after The Most Noble Order of the Garter, The Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle, and The Most Illustrious Order of St Patrick. The last of the aforementioned Orders, which relates to Ireland, still exists but has been in disuse since the formation of the Irish Free State.

CBE

The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire is a British order of chivalry established on 4 June 1917 by King George V. The Order includes five classes in civil and military divisions. In decreasing order of seniority, these are:

Knight Grand Cross (GBE) or Dame Grand Cross (GBE)

Knight Commander (KBE) or Dame Commander (DBE)

Commander (CBE)

Officer (OBE)

Member (MBE)

DSO

The Distinguished Service Order (DSO) is a military decoration of the United Kingdom, and formerly of other Commonwealth countries, awarded for meritorious or distinguished service by officers of the armed forces during wartime, typically in actual combat.

The DSO was instituted on 6 September 1886 by Queen Victoria in a Royal Warrant published in the London Gazette on 9 November. The first awards were dated 25 November 1886. It is typically awarded to officers ranked Major (or its equivalent) or higher, but the honour has sometimes been awarded to especially valorous junior officers. 8,981 DSOs were awarded during World War I, each award being announced in the London Gazette.

The Legion of Merit

Is a military decoration of the United States armed forces that is awarded for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements. The decoration is issued both to United States military personnel and to military and political figures of foreign governments. The Legion of Merit is one of only two United States military decorations to be issued as a neck order (the other being the Medal of Honor) and the only United States decoration which may be issued in award degrees (much like an order of chivalry or certain Orders of Merit)

The Croix de Guerre

Is a military decoration of both France and Belgium, where it is also known as the Oorlogskruis (Dutch). It was first created in 1915 in both countries and consists of a square-cross medal on two crossed swords, hanging from a ribbon with various degree pins. The decoration was awarded during World War I, again in World War II, and in other conflicts. The croix de guerre was also commonly bestowed to foreign military forces allied to France and Belgium.

The croix de guerre may either be bestowed as a unit award or to individuals who distinguish themselves by acts of heroism involving combat with enemy forces. The medal is also awarded to those who have been "mentioned in despatches", meaning a heroic deed was performed meriting a citation from an individual's headquarters unit. The unit award of the croix de guerre was issued to military commands who performed heroic deeds in combat and were subsequently recognized by headquarters.