



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

PRETORIA WAR MEMORIAL

SERVICE
HONOUR
SACRIFICE
REMEMBER

World War I was fought from 1914-1918. So great was its devastation, it is estimated that across the world, 20 000 000 people died (soldiers and civilians). It was said that it was the war to end all wars. World War I claimed over 7 000 lives of South African soldiers. Not long after this, the Second World War broke out (1939-1945) and claimed 11 023 lives of South African soldiers.

PRETORIA WAR MEMORIAL

The South African Roll of Honour 1914-1918, records the names of over 11 000 South African soldiers who died during World War I. The Pretoria War Memorial honours soldiers who came from the Pretoria area. South African soldiers who died in the Korean War 1950-1953 are also remembered here.

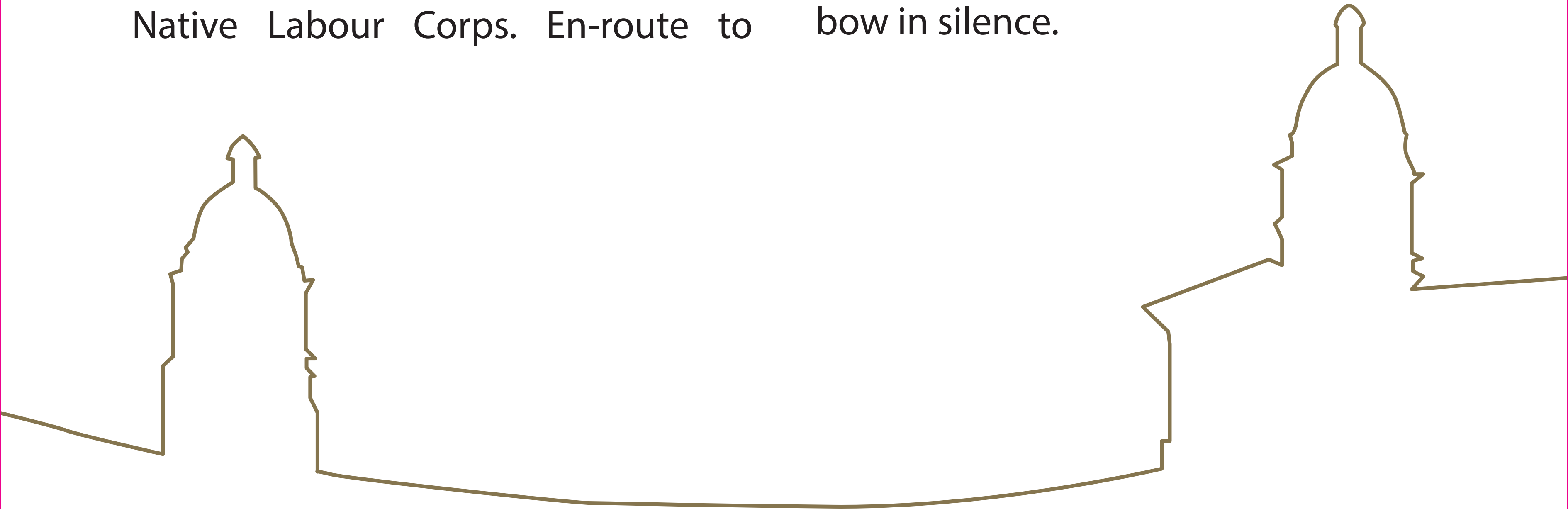
LIVES LOST -
THE SINKING OF THE
SS MENDI

A tragic occurrence for South Africa, was the sinking of the SS Mendi on 21 February 1917. This steamship was carrying over 800 servicemen, the majority of whom were black Africans of the Fifth Battalion, the South African Native Labour Corps. En-route to

France, another ship, the SS Darro collided with the SS Mendi in bad weather. Over 600 of those on board the SS Mendi died in the cold Atlantic waters, never reaching the battle.

The Delville Wood South African National Memorial site in Longueval, France, now remembers those who died at the sinking of the SS Mendi. Work is being done to ensure that the Delville Wood Memorial at the Union Buildings also includes commemoration of the lives lost during the sinking of the SS Mendi.

Every year on 11 November, the soldiers who died in battle during these wars, are remembered at a service at this war memorial, while the trumpet plays The Last Post and heads bow in silence.



This memorial has been severely vandalised and plans for its restoration are underway.

TEMPORARY SIGN