



Jimmy's Own

Official Newsletter of the Signals Association

Issue 33 - June 2024

Magda Jelliman

The Signals Association has lost a dear friend

The Military Salute

What's it all about

Strange military code words

Some of the strangest code words given to operations



Message from the Chairman and Editor

We are again 6 Months into 2024 a busy and challenging period to say the least. In view of the foregoing, I have the need to pay tribute to each and every member of our management team for their continued willingness to serve in the hope of improving circumstances and for always being there when I need advice or guidance or adhering to requests to submit information or opinions and decisions. Your usual caring attitude to the activities of our Association is cause for great appreciation and amplifies my own enthusiasm and continued dedication.

A matter which is however concerning is the challenges experienced to recruit new and younger members to ensure sustainability of veteran organisations in general. The whole question of challenges experienced with succession planning and sustainability of Veteran Associations is a cause for major concern throughout the Military veterans Organisations Nationally and Inter- Nationally. This aspect should be one of the prime objectives of our Association and also other Veterans organisations Nationally.

Thankfully under present circumstances we do have the privilege to this year on the 1st of June, once again, meet eye to eye for the Association's 23rd Annual General Meeting and our "country members" will be able to join us via zoom. One thing that we



can be justly proud of is the fact that we never failed to stage any Manco meeting or AGM each and every year of our past 23 years of existence.

Through sustained enthusiasm our Association was successful in pursuing a particular objective being to preserve the past for future generations, and also, maintaining a spirit of fellowship and support of South Africans who served in a military environment in the hope of keeping the flame burning with one thing in mind "not for us, but for everyone" and in so doing, hopefully, be successful to contribute to the general greater good of humanity, apart from our own interests. This applies particularly to our Signaller veterans in need.

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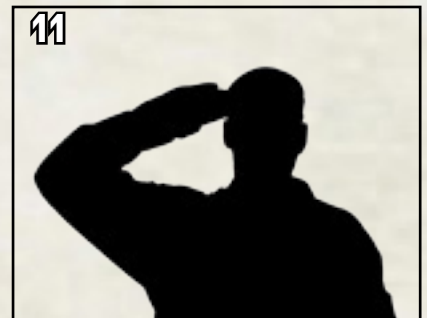


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Cornelia Magdalena Jelliman (Born Du Plessis)

Late wife of Brig Gen (Ret) Denis Jelliman and Friend of the Signals Association. Article by Robbie Roberts and Geoff Laskey based on Eulogy compiled by Denis Jelliman.

Magda Jelliman was born in Pretoria on 25 September 1944 and passed on to higher order on 24 March 2024 at the age of 79yrs and 6 months.

She attended Pam Brink Primary School in Springs and matriculated at High School Littleton (now Centurion) in 1963.

She married Denis Jelliman on 5 December 1965 and until her death, they were married for 58yrs and 3 months.

Magda and Denis are graced with two children. A son Beresford who was also a member of the South African Corps of Signals (SACS) and a daughter Nelia who is still in the military as Industrial psychologist at the Military Psychological Institute. They are blessed with 3 grandchildren, all boys.

Due to mother and father working, Magda enjoyed it tremendously to look after the grandkids during holidays and in the afternoons and spoiled them so much that they often did not want to go home.

Magda was a devoted Christian and gave her heart to Jesus when she was a teenager. She was also actively involved in church activities and partici-

pated in many bible study groups over the years and many friendships in this regard continued ever since. She also, over the years, supported Denis in his church activities as deacon and elder.

During Magda's career she worked for several organisations and departments. In former years female employees were required to resign once they became pregnant or when the husband was transferred to another city or town. Magda, however, managed to work for the Department of Defence for many years and ended her career at Wonderboom Military Base as secretary for Unit Commanders, e.g. 5 Sig Regt and the HQ Unit. Many of her posts were half day posts that existed in those days, which facilitated her dedication to the children and grandchildren to support them in their after school participation in sport and cultural activities.

Magda was also secretary of many Womens' Clubs of SACS Units and at the Army Gymnasium she was required, as wife of the Officer Commanding, to act the Chairlady. In this regard she particularly excelled in many projects to improve the wellbeing of National Servicemen. She also made a huge contribution to signallers



Magda Jelliman
25/09/1944 - 24/03/2024

in the operational area where she personally delivered Christmas parcels to them.

With Denis who was required to do a lot of promotional courses and border duty for extended periods (in total more than three years) it was required of Magda, over and above her normal work, to solely take charge of the household, upbringing of the children, finances, transportation etc. All soldiers that have done border duty will understand and appreciate the dedication and support they received from their wives and family in those trying times!

Magda enjoyed it very much to visit 71 Signal Unit, out of which the Signals Association was born, and since the establishment of the SIGNALS ASSOCIATION in 2000, until 2019, Magda accompanied her husband Denis at the association's annual luncheon celebrations in Cape Town. The members of the association al-

ways experienced Magda as a friendly and endearing individual with a pleasant and charming disposition, which was the reason why she made many local friends whom she cherished until her death.

Magda loved gardening and over and above her own garden, she also took over her children's gardens if she thought it needed maintenance. Magda was very fond of travel and she had the privilege of visiting many countries, amongst others England, Europe, Israel, Malaysia and Mauritius. Her last travel, before she became seriously ill with Alzheimer disease, was on a MSC Boat trip in the Mediterranean for a week during 2019.

Denis Jelliman, in his Eulogy, said:

Magda was, as indicated, a dedicated worker, wife, mother, grandmother and friend. It was therefore a privilege and honour for me to support and care for her during the last 5 years of life as she selflessly dedicated her life to me, the family and friends for more than 58 years. Even in her last years I was taught what love really meant. May she rest in peace?

Management and Members of the SIGNALS ASSOCIATION share Denis' wish that Magda may now rest in peace. Salute from the Association to a great woman and Friend.

May Denis have solace in the knowledge that our thoughts are with him and his family during this time of sorrow.

Communication is the Essence of Human Interaction - Past and Present

By Geoff Laskey

The complete history of communication is important but extensive. Communication has evolved in remarkable ways throughout human history, starting from non-verbal gestures to sophisticated language systems and modern digital tools.

As we continue to push the boundaries of technological innovation, the method in which we communicate will undoubtedly undergo further transformations.

The history of communication methods covers ancient methods like smoke signals, pigeon carriers, and hieroglyphs. Telegraph and telephone revolutionized communication during the 19th century. Email, SMS, and smartphones transformed communication in the digital age.

Communication is the essence of human interaction, allowing us to exchange information, ideas, and emotions. It serves as the foundation of communities, enabling collaboration, understanding, and empathy. Through spoken language, gestures, and technology, we bridge distances and connect minds across cultures, borders and/or countries. Communication is the bridge that connects us, the tool we use to express our thoughts, feelings, and ideas, and the mechanism

that allows us to understand and be understood.

The English word 'communication' has been derived from the Latin word, 'Communicare' which means to impart or participate or to transmit. The word 'Communicare' is derived from the root 'Communis' which means to make common or to share.

The oldest known form of communication were cave paintings. After them came pictograms that eventually evolved into ideograms. Fast forward to 3500 BC and the first cuneiform (wedge-shaped) writing was developed by the Sumerians, while the Egyptians developed what is known as hieroglyphic (symbols) writing.

Modern-day human communication was initiated with the origin of speech, which began over 102,000 years ago (as sources suggest). However, as you can imagine, speech and language during these times held many imperfections, so people found it easier to communicate via symbols. Among the symbols used, there are cave paintings, petroglyphs, pictograms, and ideograms.

On the military front from the earliest of times they have used some form of signalling

(communication). The Greeks had the torch telegraph and the water tel-

egraph, the Roman Army used coloured smoke as a means of communication and in 16th century in England beacons were used. On the battlefield communication was achieved by the Signal Corps use of wigwag flags or torches, battle flags, drums and bugles.

In 1790, in France, Claude Chappe invented a telegraph. The British learned about this and decided they needed to improve the way they communicated. Subsequently a handful of people patented systems – one such was a shutter-type machine, known as the 'Murray Lettering Telegraph' or Shutter Telegraph. This was adopted by the Admiralty in 1796 and successfully used to communicate between London and Devonport. A year later the Army introduced the Radiated Telegraph System which was a more mobile system than the Murray Telegraph and remained in use throughout the Napoleonic wars.

During World War I, wireless telegraph communication was employed extensively by the navies of the world and had a major influence on the character of naval warfare. High-powered shore and ship stations made wireless communication over long distances possible.

Work to advance communications continued but it wasn't until the 1830s that two key technological developments – the invention of the Electric Telegraph and in 1838 Samuel Morse created Morse Code. Morse was a code which, via a series of on or off-tones, dots and dashes, allowed com-

plex messages to be conveyed over long distances. Morse stood the test of time remaining in use as an international standard for maritime distress until the end of the twentieth century. During 1860 the first messages were exchanged between Simon's Town and Cape Town by electric telegraph.

However, March 3rd, 2022, marked the 175th anniversary of Alexander Graham Bell's birth and created a good opportunity to explore his multiple contributions to science, technology, and most of all, communications. Thanks to Bell, who is credited with patenting the first practical telephone, the ways in which we communicate and conduct our functions have evolved. From the wired telephone to mobile devices, and from locally managed communication solutions to cloud-based, on-demand technologies. We can attribute much of the technologies available to us today to this one man.

Technological advancements completely changed the way we communicate with each other and, in general, made communication easier. Radio and television became a great source of information in the early 1900s. Not only did they provide various forms of entertainment, but they also delivered news, sports, and weather forecasts and data to subscribers.

The computer was invented towards the beginning of the 20th century, but the features for communication were not created until the mid to late 1900s.

In 1971, online written communication expanded into email, completely changing the game. To make it even more enticing for users, these systems soon adapted the means to share entire files or photographs.

In the modern world, most nations attempt to minimize the risk of war caused by miscommunication or inadequate communication. As a result, military communication is intense and complicated, and often motivates the development of advanced technology for remote systems such as satellites and aircraft, both crewed and uncrewed, as well as computers. Computers and their varied applications have revolutionized military comms. Although military communication is designed for warfare, it also supports intelligence-gathering and communication between adversaries, and thus sometimes prevents war.

Mobile phones are considered an important human invention as it has been one of the most widely used and sold pieces of consumer technology. The first handheld mobile phone was demonstrated by Martin Cooper of Motorola in New York City on 3 April 1973, using a handset weighing 2 kilograms. According to a report from Statista, there were almost 15 billion mobile devices worldwide in 2021, which is more than the number of people on the earth. And that number is expected to reach more than 18 billion by 2025.

The latest smartphones are millions

of times more powerful than the Apollo 11 guidance computers that landed Neil Armstrong on the moon in 1969. Today, mobile technologies are heavily depended on by most organisations and people in the world to communicate and conduct operations.

Video conferencing software is a perfect example of communication technology accommodating the fast-paced Information Age. People no longer have to be in the same place for “face to face” communication.

Another dominator of 21st century communication tools is social media. Social media websites are online communication and networking tools where people can connect and share ideas and is being used extensively world-wide.

Everything has a starting point where it originated, but before understating the new communication technology investigation, note should be taken of the past history of communication technology. Telecommunication has come a long way over the last few hundred years. Letters became emails, telephones became smartphones and newspapers became the internet over the last few decades. Smart phones don't just let us call people from anywhere, but also email, text, direct message and a thousand other methods of communication.

The question is “What Next” and how will it influence our way of interacting whether in peace or military operations?

Humour in uniform

Three weeks into training camp, a sailor still hadn't gotten used to Navy cooking and was surviving on milk and desserts. In one food line, he picked up the biggest piece of cake available and set it on his tray. The mess cook behind the counter saw the gleam in his eye and asked if he would like two pieces. When he eagerly answered yes, the cook leaned over and cut the piece of cake in two.

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

The recruit replied: “Not me, Sarge...no sir!”

“I promised myself that when I get out of the Army I'd never stand in another line.”

Why was the sergeant mad when his son brought home an A in math?

His son spent more time dividing than conquering.

What do you call a soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray?

A seasoned veteran.

How many guns do you need for a firefight?

Two. One for us to shoot and one for the government to sell to the enemy so he can shoot us back.



Did you hear about the karate master who joined the military?

He saluted and nearly chopped off his own head.

What happened when the soldier went to the enemy bar?

He got bombed.

When is the only time to use trench warfare?

As a last-ditch effort.

What do soldiers want to know before getting married?

The rules of engagement.

Why did the soldier detonate the bomb?

He wanted to C4 himself.

Last survivor of Pearl Harbor battleship sinking dies

Lou Conter was the last surviving crew member from the Japanese attack on the USS Arizona in Pearl Harbor in 1941. The last survivor of the USS Arizona, the battleship that was sunk in the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbour, has died aged 102 on Monday, 1 April, 2024,

Lou Conter was a 20-year-old quartermaster who helped rescue fellow sailors on December 7, 1941, after the United States' Pacific fleet came under surprise attack.

The assault, which catapulted the United States into World War II, damaged or destroyed most of the fleet stationed at the Hawaii naval base and resulted in the deaths of more than 2,000 Americans.

Over 1,100 people aboard the USS Arizona died; many of them are still entombed on the sunken ship.

"This is a heartbreaking loss," said Aileen Utterdyke, president and CEO of Pacific Historic Parks, a non-profit that honours those who died in the attack.

"Lou Conter epitomized what it meant to be a member of the Greatest Generation, Americans whose collective courage, accomplishments and sacrifices saved our country from tyranny.

"He had an exemplary career in the Navy and was steadfast in imploring the schools, parents and everyday Americans to always remember Pearl Harbour."

Conter went on to be a pilot later in World War II, and was shot down twice, including off the coast of New Guinea where he and his crew landed in shark-infested waters.

As an intelligence officer, he flew combat missions in Korea and created the Navy's first SERE (survival, evasion, resistance and escape) program.

He was a military adviser to Presidents Dwight Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson.

Pacific Historic Parks said on its Facebook page that Conter died on Monday at his home in Grass Valley, California, surrounded by family.

Memorial of the USS Arizona



The Military Salute a Unique Element of Military Courtesy

By Geoff Laskey

The disciplined exercise of military customs and courtesies in an organization is a clear indicator of the morale and leadership of that organization. It also indicates an organization's ability to function under stress as a team of professionals bound by a soldier's code of conduct and mutual respect.

A unique aspect of military courtesy is the salute. The salute is simple and dignified, but, there is great significance in that gesture. It is a gesture of respect and sign of comradeship among military service personnel. Accordingly, the salute is a uniform gesture; meaning that the highest man in rank returns the salute in the same form in which it is rendered to him.

A salute is usually a formal hand gesture or other action used to display respect in the military environment. Throughout history, military organizations have used many methods to perform salutes. Depending on the situation a salute could be a hand or body gesture, gun (Artillery or Naval) or rifle shots, hoisting of flags, removing headgear, or other means of showing respect.

The origin of the military salute is uncertain, but it probably began as a gesture of trust to show that a person was not holding a weapon. In modern day military environments, there are generally several types of salutes - the

hand salute, a rifle salute at right shoulder, and also the rifle salute at present arms. "Eyes Right" or "Eyes Left" is another type of military salute which is rendered by troops in rank when passing in review.

Hand salutes

The most common form of salute is the hand salute.

According to historical reconstruction, the ancient Roman military salute (*salutatio militaris*) was similar to the current military salute. According to some modern military manuals, the modern Western salute originated in France when knights greeted each other to show friendly intentions by raising their visors to show their faces and show that they are not carrying a weapon (in their right hand). Others also note that the raising of one's visor was a way to identify oneself saying "This is who I am, and I am not afraid." Medieval visors were, to this end, equipped with a protruding spike that allowed the visor to be raised using a saluting motion.

The US Army Quartermaster School provides another explanation of the origin of the hand salute: that it was a long-established military courtesy for subordinates to remove their headgear in the presence of superiors. As late as the American Revolution, a soldier saluted by removing his hat. With the advent of increasingly cumbersome head-



gear in the 18th and 19th centuries, the act of removing one's hat was gradually converted into the simpler gesture of grasping or touching the visor and issuing a courteous salutation.

As early as 1745, a British order book stated that: "The men are ordered not to pull off their hats when they pass an officer, or to speak to them, but only to clap up their hands to their hats and bow as they pass." Over time, it became conventionalized into something resembling the modern hand salute.

The naval salute, with the palm downwards is said to have evolved because the palms of naval ratings, particularly deckhands, were often dirty through working with lines and was deemed insulting to present a dirty palm to an officer, therefore the palm was turned downwards.

Hand salutes are normally carried out by bringing the right hand to the head in some way, the precise manner

varying between countries and sometimes amongst various branches of the armed forces of the same country.

The way the hand salute is rendered depends on whether you are in civilian clothes or in uniform.

In many militaries, hand salutes are only given when a cover (headwear) is worn.

It should be noted that persons in civilian clothes render the salute in two ways:

1. Hat in front of the left shoulder (men only).
2. Right hand over the heart (men without hats; women with or without hats).

Small arms salutes

When carrying a sword (still done on ceremonial occasions), military forces and their cultural descendants use a two-step gesture. The sword is first raised, in the right hand, to the level of and close to the front of the neck. Then

the sword is slashed downward to a position with the point close to the ground in front of the right foot.

This gesture originated in the Crusades. The hilt of a sword formed a cross with the blade, so if a crucifix was not available, a Crusader could kiss the hilt of his sword when praying, before entering battle, for oaths and vows, and so on. The lowering of the point to the ground is a traditional act of submission.

When armed with a rifle, two methods are available when saluting. The usual method is called "present arms"; the rifle is brought to the vertical, muzzle up, in front of the centre of the chest with the trigger away from the body. When the rifle is being carried on the shoulder, a similar gesture is used in which the flattened free hand is brought across the body to touch the rifle near the rear of the receiver.

A different type of salute with a rifle is a ritual firing performed during military funerals, known as a three-volley salute. In this ceremonial act, an odd number of riflemen fire three blank cartridges in unison into the air over the casket. This originates from an old European tradition wherein a battle was halted to remove the dead and wounded, then three shots were fired to signal readiness to re-engage. In modern day military funerals, the three-volley salute signify "duty, honour, and sacrifice."

Heavy arms: Gun Salutes

The firing of gun salutes in honour of a royal or other distinguished personage, or in honour of a foreign state, or to mark a special occasion, is a very old custom. A gun salute is the use of a piece of artillery to fire shots, often 21 in number (21-gun salute), with the aim of marking an honour or celebrating a joyful event. It is a tradition in many countries around the world. The 21-gun salute, commonly recognized by many nations, is the highest honour rendered. The custom stems from naval tradition, when a warship would signify its lack of hostile intent by firing its cannons out to sea until all ammunition was spent.

Conclusion

One way in which members of Armed Forces show respect is in the pride and smartness with which they salute or pay compliments, a mark of good manners indispensable to Service discipline. The courtesy of the salute is not only the required recognition of a senior but also the expression of mutual respect and pride in service. The salute is simple and dignified; but there is great significance in that gesture. It is a time-honoured demonstration of courtesy among all military personnel. Courtesy among members of the Armed Forces is vital to maintain military discipline. Military courtesy means good manners and politeness in dealing with other people. Courteous behaviour provides a basis for earning respect and developing good human relations.

Up till now the Association was successful in producing its newsletter “Jimmy’s Own” on a quarterly basis and this publication is widely distributed Nationally and Inter-Nationally. I would like to thank those who submitted articles and would really like to see that members submit articles more regularly. In this regard I would also particularly like to thank Matt Tennyson for his sustained professional support in publishing the Jimmy’s Own his services is of immense value to the Association and greatly contribute to a professional publication of which we can be proud of.

In the past year we were also successful in developing and producing an Association golf shirt and cap, which can be worn at informal events etc. This is a project initiated by the late Howard Shagom and although only completed after his passing I am certain that these items will always be

regarded as his legacy in the Association. These items are available for sale to our members.

From the foregoing it is evident that the Management team of the Association did some hard work to manage the general administration and activities best they could under some challenging circumstances. Without their support, loyalty and enthusiasm the Association will not be able to function as effectively as it does.

To our members, please support us in whatever way possible, the Association need and treasure each and every member to be successful in its quest to create camaraderie amongst former and serving signallers and to support, promote, preserve and maintain the Corps of Signals traditions and promote a spirit of remembrance.

Certa Cito Greetings,
Geoff Laskey



Lending a helping hand at the Cape town Cycle tour. From left to right Piet Jordaan, Adi Fourie, Geoff Laskey, Dennis de Beer, Jess Marcus, Jeff Marcus and Liza Marcus.

Strange code names

Some of the strangest names that have been used for military operations.

By Matt Tennyson.

As I’m sure you all know, the military loves giving code names to just about anything and everything. This includes military operations.

Some operational names are pretty good, and this would include names such as ‘Operation Overlord’. Or how about the Israeli attack on Entebbe Airport in Uganda to free hostages. That was code named ‘Operation Thunderbolt’.

Yet on frequent occasions, the military seems to lose the plot. Take a look at some of the code names.

Operation Ortsac (USA, 1962 plan to invade Cuba — spell the name backwards).

Operation Unicorn (France/UN, 2002 Côte d’Ivoire peacekeeping operation).

Operation Paul Bunyan (USA/ South Korea, 1976 mission to chop down a tree in the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea).

Operation Power Pack (USA, 1965 invasion of the Dominican Republic).

Operation Argument (World War II plan for attacking German factories by air).

Operation Toenails (World War II operation to capture New Georgia).

Operation Slapstick (World War II British Airborne landing at Taranto, Italy).

Operation Casanova (A World War II diversionary operation).

Operation Dracula (World War II plan for an attack on Rangoon, Burma).

Operation Frequent Wind (Evacuation of US civilians and at-risk Vietnamese in Saigon prior to the fall of Saigon).

Operation Beaver Cage (Helicopter assault launched by the U.S. Marines upon on a Vietcong base).

Imagine being the mother of a soldier and learning that your son was killed in action during ‘Operation Cuddly Bunny’. I mean you would just have to be so proud.

Memorials, Parades and Socials

Monday Evening April 15th ,10 members of the Association visited the City of Cape Town's public emergency call Centre.

WCRSU 78th Birthday Celebration

The Western Cape Reserve Signal Unit celebrated its 78th birthday over the weekend 3 to 5 May 2024. It commenced with a guest evening on 3 May 2024, at the Encore Restaurant, Welgelegen, Panorama.

This was followed by a Medal Parade on Saturday 4th May at the Unit Head Quarters, Fort Ikapa Military Base, Goodwood.

The weekend concluded with a Church Parade on Sunday 05 May 2024 at Amazing Grace, 24 Kitchener Street, Parow.

The above functions were attended by the Chairperson of the Association Lt Col (Ret) Geoff Laskey and Lt Col (Ret) J Johnson both previous OC's of the Signal Unit.

Monday 6th May members of the Association attended the Yom HaShoah Commemoration Service for The Victims of The Nazi Holocaust. Yom HaShoah gives the Jewish community and others space to reflect together on the immeasurable loss wrought by the Holocaust.

Maurice Espin Secretary General attended and laid a wreath on behalf of the Association. Manco Member Jeff Marcus also attended and laid a wreath on behalf of the Jewish Ex Servicemen League.



ABOVE: Maj Gen. Yama GOC Signals Formation, Lt (Ret) Johan Johnson, Lt Col , Sharon Fortuin and Lt Col (Ret) Geoff Laskey at the Medal Parade.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Chairperson Geoff Laskey, Ex OC Johan Johnson and Unit 2IC Herman Jacobs at guest evening.

BELOW: Secretary General Maurice Espin, Manco Member Jeff Marcus and Legionnaire Ray Nasset.



Happy Birthday!

The Signals Association's President, Chairperson and Manco members wish all the members below on their birthdays in the next quarter.

We wish you a very special birthday and a wonderful year ahead! We hope your birthday is full of sunshine, rainbows, love, and laughter!

The Association send you many good wishes on your special day.

July 2024

12th	Tim Reilly
14th	Jerome Solomon
16th	Diederik Kruger
18th	Theuns Neeethling
19th	Adriaan Campbell
22nd	Ivor Markman
24th	Ronnie Taylor

August 2024

9th	George Coomer
12th	Matt Tennyson
13th	Jeanette Kok-Kritzenger
21st	Ed Wittert
23rd	Neville Meyer
28th	Bobby Dixon
30th	Trunell Morom

September 2024

17th	Andre Roux
24th	Robin Cross
28th	Carl Schmidt

The Voices

The voices told me
to wish you
a happy birthday
but unfortunately
they said nothing
about a present

