



Picture: WALTER PITSO

In memory: wreaths were placed at the Scottish memorial in Burgerspark yesterday during a memorial service for those soldiers who gave their lives at the battle of Delville Wood.

# Delville Wood dead *P. News 17. 789.* remembered

PHILLIP VOSLOO

Staff Reporter

ON Sunday, July 15 1916, more than 3 000 South Africans took to battle in Delville Wood.

Yesterday, 73 years later, more than 300 people attended a memorial service at the Scottish memorial in Burgers Park to salute the bravery of those soldiers killed, or wounded, in a little piece of France.

The total number of casualties sustained by the first South African Brigade which fought at Delville Wood came to 2 403 men. Only 766 of these died during the battle. The rest had been wounded and evacuated throughout the battle.

Of those listed as killed in action, 218 were never found.

In memory of the South African soldiers who gave their lives, wreaths were placed at the base of the statue of the soldier in the park by various organisations — including representatives from all arms of the South African Defence Force, the South African Police, the Pretoria Highlanders, the Moths, and the Sappers

Association.

Mayors of Verwoerdburg, Akasia, and Pretoria also placed wreaths on behalf of their councils and the people they represented.

A dignitary of the Armed Forces of Chile, Colonel O Boronig, placed a wreath on behalf of his country.

The one-hour service opened with prayer and scripture reading, and consisted of the playing of the "Last Post" and the wreath laying ceremony.