

South African Air Force Association  
P.O.Box 15875 Emerald Hill Port Elizabeth 6011

## ***FLYPAPER***

3rd Quarter 2012

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### **BETWEEN YOU AND ME**

Just an important reminder before continuing-----

I have been asked this question about who's who on the Committee previously, and decided that to ensure that all and sundry are "aux fait" with the details, here they are once again for all concerned.

I have not mentioned this before, but it saddens me to comment on the attitude of some serving members who have expressed their disapproval at being asked to pay R100 subs on the basis that they had paid life membership years before, and why should they make a contribution now.

This attitude reminds me of a story about a golf club on the Natal coast, which was very much in the red, the management being taken over by a senior member, who was determined to see the club which had such a fine record over the years, a chance to survive.

The new manager established that a considerable number of 'members' of long standing had not paid for years, and who in turn took umbrage when confronted with a subs. invoice. Management responded by barring the offenders from playing, amidst much unpleasantness, and stated that those who persisted with their objectionable attitude should go and join a "club run by a benevolent society."

Eventually, some 'members' left for good, other relented, and in the space of three and a half years, the club was up and running as a result of sound management, and membership support.

It must be remembered that SAAFA is essentially a welfare organisation dedicated to supporting those who in this day and age have fallen on hard times, and are getting frail in the process. Our wearing of the SAAFA uniform is the 'outward and visible' indicator of membership, but how much support over and above financial considerations, are we giving in the form of contact, care, and planned outings, as in the case of other branches??

Even at this late hour, all our members need to give this some thought??

## **YOUR COMMITTEE FOR 2012**

Chairman: Colin Trader  
Vice-Chairman: Bernie Sharp  
Secretary: Peter Aston  
Treasurer: Myrtle Hamp-Adams  
Welfare: Eleanor Sharp  
Tilley Roodt  
Quartermaster: Ken Reid  
Entertainment: Lolita Reid  
Newsletter: Geoff Hamp-Adams  
Committee: James Canepa  
Members: Woody Turner  
SAAF Liaison: WO2 Amore Freemantle

## **SAAF MUSEUM NEWS**

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of June the Museum staff, and members of the P.E. Friends welcomed the new O.C. Lt Col Mike O'Connor and Col Piet Claasen for his first visit to Port Elizabeth.

After a tour of inspection there was no doubt in anybody's mind that Command was very impressed with the way the facility looked, the state of the exhibitions, and the progress being made overall.

A social was held on the same evening, and the new enclosed veranda and braai area, was formally opened by the new O.C., with a very nice plaque commemorating the event.

The latest on the our wooden Spitfire Mk IX replica is, the 'aircraft' is now on its three wheels, with the fuselage 90% complete and the preparations for the construction of the wings is now underway with the formers to hand. Of course as is the case of all museum projects funding is a problem, and may I appeal to all members to first of all make the effort to visit the project if at all possible, or alternatively consider giving a donation, bearing in mind that a great deal of funding has come out of the pockets of this small and dedicated team of enthusiasts, under the leadership of Rob Tribelhorn.

Please drop this office a line, or give us a call for further info. If you can offer some assistance. Thanks!

Since inception, the Museum has had a library of sorts, but not fully operational. A small team of three have undertaken to get this off the ground, and have established a very functional reference section, after twelve months of hard work.

Should you have any books, periodicals, on aviation you would like to donate, please don't hesitate to contact this office (see letterhead for details), and we can arrange for collection. Members, please feel free to use the reference library as and when, and make contact with the Museum staff, or duty librarian.

## **THE OPS BOARD**

16 <sup>th</sup> Aug.	Luncheon at the Humewood	12H30---13H00
16 <sup>th</sup> Sept	SAAFA Memorial Service at St.Paul's	10H30---11H00
18th Oct.	Luncheon at the Humewood	12H30---13H00
TBANov.	Armistice Day Service –Grey High	10H30---11H00

TBANov. Jewish Ex-Servicemens League Service 14H30---15H00  
6<sup>th</sup> Dec. Christmas Luncheon at the Humewood 12H30---13H00

Cheers for now

## **FLAKBAIT**

### **JACK AND “BLACK SIX”**

After the epic Battle of Alamein in October 1942 it was becoming abundantly clear that the campaign for North Africa was changing in favour of the Allied Forces, and Erwin Rommel’s Afrika Korps was very much on the retreat.

Nevertheless, the Germans put up a very dogged defence despite diminishing resources, right up to the end in Tunisia nearly seven months later.

It was during this time that our Air Force played a vital roll in the harassment of the retreating enemy forces, with intense bombing and fighter operations.

On Wednesday the 4<sup>th</sup> of November 1942, 24 Squadron raided Sidi Fareig in Cyrenaica to stop retreating convoys, and reports came in from the first wave that enemy vehicles were literally nose to tail at El Daba. Captain Jack

Weinronk was flying his Douglas Boston light bomber in a “Vic” formation when all of a sudden the leader broke formation to bomb a target leaving the rest hopelessly behind. Despite the fact that Jack’s formation had fighter cover above and below, the German Air Force now with fewer numbers put up a determined resistance, in a flash two enemy fighters broke into Jack’s section, and as he relates in his book “The Vaulted Sky” right between his number two and himself, without firing a shot!

All that Jack recalled, was a fleeting glance from the pilot, his aircraft painted a sandy brown colour, and number 6 in black on the fuselage.

Imagine how amazed Jack was, on visiting the Imperial War Museum airfield at Duxford in Cambridgeshire more than 50 years later, to be invited to sit in the very aircraft of his erstwhile enemy the late Karl Heinz Ludemann who flew past all those years ago!!!