



Jimmy's Own

Official Newsletter of the Signals Association

Issue 24- September 2022

Change of Chairmanship

Jimmy's gather at Rosedale



'Hello Girls'

America's first women soldiers

By the left, quick laugh

Military humour

Since our last issue in June this year, we have managed to hold our Annual General Meeting which we, constitutionally, had to convene before 30 June.

This AGM took place on Monday, 20 June 2022 via the ZOOM process which allowed for a greater participation from members, particularly those resident outside of Cape Town and who, normally, would not have been able to physically attend a meeting at home headquarters.

I am pleased to present our members and readers with our newly elected Management team. The meeting approved the activation of the position of President of the Association and our previous chairperson Robbie Roberts was unanimously appointed as the first President of the Association.

We would like to thank Robbie for his dedication and hard work over the past 21 years. We are convinced that if it was not for his sustained efforts, high standard of work ethics and commitment the Association would not have been where it is today. The standards set by him will require a full team effort to maintain and sustain. "We all salute you Robbie"

The rest of the team consists of the following elected members;

Chairperson - Geoff Laskey

Vice – Chairperson - Clive Justus

Secretary General - Howard Shagom

Treasurer - Wilna Bekker

PRO - Pierre Fourie

Committee Members

Piet Jordaan

Fahmy Rhode

Maurice Espin

Ian Robertson

Jerome Solomon

Essentially the team is the same as before, however with a newcomer Jerome Solomon having taken a seat in the place of Marc Goodleser who, regrettably, resigned after serving for many years.

I pay tribute to Marc Goodleser and say thank you to him for his many years of loyal and dedicated service in helping to manage the affairs of our association. We could always count on Mark to provide valuable input and perform the tasks required of him and in attending regular Manco meetings. We wish him well, whilst he has given an undertaking to assist in a supporting role wherever the association may need his help and expertise.

We welcome Jerome Solomon. Thank you, Jerome, for making yourself available and being prepared to assist in managing our beloved organisation. We on Manco look forward to working with you in our efforts to serve the interests of fellow military veterans.

Congratulations to all those who have been elected. I look forward to taking up the challenge to continue and maintain and further develop the excellent work and camaraderie estab-

lished by my predecessor.

The co-option of further members to assist Manco in the performance of a specific task(s), if any, is something Manco will need to consider at their first meeting following the AGM.

Photographs of the newly elected team appear on the next page of this issue.

To all our members and friends

thank you for your support and please keep the feedback coming - we love hearing from our readers, your input is valuable, and I would like to urge you to assist us by providing articles and photos to brighten up our publication.

Until next time!

Geoff Laskey

Chairperson Signals Association

Message from the President

It will be remiss of me not to pay tribute to the various office bearers who served on our association's Management Committee (Manco) during the period whilst I had been privileged to chair the association for most of our almost 22 years of existence.

In my last editor's note published in our previous newsletter in June this year I already paid tribute to the then current management committee with whom I have had the pleasure of working and being associated with for the many years of support and encouragement I experienced and for their loyalty and dedication towards not only me, but our beloved association. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with such splendid and willing team of office bearers, all for the good of veteran signallers, not only in Cape Town, but in South Africa.

Since our last publication our AGM took place on 6 June 2022, when Geoff Laskey was unanimously elected as the next chairman with a brand

new team of office bearers, which included two newcomers, namely Alderman Clive Justus who took over as Vice Chairman, the position previously held by Geoff, and an old timer Jerome Solomon who caused a comeback.

I would like to congratulate the newly elected team who will be taking our organisation forward, hopefully, to new beginnings. I wish you guys well on the road ahead.

The newly elected Manco then decided to appoint me as our association's President which was the first time this constitutional position has been filled. Thank you Manco for the trust which you have placed in me by honouring me with such appointment. As I stand back from an executive roll, I will still be hovering in the background to act in a supporting role if and whenever needed.

Certa Cito (Signals) greetings.
Robbie Roberts



Signals Association Management Committee



Vice Chair
Clive Justus



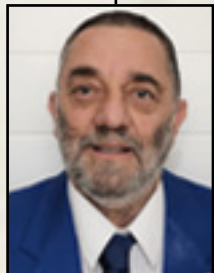
Chair
Geoff Laskey



President
Robbie Roberts



Treasurer
Wilna Bekker



Secretary General
Howard Shagom



Public Relations
Pierre Fourie



Manco Member
Piet Jordaan



Manco Member
Fahmy Rhode



Manco Member
Maurice Espin



Manco Member
Ian Robertson



Manco Member
Jerome Solomon

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Front Cover

Robbie Roberts (left), founding editor of Jimmy's Own, along with Geoff Laskey, the new editor of Jimmy's Own and the new Chair of the Signals Association.



Association Social Function

The Signals Association held a social function at Rosedale on 30 July 2022.

On 30 July 2022 the Signals Association hosted an informal function to thank members and friends of the Association for their Service to the Association and also show our appreciation to members who voluntarily served as marshals at the Cape Town Cycle tour over the past few years.

It was a historical occasion as it was the first opportunity where we had our first Elected President present at such a function and also the first opportunity post Covid, where we as an Association could gather physically socially.

It was certainly an opportunity to make members and friends of the association to feel once more part of the "Signals family".

From the beginning of the event to the end of the event it was clear that members and friends really missed the opportunity to socialise and to just be able to experience the camaraderie which only veteran's associations can nurture.

The presence of 43 members and friends of the Association at the function is proof of the aforementioned needs expressed.

The first member honoured and thanked for his services was the newly and first elected President of the Association Robbie Roberts.

He served the Association from inception as Founder Member and Chairperson over the period 02 December 2000 to 06 June 2022. An achievement which very few veterans if any, can equal or better.

He served the Association with enthusiasm and energy which was contagious and motivated the management team and fellow signallers to join and participate in the activities of the Association.

His professional approach and attention to detail, as well as strict abidance to the Constitution and requirements governing the Association enhanced the image of the Association worldwide.

For that he earned the respect from within and outside to the Association from all fellow veteran Organisations. He established a firm foundation for us to build on and enhance and extend the association.

For his outstanding service to the Association and in recognition of the commendable and meritorious service and outstanding devotion which went far beyond the call of duty. He was awarded a certificate of Commendation of the Signals Association.

A long-standing member of the Association Marc Goodleser served the Association as a member of the Man-



CONGRATULATIONS: Geoff Laskey presents Robbie Roberts with a special award.

agement committee from 28th March 2015 to 6th June 2022.

In June this year he decided to stand down and to create the opportunity

"For that he earned the respect from within and outside to the Association from all fellow veteran Organisations."

for new blood to take over from him. His valuable input, honest, objective, and constructive criticism assisted in the development of the Association. He was always willing to assist and also contributed wherever possible.

In appreciation for his voluntary and generous service as a Management Committee member of the Signals Association he was awarded a certificate of appreciation.

The Association appreciates and

admires his devotion to duty, unselfish support and commitment and certainly hopes that he will be available to support and advise us when required.

Mrs. Marianne van der Merwe wife of the Late Willie van der Merwe also received a certificate of appreciation for her support, care, and loyalty to Willie over many years.

Willie van der Merwe was a former Treasurer and loyal Member of the Association and also a member of our Cycle tour Marshalls Team. The Association appreciates and admires Marianne's positive attitude and unselfish contribution to the Signals Association.

The Association also awarded certificates of appreciation to 23 members who served in the Association's

Cape Town Cycle tour Marshall Team. For the past few years since 2020, a week before our country's first lockdown due to Covid-19, the Association was invited by the Rotary Club of Claremont to assist as start-up and perimeter safety marshals at the Cape Town Cycle Race and subsequently we were also requested to assisted with the 2021 and 2022 races.

Over the years the teams gathered on the Sunday mornings of the race



APPRECIATION: Marianne van der Merwe with Robbie Roberts and Geoff Laskey.

at 04:00 on the Grand Parade to be issued with equipment and be posted to their positions for the start of the race at 06:00. This implied that some of the members had to get out of bed on the Sunday morning at 03:00. Normally once in position there is no time to getting refreshments and members must look after themselves, till the end of the start normally between 11:00 and 13:00.

Marshals are on their feet no matter the type of weather. During 2022 it rained all the time. But not a word of complaint from any person. It is important to note that there is no remuneration to any individual, as it is

a free voluntary service by our members.

A certificate of appreciation was handed to the Association's Cape Town Cycle tour Marshall Team members present at the function. The Association sincerely appreciates and admires their commitment and unselfish contribution to not only render a valuable community service but also to promote the image and values of our organisation.

After the formalities were concluded those present were treated to snacks and drinks and they reminisced till late. Our sincere thanks to those who attended and especially the Association's Social Committee for arranging the function.



SOCIAL: Adi Fourie, Jeff Marcus Marshall team members, Tim Riley Association Member and S A Legion and Ray Nessel S A Legion

DELVILLE WOOD WREATH LAYING CEREMONIES 2022

The Battle of Delville Wood (15 July – 3 September 1916) was a series of engagements in the 1916 Battle of the Somme in the First World War, between the armies of the German Empire and the British Empire.

The battle, one of the best-known of World War One, is recognised for the enormous courage of the South African forces and the high percentage of losses. Of the 3 433 soldiers and support personnel of all races who entered the French wood, only 750 emerged unscathed the rest had either been killed or wounded.

During the Battle of Delville Wood despite fierce counter-attacks and artillery bombardments from German divisions, the SA brigade refused to surrender. The brigade was relieved on 20 July after six days and five nights of ferocious fighting.

The Battle of Delville Wood went down in the history of World War I as an example of supreme sacrifice and heroism and remained the costliest action the South African Brigade fought on the Western Front.

Annually during July Military Veteran Organisations have a ceremony of laying of wreaths at a memorial service throughout South Africa. At the Ceremony in Pretoria on Sunday 17th of July Marina Valentine represented the Association and in Cape Town on Sunday 31 July 2022 Fahmy Rhode represented the Signals Association.



PAYING RESPECT: Fahmy Rhode in Cape Town.



WE WILL REMEMBER THEM: Marina Valentine lays a wreath in Pretoria.

Hello girls

"Hello Girls" - America's First Women Soldiers, Pioneers for Female Military Soldiers Worldwide. By Geoff Laskey.

It is not so well known that hundreds of women, fluent in multiple languages, served within the U.S. Army Signal Corps during World War I.

In this article the important role females played during WWI and the pioneering and pivotal role they played for female soldiers in military forces worldwide will be reflected on.

On 2 March 1918, a U.S. Army Signal Corps unit boarded the Celtic, a transport ship, destined for England and eventually the battlefields of France.

The unit, comprised of female telephone operators, would make history as first women to actively support combat operations on a regular basis. In doing so, they paved the way for expanded roles for women both in the U.S. Army and at home and the rest of the world.

However the events leading up to this historic deployment of females was not always a well-accepted and recognised strategy in the Military and political spheres at the time.

Communication during war is essential and during World War I the U.S. Army needed particularly switchboard operators.

It was soon discovered, however, that the young men in the Signal Corps were generally not experienced

to handle the high traffic on military switchboards.

The switchboard operator had to be mature, patient, tactful and have a high standard of language proficiency. More importantly, there was a need for operators who spoke French and English fluently.

Because so many men were fighting and so many telephone operators in civilian life were women, General Pershing, leader of the American Expeditionary Forces, put out the call to recruit women specifically.

At that stage of the war, the Signal Corps had only 11 officers and 10 men in its Washington office, and an additional 1,570 enlisted men around the country.

The Army needed more operators, bilingual ones especially, and it needed them quickly. Fortunately, women were quick to respond.

In the first week of December 1918, before the War Department even had the chance to print out applications, they received 7,600 letters from women enquiring about the first 100 positions in the Signal Corps.

The first telephone operators entered training at Camp Franklin (now Fort Meade) in January 1918 and arrived in France that March. Eventually 223 American women were sent across the

ocean to work at Army switchboards in mainly France and England.

In September 1917, as male recruits were being shipped to France, the commanders of various army camps in the continental United States began asking for permission to build facilities to house women telephone operators to maintain their communications.

Although the War Department declared that no women should be employed except nurses attached to hospitals, the Signal Corps convinced Secretary of War Newton Baker that the highly trained, experienced women operators were essential, and barracks for women began to be built in October.

To appease public concern, Baker permitted women to be hired only when men were unavailable and ordered that the women be under constant supervision, and that they must be "of mature age and high moral

character". Notices appeared in the newspapers in early 1918 and women answered the call.

Several weeks before President Woodrow Wilson asked Congress to declare war on Germany, the United States became the world's first modern nation to enlist women in its armed forces.

It was a measure of how desperate the country was for soldiers and personnel to assist with operations State-side, and American women seized the opportunity to prove their patriotism.

These women were to be subject to all Army regulations, including Court-Martial, as well as other rules designed to assure their moral character.

America's first female soldiers were Signal Corps telephone operators making sure critical messages got through, often while threatened by artillery fire.

JOIN US





WATCHFUL EYE: 'Hello Girls' on duty while an NCO keeps an eye over them.

The Signal Corps Female Telephone Operators Unit, known as the "Hello Girls", was a unit of women who operated telephone switchboards, sworn into the U.S. Army Signal Corps, during World War I.

The term "hello girls" did not originate with the signal corps, however the term was first coined for female telephone switchboard operators in the United States because these women would often greet callers with "hello" when they rang the switchboard.

During WWI, General Pershing enlisted French-speaking "Hello Girls" to improve wartime communication, relaying messages about troop movements and supplies.

The 'Hello Girls' not only proved to be an integral part in telecommunications at home, but they also played a

vital role in military operations. Led by Chief Operator Grace Banker, the "Hello Girls" served primarily in France and also England, facilitating communication among the U.S. Army and its allies.

The women worked long hours in a fast-paced environment, relaying calls and serving as translators. They had been specifically recruited for this task.

They underwent physical training, they received medical examinations and inoculations, they swore the Army oath, they wore regulation uniforms and "identity discs" (dog tags) to identify their remains.

They observed strict military protocol, and many found themselves stationed a few short miles from the front at outposts that came under sustained



ON DUTY: 'Hello Girls' operating a switchboard. Note the ever present air raid kits within easy reach.

mortar fire.

Nicknamed the "Hello Girls", these women worked long hours, often under combat conditions. Over the vast and complex network of telephone lines that had been hastily constructed across France, these soldiers worked the complicated switchboards connecting the ever-shifting front lines with vital supply depots and military command posts.

At the height of the fighting, they connected over 150,000 calls per day. The operators working in the forward areas endured many of the same dangers and discomforts as the young men in the trenches. Shelling, aerial strafing, poison gas, freezing weather, drafty barracks and phone huts, squirrel-sized rats and the terrifying pandemic of the Spanish flu were all factors these women refused to be intimidated by as they flawlessly carried out their tasks.

In one instance, the Army forcefully evacuated the Female Telephone Operators Unit of the First Army Headquarters, because the women refused to abandon their posts even after their

building caught fire. The women, after readmittance to the building, restored operations within an hour.

They subsequently won a commendation from the Chief Signal Officer of the First Army. Furthermore Grace Banker, Chief Operator, even received a Distinguished Service Medal for her wartime service.

Two days after the Armistice, the Chief signal Officer for the First Army stated in his official report "a large part of the success of the communications of this Army is due to...a competent staff of women operators."

Thirty of the operators received special commendations, many signed personally by General Pershing, and Chief Operator Grace Banker was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.

The women were by far the best operators. At the start of the 20th century, 80 percent of all military telephone operators were females, and due to their prior civilian life occupations and experience as telephone operators they could manage more calls than the newly trained male operators.

WWI Chief Signal Officer Major General George Owen Squier later cited women's "unquestioned superiority" as switchboard operators and their value in freeing men for the fighting front. The report of the Chief Signal Officer, 1919, declared that "The use of women operators throughout the entire war was decidedly a success..."

They were brave, very resourceful, and competent. But when they returned

home, they discovered to their dismay that, according to the United States government there was one thing they most certainly were not: - namely - "veterans".

The "Hello Girls" earned the respect of soldiers and military leaders but returned home after the war with little recognition and no veterans' benefits. (A situation not totally unfamiliar to South African Citizen Forces and/or Part-time forces).

The "Hello Girls" risked their lives to run military communications—and were denied recognition on their return. While they wore U.S. Army uniforms and were subject to Army Regulations, the "Hello Girls" were considered civilians employed by the military and not given honourable discharges at the end of the war, reason being the Army specified the male gender.

Because they were women, the Department of War denied them veteran status - including benefits, medical care, commendations, honourable discharges, military funerals, even the right to wear their uniforms.

The "Hello Girls" were not considered to be veterans of the war that they had served in. This was the beginning of a sixty-year battle for them to be recognized for their military service.

Finally, in 1977, six decades after the war ended — and after most of the "Hello Girls" had died - they were finally recognized as Army veterans.

President Jimmy Carter enacted the GI Bill Improvement Act of 1977 (P.L.

95-202) that granted the "Hello Girls" veterans' status, benefits, and receipt of the WWI Victory Medal. In 1979, 31 surviving Hello Girls received their much-deserved medals.

Even 100 years after the war they served in ended, these women were still slowly receiving the recognition that they deserve.

These pioneers were some of the first women to serve in the Army. In recognizing the "Hello Girls", we honour their service and sacrifices to their country, their contribution to Women's History in the Military, and their lasting legacies.

In South Africa for the better part of freedom and democracy, the contribution and sacrifices of military veterans have been largely neglected and still needs a lot of attention.

Although the State committed itself to addressing the needs of military veterans very little is forthcoming on the ground concerning the clarification and provision of legislated benefits to military veterans.

This is a matter of concern, and it is sincerely hoped that the history of six decades of deliberations like in the case of the "Hello Girls" will not be repeated.

"On the battlefield, the military pledges to leave no soldier behind. - As a nation and organisation, let it be our pledge that when they are at home, we leave no veteran behind."

Quote by unknown.

By the left, quick laugh

A bit of military humour to brighten your day.

There are currently more than enough reasons to feel a bit down. The price of fuel, rising grocery costs, the ridiculous price of electricity (that is when Eskom is not load-shedding). It's enough to make you cry.

So in this issue we're looking at a few jokes that those that served in the military will probably understand. May it will cheer you up - even just a bit.

A Soldier was pepper-sprayed and hit with mustard gas at the same time in his tour of duty.

All his friends call him a seasoned veteran!

When I lost my rifle, the Army charged me R1000.00. Now I understand why a navy captain goes down with his ship.

What do you call a 2nd lieutenant surrounded by a group of privates?
Lost.

Pilot's Job. A pilot's job is very simple.... there are three lights on an aircraft, red on left wing tip, green on right wing tip, white on the tail. The pilot's job is to keep the plane between these three lights.

Fifty-one years ago, Herman James, was drafted by the Army.

On his first day in basic training, the Army issued him a comb. That afternoon the Army barber sheared off all his hair.

On his second day, the Army issued Herman a toothbrush. That afternoon the Army dentist yanked seven of his teeth.

On the third day, the Army issued him a jock strap. The Army has been looking for Herman for 51 years.

At a social event a young lady notices a veteran army sergeant-major standing on his own.

He has a very stern expression on his face and the lady feels sorry for him. She goes over to talk to him.

"Good evening sergeant-major," she greets him. "How are you."

"Fine thank you mam," he replies.

"You're looking a bit tense. You



need to relax a bit more,” she tells him.

“I am relaxed, thank you,” he replies.

“Come on,” she says. “You don’t look relaxed in the least. Tell me, when was the last time you had sex?”

“1959,” he replies.

“My lord, that was a long time ago,” she exclaims.

“Not really,” he says, glancing down at his wrist watch. “It’s only 2030 now.”

A veteran sergeant is giving a lecture to a group of young 2nd lieutenants from Infantry School before their first trip to the border.

When he asks if there are any questions, a young loot puts up his hand.

“Tell me sergeant,” says the youngster. “What do you do if you stand on a land mine.”

“Normally you let out a loud scream, throw yourself about 40 metres into the air, and then spread yourself out over a wide distance.”

The company commander and the sergeant were in the field. As they go to bed for the night, the first sergeant said: “Sir, look up into the sky and tell me what you see?”

The commander said: “I see millions of stars.”

Sgt: “And what does that tell you, sir?”

“Astronomically, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and po-

tentially billions of planets. Theologically, it tells me that God is great and that we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, it tells me that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. What does it tell you sarge?”

Sgt: “Somebody stole our tent.”

A corporal had just chewed out one of his troops, and as he was walking away, he turned to the troop and said: “I guess when I die you’ll come and dance on my grave.”

The troop replied: “Not me, Corporal...no sir! I promised myself that when I got out of the Army I’d never stand in another long line.”

The Sergeant-Major growled at the young soldier: “I didn’t see you at camouflage training this morning.”

“Thank you very much, sir.”

What’s the difference between the Boys Scouts and the Army?

The Scouts at least have adult supervision.

During World War II an American soldier is travelling on a train in England while on leave.

He finds a compartment occupied by two old men and a woman. He wants to sit down, but the seat is taken up by the woman’s small poodle.

He asks her to please move her dog so that he can sit down. She gives him a dirty look and then ignores him

“Please mam, I’ve just returned from the front lines, I was wounded in action, and I’m really tired. Please can you move your dog so I can take a seat,” he asks again.

Again the woman ignores him. He picks up the poodle, opens the window, and throws the dog out before closing the window.

“You Americans are really a strange lot,” says one of the old men. “First of all, you drive on the wrong side of the road. You eat with the fork in the wrong hand. And now you’ve just thrown the wrong bitch out of the window.”

A young national serviceman is doing guard duty at Kimberley for the first time. He is the roving picket and his corporal tells him to walk down to some red lights in the distance and then return back.

He goes missing and only reports back two weeks later. His furious corporal asks him where the hell he has been.

“Well corporal,” he explains. “Those red lights were actually a truck that was heading for Cape Town.”

Murphy’s Laws of Combat

1. Friendly fire is not friendly in the least.
2. A head or chest wound is nature’s way of telling you to slow down.
3. Incoming fire has the right of way.
4. Never draw fire - it irritates every-

one around you.

5. No combat ready unit ever passed inspection.
6. If your attack is going really well, you’re in an ambush.
7. If you’re short of everything except the enemy, you’re in a combat zone.
8. When in doubt, empty your magazine.
9. The easy way is always mined.
10. If the enemy is within range so are you.
11. Tracers work both ways.
12. If a plan is stupid and it works, it isn’t stupid.
13. Communications will fail as soon as you desperately need fire support.
14. Remember, your weapon was made by the lowest bidder.
15. Military Intelligence can be a contradiction in terms.
16. It’s not the bullet with your name on it, it’s the one addressed “to whom it may concern” that you should be worried about.
17. Peace is our profession. Mass murder’s just a hobby.
18. Once the pin is pulled, Mr. Grenade is not our friend.
19. No plan survives the first enemy contact.
20. Never share a foxhole with someone braver than you.

It's been an honour

Matt Tennyson, editor of *Military Despatches*, pays tribute to former editor of *Jimmy's Own*, Robbie Roberts.

It's kind of hard to believe that I've now been working on Jimmy's Own for six years. And during those six years Robbie Roberts has been the editor of the magazine.

I first met Robbie on 1 May 2016. It was at the Italian Club in a suburb of Cape Town called Rugby. It seemed a bit of a strange venue to meet because neither of us was Italian. Hell, I don't even like pasta.

The reason why we were there in the first place was to attend the 3rd Brigade Signal Company Reunion Association and Signals Association Traditional Ceremony of Handing and Taking Over.

Although 'attend' is probably the wrong word to use. After all, Robbie had basically organised the entire function on his own.

The 3rd Brigade Signal Company had met every year since the end of World War II. Now, after 70 years and with only three surviving members, they were handing over the reigns to the Signal Association.

I had only heard about the event about two weeks before. One of my mates mentioned it to me and said that Robbie was looking for someone to take photographs. My mate gave me Robbie's number and I gave him a call.

I told Robbie that I would be more than happy to take photographs of the event and, if he liked, I could shoot some video footage.

Robbie wanted to know how much I would charge and I told him that I would not charge anything.

After the event I sent the photographs through to Robbie. He then came to visit me said that he wanted to print a small booklet about the event.

We then worked on the content and look of the magazine, I did the layout and arranged to have it printed.

After that we produced a short documentary about the 3rd Brigade Signal Company and the Handing and Taking Over Ceremony.

Robbie then mentioned that he wanted to set up a proper website for the Signals Association. Luckily I was able to help with that and soon afterwards the Signals Association website was born.

It didn't stop there though. Robbie was keen on starting an online quarterly magazine. It could then be emailed to all the members of the Signals Association, as well as being available to download from the website. Naturally the magazine was named 'Jimmy's Own'.

Since then Robbie and I have worked on 23 issues of the magazine.



FIRST ENCOUNTER: I met Robbie, pictured on the left, for the first time in May 2016.

We've had some interesting experiences and I've really enjoyed working with him.

Over the past six years I have become good friends with Robbie and he is someone that I both admire and respect. He is the true epitome of the phrase "an officer and a gentleman".

I have always been amazed at the amount of time and work Robbie has put into the running of the Signals Association, as well as the dedication and work that those on his committee have always shown.

Although Robbie has now handed over the reigns of being the Chair of the Signals Association, I am sure that I will still work with Robbie on many

projects in the future. And I look forward to it.

This, the 24th issue of Jimmy's Own, is the first time that I will be working with the new Chair of the Signals Association, who also know becomes that editor of Jimmy's Own.

I must admit that Geoff Laskey, who has written numerous articles for Jimmy's Own in the past, is a more than capable person to step into the hot seat, and I'm looking forward to working with him in future issues.

In the mean time, take a bow Robbie, pour yourself a glass of red wine, and relax a bit. You've more than earned it.

Happy Birthday!

The Chairperson and Management Committee wishes you a happy birthday may you have a wonderful year ahead

September

15th - Jeanne Pienaar

17th - Andre Roux

24th - Robin Cross

28th - Carl Schmidt

October

4th - Chris Richter

4th - Marcus Jeffrey

5th - Arend Keulder

8th - Johan de Villiers

13th - Willem Lubbe

13th - Adre Van As

20th - Willie Snyders

20th - Del Davies

26th - Walter Volker

27th - Hendrik van Staden (Jnr)

28th - Tracy Lee Downing

28th - Michael Roman

30th - Johan Smuts

30th - Maurice Espin

31st - Andrea Andrews

November

3rd - Bill Smith

10th - Fahmy Rhode

15th - Adi Fourie

20th - Clifford Shields

21st - Denis Jelliman

29th - Gideon Mostert

A true story

In 1951, six years after the end of World War II, a man appeared in court in New York City.

He had been charged with speeding and was being represented in court by a lawyer.

The lawyer said that his client was pleading guilty but went on to say that his client was a veteran of World War II and had been decorated for bravery during the Battle of the Bulge.

The judge said that he accepted the guilty plea, but that he was not going to fine the man but rather give him a verbal warning.

Afterwards the judge approached the man and shook his hand.

"I just couldn't fine anyone that was a veteran," the judge said. "I'm also a veteran of the Battle of the Bulge. I was with the 101st Airborne at Bastogne. What unit were you with, and what medal did they give you?"

"I was with the 1st SS Panzer Division Leibstandarte SS Adolf Hitler," the man replied in a thick German accent. "And they gave me the Iron Cross First Class."

This is an incident that really happened. It's probably just as well that the judge learnt of the man's unit after he had passed sentence. Otherwise the judge would have probably imposed the maximum fine. After all, they had been sworn enemies a few years earlier.