



Jimmy's Own

Official Newsletter of the Signals Association

Issue 18 - June 2021

The Duke and the Doctor

A letter from the late Duke of Edinburgh

A legend has gone

The last South African signaller of WWII,
Sydney 'Uncle Syd' Ireland has passed on



9 March 1921 -
29 May 2021

Reggie becomes a Jimmy

Our newest Associate Member



This mid 2021 issue brings us just on half way through the year!

As could be expected as a result of the Covid pandemic, just about nothing has happened this year thus far, barring a Manco meeting held on 29 March and an AGM that is due to be held via Zoom and email communications in a week's time on 7 June.

2019, with a Golf Day hosted in conjunction with 71 Signal Unit, and our participation as marshals in the 2020 Cape Town Cycle Race held on Sunday, 8 March 2020 no large event or function was schedule for 2021.

This then put an end to the renewed enthusiasm gained as a result of our participation in the world famous cycle race because days afterwards, just about the whole world got Locked Down with the dreaded virus and everything associated therewith.

Regrettably, we had no alternative than to one again cancel our Annual Luncheon that was schedule for Sunday, 2 May 2021, as was the case in 2020.

We feel obligated to stage our annual luncheons, mainly because in 2016 we took a pledge to continue in the footsteps of our 3rd Brigade Signal Coy comrades in arms who managed to host their annual luncheons each and every year from 1946 up to their last one in 2016. This was when they ceremoniously handed over their 70 year old tradition to our association.

So, we once again apologise to uncle

(Sgt) Syd Ireland, who happened to be the last remaining member of the 3rd Brigade Signallers and the last remaining Signaller in South Africa. Had our luncheon taken place, Syd would have certainly been present. In our previous issue in March we paid tribute to this 100 year old signaller veteran, but in this issue we sadly pay tribute to this fine gentleman who passed away on 29 May 2021.

We are very pleased to welcome the following new members who joined us since our June 2020 publication:

Michael Roman (Cape Town), Maurice Espin (Cape Town), Andre van Zyl (Centurion), George Coomer (Saldanha Bay), Walter Volker (Pretoria), William (Bill) Smith (Kempton Park), Theuns Marais (Kempton Park), Andre Roux (Cape Town), Arend Keulder (Potchefstroom), Clifford Shields (Fochville) and Deon Potgieter (Mossel Bay).

It is gratifying that so many signallers resident outside of Cape Town are joining us, particularly as we are the only registered military veteran organisation in South Africa for Signallers.

New member Maurice Espin has been co-opted onto our Manco as we believe that, as a Pastor at the Medway Community Church in Plumstead, he could add value providing pastoral services to members and their families. We also hope to utilise Maurice in furthering the aims of our Welfare Fund which we recently established.

We are furthermore very pleased to

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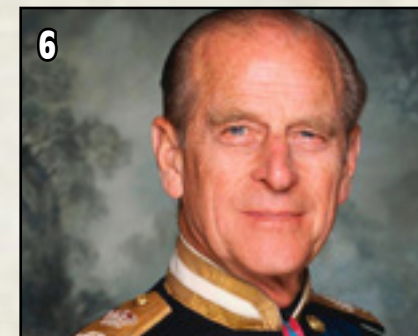
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A legend has gone

Sydney Ireland, the last remaining South African signaller of World War II, has passed away at the age of 100. By **Matt Tennyson & Robbie Roberts.**

Matt was feeling quite proud of himself. He had finished this issue of Jimmy's Own a full week before deadline. And he had also finished his other magazine, Military Despatches.

Then, just after 21h00 on Saturday 29 May Matt received an e-mail from Robbie with the sad news that Uncle Syd had passed away. They felt that they had to pay tribute to Uncle Syd in this issue and not wait until the September edition. They are sure that you will all agree with them.

Matt first met Uncle Syd in 2016 at the 3 Brigade Signal Company Reunion Association and Signals Association Traditional Ceremony of Handing and Taking Over. Robbie had met Uncle Syd in 1996 at the 50th Annual Reunion luncheon.

"Whenever there was a parade or event Uncle Syd would be there. Always with a smile on his face and a warm greeting," says Matt.

On 9 March Uncle Syd celebrated his 100th birthday. The March issue of Jimmy's Own was dedicated to him. Unfortunately, due to COVID regulations, we were unable to give Uncle Syd the type of celebration that he so richly deserved.

Sydney Thomas Ireland was born on 9 March 1921 on a dairy farm in

the Parow district. At the age of 18 he joined the Union Defence Force (UDF) and was drafted into the South African Signals Corps as a wireless operator.

During World War II he served as a wireless operator in Kenya, Abyssinia, British Somalia and Egypt. He spent much time in Cairo and Alexandria and took part in the Battle of El Alamein.

He would become the last remaining member of 3 Signal Company and the last South African signaller of World War II.

On Saturday 29 May at 15h00 Uncle Syd passed away at Huis Luckhof where he resided. It was 50 days after he had celebrated his 100th birthday.

A soldier, signaller, gentleman and a legend has left us, bringing to a close the end of an era.

We are sure that all of you will join us when we say, Rest in peace Uncle Syd.

*They shall not grow old, as we that
are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them, nor the
years condemn,
At the going down of the sun, and in
the morning,
We will remember Sydney Thomas
Ireland.*



**Sydney Thomas 'Uncle Syd' Ireland
9 March 1921 - 29 May 2021**

The Duke and the Doctor

The late Duke of Edinburgh appreciated two articles on the use of wireless during the Boer War, written by our member in the UK, Dr Brian Austin.

In our September 2019 issue of

Jimmy's Own we published an article by our member in Liverpool, Dr Brian Austin, on the use of wireless in the Boer War.

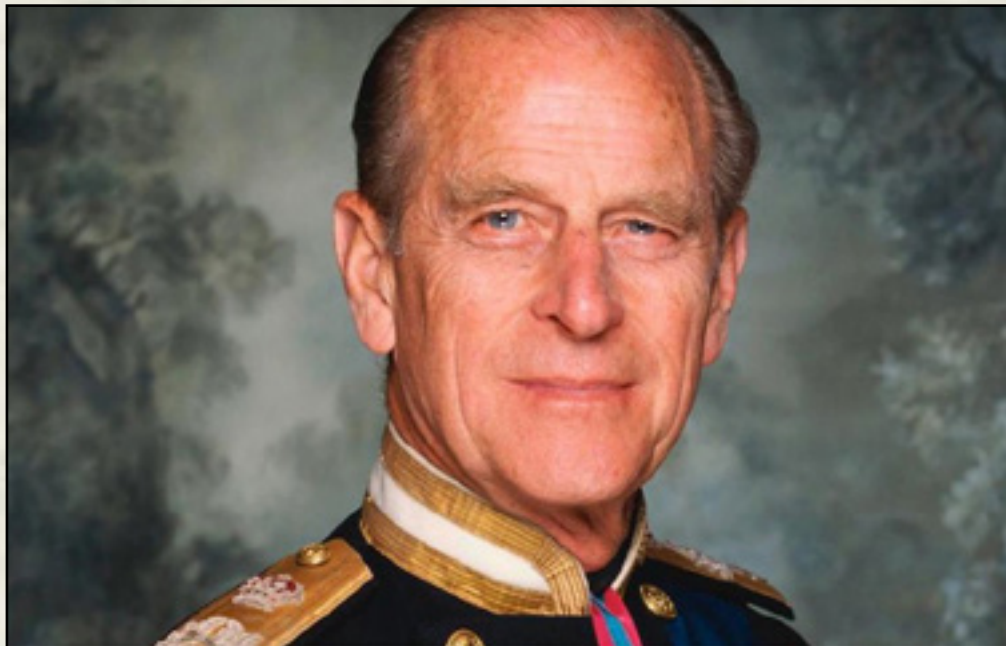
The recent death of the Duke of Edinburgh brought out the best in the British nation with tributes pouring in. Even the media treated the Brits to a wealth of wonderful stories about the Duke.

The Duke had a great interest in technology and just before he and the Queen were to visit South Africa in 1999, which was the centenary year of the outbreak of the Boer War, Dr Austin wrote to the Duke and sent him two of his articles on wireless in the

Anglo-Boer War.

This elicited a letter from Buckingham Palace, when Brigadier Miles Hunt-Davis, Private Secretary to H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, wrote to Brian to advise that the Duke had asked him to write and thank Brian for his letter and the two papers. The letter also stated that "His Royal Highness was most interested to learn that the first time that wireless was used in wartime was during the Boer War" and had extended appreciation to Brian for the trouble to write.

This elicited a letter from Buckingham Palace, which we kindly reproduce opposite.



From: Brigadier Miles Hunt-Davis, C.V.O., C.B.E.,
Private Secretary to H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

28th September, 1999.

Dear Dr. Austin,

The Duke of Edinburgh has asked me to write and thank you for your letter dated 22nd September, 1999 and for so kindly enclosing the two papers.

His Royal Highness was most interested to learn that the first time that wireless was used in wartime was during the Boer War and has asked me to thank you for taking the trouble to write before Prince Philip visits South Africa.

Yours sincerely,

Miles Hunt-Davis.

Dr. B.A. Austin

Code of Conduct

The Military Code of Conduct as an Essential Element of Every Soldiers Training By **Geoff Laskey.**

(Note: This document represents the view of the author and does not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the Signals Association or SANDF.)

In all countries around the world, the duties of the soldier are specified in detail, but in very different ways depending on the various histories and cultural backgrounds of the respective Countries.

A lot is required from soldiers in considering the fact that they have the “right” to legally use an unusual formidable and lethal power in performing their duties. They not only have to master perfectly the equipment issued to them but must also respect the Law of Armed Conflicts (also known as International Humanitarian Law) and apply the principle of humanity in all their actions. It is important to note that their military leaders also have a responsibility to guide and support them in their complicated task.

Every person responds in varying ways to the beliefs and values of their families, communities, and nation as a whole. Members of the military forces, however, must do more than respond to commonly held beliefs -they must be ready to risk their lives and defend themselves. As a consequence, military men and women are never far removed from the central issues of ethics and morality in performing their

missions.

In order to guide and support soldiers at all levels military codes of conduct are developed. These can be seen to operate at three, often inter-relating levels, the international, national and individual level. If a country's forces act unjustly on international level it will undermine their standing and ability to obtain support for international coalitions, which even the most powerful nation requires for sustained military operations. Nationally, improper conduct in operations impacts not only on a country's pride and dignity but also undermines the reputation and image of its armed forces.

On the individual level soldiers must know that what they do is correct and what is required of them and that they have the support of their military superiors, their nation, their society and their government. Thus the code of conduct provides guidance for the behaviour and actions of members of the armed forces. Most of the codes require the soldier, to be firstly a good human being and citizen, applying values such as patriotism, professionalism, honesty, integrity and camaraderie. However the soldier remains

a human being, who is not infallible. They have indeed duties and orders but also rights, although in certain instances limited.

Soldier's commanders have the responsibility to respect them and to support them. Soldiers must be supported and must receive extensive education and training on military codes of conduct. Last but not the least, they must receive firm orders from their leaders on this issue and leaders themselves must be committed to the codes and the importance of abiding by these codes. It is evident that these codes of conduct must not only be statements of good intentions or a compliance issue. Their content and intent has to be taught, known, checked, applied and transgressions at all levels must be addressed and penalised where the situation requires such action.

The reason for these codes is that most of the time a soldier has considerable lethal armaments to his disposal. It is also important to note that soldiers are not responsible for the decision to go to war; it is mainly a political decision. For individuals who must fight on their country's behalf, such codes provide the reconciliation between individual morality and actions that would otherwise be entirely contrary to modern social values. The soldiers have to control their force and master their weapons, respecting the principles of necessity, humanity, proportionality and discrimination. Not only do soldiers have to exercise re-

straint in using its might and power for purposes of executing tasks assigned to them, but they are also expected and required to use restraint in carrying out the task. Lack of restraint on the part of soldiers in today's world might all too easily lead to international, political and legal dilemmas. The responsibility for the proper use of force rests on each and every member of a military force as a whole. This requires discipline and discretion under demanding, difficult and often volatile operational circumstances.

Considering the foregoing it is incumbent on a country's military leaders not only to develop a code of conduct for its forces but also to provide extensive education and training in this regard to all levels of soldiers under their command. The foregoing is especially important in the complex and volatile environment of deployments in other countries or “peace keeping operations” which soldiers are often required to perform in the present day and age. Furthermore military forces and the changing roles they play are more and more being subjected to formal and informal observation by government and non-government agencies, between regular and irregular forces and between the law-abiding and the non-law-abiding sectors.

Recently in South Africa we experienced the unusual situation where SANDF soldiers were deployed to perform support functions to government law enforcement agencies and



the National Health Department during the COVID 19 pandemic. The foregoing required soldiers to function in a civilian environment which in some cases was totally strange to which they were used to function in. A very serious complication was the occurrence of confrontation with and even brutality on the public for breaching curfews and on the other hand communities ventilating their frustrations with restrictions imposed by provoking such forces performing their duties. A number of cases were reported where the SANDF soldiers were implicated, rightly or wrongly, in some of these occurrences. The foregoing led to wide-spread legal and

political consequences.

I need to mention that in my 35 years of service with the SADF and later SANDF, during which time I was deployed operationally on a number of occasions, I never received training or made aware of any such codes of conduct. On occasions reference was made to the Geneva Convention relating to the treatment of prisoners of war and wounded, but no formal training was ever received.

A “Code of Conduct for Uniformed Members of the SANDF” was published early in 2005 (Attachment: 1 hereunder) and also as the result of incidents involving SANDF members and the public during 2020 it was

necessary to develop an additional ‘deployment-specific’ code called the “Mission specific Code of Conduct for Members of the SA National Defence Force specific to the State of National Disaster in terms of Section 19 of the Defence Act 42 of 2002: Operation NOTLELA (Attachment: 2 hereunder). The additional guidelines details what is expected of soldiers during incidents such as looting - people drinking in their yards and how to react when being provoked or insulted. The purpose is to prevent unnecessary use of force from SANDF members.

It is therefore of utmost importance that this information be included routinely as an integral part of the training of all members of the armed forces routinely and for specific deployments. The foregoing will assist to ensure that soldiers are provided with guidance for their behaviour and actions as well as being aware that they are accountable for their actions under all circumstances. This training and increased awareness will greatly assist to improve the image and capabilities of the SANDF by maintaining discipline and performing their duties diligently and professionally under all circumstances.

It is essential that the military commanders and their management staff be supported by all organisations (military and civil) in implementing and sustaining the principles and requirements of these codes. The ultimate goal should be to assist our men and

women in uniform (all ranks) to execute their challenging tasks diligently and professionally. This can only be achieved by a total change in the relationship between civilian authorities and military leaders. To be successful will require concerted efforts by both civilians and the military in South Africa to adapt and establish a culture of co-operation by changing their attitudes, be more tolerant and patient, be prepared to listen and respect each other’s opinions, cultures and traditions. A challenging but not impossible task.

We will do better when we work together. Our differences do matter, but our common humanity matters more – Bill Clinton

THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS OF 12 AUGUST 1949



REFERENCE

Title: Code of Conduct for Uniformed Members of the SANDF

Date: 15/02/2000

Language: English

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR UNIFORMED MEMBERS OF THE SANDF

I pledge to serve and defend my country and its people in accordance with the Constitution and the law and with honour, dignity, courage and integrity.

I serve in the SANDF with loyalty and pride, as a citizen and a volunteer.

I respect the democratic political process and civil control of the SANDF.

I will not advance or harm the interests of any political party or organisation.

I accept personal responsibility for my actions.

I will obey all lawful commands and respect all superiors.

I will refuse to obey an obviously illegal order.

I will carry out my mission with courage and assist my comrades-in-arms, even at the risk of my own life.

I will treat all people fairly and respect their rights and dignity at all times, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, culture, language or sexual orientation.

I will respect and support subordinates and treat them fairly.

I will not abuse my authority, position or public funds for personal gain, political motive or any other reason.

I will report criminal activity, corruption and misconduct to the appropriate authority.

I will strive to improve the capabilities of the SANDF by maintaining discipline, safeguarding property, developing skills and knowledge, and performing my duties diligently and professionally.

Rules of War

In situations of armed conflict I will abide by the rules of international humanitarian law as contained in the Geneva Conventions:

I will fight only enemy combatants and attack only military objectives.

I will employ methods of attack to achieve the military objective with the least amount of harm to civilian life and property.

I will not attack or harm enemy personnel who surrender. I will disarm them and treat them as prisoners of war.

I will not kill, torture or abuse prisoners of war.

I will not alter weapons or ammunition for the deliberate purpose of increasing suffering.

I will collect and care for the wounded, shipwrecked and sick, whether friend or foe.

I will treat all civilians humanely.

I will not tolerate or engage in rape or looting.

I will respect all cultural objects and places of worship.

I will respect all persons and objects bearing the Red Cross, Red Crescent and other recognised symbols of humanitarian agencies.

I understand that disobeying these rules is a crime. It dishonours military personnel and their country, and makes them liable to punishment as war criminals. I will therefore report any violation of the rules to my superiors.

Source:

South African Department of Defence

Quotes about the Geneva Convention

What is the Geneva Convention on wars! I have never read it.

Yoweri Museveni

Geneva Convention? What a joke. More like the Geneva suggestions.

Anon

If we say the Geneva Convention is obsolete, then what do others who have our soldiers say?

Chuck Schumer

Our enemy doesn't abide by the Geneva Conventions, so in my opinion, they should not be afforded the protections of them.

Anon

If you suspend the Geneva Conventions, give the green light to anything that will get intelligence,

round up thousands all over the globe with reckless disregard for guilt or innocence, you are effectively and knowingly issuing orders to seize innocent people and torture them. Any president who decides to do that and then says it was not his intention to do that is a fraud or a fool.

Andrew Sullivan

Our enemy, who is not a recognised or legitimate military force, carries out attacks against civilian and non-military targets. Yet when we retaliate they want to hide behind the Geneva Convention. Sorry, but you can't have your bread buttered on both sides.

Anon



the sandf

Department:
Defence
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

CSANDF/C/309/4 OP NOTLELA

Telephone: 012 355 5362
Facsimile: 012 355 5851
Enquiries: Maj Gen (Dr) E.Z. Mnisi

Chief of the South African
National Defence Force
Private Bag X414
Pretoria
0001

21 May 2020

MISSION SPECIFIC CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCE SPECIFIC TO THE STATE OF NATIONAL DISASTER IN TERMS OF SECTION 19 OF THE DEFENCE ACT 42 OF 2002: OPERATION NOTLELA

1. In addition to the Code of Conduct for uniformed members of the South African National Defence Force and for purposes of **OPERATION NOTLELA** deployed members of the South African National Defence Force must at all times adhere to this Mission Specific Code of Conduct.

SCENARIO 1: LOOTING/PUBLIC DISTURBANCE

2. Dos

- a. SANDF members have an inherent right to self-defence.
- b. Disperse the crowd (Shouting, Verbally Warning, Arrest).
- c. Call for back-up.
- d. Allow members of the SAPS to take over.
- e. Protect the police.
- f. If situation escalate, withdraw.

3. Don'ts

- a. No warning shot.
- b. Don't shoot a person.
- c. Don't get in physical fight with members of the public.

SCENARIO 2: PERSON DRINKING IN HIS YARD

4. Dos

- a. SANDF members have an inherent right to self-defence.
- b. Ignore.

MISSION SPECIFIC CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCE SPECIFIC TO THE STATE OF NATIONAL DISASTER IN TERMS OF SECTION 19 OF THE DEFENCE ACT 42 OF 2002: OPERATION NOTLELA

5. Don'ts

- a. Enter any premises.
- b. Continue with patrol.

SCENARIO 3: PROVOCATION/INSULTS/DISRESPECT

6. Dos

- a. SANDF members have an inherent right to self-defence.
- b. Ignore (Higher tolerance levels against such conduct).
- c. Exercise restraint.
- d. Verbal warning.

7. Don'ts

- a. Don't get in physical fight with members of the public.
- b. Shoot.

SCENARIO 4: ROADBLOCK

8. Dos

- a. SANDF members have an inherent right to self-defence.
- b. Establishment of roadblocks.
- c. Protection of SAPS searchers.
- d. Show of force and protection of administrative areas.
- e. Early warning groups.
- f. Observation for suspicious vehicles and persons.
- g. Provision of guards for arrested persons.
- h. SAMHS personnel must continue providing support to the National Department of Health

9. Don'ts

- a. Establish roadblock independently.
- b. Searching of vehicles and persons.
- c. Arrest
- d. Handle evidence.
- e. Man control points.
- f. Control traffic.

MISSION SPECIFIC CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCE SPECIFIC TO THE STATE OF NATIONAL DISASTER IN TERMS OF SECTION 19 OF THE DEFENCE ACT 42 OF 2002: OPERATION NOTLELA

- g. Record vehicles that have been searched.
- h. Evacuate persons that have been arrested.
- i. Provide vehicles/personnel for immediate follow-ups.
- j. Assault members of the public.

SCENARIO 5: ARMED ROBBERY

10. Dos

- a. SANDF members have an inherent right to self-defence.
- b. Call back-up.
- c. Private Defence to law enforcement personnel and public.
- d. Secure the crime scene.
- e. Use of force including deadly force.

11. Don'ts

- a. Ignore.
- b. Shoot if it is not safe to do so.
- c. Handle the money.

SCENARIO 6: CASH IN TRANSIT

12. Dos

- a. SANDF members have an inherent right to self-defence.
- b. Call back-up.
- c. Private Defence to law enforcement personnel and public.
- d. Secure the crime scene.
- e. Use of force including deadly force.

13. Don'ts

- a. Ignore.
- b. Shoot if it is not safe to do so.
- c. Handle the money (in case of cash in transit heist).

MISSION SPECIFIC CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCE SPECIFIC TO THE STATE OF NATIONAL DISASTER IN TERMS OF SECTION 19 OF THE DEFENCE ACT 42 OF 2002: OPERATION NOTLELA

SCENARIO 7: GENERAL

14. Dos

- a. Adhere to social distancing rules.
- b. Wear your mask.
- c. Sanitise your hands.
- d. Encourage others to do the same.
- e. Follow the correct channels of command.

15. Don'ts

- a. Carry grocery bags or any luggage for members of the community- **(Stay away from members of the community).**
- b. Allow members of the community to take pictures with you.
- c. Fraternise with members of the community.
- d. Accept any gifts or favours from members of the community.
- e. Take photos or videos of the operation.
- f. Post photos and videos (patrol information) on social media.

16. In the event, that a situation arises, which is not covered by this Code of Conduct guidelines must be requested through the chain of command.

17. This code of conduct is exclusively applicable during **Op NOTLELA** and does not replace the existing Code of Conduct for Uniformed Members of the South African National Defence Force.

18. Members of the public may report any misconduct or violation of the Code of Conduct to:

- a. Any Military Police Station
- b. Any Police Station
- c. Military Ombud: (www.milombud.org) Or 012 6763800)
- d. SAPS Hotline: 0800 333 177


(R. MAKHWANYA)
CHIEF JOINT OPERATIONS: LT GEN

Date: 21-05- /2020

AG Directed

MISSION SPECIFIC CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCE SPECIFIC TO THE STATE OF NATIONAL DISASTER IN TERMS OF SECTION 19 OF THE DEFENCE ACT 42 OF 2002: OPERATION NOTLELA

Recommended/ Not Recommended

This is subject to review.

(S.Z. SHOKE)

CHIEF SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCE: GEN

Date: 21/05/ /2020

Approved/ Not Approved

(MS N.N. MAPISA-NQAKULA)

MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS: MP

Date: 22 MAY /2020

DISTR

For Action

C J OPS

Internal

File: CSANDF/C/309/4 OP NOTLELA

Happy Birthday!

Please join me in wishing a very Happy Birthday to the following members who will be celebrating their birthdays during the next three months.

June

6th – Alfred de Vries
9th – Willie van der Merwe
18th – Nolan Meyer

July

8th – Joe Coetzee
8th – Themba Mbali
12th – Tim Reilly

14th – Jerome Solomon
17th – Simphiwe Mtyenene
24th – Ronnie Taylor
30th – Abu Baker Daniels

August

9th – George Coomer
12th – Matt Tennyson
14th – Warren Oor
16th – Karen Tennyson
21st – Ed Wittert
23rd – Jessica Siew
28th – Bobby Dixon
30th – Trunell Morom

Reggie is now a Jimmy

Photographer, blogger, journalist and Photo Editor of Military Despatches, Regine Lord, becomes an Associate Member of the South African Signals Association. By Matt Tennyson.

On Thursday 13 May I went for a cup of coffee and a spot of breakfast in Pinelands to meet up with Robbie Roberts, Pierre Fourie and Regine Lord.

The reason for the meeting was because Reggie was being made an Associate Member of the South African Signal's Association.

The South African Signals Association is a military veterans organisation that is open to anyone that served in the South African Corps of Signals.

Associate membership can be awarded to those that have made a valuable contribution to the Association,

something that Regine has done.

Many of the photographs on the Association's website were taken by Regine, as were many of the photographs that appear in "Jimmy's Own", the Associations quarterly newsletter.

And they are not the only veteran's organisation to have honoured Reggie. In 2019 she was awarded the 'Certificate of Good Comradeship' by the Memorable Order of Tin Hats. This is an award normally reserved for members of the MOTHS.

Well done Reggie. I am both proud and honoured to have you as our Photo Editor.

Some interesting thoughts on monuments

By Robbie Roberts by kind permission of the South African Association of Retired Persons (SAARP).

The following interesting article appeared in the August 2020 newsletter of SAARP: It was titled “Some thoughts on Monuments.”

- Heroes are like rainbows: they can only really be appreciated from a distance. As soon as we get too close, the very qualities that make them shine tend to disappear.
- Heroes come and go. A martyr is forever.
- The problem with absence is that it can itself become a kind of presence.
- What else is a memorial, if not a ritual cast in stone?
- History is a prison from which no one escapes.
- The old monuments, carved in metal and stone, are often torn down because they lose their rele-

vance to later generations. History changes, and if monuments do not keep pace with that change they sometimes have to go.

- Monuments, just like peoples, will always be prisoners of history.
- Tearing down monuments does not solve our history; it simply drives that history underground. While a monument still stands, it will always need to be confronted, discussed. In this way, our monuments hold us to account. They are objects that make sure we never forget our debt to history – or our enslavement to it.

A final thought: “Those who cannot learn from history are doomed to repeat it.” - George Santayana.

continued from page 2
announce that Associate (Friend) Membership status has been granted to Mrs Regine (Reggie) Lord who is a familiar face amongst veterans from all walks of life who frequent regular wreath laying ceremonies in and around Cape Town. Reggie also happens to be the Photo Editor for Hipe Media, which published the monthly issues of ‘Military Despatches’ that we as an association widely distribute.

As for the remainder of 2021, or at

least until our next edition in September this year, only time will tell as to whether, or not, Covid will allow us greater exposure to social and other events.

I hope you will enjoy reading this issue and please do feel free to pass it on. The interest in our newsletter seems to be widening!

Certa Cito (Signals) greetings from
Chairman Robbie Roberts

Just a spoon full of sugar...

By Robbie Roberts by kind permission of the South African Association of Retired Persons (SAARP).

The following interesting article appeared in the August 2020 newsletter of SAARP under the title “SUGAR- A surprising finding”

As a child growing up in poverty in the rural Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe, Moses Murandu noticed that sugar seemed to help heal wounds more quickly than no treatment at all. So he was surprised when, having been recruited to come to work as a nurse for the UK’s National Health System (NHS) in 1997, he found that sugar wasn’t being used in any official capacity. He decided to try to change that.

Now, Murandu’s idea finally is being taken seriously. A senior lecturer in adult nursing at the University of Wolverhampton, Murandu completed an initial pilot study focussed on sugar’s applications in wound healing and won an award from the Journal of Wound Care in March 2018 for his work.

In some parts of the world, this procedure could be key because people cannot afford antibiotics. But there is interest in the UK, too, since once a wound is infected, it sometimes won’t respond to antibiotics. To treat a wound with sugar, all you do, Murandu says, is pour the sugar on the wound and apply a bandage on top.

The granules soak up any moisture that allows bacteria to thrive. Without the bacteria, the wound heals more quickly.

Evidence for all of this was found in Murandu’s trials in the lab. And a growing collection of case studies from around the world has supported Murandu’s findings, including examples of successful sugar treatments on wounds containing bacteria 3 resistant to antibiotics. Even so, Murandu faces an uphill battle.

Funding for further research would help him reach his ultimate goal – to convince the NHS to use sugar as an alternative to antibiotics. But a great deal of medical research is funded by pharmaceutical companies. These companies, he points out, have little to gain from paying for research into something they can’t patent.

Professor JP Van Niekerk commented on this article as follows: The ancient Egyptians used honey and oil as disinfectants and this has been shown to work. Honey has some additional antimicrobial substances not present in sugar. Bacteria also do not like sugar as it kills them by dehydration by osmosis.

Military trivia

To end off with a bit of military trivia that you may, or may not, have known.

- The South African Air Force was established on 1 February 1920. The very first place bombed by the SAAF was actually Brixton Ridge in Johannesburg. It was during the Rand Rebellion in 1922.
- The Vatican Swiss Guard is the smallest army in the world with only 110 men. Vatican City, although surrounded by Rome, is recognised as an independent country.
- Former World Heavyweight Boxing champion Max Schmeling became a German paratrooper or *fallschirmjäger* during World War II.
- Adolf Hitler's half-nephew, William Patrick Hitler served in the military during World War II - as a member of the United States Navy.
- When Calvin Graham enlisted in the US Navy in 1942 he lied about his age. His real age was only discovered after he was wounded in the Battle of Guadalcanal. He had been 12 years old when he enlisted.
- The very first bomb that the Allies dropped on Berlin in World War II caused only one casualty - the only elephant in the Berlin Zoo.
- To date only one woman has ever been awarded America's highest medal for bravery - the Medal of Honour. This was Dr. Mary Edwards Walker. She was awarded the medal during the American Civil War. To date no woman has ever been awarded the United Kingdom's highest medal for bravery, the Victoria Cross.
- The Tokagyp is the Egyptian version of the Russian Tokarev TT-33 pistol. What makes it unique is that it is the only version that has a safety catch.
- The top 114 fighter aces of World War II were all from the German Luftwaffe. Eric 'Bubi' Hartmann was the leading ace with 352 kills.

Maj Gen Murphy pays tribute

Maj Gen (Ret'd) Gerrit Murphy, a well known figure in the SA Corps of Signals and elsewhere, had the following to say when hearing the news of Uncle Syd Irelands' passing, when he found it appropriate to quote the second verse of Taps, namely:

"Fading light
Dims the sight
And a star
Gems the sky
Gleaming bright
From afar
Drawing nigh
Falls the night"