

Gallant Boy Scout is decorated

Proudest parents in Cape Town this afternoon were Mr. and Mrs. Christian Coetzee. They saw their son, Ernest (14) receive the Silver Cross - the second highest award for gallantry that a Boy Scout can win.

Ernest stood to attention while Mr. Alex J. Philander, Western Cape Divisional Commissioner of the Coloured Boy Scouts of South Africa, pinned the cross with its blue ribbon to his uniform.

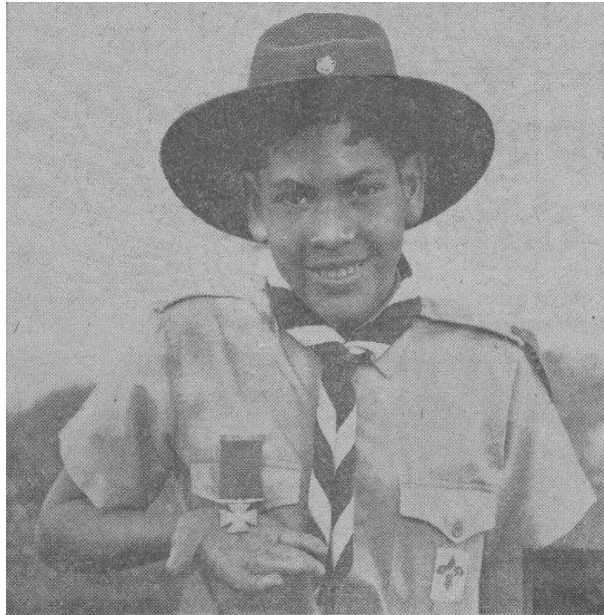
The ceremony took place at Gilray, the Scouts camping site off Prince George Drive.

Ernest is a member of the First Worcester Scout Troop. His act of gallantry took place last December.

The family was at the Darling bridge when they heard cries for help from an eight-year-old boy.

The boy's 12-year-old sister went in after him and she was followed by their father. None could swim and they were all in danger of drowning.

No one else went to help and Ernest dived into the river and pulled them out one by one. Helpers on the bank applied artificial respiration and all three recovered.



Ernest Coetzee, 14 year old Worcester Boy Scout, with the Silver Cross he won for Gallantry after rescuing three people from drowning.

Circa 1960's