

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2010



PROUD PAST OF OUTENIQUA

61 AIR SCHOOL AT GEORGE

On 20 August 2010 SAAFA Outeniqua will remember the establishing of 61 Air School at George. This distinguished unit was formally formed as a training unit spored from No 1 School of General Reconnaissance and the formal date of birth is 11 November 1940.

Being a colonial distant unit of the RAF it kept itself busy with training of aircrew for general recce, flying Ansons to start with. By April 1941 there were 25 Ansons on strength and 61 AS was considered one of the most capable of 25 Group schools concerned with maritime recce. In addition to its training role, it quickly became operational as 161 Reserve Squadron and was tasked for numerous operational duties in the Southern Cape area.

During 1941 the school was gradually reinforced and manned by SAAF personnel, and from May that year until September the school received more aircraft: 7 Aeronca Chiefs, 4 Miles Masters and by the end of that year the Masters were replaced with Oxfords.

Coastal patrols up and down the east coast were flown by 161 Sqn as and when intelligence required it. Aircraft were detached to distant bases to increase coverage. In June 1942, 3 Hawker Harts were delivered for meteorological duties and by that time the Anson strength had increased to 52. By July the next year the aircraft strength was 48 Ansons and 4 Hart variants.

Remember, these were war years. The demand for flying crew grew as the war heated up, and the Harts were replaced by Harvards in August 1944, and the Harts were retrenched. In 1945 the war ended and the School was disbanded on 14 June 1945.

NOW WHERE DO WE COME IN?

Many Air Force retirees nowadays live in and around George and are members of our branch. The original two airfields (the first where Lavalia is now, and the second where Outeniqua Bowls Club is presently situated), were replaced by the (then) PW Botha Airport which is now George Airport. The latter airfield forms part of the SAAF's range of expeditionary forward airfields and was constructed by the Air Force. With so many retired Air Force personnel in our region we can look back on a regional historical contribution to the teeth of our Air Force, albeit by our predecessors. At the same time the Air Force will remember the contribution made by South Africans to the war efforts in the North, many personnel having been born and bred in our region.

With the above in our minds it is no surprise that the locals wish to erect a monument in memory of our proud comrades who trained here, fought in the wars from 1938 till now and for those who were blessed to survive and retire. What better gesture can be bestowed than the display of a retired Mirage on a plinth on the premises of the Moths' Shellhole in George where it would serve as a reminder of our forbearer heroes and the contributions by present and past SAAF members?

The community leaders of George already made a pledge to covet the existence of such a monument, and in joint partnership with SAAFA, MOTHS and the private sector, to keep the monument maintained and in pristine condition.

The contribution by Roger Best of statistics and history is hereby recognised.

TWIGS BROKEN FROM THE BRANCH

Sedert ons vorige nuusbrief het ons 'n paar keer lekker saam verkeer, maar helaas het ons ook 'n paar kamerade vaarwel toegeroep wat verplaas is vir Hoër Diens: (volgende bls)

**Nathaniel Goodchild
Flip van Zyl
Faan de Villiers**

ONS SAL HUL NAGEDAGTENIS EER!

HAPPY FAMILY AT PINE LAKE

Wat 'n lekker byeenkoms was dit nie toe ons op 16 Julie by 'n fantastiese nuwe venue saam gekuier het! Groot verrassing was die voordrag van befaamde skywer en historikus **Ian Uys** wat die **Slag van Delvillebos** skoot-vir-skoot aan ons voorgedra het. Hierdie lid van die Vereniging het homself bewys as 'n outeur van militêre formaat en sy publikasies het al wye draaie op die planeet gemaak. En toe kom nog 'n verrassing van die gasheer : Nuwe lid en oud-SALM chef **Craig Milne** het ons vergas met 'n heerlike noenmaal en bo alle verwagting die totale koste van die ete teruggeskenk aan die SALMV! Ons het nou virseker 'n addisionele en puik venue vir etes bygekry!



Voorsitter Al Colesky en Ian Uys



16 Julie 2010

Executive Head Chef Craig Milne

Overheard.....

- Sex is the price women pay for marriage. Marriage is the price men have to pay for sex.
 - I am not attracted by a girl's mind, but by what she *doesn't* mind.
 - Marriage is the only war where you sleep with the enemy.
 - There are only two 4-letter words that offend men: *don't* and *stop*....unless they are used together.
 - A tight-fitting dress is like a barbwire fence: it protects the premises without restricting the view.
 - Guns don't kill people. Husbands who come home early, do.
 - Getting married is like getting into a bath tub. After you get used to it, it ain't so hot.....!_
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THE BERGHS



Ian and Molly Bergh have been seen regularly at all of our gatherings over the past 14 years. It is only apt that a resume be given of this golden couple and their illustrious past. Born in 1928, Ian LeCordeur Bergh started his Air Force career in Feb 1944 and served in Benoni and Eastern Cape till 1946. He transferred to the RAF in 1947, served till 1953, and in that period met Alice Vivian Mary Scott (Molly) whom he married in Port Alfred in 1952. As navigator on Flying Boats he saw his future

in the RAF where he was commissioned in July 1956, then served as navigator on Hastings. During that period he qualified as Senior Nav and eventually transferred to Singapore.

In 1963 he went back to the UK at Thorney Island. He joined the SAAF again in 1965 as a Captain Instructor at Nav School, Ysterplaat. Thereafter he was navigator at 28 Sqn Waterkloof on C130 and C160 Transport aircraft. .

In 1969 he was promoted to Major and transferred to DHQ . In 1972 he was promoted to Cmdt and transferred to CFS Dunnottar as Chief Ground Instructor. Four times he was appointed acting OC of the base, and in 1980 he was promoted to Colonel, transferred back to DHQ and retired in 1986. The couple settled briefly at Table View and in 1996 and moved to George where Ian served as chairman of the SAFA branch for four years. Many stories can be told about their interesting career in both hemispheres of the planet. Molly was overheard last week telling younger listeners how she, while in the RAF, watched with amazement how officers, after a formal dinner, made her sit on top of a piano to watch how they did “night landings” by running and diving over a settee, to land on the bellies between two rows of liqueur glasses, aflame as a flare path on the mess floor. And many more stories are still there.....

THE GOLF DAY

With a chopper veteran at the control, and “Major” Riana Appel backing him up doing the navigation, the **2010 Golf Day at Simola on 3rd October is just around the corner.**

Ola Grinaker, difficult, energetic and hard to follow has once again put together this 2nd event in order to harvest income for the Branch . Members are requested (ordered) to recruit participants and also forward prizes (Mobile 0828981502)

DID YOU REALISE...? DID YOU REALISE...?

ON OUR PLANET.....

- 57% are Asians
- 21% are Europeans
- 14% are from the Americas
- 8% are from Africa

of these.....

- 52% are female, 48% male *
- 30% Caucasians, 70% non-Caucasians
- 30% Christians, 70% Other
- 89% Heterosexual, 11% Gay

of these.....

- 6% possess 59% of wealth (all US)
- 80% live in poverty
- 70% are illiterate,
- 50% suffer from hunger/malnutrition
- 1% are dying, 1% being born
- 1% own a computer
- 1% have a university degree.

- Conclusion: The 4% excess females are redundant or playing hard-to-get.....!

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- **FIFA SOKKER IS VERBY, MAAR.....** die Meesterplan vir Sekerheid het ook die SA Lugmag betrek om Lugruimveiligheid te verseker. Dit het voorsiening gemaak dat 'n embargo geplaas was dmv 'n AIP wat alle ongemagtigde lugvaart beperk tot 'n minimum van 50 seemyl vanaf gasheerstede..

ATNS en die Lugmag se radars het alle lugvaart gemonitor en enige indringers was as bedreigings beskou, Om die bedreigings te bowe te kom was die Lugmag getaak om hulle as vyandelik te merk, te onderskep en te dwing om op bepaalde vliegvelde te land. Met sy gesofistikeerde avionika was die Gripen vegters getaak om die “vyandelike” indringers te identifiseer, dan paslike vliegtuie/helikopters te lanseer om die bedreiger vas te vat. Die uitvoerder van die taak sou dan 'n Augusta A109K, Oryx, Pilatus PC7 MkII Astra of 'n BAe Hawk Mk120 wees wat die oortreder na 'n vliegveld moes eskort. Gripens op taak was 9 dubbelstuur vegters en

2 enkelsitplekvegters.

Ten tye van hierdie skrywe was 15 van die 26 Gripens afgelewer aan die Lugmag en 23 Hawks reeds op inventaris.

Kommentaar deur SA Flyer van Junie 2010 is dat die grootste bedreiging wat die SALM ervaar die tekorte in die begroting is. Hawk vliegure is verminder na 2000 en vir die Gripens na 500. Hierdie droogtetyd aan vliegure sal waarskynlik oor die volgende 2 jaar verder vererger wat die paraatheid van die Lugmag ernstig sal benadeel.

Minister van Verdediging Lindiwe Sisulu het verklaar dat die SANW met die finansiële droogte sal moet saamleef vir die komende jaar, en kon geen versekering gee dat aandag aan die tekort aan maritieme en lugvervoer vliegtuie gegee sal kan word nie.

(www.saflyermag.co.za)

GRIPEN ENCOUNTERS UFO

During a routine patrol in support of the 2010 FIFA World Cup event a Gripen locked its Air Interception Radar onto an Unidentified Flying Object (UFO). The target was flying towards Loftus Versfeld and did not pay heed to radio warnings as laid down in the AIP. The Gripen pilot accelerated to Mach 1.8 and eventually came to within 2nm, thus firing distance for its AAM's. The target, as we already know they are capable of, suddenly stopped in mid-air. The linear velocity of a Gripen of 12 tons at supersonic speed did not allow the pilot to take timeous evasive action and the UFO was sucked into the port jet intake. There was no damage to the Gripen but the UFO was made unserviceable for continued flight and was last seen walking in Magnolia Dal, still headed for Loftus.



BRANCH COMMERCIALS

SAAFA golf shirts are available. Let's try and pitch up at future summer assemblies wearing these dark blue shirts with the SAAFA emblem on the chest. Good for men and ladies alike.

WILLEM AND CHERYL HOUGH have been tasked to take orders from members. The going price is R100 . Five Bucks will be put into our kitty for every sale made.

HAVE YOU SEEN THE NEW HAT PROMOTED BY CAPE TOWN BRANCH? IF YOU ARE A CANADIAN MOUNTY FAN WITH A KAROO SPIRIT AND RESPECT FOR THE UV RADIATION, CONTACT THE SECRETARY FOR DIRECTIONS.

FORTRESS BOOKS

Renowned author Ian Uys, active member of Outeniqua Branch of SAAFA, together with his spouse Barbara, own this Publishing House and he writes on military and regional topics.

On his website www.uys.com/fortress one can browse through the books already published, or order it in any method from the publisher:

**Fortress Books
PO Box 2475
KNYSNA 6570**

Recommended reading is the book on the **Oceanos** which contains stories by various survivors, and also relates the sterling rescue work done by the South African Air Force.
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